



SAINT MARY OF THE BAY, WARREN, RI
invites you to our 2021 Lenten series

WORD AND WORSHIP WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, February 24, 7pm

Stations of the Cross with Mother Teresa

Wednesday, March 3, 7pm

Joyful Joseph: A Reflection for the Year of Saint Joseph

Wednesday, March 10, 7pm

Lenten Praise and Worship: Uplifting Music to Inspire

Wednesday, March 17, 7pm

Prayer with Patrick: What Saint Patrick Can Teach Us Today

Wednesday, March 24, 7pm

Can Pain Have Meaning? A Reflection on Redemptive Suffering

**EACH EVENT WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN CHURCH
AND WILL INCLUDE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFESSION**

   **@warrencatholic**



Mass Intentions

Second Week of Lent

Saturday, February 27

4pm: Joe Silva, 1st anniversary
Requested by his sister, Ida Hoffma

Sunday, February 28

8am: For all parishioners
10:30am: John Sienkiewicz
Requested by family
6pm: Mary Smith
Requested by the Smith Family

Tuesday, March 2

8am: Barbara Brochu, Month's Mind
Requested by John and Sandra Jannitto

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 6

4pm: Adriano Machado, birthday remembrance
Requested by his daughter, Almerinda Sa

Sunday, March 7

8am: Edmund D. Cappuccilli, 1st anniversary
Requested by his family
10:30am: Muriel Morris, 1st anniversary
Requested by her family
6pm: Emily Hitchell
Requested by the Smith Family

Sabbath@Sundown

Sunday Mass at 6pm in Saint Mary of the Bay
645 Main Street, Warren

*A warm and welcoming atmosphere for believers and seekers,
and anyone looking for prayerful refuge before a new week*

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Parish Offertory

Weekend of February 20 & 21, 2021

Budget Envelopes: \$2,415.00 Loose: \$691.00

Online: \$2,987.00

(Average Online Gift: \$59.74 Number of Users: 50)

Total: \$6,093.00

Ash Wednesday: \$1,011.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

If there's anything the pandemic has taught us, it's that we have much less control over things than we'd like to imagine. The same lesson became very painfully clear over the past few weeks as southern states, especially Texas, struggled to deal with extreme weather conditions. Despite all of our advances—scientific, technological or otherwise—certain inherent weakness and limitations are just part and parcel of our earthly, embodied state. Lent is a time to embrace those limitations. We began this holy season by having ashes sprinkled on our foreheads, a stark reminder of the fact that one day our bodies will return to the dust from which they came. But far from inviting self-abnegation or resentment of our limitations or those things we cannot control, Lent liberates us to consider that, despite our littleness in the grand scheme of things, God's grace enables us to reach for heights we could never attain on our own!

The story of the Transfiguration which we will hear recounted this weekend reminds us that our human countenance, often wearied from the burdens and cares of this world, can be transfigured by the power of God's grace. The human face of Jesus of Nazareth, but for a few moments on Mount Tabor, showed forth his divine glory. The Transfiguration is not just an historical event which has passed, but a promise of the future transfiguration of our humanity in the Kingdom. The ashes of Lent no doubt remind us of our mortality, but consider that ashes are also a sign of great resilience! They alone survive and endure the hottest of fires.

Kathryn Spink, a member of the Taizé community in France, once wrote: *"We of the Taizé community look upon the Transfiguration above all as the celebration of that presence of Christ which takes charge of everything in us and transfigures even that which disturbs us about ourselves. God penetrates those hardened, incredulous, even disquieting regions within us, about which we really do not know what to do. God penetrates them with the life of the Spirit and acts upon those regions and gives them God's own face."*

In other news, take a look at the pictures of the first gathering of our new youth program, **ENGAGE**. We had a great night last weekend! What remarkable young people and young adult leaders our parish has! We are planning another gathering before Easter. Also, I'm also overwhelmed by the generosity of so many who reached out to make **memorial gifts**. A full listing will be published soon, and a few items remain to be memorialized. Please reach out to me directly if you're interested. And lastly, **we've decided to leave the church open for daily prayer, Monday through Friday, from 7:30am to 3pm**, throughout the season of Lent. We hope to be able to do so year-round, but this will be our trial run. Please take advantage of the opportunity to just sit in quiet and be still in the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. It will be well worth your time! And don't forget to **join us this Wednesday at 7pm!**

