The Parish Family of MARY IMMACULATE

COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 21, 2021

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Daily Mass:
Monday - Friday 9:00am
Holy Days:
7:00pm (Vigil on the eve)
9:00 (on the day)

CONFESSIONS

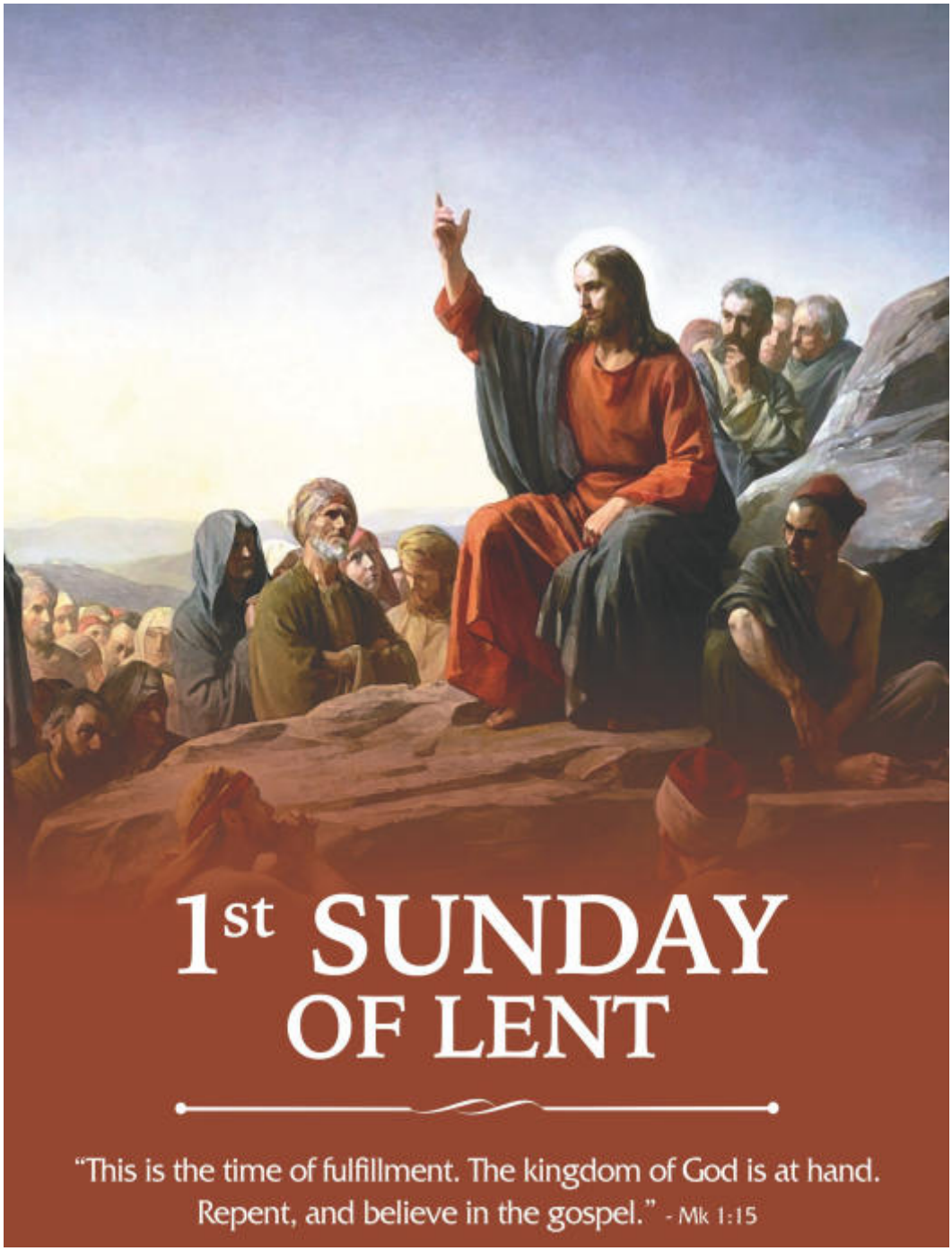
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 pm
(Large Church) *or by appointment with a priest*

CONNECT WITH US!

16 Browns Lane,
Bellport, NY 11713
Ph: (631) 286-0154
Fax: (631) 286-2937
www.miparish.net

Rectory Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs: 9:30 am - 4 pm
(Closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul / Food Pantry:
631-286-3795
Food Pantry Hours:
Wed: 10:00 am - 11:00 am,
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday, 10:00 am - 11:00 am



PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Msgr. William A. Hanson, Pastor
frbill@miparish.net

Rev. Charles Okonkwo
Chaplain, in Residence

Eileen Boschen
Parish Secretary
Eileen@miparish.net

Fran Bursztyn
Faith Formation Coordinator
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Faith Formation Secretary
Debra@miparish.net

Leslie O'Connor
Business Manager/Liturgical Music Coordinator
leslie@miparish.net

Alfredo Sobalvarro
Parish Maintenance

Ellen Sullivan
St. Vincent de Paul President
ellen92601@aol.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Felix J. Grucci, Jr., Chairman

Fr. Bill Hanson

Tom Derby

Patricia Panatier

Teresa Fiori

Loretta Drew

Gary Zanazzi

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www.holyangelsregional.org

WELCOME!

