

ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



MARCH 7, 2021

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ADMINISTRATOR

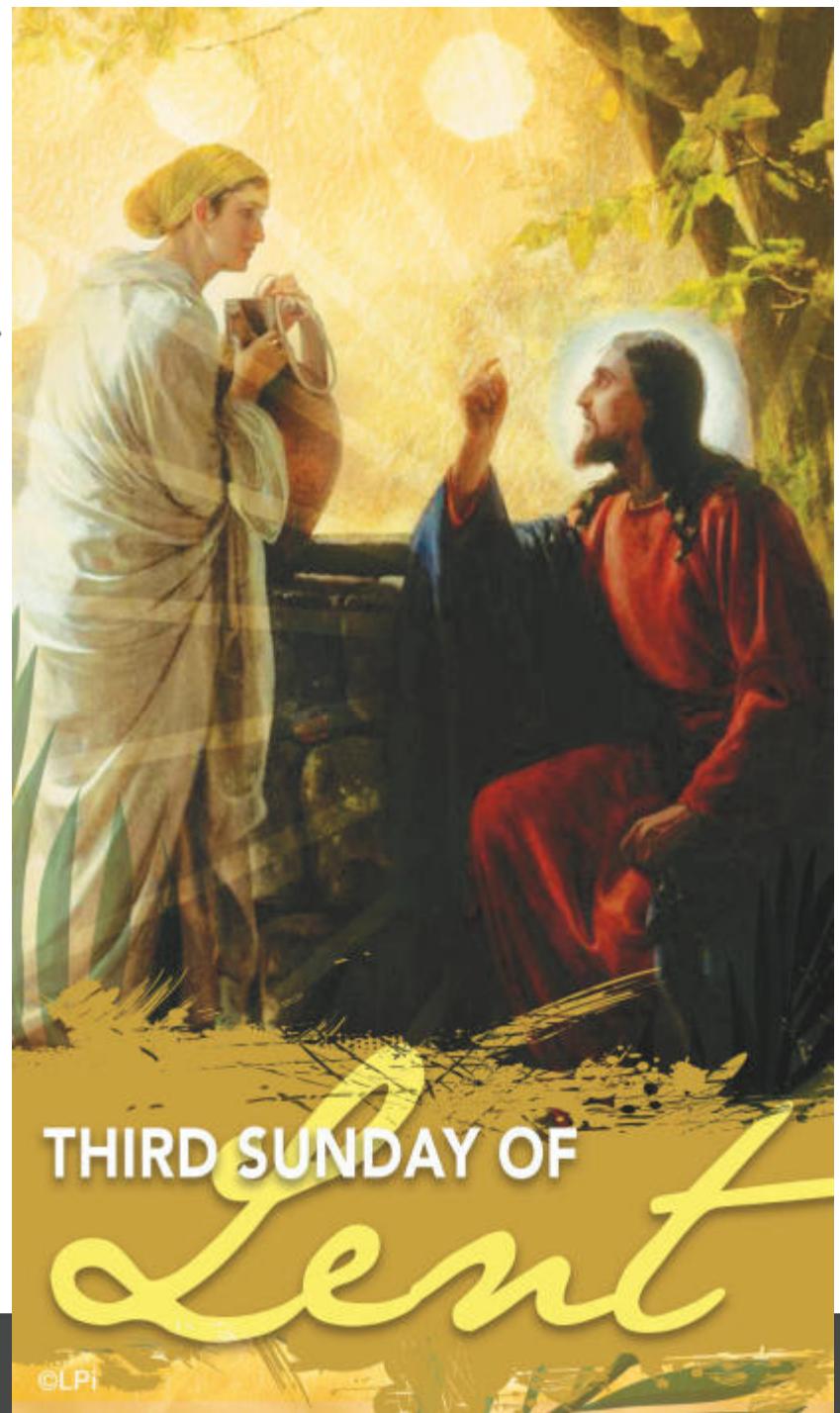
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Office Hours

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Cheshire, MA 01225

413.743.2110

THE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY
CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



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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, MARCH 7, 2021

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

MONDAY - SATURDAY

No Daily or Saturday Masses

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

9:30 a.m. Doris St. Cyr
Req. by Jim & Carole Pyra

PARISH GIFTS

ALL GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF
THE OSANNI FAMILY
BY PAM & ED ST. JOHN

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
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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.

