



*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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

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.

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2021

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday: | Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15 |
| Monday: | 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19 |
| Tuesday: | Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/ Mt 6:7-15 |
| Wednesday: | Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32 |
| Thursday: | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde- 3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12 |
| Friday: | Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 / Mt 5:20-26 |
| Saturday: | Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 |
| Next Sunday: | Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10 |

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 21

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 8:00am | +Raymond J. Marchak, Sr. |
| 9:30am | Anh Linh |
| 11:30am | +Karen McWilliams |
| 8:00pm | Pro Populo |

Monday, February 22 Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| 8:30am | +Diane Flynn |
|--------|--------------|

Tuesday, February 23

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|--------|-----------------|
| 8:30am | Paul Richardson |
|--------|-----------------|

Wednesday, February 24

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| 8:30am | +Grace Burns |
|--------|--------------|

Thursday, February 25

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| 8:30am | +Vito Baldini |
|--------|---------------|

Friday, February 26

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 8:30am | +Bryant Washington |
| 6:30 pm | Stations of the Cross |

Saturday, February 27

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| 8:30am | +William Goldberg |
| 4:00pm | +Josefina Mimo Goizueta |

Sunday, February 28

| | |
|---------|---|
| 8:00am | Pro Populo |
| 9:30am | Augustin Le |
| 11:30am | +Joan Brunner; and Deceased of Martinelli and Brunner Family |
| 8:00pm | +Frank X. O’Brien, Sr. |



In the scripture readings for Ash Wednesday we are reminded that during this season of Lent we are called to practice three ancient religious customs; we are to be people of **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving/charity**. This season of grace affords us a wonderful opportunity to deepen our commitment to our faith or, if we have wandered off the path of Christ, to find our way back. Let us strive, during this time, to grow in our relationship with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

For those who struggle to find how they can extend their charity, especially in regards to almsgiving, may I recommend the annual Catholic Charities appeal of the Archdiocese. I know that some of you hesitate to give anything that may go away from the parish, fearing it gets caught up in the system of the Archdiocese. Catholic Charities is different; its aids our own parish members, neighbors, community, and friends. In so many ways the funds of Catholic Charities go to the needy in our community to assist them in various stages of their lives. As I have in the past I share one example with you. St. Katherine's Day School, located behind the Seminary, has served the Archdiocese and surrounding area for almost 70 years in teaching, caring for, and nurturing children with special needs. In a loving and Christ like atmosphere the teachers and staff of St. Katherine's help each child in their care to know that they are loved, respected, and worth so much as children of God. This wonderful school receives most of its funding from Catholic Charities –your gift to Catholic Charities, no matter the size, helps these young people right in our community. Consider this as one way you extend charity and love during this Lent.

I would also like to remind you that we offer confessions every day; Monday through Friday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and on the weekend from 2:30 to 4:00pm. The church is also open daily for adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament after the morning Mass until 7:00 pm.

Have a blessed Lent.

F. Michael

The Passion Narratives + Details of Divine Redemption



Zoom Bible Study with Bro. Raymond
on Five Wednesday Evenings in Lent

February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17 & March 24

7:00 PM to 8:15 PM

The Passion Narratives of the Four Gospels are brimming with symbolism, paradox and wisdom. The Passion of Christ both challenges and comforts us. Let us explore the masterly work of the evangelists as they present to us *the greatest story ever told*.

Zoom meeting ID: 832 3866 2384 Passcode: 333964

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM

Please remember the souls of the faithfully departed.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierheim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Lafty, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marci Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelnina Desiderio, Graham Family, Carol Howe, Samantha Johnson, Christopher Murrin, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade

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The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For all those in the Armed Forces, Active and Retired

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We offer to anyone who may wish to 'donate' for the following 'Memorials':

For personal intentions;

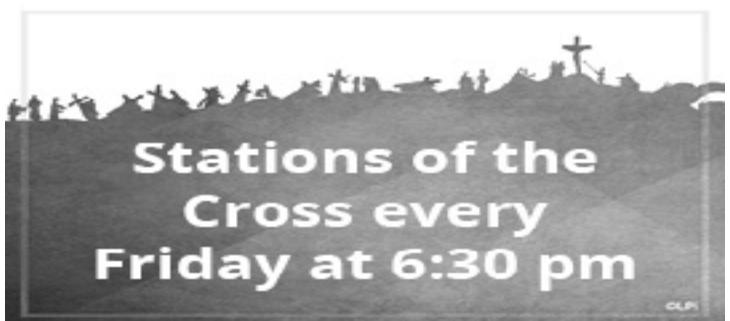
For your beloved dead; and/or For the living

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "*Via Dolorosa*" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "*Via Crucis*" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "*The Way of the Cross*" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow-literally-in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.





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