If you have recently moved into this area or are new to our church, be sure to register by calling or stopping by the Rectory during business hours. You can also fill out a registration form on-line by going to our website www.miparish.net

Welcome to the Parish Family of Mary Immaculate!

MASS INTENTIONS

We can offer consolation and comfort and assure others the we remember by having a Mass said for a friend or loved one.
You can also offer Mass Intention to celebrate a happy occasion such as an anniversary or birthday, or even in thanksgiving for blessings received. Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Mary's Mantle Prayer Shawls are made available after all Masses the second weekend of every month.

Members of this ministry pray for those who receive them as they knit and crochet, and these shawls hold the prayers of all Mary Immaculate parishioners.

If you know someone who is in need of healing prayers and would like a Mary's Mantle, please contact the rectory.

Please Pray for Our Deceased

Edith Ramirez
Margaret Cuming
Bill Batewell
Alice Nolan
Bernardette Guiffreda
Alan Kusa
Jean Ramirez
Frank Sidoti
Kimberly Barry-
Peter Kokell
Daniel Guiffreda

Prayers for the Sick

Tom Derby
Gabrielle Waller
Holly Ficco
Tom Derby
Donna Moreira
Sue Grams
Andrew Webster
James Wilkinson
Elizabeth Daconto
Joseph Gagliano
Rosalie Kalinowski
Primo Carlos
Robert Sherwood
Nancy Szabo
Oliver Burkhardt
Jennifer Lombardi
Dennis T. Fitzsimmons
Darling Fitzsimmons
Frances Reilly
Gina DiMartino
Luhur Budiarjo
Therese Hopper
Peter McCombs

Mass Offerings this Week

Saturday, 5 pm
Robert Gomes
By Mike & Michelle Ferrigno & Family
Leo Kirschgessner
By the Parish Family

Sunday, 9 am
Juliette Neaves
By Marie Joseph

11 am
Michael Maida
By Donna and Frank
In Thanksgiving
By Marie Louis
For a Special Healing

Monday, 9 am
Roetta Lyons
By the Cullen Family
Teresa Dobzeniecki
By Jane Letty

Tuesday, 9 am
Bridget Kinsley
By Kinsley & Devine Families

Wednesday, 9am
Lynn Januszkiewicz
By the Kalinowski Family

Thursday, 9 am
Michelle Joseph
By Marie Joseph

Friday, 9 am
no intention

Flowers, Candles, Hosts and Wine for the month of February are offered in memory of the

Deceased Members of the Russo & Underwood Families

by Barbara & Eric Russo and Children

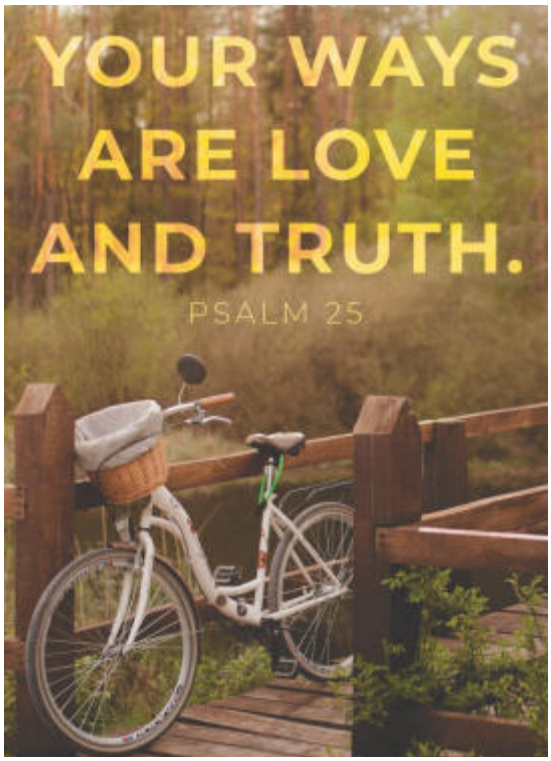
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth. (Gn 9:11)

Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

Second Reading: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)

Gospel: The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for 40 days, tempted by Satan. (Mk 1:12-13)



ST. POLYCARP, BISHOP AND MARTYR

Feast Day: February 24
Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the 2nd century.

The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. St. Polycarp died in 155.. He is the patron saint of earaches.

