

St. Mary's Church

62 Warren Street, Glens Falls, NY

Telephone: 518.792.0989

Fax: 518.792.0251

Parish and Cemetery Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Closed 12-1 PM)

Website: stmarysglensfalls.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas Morrette (ext. 120)
Pastor

Deacon F. David Powers (ext. 135)
Pastoral Associate

Rev. Robert Hohenstein (retired)
Rev. Liam Condon (retired)
Clergy Assistance

Robin Mattes (ext. 110)
Parish Secretary/Cemetery Manager

Catherine DeSantis (ext. 125)
Baptism Coordinator

Ann McCoy (ext. 130)
Financial Manager

Jo Kaczmarek (ext. 115)
Family Faith Formation Program

Leona Stone (ext. 127)
Faith Formation Coordinator, Grades K-6

Mary Ann Thombs (ext. 121)
Youth Minister, Grades 7-12 and Confirmation

Sue Wright (ext. 113)
Music Director

Gordon and Jean Paul
RCIA Coordinators

Emily McPhee
Social Media Manager

Melissa Wilkinson
Rebuilt Program Coordinator



Church open for prayer:

Monday - Friday

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

(Closed for sanitizing Wednesday mornings)

March 7, 2021

Pandemic Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 11:15 AM

Wednesday: 12:10 PM

Thursday: 12:10 PM

Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month 9 AM – 3 PM

Wednesdays 1 – 9 PM

Sacrament of Baptism:

First Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Wednesdays after 12:10 PM Mass or
upon request

Sacrament of Matrimony:

For adequate preparation
arrangements should be made at least
six months prior to the desired date

**St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus
Regional Catholic School:**

Patricia Balmer, Principal

Pre-School – Grade 8

518-792-3178 smsaschool.org

Glens Falls Hospital Chaplain

Sister Donna Irvine, S.S.N.D.

518-926-3532

Year of St. Joseph

About Holy Week and Easter this year

Lent gets us ready for celebrating Easter with a heart renewed. Three important tools for growing in Christian life are increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each helps to build up the soul's strength for loving God and for doing good. Fasting disciplines our will, training us in self-denial. Almsgiving opens our hearts to others: when we give time, money or goods, we grow in love for our neighbor. Below are a few other ways to enlarge your soul and heart this Lent. Keep in mind that during this time of social distancing, involvement in these Lenten disciplines can be achieved online.

PRAYER:

- Pray as a family each day, at least before meals
- Get to Sunday Mass early and include a time of thanksgiving afterwards
- Watch the parish Mass on Facebook or the parish website
- Recite the Rosary
- Read one of the four Gospels, slowly and thoughtfully
- Read a spiritual book, for example, a biography of one of the saints
- Make a visit to the church and spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament
- Attend a weekday Mass
- With crucifix in hand, meditate on the Passion and death of the Lord
- Pray the Stations of the Cross at home or in the church
- Be sure there is a crucifix and Bible in your home and put them out for all to see
- Take part in the Lenten programs and services in your parish or in your area
- Prepare for a good Confession before Easter
- Pray for the relief of the poor, needy, the sick and forgotten throughout the world



FASTING:

- Observe the church's regulations on fasting and abstinence; set up your own personal fasting plan in addition to the obligatory ones
- Focus on fulfilling needs and not wants. Eat less.
- Give up food luxuries: candy, desserts, filet mignon, pricey fish, pricey take-outs
- Limit time on tv, social media and entertainments
- Limit excessive "gabbing"
- Spend less; buy store-brands

ALMSGIVING:

- Help a needy neighbor with a concrete act of kindness
- Increase your contributions to your parish church or charity
- Give to the mission efforts of the church and local outreach services
- Share a meal with a shut-in or neighbor; share casseroles and soups
- Clean out closets and donate clothing to a charity thrift shop
- Volunteer to assist a needy cause
- Buy lunch for someone
- Eat a simple meal on Fridays and donate the money saved
- Give more of your time to supporting family and friends during this pandemic



LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Becoming a Catholic at the Easter Vigil this year

