

ST. MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Rev. Mr. Daniel F. Lavoie, Deacon

Email: DeaconDan@saintmarksparish.org

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Lisa DeHaan, Youth Minister

Email: Lisa@saintmarksparish.org

Kathleen Huggins, Coordinator of
Elementary Religious Education

Email: Kathleen@saintmarksparish.org

Paul Machunski, Business Manager

Mark Bailey, Music Director



Parish Mission Statement

As a parish family guided by the Holy Spirit, the faith community of St. Mark is committed to Jesus Christ and His Church. We are called to proclaim the Gospel through the celebration of Life, the Sacraments, and Liturgy. To glorify God and love one another we will strive to carry out this mission by sharing our talents and resources, serving all those in need, nurturing God's gift of hope in our community and welcoming all to grow in the Catholic faith.

MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 9:00 AM

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Days: 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM

COMMUNION SERVICE - Friday: 9:00 AM

PENANCE Saturdays: 3 PM drive by only

and by Appointment outside only

ADORATION - First Wednesday of Every Month

Sunday Mass Livestream

10:30AM on our website

and available afterward



BISHOP BERNARD J. FLANAGAN

Council 12710 - Sutton, MA.

Active in St. Mark, St. Brigid
and Assumption Parishes

*New Parishioners please use our website (SaintMarksParish.org)
or contact the Rectory to register.*



Saturday February 20, 2021
Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent
4 PM Bella Dobkowski
(Birthday Remembrance)
Req by Robert and Irene Hughes

Sunday February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent
8 AM James O'Neil
Req by Mark Bailey and Mary Kate Doherty
10:30AM Norm Cardin
(Birthday Remembrance)
Req by Joyce Cardin

Monday February 22, 2021
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
9 AM For the people of St. Mark's Parish

Tuesday February 23, 2021
9 AM Julie Pierce
Req by Robert and Irene Hughes

Wednesday February 24, 2021
9 AM Joe Fitzsimons
Req by Kathleen O'Brien

Thursday February 25, 2021
9 AM Retha DeChiaro
(Month's Mind)

Friday February 26, 2021
9 AM Stations of the Cross
With Holy Communion

Saturday February 27, 2021
Vigil of the Second Sunday of Lent
4 PM Russ Erickson

Req by Ron and Mary Sansouci
Sunday February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent
8 AM Ruth Millett
Req by Mark Bailey and Mary Kate Doherty
10:30 AM Harry Bailey
(8 th Anniversary)
Req by family

YOUTH MINISTRY *Faith* *Journalists*

1ST SUNDAY
OF
LENT

BELIEVE

Repent, and believe in
the gospel.

MARK 1:15

Covenant is a theme in this Sunday's readings.

The word is used in both the First reading and the Responsorial Psalm. We hear this word often in scripture, but how often do we think of what it means (and) more specifically what it means to us and how we can better live our lives.

The term "covenant" is of Latin origin (*con venire*), meaning coming together, unite; be suitable; agree. A covenant is an agreement, a promise. The word is both a noun and a verb. In making a contract, parties come together with agreement on promises, stipulations, and responsibilities.

It also means Bond, Family, Community, humanity, relationship, love; and provides us the ability to love, which comes from the divine deep within our very being.

God's Revelation and divine love and care for us provides us the building blocks we need to sustain, nurture, care for and love one another and ourselves. God's love of us and mark upon us provides us the faith and strength we need throughout our lives, and enables us to live and love more fully, to have joy and fulfillment.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

During this first week of Lent, set aside time to create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence to you. Pray, reflect, and consider what God may be asking of you, or ways you can express His Covenant and Love toward your family, community, and neighbor.

YOUR WAYS
ARE LOVE
AND TRUTH.

PSALM 25



Reflections From the Reverend



Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

These three activities are the traditional marks of Lent and serve as a summary of our practices during this holy season.

In prayer we seek to improve our relationship to God, by a dialogue of listening and receiving the power of His love in our daily lives.

Through fasting we seek to focus not on our own bodily needs, but on a higher goal. Jesus says, “deny yourself”. In a world of “me first” and a constant focus on what we have and don’t have, it’s good for us as Christians to focus on self-denial in imitation of Jesus as He urges us to “take up our cross daily and deny ourselves”, thereby to find what it really means to be alive!

Almsgiving, or charitable giving can serve as a sign of our interior sacrifice, and at the same time support the poor around us.



We welcome *Mila Simone Colecchi* daughter of Jaclyn and Michael Colecchi of Hemlock Dr. in Millbury who was baptized last Sunday here at St. Mark’s. May the good and gracious Lord bless her and her family as she grows in faith.