Until next week,



Seasonal Corner

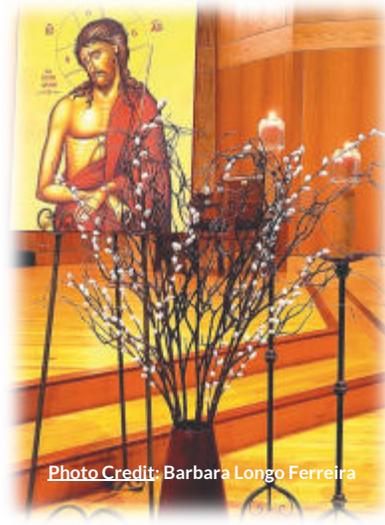


Photo Credit: Barbara Longo Ferreira

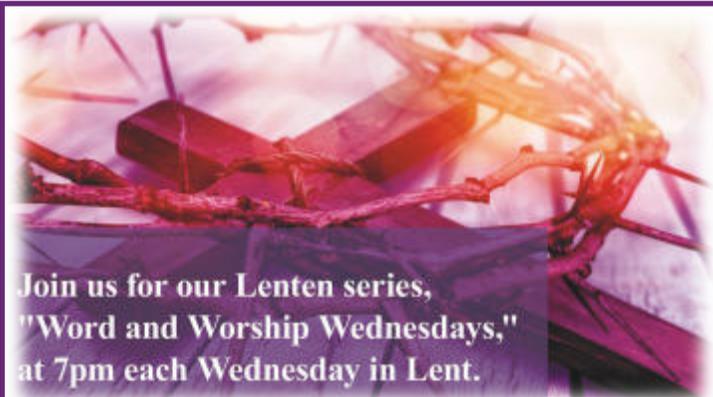
Throughout the season of Lent, an icon will be displayed in the sanctuary to provide a visual focus for our common worship. The image is called **"Christ the Bridegroom"** and features prominently in the Eastern liturgy of Holy Week. It portrays Christ crowned with thorns, with hands bound, wearing a mock cloak of honor and holding a mock scepter of authority. It is a particularly profound image for the season of Lent, as we recall Christ's willingness to suffer for us.

But why exactly is this image called **"Christ the Bridegroom"**? Throughout the scriptures, the sacred authors use the image of marriage to describe the relationship between God and his people. When Israel breaks her covenant with God, the prophets are quick to liken her actions to marital infidelity. Jesus portrays himself as a bridegroom who will make his appearance at an unknown hour (see Matthew 25:1-13). And the bible concludes with the "wedding feast of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:7-9). In Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, God has definitively espoused his bride, the Church.

But our Bridegroom did not claim his bride finely attired in a glorious celebration. He claimed his bride by offering his life for her on the cross. So the crown and cord, which feature prominently in wedding ceremonies in many cultures to this day, are exchanged for a crown of thorns and a coarse rope. Wedding attire is exchanged for a borrowed cloak, thrown over Jesus in mockery.

The sight of the suffering Christ might have filled many with horror at the sheer ugliness of physical pain and bodily torture. But this sight for the believer is one of absolute beauty. The bride is overcome with love at this sight of her Bridegroom, knowing that his life was laid down for hers. Take a moment to visit the icon after Mass and to offer a prayer. Our Eastern brothers and sisters pray with icons frequently and often refer to them as "windows into heaven."

In praying with this icon, consider the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: *"we return to the 'two trumpets' of the Bible...to the paradox of being able to say of Christ: 'You are the fairest of the children of men,' and: 'He had no beauty, no majesty to draw our eyes, no grace to make us delight in him.' In the Passion of Christ...The experience of the beautiful has received new depth and new realism. The One who is Beauty itself let himself be slapped in the face, spat upon, crowned with thorns...However, in his Face that is so disfigured, there appears the genuine, extreme beauty: the beauty of love that goes 'to the very end'; for this reason it is revealed as greater than falsehood and violence. Whoever has perceived this beauty knows that truth, and not falsehood, is the real aspiration of the world...It is, as it were, a new trick of what is false to present itself as 'truth' and to say to us: over and above me there is basically nothing, stop seeking or even loving the truth...The icon of the crucified Christ sets us free from this deception that is so widespread today. However it imposes a condition: that we let ourselves be wounded by him, and that we believe in the Love who can risk setting aside his external beauty to proclaim, in this way, the truth of the beautiful."*



Join us for our Lenten series, **"Word and Worship Wednesdays,"** at 7pm each Wednesday in Lent.

This week we Deacon John will present: **"Joyful Joseph: A Reflection for the Year of Saint Joseph."** The night will also include Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for individual Confession. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend along!



Congratulations!



Congratulations to the Ohl Family (from left to right): Dan, Alisa, Xavier, Zoe and Brigid! A few weeks back, Ben Smith, Grand Knight of the Bristol Knights of Columbus, was on hand to present the Ohls with the **Family of the Month Award**. This award recognizes families who have put their Catholic faith into concrete action. The Ohls have served our community in a number of ways, from bringing communion to local nursing homes, to involvement with our Faith Formation program, to liturgical ministries, to youth ministry, to providing our parish with prayer squares! Thank you for your witness! Congratulations!



Please Take Note

Throughout the season of Lent, the church will remain open from 7:30am to 3pm from Monday through Friday for private prayer and devotion! Please stop in to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament!



Youth Ministry



Many thanks to all those who participated in the first gathering of **ENGAGE**, our parish youth ministry program for middle and high-schoolers! The event, held last Sunday, included a witness talk by Emily Sullivan, a senior at Providence College and a parishioner, who shared the story of her conversion to the Catholic faith. Participants were able to ask questions and join in discussion with our young adult leaders. At the end of the evening, we put together one hundred grab bags for the children of SMB Food Pantry clients who are learning remotely from home. Thanks to Wendy Baker for overseeing that project! We hope to get our youth together again before Easter! Stay tuned!



EASTER TRIDUUM

April 1, 2021 - Maundy Thursday

7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper
The Chapel of Reservation will remain open until midnight for private prayer and devotion
(No 8am morning Mass)

April 2, 2021 - Good Friday

3pm: Stations of the Cross
7pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion
(No 8am morning Mass)

April 3, 2021 - Holy Saturday

8pm: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
(No Confessions, No 4pm Mass)

Please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for the Paschal Triduum. These are the three most sacred days of the year for Christians, and the celebrations on each day almost form a single, continuous liturgy. The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night is the most solemn celebration of the entire liturgical year. People are often willing to stay up late for a Mass at night on Christmas Eve, but are less willing to come to the Easter Vigil! We strongly urge you to plan on participating this year. It will be the culmination of our parish observance of Lent and shouldn't be missed except for a serious reason. We will open the Easter Vigil with these words: "Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray." May we heed that invitation of the Church and gather together as one community of faith to mark the most sacred of nights and the central mystery of our salvation.

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