

ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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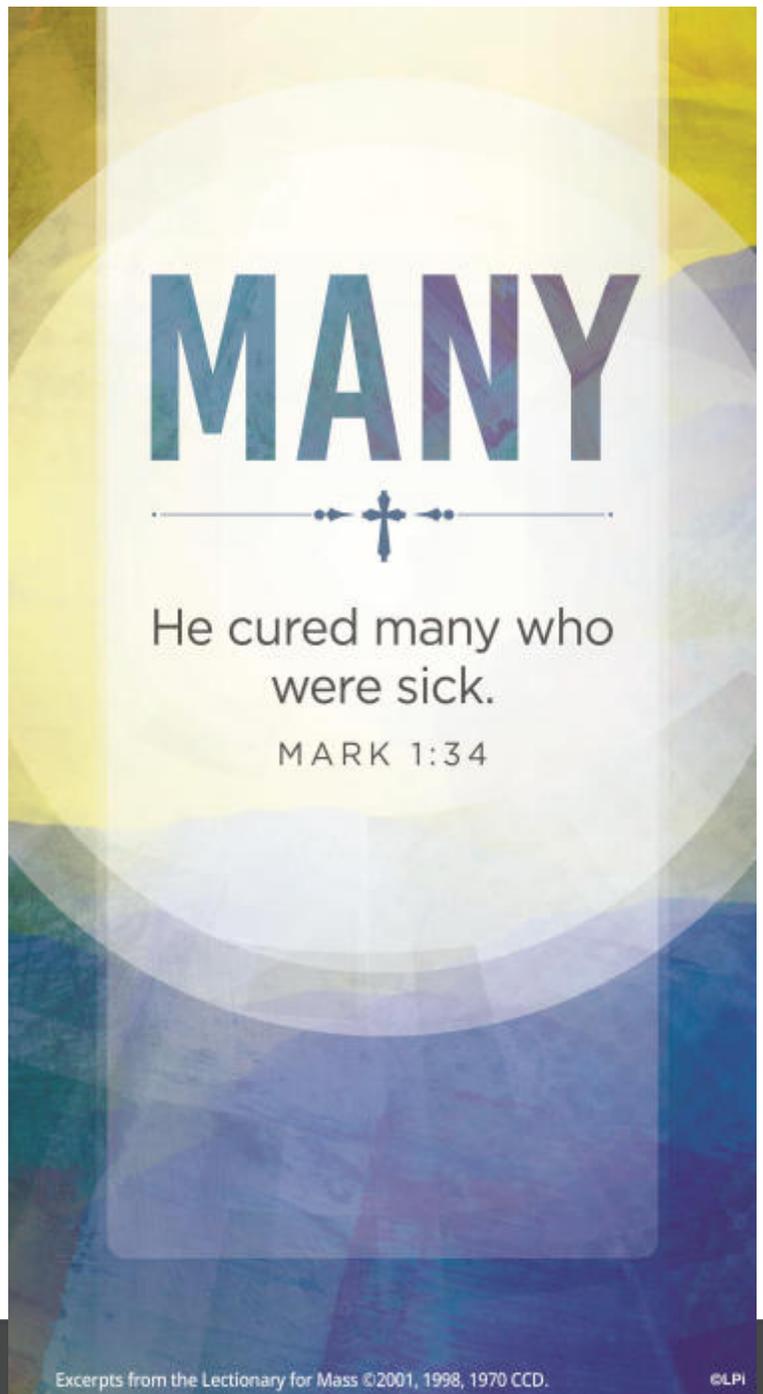
MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEVE BERTI

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TIM BISSAILLON

MAINTENANCE



Office Hours

@ST. MARY'S RECTORY

159 Church Street

Cheshire, MA 01225

413.743.2110

THE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY
CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



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SAINTMARYSCATHOLIC.ORG

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Masses & Confession

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

INDOOR MASS - MAIN CHURCH

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M.

JOIN US FOR MASS INSIDE OR SIT IN
YOUR CAR AND TUNE IN TO 91.3 ON
YOUR STEREO AND LISTEN

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

9:30 a.m. Raymond V. Boutin
Req. by His Wife & Family

MONDAY - SATURDAY

No Daily or Saturday Masses

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

9:30 a.m. Bernard Houle (1st Anniversary) &
Rita Moffett
Req. by The Family

PARISH GIFTS

HOSTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF
JANE PYRA
BY JIM & CAROLE PYRA

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MY PARISH APP - ST. MARY'S

Our app is a great way to stay connected to the parish during the pandemic. Now that we do not use missals, you can have access to the readings, responsorial psalms, Gospel readings, prayers, our bulletin, and much more!