Bishop’s Letter

Lent 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year’s Lenten journey to Holy Week and Easter will again be different. But COVID notwithstanding, the reasons for, and the fruits of, this annual holy season of prayer, penance and almsgiving remain the same.

Strive as we do, we sin. Strive as we may, sanctity, the goal of us all, can always be more fully embodied. In both our striving and our shortcomings we should never be discouraged. God’s grace abounds.

We should always welcome this penitential but joy-filled season to narrow our focus on what is most important. For when, through deepened prayer, greater penances and more generous alms-giving, we turn from sin to grow in holiness, our greater awareness and receptivity to God’s mercy, love and grace prepare us to share in and celebrate ever more joyfully Christ’s Easter triumphs.

In these COVID times our personal circumstances may not allow us to gather in great crowds at church for Masses, weekly Stations, Bible classes or even the liturgies of Holy Week. We might worry that this may lead to a diminished Lent. But God will not be denied. He will not deny us an abundance of graces for a good Lent if we do not deny Him or forego a vigorous season of repentance as our circumstances allow.

On the way to the first Holy Week much of what the Apostles thought necessary seemed lacking and events did not play out as they hoped. Peter sought to deter Christ from the Cross. James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume those who did not receive Jesus. Andrew wondered aloud what good five loaves and two fish were among so many. On Good Friday all seemed lost. But Christ rose and triumphed over all for all.

This Lent, our parishes and diocese will again be creative so that the Word will be preached, the Sacraments celebrated and the good works carried on. Together with those public liturgical gatherings that your prudent decisions allow you to attend, your deep private prayer and penances, pondering of Scripture, examination of conscience, and acts of charity will give glory to God and draw you closer to Him.

Let us then, like Christ led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for forty days of prayer and fasting, embark upon this Holy Season to repent of our sin, grow in holiness and draw closer to Christ. For it is only in Him, by the way of the Cross, that we will find and forever share in the deepest longing of our hearts, the love of the Trinity which triumphed at Easter.

With every prayerful best wish for a fruitful Lent, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Haiti Bowls for Lent

As in every Lent, Sacrificial Bowls for use in Lent will be in church beginning on Ash Wednesday. Skip a meal, or go lightly on food, and put a donation into the bowl as a Lenten Sacrifice. Proceeds will benefit our Haiti Mission.

Flocknote: Weekly and Daily Lenten Reflections From Bishop Baron's Word on Fire will be sent through our parish Flocknote. If you are not on our email or phone list as of yet, and would like to share in these reflections, call the office.

Congratulations

to Kathleen Huggins our coordinator of elementary religious education who has completed her certification with the diocese of Administrator of Religious Education. Kathy who has a degree in elementary childhood education continues to build her qualifications as she grows in her position with us!



FISH FRY SEASON HAS BEGUN—

Please support our Knights of Columbus while treating yourself and your family to their delicious Fish, chips and/or chowder.

Fridays during Lent, beginning February 19th.

Religious Education News

As of February 28th Children's Liturgy will be moving to 12pm via *Zoom*. Open to all our parish families. Contact Kathy for Meeting ID and password.



First Communion classes begin on February 28th at 9am in person or via Zoom on Wednesday March 3 at 3pm.

Classes for **Elementary** students resume February 27th at 3pm for in person students and on Wednesday March 3 at 4pm for Zoom class.

Packets with materials needed for this session are now available for pick up. Parents of children in grades 3-5 who did not register in the fall but would like to join us for the spring please contact:

kathleen@saintmarksparish.org



Readings of the Week

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

- Sunday: Gn 9:8-15 / Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10] / 1 Pt 3:18-22 / Mk 1:12-15
- Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 / Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1] / Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 / Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b] / Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 / Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b] / Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a] / Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28 / Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3] / Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 / Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b] / Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 / Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9] / Rom 8:31b-34 / Mk 9:2-10



Thanks to the families that participated in our Valentine's Day project to make cards for local seniors! The cards were delivered to CareOne in Millbury, along with some candy hearts. Our parish children are learning that small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day in a big way.



Whittier Farms is partnering with the Sutton Food Pantry during the month of February to support those in need in our community. For each \$5 donation they receive they will deliver a homemade Mac & Cheese to the pantry. Please consider purchasing a meal for a family in need.

Three shopping options.

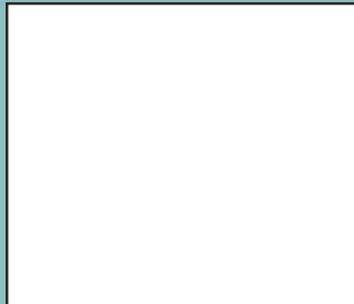
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