

ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

FATHER STEVE MONTESANTI

PASTOR

fathersteve@saintmaryscatholic.org

FATHER BILL CYR

RETIRED PRIEST

DEACON BOB HITTER

deaconbob@saintmaryscatholic.org

MICHELLE FRANCESCONI

BUSINESS MANAGER

michelle@saintmaryscatholic.org

ANN CAIN

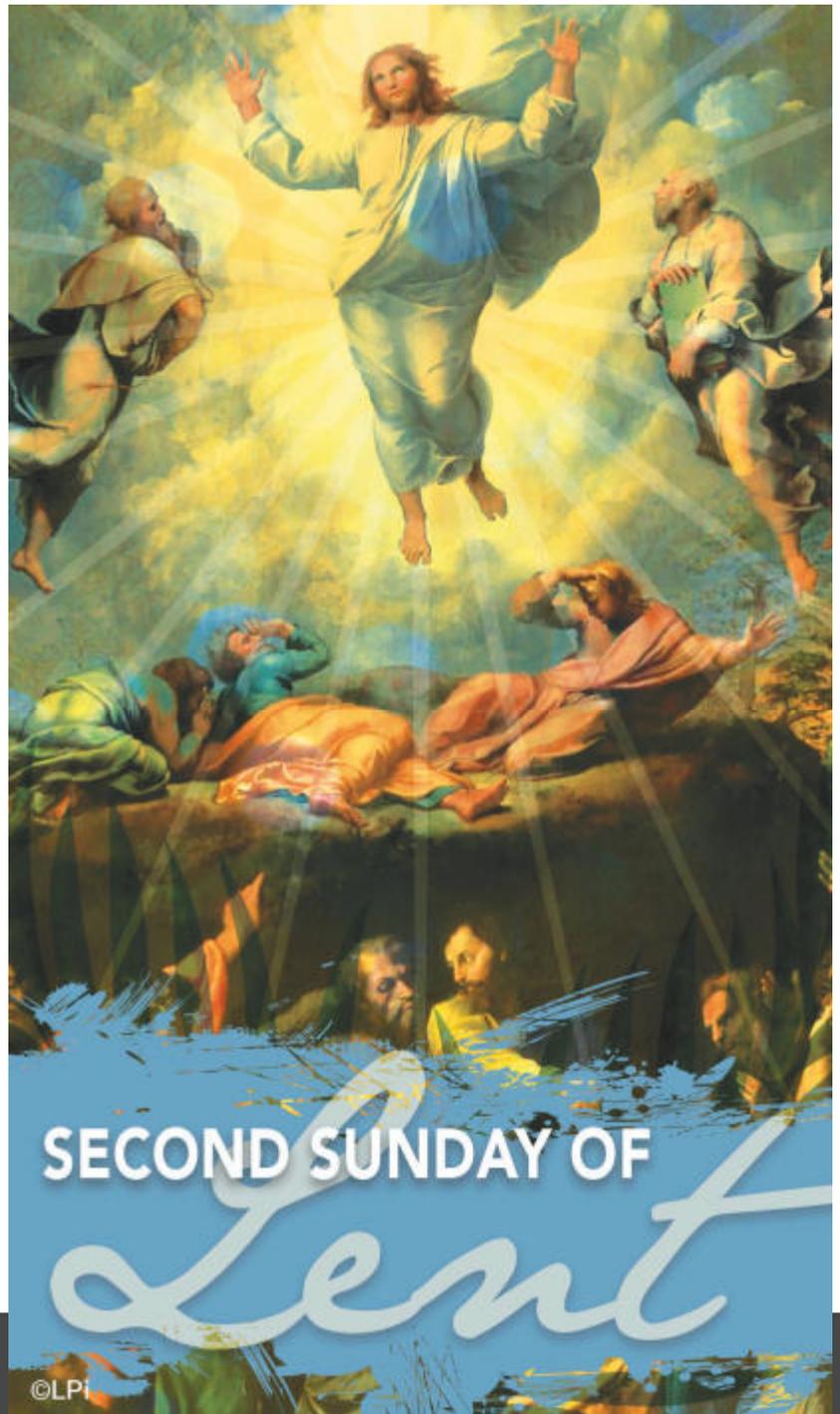
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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



Connect

SAINTMARYSCATHOLIC.ORG

office@saintmaryscatholic.org



@saintmaryscatholic



@stmaryscheshire



@stmaryofthe0039



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 28, 2021

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

MONDAY - SATURDAY

No Daily or Saturday Masses

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

9:30 a.m. The Osanni Family
Req. by Pam & Ed St. John

PARISH GIFTS

ALL GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF
THE DECEASED PARISHIONERS
OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

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

Regular Collection	\$3,565.00	Snow Removal	\$245.00
Fuel	\$60.00	Easter Flowers	\$80.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Regular Collection	\$1,122.00	Easter Flowers	\$20.00
--------------------	------------	----------------	---------

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.

