



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 20

4pm: Jim Sullivan

Requested by Peggy Sullivan

Sunday, March 21

8am: Ann McGinn

Requested by family

10:30am: Helen Hawkinson

Requested by Sean & Laura Buckley

6pm: For all parishioners

Monday, March 22

8am: Barbara Brochu

Requested by Gregory & Alice Krawczyk

Wednesday, March 24

8am: Helen Hawkinson

Requested by the SMB Women's Guild

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 27

4pm Roger Laforge

Requested by family

Sunday, March 28

8am: For all parishioners

10:30am: Jason & Marianna Massed

Requested by family

6pm: Dorothy A. Longo, 4th ann. remembrance

Requested by Barbara Longo Ferreira



Parish Offertory

Weekend of March 13 & 14, 2021

Budget Envelopes: \$2,492.00 Loose: \$1,164.00

Online: \$747.00

(Average Online Gift: \$62.78 Number of Users: 56)

Total: \$4,403.00

Easter Flowers: \$1,231.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

We have entered "Passiontide," the last two weeks of Lent, which invite deeper reflection on the suffering and death of Jesus. In times past (and still in some places), crosses and sacred images would be covered as a sign of our desire to remove all distractions and focus more intently on the self-sacrificial love of Jesus. Scholars of the liturgy point out that in some places, as early as the 10th century, the entire altar was obscured from view with a Fasting Veil ("Hungercloth") throughout the season of Lent! The symbolism is potent. It not only invites anticipation for celebration of Easter, but reminds us that what is veiled is not meant to be veiled forever! As Christians, we live in a state of constant tension. We live in the world but are not of it; we walk by faith, not by sight. Christ's promises have been made and while they already indeed realized, they are not yet completely fulfilled. Nonetheless, I pray that these remaining days of Lent are spent in prayerful consideration of the sacrifice of the cross.

A few notes about Holy Week:

- ◆ Yes, we will have palms this year! We are excited to welcome the return of the sacred tradition of blessing and distributing palms in commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into his holy city.
- ◆ After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Blessed Sacrament will remain in a special repository (the narthex of the church) until midnight. As our celebration concludes, we will sing together the haunting words of Christ from the gospel in the style of the Taize community in France: "Stay with me...remain here with me...watch and pray..." Please consider spending some time with the Lord on Holy Thursday evening, even returning at some point later in the evening to watch and pray with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.
- ◆ I spoke last weekend about the importance of making every effort to attend the Triduum liturgies, especially the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8pm. Brian Helge describes our gathering at the most solemn of all celebrations using imagery from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Treebeard, a talking tree, after meeting a pair of hobbits, explains why he will not reveal his name to them right away: "my name is like a story. Real names tell you the story of the things they belong to in my language...It is a lovely language, but it takes a very long time to say anything in it, because we do not say anything in it, unless it is worth taking a long time to say, and to listen to." The Easter Vigil is the annual reminder to believers of the meaning of our name, "Christian." Helge observes: "Our name is a very long story—of how we were made, of how God chose us from among all peoples, of how God liberated us from bondage, of how God planted us in the promised land, of how, in these last times, God has given the story a new twist, given our name meaning in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus." And we will hear that story told in our proper language: the language of ritual and prayerful gesture; the language of scripture, prayer, poetry and symbol. At the Easter Vigil, we take the time to say our name aloud again—and thus hear our story as Christians retold—because it is a name worth taking the time to say and to listen to. Please make the effort to join us.

I hope that you'll take advantage of the last of our Lenten series, "Word and Worship Wednesdays." We have had an outstanding response to these offerings, and hope that we can keep the momentum going as we approach Holy Week. This coming Wednesday at 7pm, I'll offer a reflection on redemptive suffering: "Can Pain Have Meaning?" Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction will be included, and a visiting priest will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome!

And don't forget that this coming Sunday, March 28, is the next gathering of ENGAGE, for middle and high-school students. Our young adults are planning a great evening of community, discussion, prayer and service. Help us get the word out! There's no better way for our young people to enter into Holy Week than by joining us on for ENGAGE!

Until next week,



Seasonal Corner

As we enter into Passiontide—a time set aside for deeper reflection on the suffering and death of Jesus—spend a few moments prayerfully reading and reflecting on the poem below, “From the Dark Tower,” by Countee Cullen.

Cullen was a Black poet who sought to address racial injustice through his poetry. He authored many works, including a collection of poems, *The Black Christ* (1929), which likened the plight of Black Americans to the suffering of Christ. While the poem below alludes to the racism that prevented Black people from benefiting from the fruits of their labor, and to Cullen’s hope that one day, racism and racial inequality would be overcome, he shows himself a deeply committed Christian who understood that true hope is found only in the dying and rising of Jesus.

Some lines of this poem could also be applied to the mystery of Christ’s passion. Christ entered into the darkness of the night of suffering and death to show us that it is precisely the night that makes the stars more visible. As Christ laid in the darkness of death in the cold tomb, his followers hid bleeding hearts, and waited in faith, tending the agonizing seeds of grief and loss until he came forth. By Christ’s entering into the mournful reality of suffering and death, he teaches his followers—especially those who are victims of oppression and injustice—that they are not made to eternally weep. During this Passiontide, may we recognize more readily the Christ who continues to suffer in the victimized, oppressed and marginalized.