Because of the lockdown last year, our parish was not able to celebrate the Easter Vigil. During those first intensive days of the pandemic and quarantine, several of our Holy Week services had to be cancelled or abbreviated. This year is somewhat better, so we have scheduled Holy Week services that will be in-person and take place in the church. (All of these services will also be livestreamed.) We are, however, following strict safety precautions now and in the foreseeable future, and we are still advising parishioners to remain home on Sundays, and during Holy Week and Easter if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe attending in-person services. Masses on Palm Sunday weekend will be held at 4:00 PM on Saturday and 8:30 AM and 11:15 AM. On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be held at 7:00 PM and, on Good Friday, the Commemoration of the Passion and Death of the Lord will take place at 3:00 PM. There will be **NO 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday evening (there never is, by the way -- it's not allowed)**. The great celebration of the Easter Vigil is the only and principal liturgical event that should be observed on Holy Saturday and it will take place at 8:00 PM in our church. On Easter Sunday, Masses will be held at 8:30 AM and 11:15 AM. I am very happy that one of the members of our RCIA group is ready to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church and will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at this year's Easter Vigil Mass. His name is Robert Cieply, a nursing student, and we congratulate him and welcome him to our community at this time. Robert has faithfully attended our RCIA formation sessions for the last year and is more than ready to receive the great blessing of being a Catholic.

February media update

This month, traffic has increased on both our website and our Facebook page. Our most popular post on Facebook was a beautiful picture of the sun setting behind St. Mary's Church, with almost 1400 views. Our post reach on Facebook for the month of February is 3873, which is the number of people that are viewing our Facebook posts; our post engagement is up 5% for the month of February, which means that during the month of February, 4085 people clicked on the posted links on our Facebook page. On our website, traffic has increased 17% for February, thanks to people investigating our new Small Groups Program. Our average Livestream views for the month of February is 356; this includes our Mass of Healing, as well as Ash Wednesday. We are so thankful that you have been exploring all the media that St. Mary's Church has available. We are also excited to announce that we currently have over 50 people signed up for "No Offense," our Small Groups Lenten Experience. God Bless!

Sincere thanks

Theresa LaPoint has been a member of our cemetery committee since it was formed over 10 years ago. We thank her for her dedication and all she has done to play an important part in the beautification and preservation of the sacred resting places of the faithful departed at St. Mary's Cemetery (South Glens Falls) and St. Alphonsus Cemetery (Queensbury). Although she has resigned from the cemetery committee she will continue to serve on the collection counters team and also she will continue her ministry with the bereavement committee. Many blessings are being sent her way for all she has done and all she continues to do for our parish!

From Warren County Veterans' Services

Genevieve Ireton and St. Mary's Congregation, We are overwhelmed by your generosity. Because of your thoughtfulness, you can rest assured that many Veterans in our community will benefit from your gift. Denise DiResta, Director/CVSO

Please keep up your weekly donations

The Offertory collection, shared by parishioners each week, is critical to sustaining the operations of our parish and it reaffirms support for the work that clergy and parish staff undertake. Many people went out of their way to continue supporting our parish in the early days of the pandemic, during that difficult time. This stewardship helped to make up for the shortfall that resulted from limited parish activity during the lockdown. However, a year into the pandemic, the overall offertory income in most parishes has decreased drastically and most parishes are struggling to make ends meet. Fortunately, many of our needy parishes properly made use of the *Paycheck Protection Program* funds, which went to pay the salaries of parish and school staff, and this partially offset the overall decline in offertory throughout the diocese. In so many cases, a parish is not just a place of worship but a second home for people. It is important that we continue our effort to support these communities of worship. Please do all you can to continue your support of our parish each week – either by using the envelopes (which can be mailed to us), by using Pay-Pal or e-giving, or by placing a cash donation into the collection baskets now located at the entrances to the church. These collection baskets may be overlooked by those attending Mass each week but please consider using them when you attend in-person Mass. Thank you for your generosity in the past and the many sacrificial gifts you have shared with our parish.

Pornography addiction

Want to break free? Go to these websites for help: covenanteyes.com, integrityrestored.com, fighthenewdrug.org, theporneffect.com.

How do my sins crucify Christ?

