St. Mary's Church, Cranston

1525 Cranston Street

Very Reverend William J. Ledoux

Pastor

Rev. James R. Collins
In Residence

Rev. James J. Verdelotti
Pastor Emeritus
12/ 28/ 1943 - 11/ 14/ 2019

Dcn. Peter A. Ceprano
Deacon Assistant (Retired)

Dcn. Armand R. Ragosta
Deacon Assistant (Retired)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Parish Office
1525 Cranston Street
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(401) 942-1492
Fax: (401) 946-2531
Office@saintmarycranston.org

Parish Website:
www.saintmarycranston.org

Music Director
Denise Petrucci
(401) 353-1473

Weekday Mass
Monday-Thursday 8:00am
(Lower Church)
(Lower Church)

Saturday Evening:
4:00pm

Sunday Morning
8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am

St. Mary's School
85 Chester Avenue
(401) 944-4107
Pre-K thru 8
Ms. Lisa Lepore
Principal

Office of Religious Education
(401) 944-1323
Director: Nancy Nasser
nnasser@stmaryschoolri.org

Secretary: Donna English
donnaenglish888@gmail.com

Sacrament of Baptism
Baptisms are scheduled for the First Sunday of the month. Please call the rectory office to schedule an appointment. Families must be registered in the Parish.

Confessions
Saturdays 3:00pm - 3:45pm

Weddings
Parishioners may contact the Rectory Office at least 1 year before.

We are a parish family journeying together in our faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in his love for us, and growing in kindness and charity toward one another.

Dear Friends:

On Thursday, March 25th, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. The Feast of the Annunciation is now recognized as a solemnity, it was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity. Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills (Isaiah 7:14) in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

This weekend on the Fifth Sunday of Lent the readings focus us on the life and death of Jesus and the Old Testament passages that help us understand the life and death of the Lord. It is really important for us to recognize that without the Old Testament, the Jewish Scriptures, it would be very difficult for us—perhaps even impossible— to understand Jesus and His life and death.

In the first reading this weekend is taken is from the Prophet Jeremiah. This Prophet is clear that the relationship of God with His people has been difficult and that the previous Covenants have been broken and that there is a need for a New Covenant that will last forever. The Prophet Jeremiah shows us a God who is always seeking us out, who is willing to start a New Covenant with us, who always wants to love us. And so we hear in this reading today: "All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." What a wonderful God we have. This God was known and loved by the Prophet Jeremiah and we are invited to know and love this same God, who loves us and who always forgives us—and forgets our sins!

The second reading comes from the Letter to the Hebrews. This letter is used more and more during the time we come close to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The letter speaks so clearly of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." God has taken on our flesh and our human weakness even though God in Christ never sins. God in Christ knows our sinful nature and truly suffers. The carrying of the Cross and the death on the Cross are real and unite Jesus to us in a way that is unimaginable for God to share in our lives. Yet God chooses this way to draw us to Himself. We are invited to learn obedience to the will of the Father, even though we know that in the process of obedience, we also shall suffer.

The Gospel from Saint John today includes a short passage in which the divine breaks through into the ordinary life once again. When we hear a voice from heaven in the Gospels, then we know that the divine is breaking into the ordinary. Jesus says: "Father, glorify your name." The Voice from Heaven says: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The challenge in this last part of Lent is to LISTEN to the Lord, to the whole of the Old Testament and to the Church. God is speaking to us. Will we answer? Will we give our lives in obedience to the Lord Jesus—always with love and joy.

Have a good week!

Fr. Ledoux

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

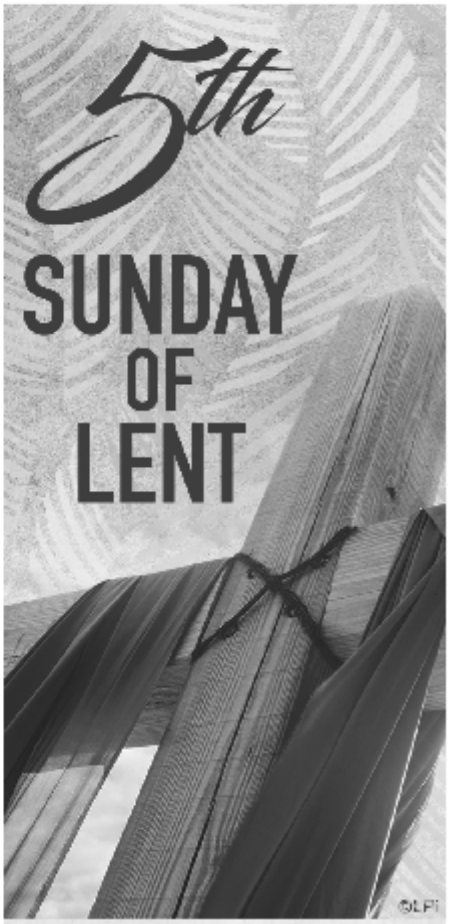
SUN 3/21	Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
MON 3/22	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
TUE 3/23	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
WED 3/24	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
THR 3/25	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
FRI 3/26	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42
SAT 3/27	Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56
SUN 3/28	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

