

# ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



MARCH 14, 2021

**FATHER BILL CYR**  
ADMINISTRATOR

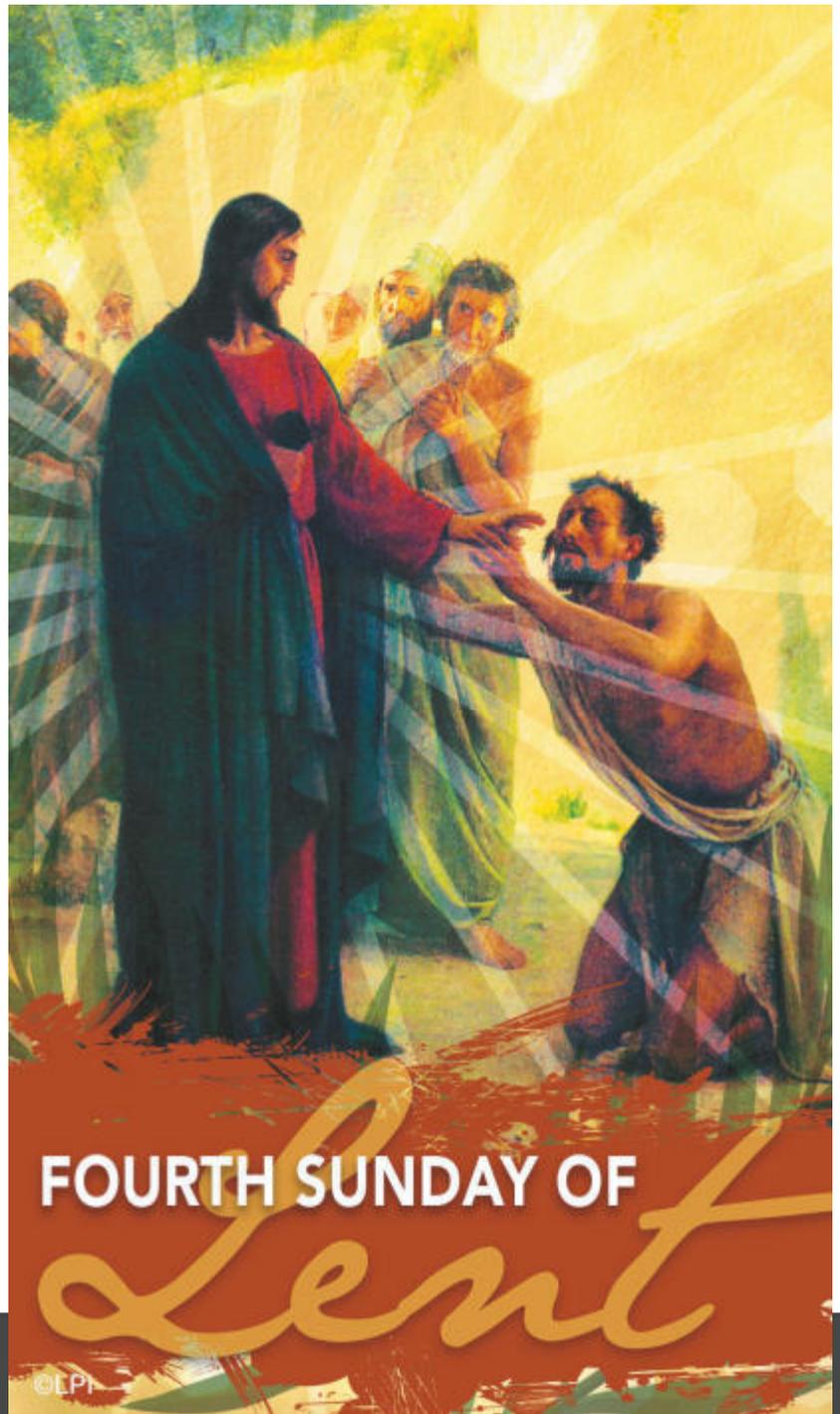
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**TIM BISSAILLON**  
MAINTENANCE



## 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

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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 14, 2021**

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

**MONDAY - SATURDAY**

No Daily or Saturday Masses

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

9:30 a.m. James Kolis  
Req. by Tom & Suzanne Kolis

## PARISH GIFTS

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

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to share with our parish communities of Adams and Cheshire, that the Diocese of Springfield has assigned Fr. Barrent Pease to serve as the Administrator of both St. John Paul II Parish and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish effective April 1st. The announcement was made at Masses on the weekend of March 7th.

Fr. Barrent, who was ordained in 2017, is currently assigned as the Parochial Vicar at St. John the Evangelist in Agawam. April 1st, which is Holy Thursday, will mark not only the start of the Easter Triduum, but also the beginning of Fr. Barrent's time in our parishes. We will welcome him into our parish families at the most holy of times in the liturgical year. The Triduum bookends the Lenten season, a period of reflection, and carries us through the days leading to Christ's death and resurrection. As Pope Francis stated in his Lenten message this year, "let us renew our faith, draw from the 'living water' of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ." We are blessed to have Fr. Barrent join us as we follow the guidance of Pope Francis and enter into the Easter season with open hearts and a shared faith which bonds us together and carries us forward. May we take in the fullness of this season of rebirth and be filled with prayer and hope for the future of the Church and for our parish communities.

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at. ©LPi

**DON'T FORGET!**



## 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 21, 2021**

Regular Collection	\$1,486.80	Snow Removal	\$45.00
		Easter Flowers	\$20.00

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

Regular Collection	\$1,711.00	Easter Flowers	\$100.00
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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](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.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION – ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our

experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge!

Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families, and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets

of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.  
©LPi



## UPDATES & NEWS

### SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



## Stay Healthy

©LPi

### 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

*Thank you for your continued support and understanding!*



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