When we attend Mass, we are present at the actual sacrifice Jesus made for us long ago on Calvary. Another way we are present at the cross is by crucifying Jesus ourselves through our acts of sin. Paragraph #598 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church has a rather dense explanation of this truth which needs deep reflection. First, the Catechism says that this teaching is supported by our Tradition which has been handed down by all the Christians who have come before us. The very first Christians recognized that “sinners were the authors and the ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured” and that it was not merely an act of the Jews who were condemning him or the Roman soldiers who were carrying it out. In other words, this is not an invented form of “Catholic guilt,” but an understanding of the reality of what the crucifixion actually meant, from the earliest followers of Christ. That understanding was then passed down through the generations to us in the Church.

So, our sins today, are a participation in the actual crucifixion of our Lord. The Catechism cites one primary passage from Scripture to support this: Matthew 27:25. Pontius Pilate is acquiescing to the crowd calling for the crucifixion of Jesus, but he is quick to declare himself innocent in the situation. The crowd responds “His blood be upon us and upon our children.” Even though they are not all physically going to nail Jesus to the cross, they take full responsibility for what is about to happen. What’s even more important for us today is that their words equally passed the responsibility on to the generations that will come after them, which includes us. In essence, with every sin we commit, we are standing with the crowd, condemning Jesus to death. When you go to Mass on Palm Sunday and participate in the Gospel reading of the Passion of Christ, recall the reality of how your sins affect Christ each time you say, “Crucify Him!”

The Catechism goes on to include a lengthy passage written by St. Francis of Assisi which, again, illustrates how the understanding of our participation in the crucifixion goes back for centuries. St. Francis says that anyone who continues to relapse into their sins is guilty. It goes without saying that since we are all sinners, St. Francis is referring to every single one of us. He goes on to explain that through all of our disorders and wrongdoings, we crucify Him again and **again in our hearts because He lives in our hearts**. The fact that we do this now is much worse than the actual people who stood there on that day demanding His life be taken. At the time, they did not know yet that Jesus was their Lord and Savior. However, we profess to know who Jesus is and yet we willfully choose to commit this violence against him. This is powerful. Reflecting on what they knew at the time, versus what we know now and how we continue to respond should stir something in us. St. Francis concludes by excusing even the demons of fault, which is a strong statement on the power of our sins. He says, “Nor did demons crucify him; it is you who have crucified him and crucify him still when you delight in your vices and sins.”

These truths are hard ones but some encouragement can come from them: First, even when truth is hard, we should rest in it because it is the Truth. God gave us the Church to pass the Truth to us for our own good. It is hard to swallow because it is meant to inspire us to do better. Comfort and feeling good is not what will get us to heaven and that’s ultimately where He wants us, with Him. Secondly, we are quite certain that if any of us was handed a hammer we would not make one move to strike the nail into Jesus’ body, which is a good thing! So, having an understanding of what our sins do to Him can be used as motivation to do better. We can strive to root out our sin and vices and work to replace them with virtue and love. Also, remember the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent, where we can receive God’s abundant mercy and grace and where He will fully forgive us for the hurt our sins have caused Him.

To conclude, we read in the Catechism that the murder of Jesus Christ was the “greatest moral evil ever committed” and that our continued sinning participates in that act, but that God’s grace is bigger than all our sin. As we read in Romans 5:20, “where sin abounded, grace did more abound.” If we cooperate with God’s goodness and grace, He can bring about good from any sin we commit. This sounds counter-intuitive, but it’s true and Jesus is the proof. The greatest sin ever committed was the crucifixion of our Lord, but look at what God created out of that injustice. He resurrected Jesus from the dead and He brought about a pathway for our salvation. What good could be better than that?

Think of a time where you were very aware of how sin was affecting your life and how, when you look back on it, you can see God’s hand using it to bring about some good in your life, even if in subtle ways. Of course, it’s always better to not sin in the first place, but when we fall, which we will, He will not leave us hanging. He will continue to extend His grace and mercy, providing us with opportunities to do better. As long as we keep accepting those opportunities, more and more good will come about in our lives.

Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent -- Sunday, March 7, 2021

First Reading: [Ex 17:3-7](#)

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!" The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

Second Reading: [Rom 5:1-2, 5-8](#)

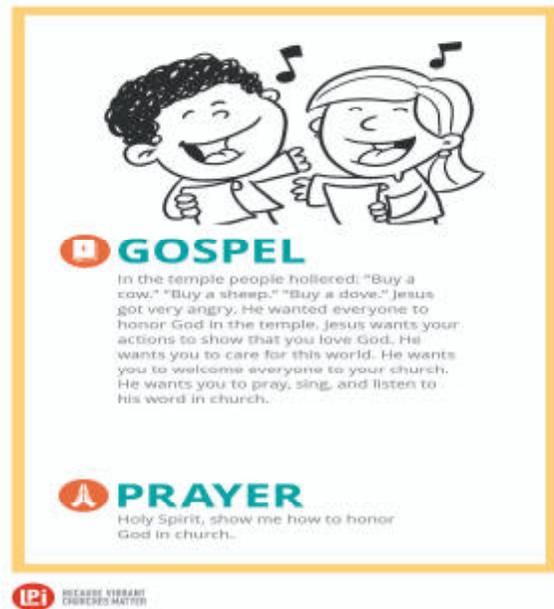
Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel: [Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42](#)

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Readings for the week of March 7, 2021

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/
Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or
4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/
Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Liturgy of the Word this weekend: We fail. We sin. We fall. We humans are weak, so we turn to God for strength. During this penitential season, we are keenly aware of our need for mercy and forgiveness. God's mercy and forgiveness came to full fruition in Jesus, who redeemed us by taking on our failings, our sins, our mortality. God has the words of everlasting life, as we sing in the psalm today, so we look to God this day for words of mercy and love as we recommit ourselves to our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Amen.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and



free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of Truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times.

Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DAY

Father Tom is saying private Mass each day for the daily intentions that have been scheduled. Mass is celebrated in the church on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:10 PM.

- Monday** **March 8 – Lenten Weekday/Saint John of God, Religious**
 +For those who have died during the coronavirus who have not been able to have a Catholic funeral Mass because of the quarantine
- Tuesday** **March 9 - Lenten Weekday/Saint Frances of Rome, Religious**
 +Raymond Troy by Therese Griffin
- Wednesday** **March 10 - Lenten Weekday**
12:10 PM +Wm. J. and Jean W. Harris – Bequest
 +Anne Soothcage by Julie Ball
- Thursday** **March 11– Lenten Weekday**
12:10 PM +Jane Pullen (Birthday) by Cindy, Richard, Tyler and Melody
- Friday** **March 12 –Lenten Weekday/ABSTINENCE NO MASS**
- Saturday** **March 13 – Vigil: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
4:00 PM +Wayne and Mary Brownell by Family
- Sunday** **March 14 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
8:30 AM Living and +Deceased Members of the O'Brien Family and Friends by Family
 +Angel 'Rokko' Perez II by Wilkinson Family
11:15 AM +Vince Palacino by Dave Powers
 +Ann Marie Gigante by Family
 Intentions of the Parishioners



Our Beloved Dead

Please pray for those who have died this past week:

Father Robert DeLeon

Please pray for all victims of the coronavirus.

St. Mary's Memorial Fund

Memorials are given in memory of loved ones who have died to remember to keep them in our prayers and to help the needs of the church. This week please remember:

Madelyn Mahoney by Denise Peixoto



Weekend Collections

February 27th - 28th

Offertory \$1,599.00

Envelopes \$1,290.00

Mail \$1,585.00

E-Giving \$1,525.00

PayPal \$532.00

Total \$6,531.00

Other: Candles \$199,

Candles \$197.00

Ash Wednesday \$694.00

School Building Repairs \$279.00

If you have converted to Online Giving and are no longer in need of offering envelopes please let the office know, so we can cancel your subscription with Cathedral Corporation.

Weekend Mass Attendance

February 27^h– 28th

4 PM - 88

8:30 AM - 115

11:15 AM - 110

Total 313

**Livestream Views as of
03/01/2021: 391**



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**2020-2021
Diocesan Appeal**
(formerly Bishop's Appeal)

One time gifts
\$21,119.00

Pledges
\$10,046.00

Total gifts as of
01/05/2021
75

**STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS**



**Fridays during
Lent at 6:30 PM**



Food Pantry

Many thanks to Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Queensbury for their continuing generous contributions of food to our pantry !!

This week the pantry could use: **elbow macaroni, small potato packets, juice boxes, and dish soap.**

At this time we do not need any canned or dried beans or bags of rice. Thank you again to our parishioners who have so faithfully supported the pantry during the pandemic.

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