



## OUR LADY OF FATIMA

1735 ALEXANDER RD, DELANSON, NY | 518.895.2788 | OLFDELANSON@NYCAP.RR.COM

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

## Mass Intentions

February 20, 2021

Mary Tindale

By Noreen Mickel

February 21, 2021

Mary Tindale

By Werner & Carole Hoffman

February 23, 2021

Veronica Nicosia

By Scott & Brenda Rowley

February 25, 2021

James Breitenstein

By Scott & Brenda Rowley

**IN LOVING  
REMEMBRANCE**



### Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Stephanie Merenda, Ron Frisbee, Cody Stephenson, Michael Fisher, Ken Chrinian, Sue Hamilton, Robin Bunnell, David Nedelski, John Miller, George Tallman, Paul Reveal, Al Westfall, Ron Fagan and Frank Alberti

### Please pray for our home-bound: Bella Stuart,

Charlotte Marks, Belva Thompson, Bea Crounse, Joan Williams, Lorraine Duffy and Carolyn Terrell

**Prayer Ministry** prays for anyone in need of prayer. You can request prayers or join in this ministry. Call James Keller at (518) 295-7970 or email him at jamesakeller@msn.com. From our lips to God's ear. Give your concerns to God and join your parish family in faith and love.

**Visitation Ministry** visits the sick or homebound. Contact Carole Hoffmann at (518) 875-6575 for any services or to receive



We welcomed our candidate for Reconciliation, Isabelle Mormando, who experienced God's mercy and forgiveness on Tuesday, February 16th Communal Service "Pardon Without Pancakes". Blessings to you, Isabelle!

Due to increased positive cases, GIFT sessions have gone "virtual" and you can attend from the comfort of your home! All are welcome! Our next GIFT session, "The Paschal Triduum" is scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at 4:30PM for OLV families and Sunday, March 7th at 9:30AM for OLF families.

The weekly Rediscover Jesus retreat starts Tuesday, February 23rd at 10AM and 6:30PM. We are using the book, "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. Each chapter (1-2 pages) is perfect for daily readings during this time of Lent. Books are now available. If interested, please contact Sena at sena.monaco@gmail.com Please remember, registration is required for all GIFT sessions.

The schedule and registration forms for the Winter/Spring Season are posted on our website, <https://olfgrowinginfaith.weebly.com/faith-formation.html>

The GIFT team look forward to seeing you there!

Be safe and have a blessed week!

Sena

Sacrificial Giving  
2/13/2021 - 2/14/2021  
Actual: \$ 1,437 Budget: \$3,271

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT OTB:** Gen 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mark 1:12-15

## A. BENEFITS OF FASTING

*Yet even now—oracle of the Lord—return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. – (Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12)*

One look is all it takes for an expert winegrower to know if a vine will yield fruit abundantly. If its foliage is thick, its grapes will be tiny and sour. But if its leaves are dry, it will yield an abundance of grapes. This means that the much needed nutrients go to the fruit instead of the leaves and branches. That's why it's important for the vine dresser to prune its branches. That's how it is with our lives, too. If we're overly concerned about worldly things, we won't have time and energy left for spiritual things—those that make our soul and spirit grow. This is where we see how important fasting is, not just on food but even more from things and activities that hinder us from getting closer to the Lord. As we begin another Lenten season, let's focus our time on heavenly things. Is our outer life busy and prosperous to the detriment of our inner life? Let's not forget that God created us not only for this world but, more importantly, to spend the rest of eternity with Him. Let's strive to reach our destination.

**Reflect:** "Fasting is the bulimic act of ridding ourselves of our fullness to attune our senses to the mysteries that swirl in and around us." (Dan B. Allender, PhD) **Prayer:** *Jesus, help me to bear fruit that will endure. Amen.*

## B. DIRECTION, NOT DESTINATION

The ash that we've receive on Ash Wednesday is a sacramental that should be received after listening to the Word of God and a short homily. At least that's what the liturgical rules say. And it makes sense. Receiving a sacramental is not magic or superstition. A sacramental "works" only when the receiver has the right disposition. And what is the right disposition for receiving the ashes? The priest says while imposing the ashes, "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel." Or, "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return.") Both lines have profound implications. To turn away from sin, I must take my time and acknowledge once more that I am a sinner. Something I cannot do in two minutes when I line up to receive the ashes and then wash my face when I get back home. And I cannot believe in the Gospel if I do not even take the time to listen to it on a day like Ash Wednesday.