A LETTER FROM FATHER STEVE

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'I no longer call you servants, I call you friends.'"
JN 15:15

My Dear Friends!

Where did time go?! Too little and not enough! Through the good and the bad, you have kept the faith and nourished and strengthened mine. We all have to face and live with our doubts each day in so many ways. But we never have to do so alone. We have the Revelation of God in Christ and each other to see us through. THANK YOU ALL for seeing me through. In every way.

Whenever I leave a parish assignment for another, I'm always painfully aware of my shortcomings, mistakes, failings, and sins while I was there. Now is no different.

The kindness and mercies you have shown me will be forever remembered with gratitude and prayer. Never ever underestimate your God-Given gifts to make good things happen in bad situations. It's clear to me it's a singular strength of character within the Parish itself. Praised be to God!

I'm deliberately speaking to the parishes of both Saint John Paul II and Saint Mary's as one. We are all one in The One Who Is All, God. Everything else is about geography. So my prayer for all of you is the prayer of Jesus. "Dearest Father in Heaven, I pray that they may all be one, as you and I are one. That our joy may be in them and their joy may be full." Amen.

With every good wish and blessing, love your friend, Steve XOXO

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/>

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on Earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3

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

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to

secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's

call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen. ©LPi





When it comes to caring for seniors, it's a matter of trust
Meet the Berkshires Senior Care Family

www.BaneCare.com

Springside
255 Lebanon Ave. • Pittsfield
413-499-2334
Rehabilitation • Skilled Care
Craneville Place
265 Main Street • Dalton
413-684-3212
Rehabilitation • Skilled Care
Sugar Hill
45 Main Street • Dalton
413-684-0100
Independent Living
Assisted Living
Memory Care

We take pride in
Serving the Berkshires Branch by Branch

Adams • 2 Center Street - Drive-up & ATM
Adams • 93 Park Street
Cheshire • 75 South Street
Lanesboro • 545 South Main Street
Lee • 41 Park Street
Lenox • 7 Main Street
North Adams • 31 Eagle Street
Williamstown • 273 Main Street



413-743-0001
adamscommunity.com

GARBAGE • SEPTIC



CHURCH VENDOR

413-743-5397

Dery

Funeral Homes
443-9151
David A. Dery
Fredrick D. Dery



Please support our advertisers and mention you saw their ad here.

St. John Law Office

413-743-0990

A Longtime St. Mary Parishioner

Adams Office

2 Center St., Suite 6,
PO Box 228, Adams, MA

Edmund R. St. John, III
Edmund R. St. John, IV



891 Crane Ave., Pittsfield
413-442-7846
Mon. - Fri. 7am - 5pm • Sat. 8am - Noon
www.johnsbuidingsupply.com
jbsma@hotmail.com

Paciorek Funeral Home

John S. Paciorek - Director
13 Hoosac St., Adams, MA 01220
Tel: (413) 743-0815



Whitney's Farm Market & Country Gardens
Bakery • Homemade Fudge
Homemade Pies • Fresh Produce
413-442-4749 • www.whitneysfarm.com
Rt. 8 Cheshire, MA
Open For The Season, Daily 9-7, Sun. 9-6



It's Not Too Late. There's still Time. Get Your Shed Now!
www.BerkshireSheds.com
If it's not SHEDS N' STUFF it's not the best.
Route 8, Cheshire, MA (413) 743-9964
Mon.-Fri. 10-5 Sat. 10-3 | Sun. by Appt.
Sheds, Playhouses & Barns of all Shapes, Sizes & Styles!

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Gary Zakrzewski** to place an ad today!
gzakrzewski@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6413

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.



Perc Tests • Septic Designs
Subdivisions
Wetlands Permitting
413-441-9724
jdupras@trinityeng.com
trinityeng.com

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com



Mange Auto Sales & Service

Family Owned and Operated
720 Cheshire Rd., Rt. 8
Lanesboro, MA
413-445-5919
www.MangeAuto.com



413-443-2708
Angela & Jamie Szczepaniak
Parishioner

Serving The Berkshire For over 85 years!

413.499.4800



O'CONNELL'S Heating Oil & Service

Diane's Twist

Est. 2003

Cones • Sundaes • Shakes
Floats • Overstuffed Sandwiches

413.346.3600

13 MAIN STREET
CHESHIRE, MA