Sunday:	5th Sunday of Lent
Tuesday:	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Thursday:	The Annunciation of the Lord
Sunday:	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

LIVE THE LITURGY
Inspiration for the week

How do we convince people that God's law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God's people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God's deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, "Father, glorify your name." By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done.



"Bloom where you are planted."

– ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

MASS INTENTIONS

We remember in prayer this week….

March 21st	
8:00am	Christopher Meehan **21st Anniversary**
9:30am	Jane Tedesco
	Cecilia Ginja
11:00am	Darlene Sczerbinski
March 22nd	Rev. Ceasar Schettini
	Mass of the People
March 23rd	Thomas Collins **Anniversary**
March 24th	Ed Ruggieri
March 25th	Maria Luisa Gonzalez
March 27th	Albert Gates
	A Robert Saccoccio

The Diocesan Cemetery Mass for All The Deceased Members of St. Ann's Cemetery will be on Monday, March 29th at 12 Noon at St. Mary's Church, Cranston.

SANCTUARY CANDLES 3/22 – 3/28

Upper Sanctuary Candle will burn in Loving Memory for **Norman Salem & Lucas Salem**
By: The DiSegna Family
Both Sanctuary Candles in the Lower Church will burn in Loving Memory for: **Special Intention**

PASCHAL CANDLE

Each year a new Paschal Candle is blessed. The Pascal candle is used throughout the year during the fifty days of Easter, Baptisms and Funerals. This years' Pascal Candle is being offered by The Andrade Family in loving memory of **Antonio A. Andrade** and The Razzino Family in loving memory of **The Deceased Members of the Razzino and Ferrucci Families.**

THANK YOU - To All Who Use Online Giving!

Parishioners who use the service are pleased with how easy it is to set up and manage. For your convenience we are now accepting Visa, Mastercard and Discover Card. If you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, please consider this option. This is a perfect tool for anyone who shops online! By using Online Giving you are helping the parish improve our operational efficiency.

Online Giving is a web-based application that allows you to start, stop and change your contributions at any time. Please notice that our offering envelopes now have a check box which indicates "I've given online," which you can use to present during offertory at Mass. Online Giving is very easy to use and requires no special knowledge other than how to access the Internet. If you haven't already signed up, then go to our parish website at www.saintmarycranston.org and select Online Giving.

LET'S CONTINUE TO BE SAFE

Please know that the guidelines enacted to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 have worked. The spread of COVID-19 has not been traced to any Catholic church in the State of Rhode Island. This reflects your willingness to follow safe protocols, in order to protect fellow parishioners and our community at large.

(1) Please come to Mass wearing a mask and continue to sanitize your hands.

(2) If you are sick—even with the mildest of symptoms—you must stay home. We continue to live-stream the Masses for this purpose.

(3) This is important: please do not congregate in the church or outside, and always maintain distance of at least six feet between others when you are entering or exiting the church. In some churches, parishioners sometimes exit at the same time and congregate in large groups outside. This is understandable. After all, we all need community. But this unfortunately defeats the purpose of keeping our distance to ensure everyone is safe.

CATHOLIC CHARITY

The 2021 Diocesan Catholic Charity Appeal is well underway. I am certain that most of our parishioners have received direct mailings regarding the Appeal from the Bishop's Office. The letter should have included a reply card to send your donation directly to the diocese. A number of families have already responded with their contribution and we are very grateful. This year we will be making the direct appeal during weekend Masses shortly after Easter, but you don't have to wait. All donations, now or later, will be credited toward our parish goal of $71,250. However, it is very important that you prayerfully consider making a gift to this Appeal so that the various agencies of our diocese can continue to assist our fellow-Rhode Islanders in need. Understandably, due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of the financial situation last year, our parish fell considerably short of the goal. However, it is my hope that this year we will bounce back, and everyone will consider giving according to their means. Every gift, big or small, is important to our success. I particularly ask those who were not able to give last year, to help us reach our goal. If we all contribute, I am certain that our goal is attainable. Won't you help? Please keep the Catholic Charity Appeal in your prayers!

Thanks again.
Fr. Ledoux

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