The readings chosen for today are excellent. Joel's passage begins with "Now, now... come back." And St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Well, now is the favorable time." Three "nows." That leads us to think, right? We tend to postpone and say, "Tomorrow," or "Next time." Be careful when you catch yourself postponing a good resolution. It makes the devil very happy. You know what the Lord thinks of it. "Now is a favorable time..." We might have missed this chance more than once. But please, not this year. I don't like to be morbid or scare you, but the reality is that there might be no tomorrow, no next week, no next time.

From the Ash Wednesday we start our forty-day journey to the great Easter celebration. When we speak of journey, we do not necessarily mean destination but more of a direction. When we say destination, it points to a place where we go or meet. Direction is deeper—it is a course that someone takes to go somewhere. Lent is a direction because it is a journey with Jesus and in Jesus. It begins right in our hearts where Jesus dwells.

The forty days of Lent are not mere number of days to be followed. They signify to us perfection, which is an ongoing process in life. The practices of fasting, almsgiving, and contrition help us stay on course in the direction of Christ. When we see life more as directional, like Lent which we celebrate every year and its spirit we live daily, it does not really matter what God wants us to do or if this is what He really wants from us. To see life more as a direction means to find its meaning in God so that we keep on maturing and sustaining our journey in Him and with Him. It does not matter where He leads us or where we go or stay. What matters most is we are in Him and with Him.

So here, we find Lent is entering God in and through Jesus Christ. It is going back to Him, staying in Him and with Him in love. This is why we fast and empty ourselves—so that we become more sensitive to God’s presence. Notice how our churches and the liturgy are very plain and simple: no flowers, no decors, no Alleluia, no Gloria—just the bare essentials so we are not distracted in finding and following God right in our hearts.

The beauty of finding our life direction in God this Lent is that it is not just a personal journey but a communal one as well. When you find your direction, you find God. If you truly find God as your direction, you will surely meet and find your neighbors. That is when you find joy and peace, which is actually Easter—the direction and ultimate destination of every Lent and life. What can you do this Lent to let you get into your heart and truly experience and find God? What can you give up, even partly, to create a space for God within you? Lord Jesus, help me find my direction in life in You.

Fr. Juanito

**Upcoming Liturgical Activities:**

Feb. 20-21: Special Collection for the Black, Native American & Latin American Mission

Feb. 23: Virtual Lenten Retreat: 'The Rediscover Jesus Retreat' 10AM & 630PM//

The schedule and registration forms for the Winter/Spring Season are posted on our website,

<https://olfgrowinginfaith.weebly.com/faith-formation.html>

\*Starting Feb. 19: Stations of the Cross Devotion:

OLFC: Every Tuesdays/Thursdays After the Regular Mass 9AM Sched.; & Fridays - 3PM

OLVC: Every Wednesdays and Fridays After the Regular Mass 9AM Sched.; & Fridays 630PM

**Parish Staff**

Interim Priest

Father Juanito Asprec (609)-772-1602

Music Director

Carol Wilber (cwilber78@midtel.net)

Parish Office

Tiffany Sinatra

olfdelanson@nycap.rr.com

Faith Formation

Sena Monaco (sena.monaco@gmail.com)

Sacramental Preparation

Laura Countryman (olfsacraments@gmail.com)

**This week at Our Lady of Fatima...**

Date	Event	Time	Place
2/22	Friendship Café	11am - 1:30pm	Hall
2/23	Mass	9:00am	Church
2/23	Boy Scouts Meeting	6:30pm	Center
2/24	Mass	6:00pm	Church
2/24	Friendship Café	11am - 1:30pm	Hall
2/25	Mass	9:00am	Church
2/26	Stations of the Cross	6:00pm	Church
2/26	Friendship Café	11am - 1:30pm	Hall
2/27	Reconciliation	2:45pm	Church
2/27	KoC Meatloaf Dinner	12:00pm	Hall
2/27	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	Church
2/28	Second Sunday of Lent Mass	11:00am	Church

**Bishops Appeal**

You can Mail in your donation to the Diocese or drop it in the collection basket in the envelope provided and we will forward it to the Diocese

**Amount collected: \$24,062**

**Goal: \$28,365**

Due by June 21st 2021

**Our Lady of Fatima Ministries**

If you would like to try a new ministry, give the ministry coordinator a call. **New members are always welcome and needed!**

Eucharistic Ministers: Carole Hoffmann 875-6575

Greeters: Mary Ann Conway 895-2797

Lectors: Helene Langan 295-7304

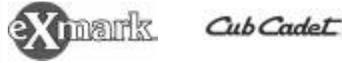
Counters: Kris Zedaker 864-7491

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