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

With our world in such constant turmoil and conflict, it makes such good sense to return to the simple directives given in the Ten Commandments. God's unassuming guidelines provide the perfect recipe for ordering our relationships with God, others, and even ourselves. But yet, we are so quick to glance beyond them and even remove them from public view because we foolishly believe we can create something better. Arrogance runs far deeper in the members of our society than we can ever imagine. Lent is a perfect time to call ourselves back to our foundations and the basic relationships that comprise our lives. It is also a time to remember that Jesus is the true sign of God's presence. Everything he says and does, including his suffering and death, is a sign of the God who sent him. The anger we witness when Jesus exhorts those in the temple to stop making his Father's house a marketplace can equally be seen in his anger and frustration over humanity's constant mission to turn God's creation into a secular world. We have a lot of work to do for sure.

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/>

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area.

- Jn 2:13b-15a

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Many prefer a “create as you go” approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a “you can’t tell me what to do” attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other’s space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.



We have lost our axis to the world of “anything goes” and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on “relativism island” where only a possible suggestion to “love and do not harm” may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus’ display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational

principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times.

Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life’s preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

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UPDATES & NEWS

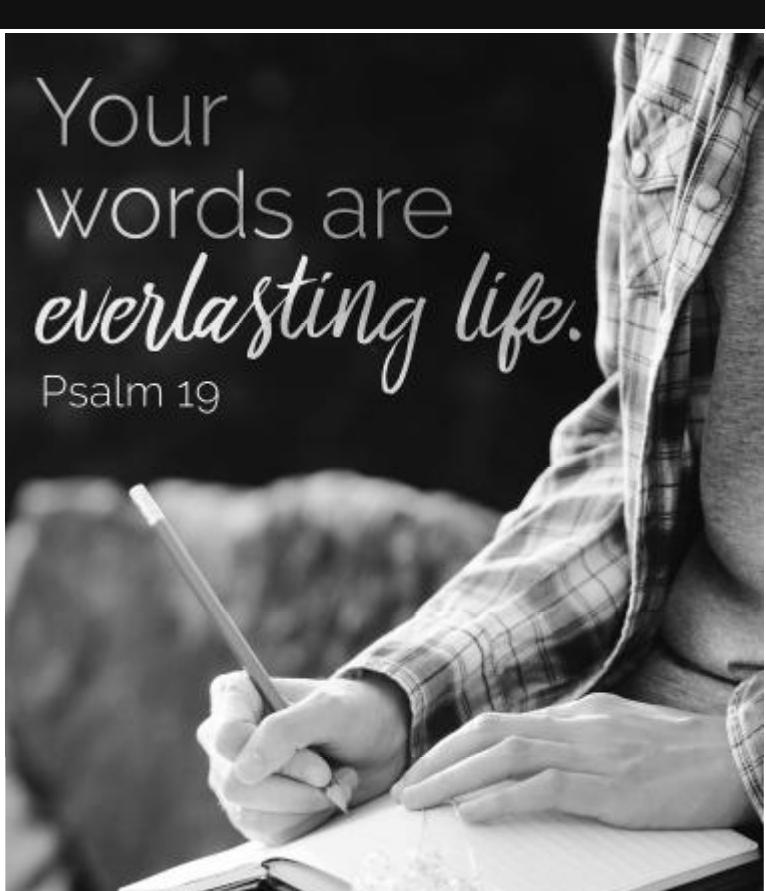
IMPORTANT COVID & HEALTH NOTICES

*****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)





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GARBAGE • SEPTIC



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