

# ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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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



## Connect

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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 21, 2021**

9:30 a.m. Ed Betit  
Req. by John & Sue Burzimatì

**MONDAY - SATURDAY**

No Daily or Saturday Masses

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

9:30 a.m. Edwin Jacobs  
Req. by Gloria Lewis

## PARISH GIFTS

CANDLES GIVEN IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN & LENA BURZIMATI  
BY JOHN & SUE BURZIMATI

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.

### STATEMENTS ON COVID-19 VACCINE

With the COVID-19 Vaccine being distributed, the Diocese of Springfield has compiled a list of information that will help those of you who have been asking ethical questions. For more information, please visit: <http://diospringfield.org/10710-2/>

## 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
- Set up online giving via the instructions below

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

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

*Thank you for your continued support of our parish!*

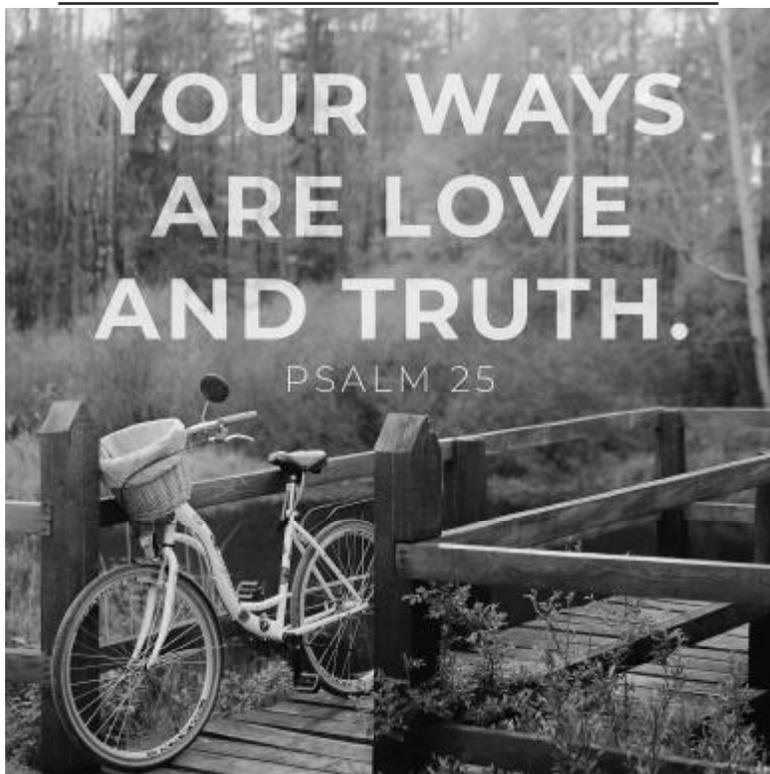
Annual giving statements have been emailed and paper copies are available upon request. You may also access yours via the online portal through our website.

## 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](http://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.



*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 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

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in

being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and

systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does. ©LPi



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