From the Dark Tower
Countee Cullen (1903-1946)

We shall not always plant while others reap
The golden increment of bursting fruit,
Not always countenance, abject and mute,
That lesser men should hold their brothers cheap;
Not everlastingly while others sleep
Shall we beguile their limbs with mellow flute,
Not always bend to some more subtle brute;
We were not made to eternally weep.

The night whose sable breast relieves the stark,
White stars is no less lovely being dark,
And there are buds that cannot bloom at all
In light, but crumple, piteous, and fall;
So in the dark we hide the heart that bleeds,
And wait, and tend our agonizing seeds.



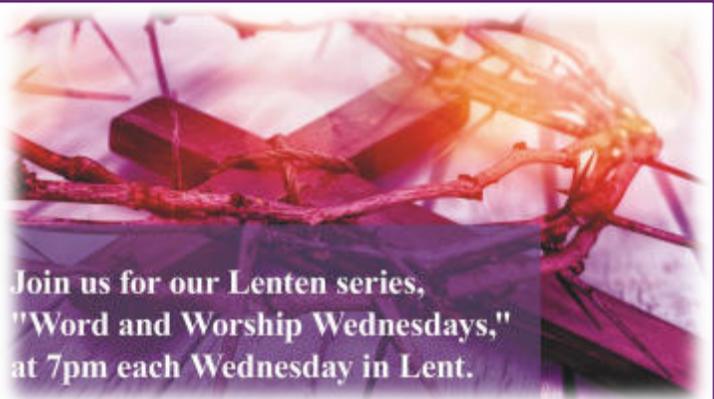
ENGAGE

YOUR HEART. YOUR SOUL. YOUR MIND.

For middle and high-schoolers

Sunday, March 28
Mass at 6pm
Service, Activity, Social at 7pm
in Lower Church Hall

@warrencatholic



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

This week Father Joe will offer a reflection on redemptive suffering: “**Can Pain Have Meaning?**” The night will also include Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for individual Confession with a visiting priest. We hope you’ll join us and bring a friend along!

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*

www.facebook.com/warrencatholic



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. The church will also be open all day each Sunday until after the 6pm Mass. Please stop in to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament!

Story Time



SPRING CLEANING? THINK OF SMB!

We have exciting news!

We are excited to announce that in the Fall, we will introduce a weekly story time for 3-5 year olds here at SMB!

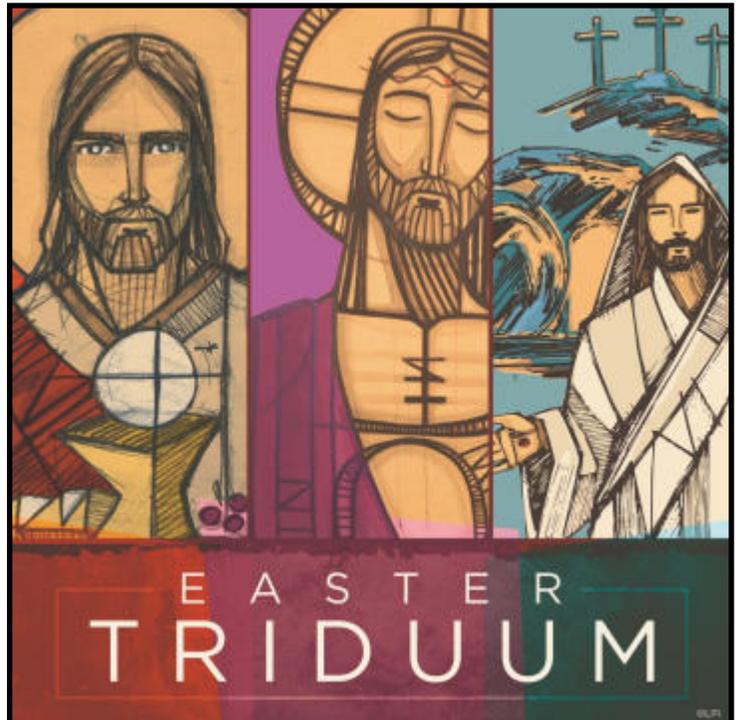
If you feel the need to clean out the toy room, we are looking for some specific donations of gently used items:

- Preschool wooden puzzles
- Preschool hand-on learning toys
- Preschool storybooks

On weekends, you can leave items in a designated container near the main entrance. During the week, you can drop off items at the parish office during regular hours.

Thank you for helping to make our children's ministries grow!

For more information, contact Milly Grieve, Coordinator of SMB Children's Ministries by email at millygrieve@yahoo.com or by phone at 401-245-7000.



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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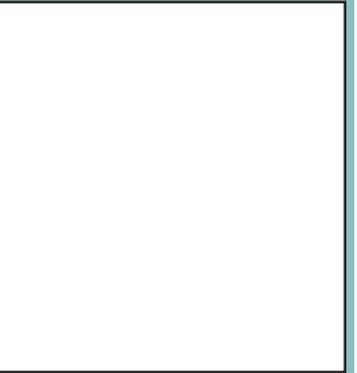


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