"Hear me declare with boldness, I am a Christian."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In today's Gospel, we hear about Jesus' temptation in the desert. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news.

As we begin our Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 , 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent
Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Wednesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Fr. Bill Hanson

Lent

Charting a course toward Hope : Prayer Fasting Alms

See this Space?

This is one of the oldest gestures in the mass. The presider places his hands above the bread and wine to create an empty space for the Holy Spirit to fill. In the Eastern Churches this is considered the moment when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This "calling down upon" of the Spirit is called "epiclesis". When we pray, fast, and give alms, we are creating an empty space for God to fill.

A space empty of busyness to hear and feel God's presence, a space empty of food to feel dependence on God, a space empty of money to feel support from God, while sharing support with others. Let us all make these empty spaces this Lent for God to fill and move us closer to him and each other. Fr. Bill

COMMUNITY THROUGH *Communion*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

THE UNLIKELY SUSPECTS

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Question:

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

LPi

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your whatever amount you donate is multiplied by offerings placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

Fr. Bill outlined a few options for those of us fortunate enough to be able to donate part—or all—of our stimulus checks. One of those options is to donate to our own St. Vincent de Paul Society.

When you make a donation to SVDP, you can target your donation for a specific purpose. Pictured below is a house with separate drawers for the categories of need facing many of our neighbors during these difficult times.

You can choose to donate to help others with heating and utility bills, housing, car repairs, insurance costs, house and appliance repairs, and internet—which is so important with many children attending school on-line.

There is also a drawer for another option for your donation to go towards the modifications to our classrooms which will result in an expansive new social space — ready to be enjoyed when we are able to celebrate special occasions again as a parish family.

"By charity serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

THIS SUNDAY

9 AM TO 3 PM

At the Bellport Community Center on Bell Street

The New York Blood Center is offering free Covid antibody testing to all blood donors!

Because of the snowstorms, blood supplies are dangerously low. You can be a hero by donating blood during this critical time. Walk-ins will be accommodated, or call Ken at 631-286-2559.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED!

The parish is in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers.

The Church depends on Eucharistic Ministers. At the miracle of the loaves, Jesus wanted to feed the multitude, and he commanded his disciplies to give them something to eat. As an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, you will fulfill Jesus's command to "feed my sheep."

To be a part of this very important ministry, Diocesan training is required.
For Suffolk County, this training will take place on March 3rd at 7 pm in Melville.

If you are interested in serving your parish family in this special way, please contact the rectory **by Monday.**

Thank you!

Called to Serve

Eucharistic Ministers

Class schedule for the week of February 22— February 24

Monday, February 22	Level 2	4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
	Level 5	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
	Level 8	7:15 pm – 8:30 pm
Tuesday, February 23	No Classes	
Wednesday, February 24	Level 3	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Class schedule for the week of March 1—March 3

Monday , March 1	Level 7	4:30pm —5:45 pm
Tuesday, March 2	Levels 2 & 4	4:30 pm —5:30 pm
	Levels 7 & 8	4:30 pm—5:45 pm
	Level 8	6:00 –pm—7:15 pm
Wednesday, March 3	Level 6	4:45—6:00 pm

The topic of our next Zoom Meeting is Penance and Reconciliation/Lent.

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These are the dates for the Zoom Meeting: Tuesday , February 23 and Thursday, February 25 at 4:30 pm. Please see Update Faith Formation Events email for Meeting ID and Passcode.

Level 2 Parent/Child Meeting on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:00 pm. The topic of this meeting will be Penance and Reconciliation.

For our teen members (14—18 years old): although there is no official Youth Ministry at this time, I invite you to take a listen to DRVC Youth Ministry on Facebook. They live stream on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. Every week they have someone speaking on topics important to you, the youth of the Church.

We can come together to share our thoughts on what we have heard on the Monday night's live stream. We can also share ideas about God and where he is guiding us. Please call 631-286-0154 or email fran@miparish.net, if you are interested in meeting once a week on Zoom and/or in person to talk and listen to one another. Let's experience together what God has ready for those who love him!

We will be celebrating Scout Sunday on Sunday, February 28th at the 11:00 am Mass.

We are inviting all Scouts and Girl Scouts to attend this Mass.
If any of the boys or girls have worked on their religious emblems, please have them contact the Faith Formation Office so we can go over their work. Scouts are asked to come to Mass in uniform on Sunday, February 28th at the 11:00 am Mass.
Please let the Faith Formation Office know if you plan on attending by February 16th, so we can have the proper amount of patches available. You can contact us at either fran@miparish.net or Debra@miparish.net.

GOSPEL

Every day turn back to God. If your bedroom is messy, straighten it up. If you push your sister off her bike, help her get up and ride again. If you tear down your brother's blocks, help him build something new. If you disobey your parents, go and do the right thing right now. Ask God to help you stay close to him today. Then you will be close to him in heaven forever.

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