

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Next Sun: Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10



WE NEED THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK and THE ARCHDIOCESE NEEDS OUR SUPPORT - There is no parish church without the local church. The Cardinal's Campaign provides the Archdiocese of New York with the funds that it needs in order to serve all the people of the Archdiocese. We have all benefited from the work of our Archdiocese. Please consider a generous contribution to this year's Cardinal's Campaign. Thank you!

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE & DAY OF PRAYER – Saturday – March 14th

12 p.m. – Lenten Reconciliation Service with the opportunity for individual confession.

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Lenten Afternoon of Prayer with Robert Karle of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and Patricia McDonough of the Jesuit Collaborative. With an introduction to the method of prayer developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, Robert and Patricia will offer you an opportunity to deepen your Lenten experience and recognize the ways in which Christ invites you into a more profound relationship with him. Please come and bring your friends as well!

LENTEN PROMISE PROJECT – Catholics traditionally give something up for Lent (candy, dessert, alcohol, etc.). This Lent we invite you to do something for Lent. Make a promise that you will act on your Christian faith each day. Reconcile with, or pray daily for, someone from whom you are estranged. Visit someone in the hospital or who is living alone. Prepare a meal for an elderly person or someone who is chronically ill. Tutor a young person. Volunteer in a soup kitchen, clothing dispensary, or food pantry. What will you do to strengthen your Christian faith this Lent through concrete acts of charity and justice? As an incentive to keep your promise, we invite you to write your promise anonymously on cards that will be available in the Sacred Heart alcove and post your card on the white board that is there. This will be a visual reminder to all of us that Lent can be a time of positive change through positive action. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – Preparation for the Sacraments of First Penance & Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are continuing. Please check your sacrament packets for dates, times and locations. You can also check the parish website (www.olmcsi.org) for updated information. Thank you!

SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL! SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, March 7th – for our Annual John J. Bruno Children's Luncheon – 12 p.m. Li Greci's Staaten – Join us as we honor a distinguished group of persons who have made a difference in the lives of children. This year's honorees include: Dr. Mark Sherman, Jacob Carey, Annette Esposito, Sergey Guberman, Terry Gribbon, Mel and Susan Hansen, Eveyln & Mike Kormanik, Grace Murphy, Ilene Pappert, Zonease Porter and Charita Sanders. Tickets are \$75 per adult and \$25 per child. Please call: 718-981-5131. Thank you!

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL+ST. BENEDICTA REUNION- Saturday, March 14th, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Graduating classes from 1964 to 1990 are invited to join in this fun event featuring a hot buffet, a desert station, DJ, photobooth, raffle baskets, 50/50 and some hidden surprises. Advanced payment of \$50 required. Theresa Gribbin 1028 Feather Bed Lane, Edison, N.J. 08820. This is a BYOB event. Assorted soda and water will be provided.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

University Hospice (78 Meisner Avenue) needs volunteers willing to be trained to make visits to persons who are at the end stage of life. Visits take place in homes, nursing facilities, the Addeo Hospice Residence or in the hospital. Volunteers are also needed to assist in the office and with special events. If you are interested, please call 718.226.6458. The next volunteer training will be Saturday, April 18, 2015. Please call to register.

Community Service Society Retired and Senior Volunteer Program – This program offers a broad array of volunteer opportunities for persons 55 years of age and older. The program matches people who want to help with a volunteer assignment that best suits their skills and interests. The time commitment can be as little as once a month to several days a week depending on how much time you can share. Please call 718-494-3222.

Weekly Offering: February 15: \$2170. Budget: \$2100. Thank you for your generosity!

THE MEANING OF OUR BAPTISM- Lent is the time of year that we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our Baptism. The psalm reminds us that if we truly keep the covenant, the way of life God expects us to follow will not be a burden, but a source of love and truth. Peter's letter gives one explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal that we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words that Jesus proclaims immediately following his temptation show us the way: Repent and believe in the gospel. It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived in our baptismal promises.



First Sunday of Lent ~ February 22, 2015

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths. -Psalm 25:4



Weekly Mass



Mass Intentions

Intentions

Saturday February 21

8:00am- †

5:00pm- † Gilda Mammolito

Sunday February 22

8:30am-*Living*- Special Intentions Diane Bruno

Offered By:

Offered By: Louis Mammolito

By: Delmeter & Louis Carey & Family

By: Lena & Jerry Mezzacappa

10:00am- † Junie Mezzacappa & Angela Gaeta

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday February 23

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

By: Aurora Ocampo Nazareno

12:05pm- † Fr. Tom Cerulo

Offered By: Joann Scamardella

Tuesday February 24

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Renald Cruz

Offered By: Gerthy Alexandre & Gina Gilardi

Wednesday February 25

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- †

Offered By:

Thursday February 26

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Pasquale Loffreno

Offered By: Family

Friday February 27

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † John Cosgrove

Offered By: Kathleen Kliesch

Saturday February 28

8:00am- †

Offered By:

5:00pm-*Living*- Special Intentions Joseph Fortunato

By: Delmeter & Louis Carey & Family

Sunday March 1

8:30am- † Nancy Pommerenk ~27th Anniv in Heaven~

Offered By: Family

10:00am- † Dorothy Spicer

By: Ellen & Steve Soggi

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle



~
~
~

Lectors & E.M. ~ Schedule for February 2015~

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Lectors: Linda Graves & Tom Ventrudo (carry Gospel Book)

Substitute: Bill Hinton

Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy Velez, Peg & Tom Ventrudo

Substitute: Linford Smith

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Lectors: Linda Torres & Delmeter Carey (carry Gospel Book)

Substitute: Joan Fortunato

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Contardo, Maria Oliveras & Samuel Torres

Substitute: Joseph (Joe) Fortunato

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Thelma Washington (carry Gospel Book)

Substitute.: Alexis Crowdell

Eucharistic Ministers: Emmanuel Fode, Beneverly Marryshow & Crescencia (Chris) Pascua

Substitute: Dianne Murphy



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the story of the great flood that is our first reading for this Sunday, we are reminded of the covenant in which God promises that God will never again destroy creation. Sadly, it is now the human family that is destroying God's great gift of creation through our sinfulness.

When God gave the human family dominion over the earth, God expected that we would be responsible stewards of the gift with which God entrusted us. God blessed this world with a superabundance of resources that should be more than sufficient to meet the needs of all persons now and for all generations to come. It is our responsibility as responsible stewards to insure that the resources of this world are used wisely so that all may benefit fairly from the bounty with which God has blessed this world and so that these resources might be available to future generations as well. Sadly, we have not exercised our stewardship of the resources of this world with great wisdom. It is accepted science that global climate change is having an adverse impact on our planet and that human activity directly contributes to the climate changes that we are now experiencing. It is our responsibility, therefore, to change our behavior so as to reduce the adverse impact our human activity is having on the global environment. As Pope Francis has said, "On climate change, there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act ..."

In Lent, we are asked to reflect on our sins –on our failure to live in faithfulness to what God expects of us. Our misuse of the gift that is creation is a sin. How have we contributed to this sin? Do we recycle regularly? Do we seek to reduce the amount of disposable bags that we use? Do we conserve water? Do we accept the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas? Do we support international efforts to provide assistance to poorer nations that are already being impacted by global climate change or that need help in addressing their contribution to climate change?

Yes, the misuse of creation is a sin. How have I participated in this sin?

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.