How to get the app on your smart phone or tablet (it's free!):

Apple & Android Devices:

- Visit the App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store (android)
- Search for and download myParish
- Open the myParish App
- Search for Cheshire zip code (01225)
- Select Assumption Parish and add it as a favorite
- You're now ready to check out all the app offers

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 17th.
The following are our Mass times:

8:00 a.m. - St. Stanislaus Kostka, Adams

5:30 p.m. - St. Mary's, Cheshire

7:00 p.m. - Notre Dame, Adams

To prevent person to person contact, we will be distributing individual household packets of ashes at the end of Mass. This will be done in place of the priests administering the ashes to each person's forehead. Each packet will be blessed and you will receive instruction on how to anoint yourselves and your family once you have left the church. Packets will also be available to those who attend Mass in the parking lot. You may receive them by joining the Communion line at the end of Mass along the driveway.

For parishioners who watch Mass on TV or online from their home, household packets will be available for pick up at the rectory entrance on Tuesday, February 16th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Any leftover ashes may be disposed of by sprinkling them on the snow or grass. The empty packet may then be discarded.

OUR GIVING

You may now give to our parish in the following ways:

- Mail a check/your envelope to the parish office
Make checks payable to ST. MARY'S
- Drop your envelope in the collection basket at Mass (our parishes will ensure your envelopes are directed to your home parish)
- Set up online giving via the instructions below

Giving data was not available at the bulletin submission deadline. Updated totals will be available in the next bulletin.

Annual giving statements have been emailed and paper copies are available upon request. You may also access yours via the online portal through our website.

ONLINE GIVING

Our online giving system is easy to use and may be accessed via our website or via the link below.

The online giving system utilizes "Stripe" a payment processing interface used by thousands of businesses including Google, Amazon, and more! The interface links with our online parish database, so gifts made to the parish may be tracked on your online account.

1. Visit stmarys.breezechms.com/give/online
2. Next, enter the dollar amount you would like to give.
3. Choose to give via credit card or bank transfer (ACH)
4. Enter your information.
5. Choose if you would like your give to be one time, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or yearly.
6. Click "Donate Now" and your payment will process.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed.
2. On days of fast, two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal a full meal.
3. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
4. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at fourteen (14) years of age.
5. The obligation to fast begins at eighteen (18) years of age and ends at fifty-nine (59) years of age.
6. Although the faithful may excuse themselves for a just cause from these laws of fast and abstinence, there is an obligation to substitute another penance and no Catholic should lightly excuse him/herself from this obligation in the Lenten season.

MASS UPDATE

WEEKEND MASSES

Masses are currently being held in Adams and Cheshire at their regularly scheduled times. **In order to provide the safest environment for everyone, we strongly encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of the FM transmitter option to listen to Mass outside:**

Adams - listen on 91.7 FM

Cheshire - listen on 91.3 FM

At St. Mary's, you may listen from anywhere in the church parking lot or in the adjacent school lots. We distribute Communion near the chapel entrance on the driveway at the end of Mass.

Please be sure to thoroughly review and follow the COVID guidelines listed to the right. Also, if you have any potential symptoms of a cold or are not well, please do not seek to receive Communion, even outside. Our Extraordinary Ministers are still in contact with the occupants of other vehicles, and with other volunteers, so it is important we all do our part to keep our parish family healthy.

- Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

IMPORTANT COVID & HEALTH NOTICES

*****If you have tested positive for COVID and have attended one of our Masses or entered one of our buildings, please contact the parish office. Contacting us directly will allow us to quickly contact trace, notify others, and further disinfect our spaces.**

*****If you have traveled outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, please follow State and Local guidelines and either have a COVID-19 test within 72 hours before entering the State or quarantine for 14 days after arriving in the State.**

Now that we are in cold and flu season, in addition to COVID, we kindly ask that you be sure to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Wear a mask, wash your hands, hand sanitize
- Social distance and avoid personal contact with others
- Stay home if you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, cold symptoms, and/or feel generally unwell
- Consider listening to Mass on the radio from our parking lot on 91.3 FM, watching online, or via TV if you are in a high risk category (the Dispensation from attending Mass is still in place)

GOSPEL MEDITATION – ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to

restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be. ©LPi



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