LENT - March 6 & 7, 2021

"Each year we are gifted with this joyful season that we might be better prepared to celebrate the Easter mystery of your love with heart and mind renewed."

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:
Edward B. Scharfenberger
BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard
PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker
tomzelker@gmail.com
OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS
67 Main Street
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
PHONE: 518-686-5064
E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM
WEBSITE: www. icchoosickfalls.com
Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:
CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL
SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM
TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott
FINANCE COUNCIL:
Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, & Linda Billert
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster
Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman, and the two Trustees
MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry
WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

LENT - March 6 & 7, 2021

Liturgy Schedule:

Friday, March 5,
3PM
Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 6,
4PM Mass
William Harnett
Margaret & George Spitler
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)

Sunday, March 7,
9AM Mass
Manuel Custodio
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)
Margaret & Herbert Parka
(Requested by Judith Zeigar)
Sandy Carelli
(Requested by Margaret Eddy)

Tuesday, March 9,
4PM
Reconciliation Service

Friday, March 12,
3PM
Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13,
4PM Mass
For all the people

Sunday, March 14,
9AM Mass
Margaret & Edward Saboski
(Requested by Arlene Wysocki)

Crafted from the foundation beams of our Church, we continue to build up the reign of God with living stones. Jesus Christ is our true cornerstone.

Do You Want To Fast this Lent?
In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words; be silent and listen.

Practice of Charity

Today's is a disturbing Gospel, a depiction of the wrath of Jesus taking form as a deliberate act of violence—he makes a whip, driving out the malefactors, spilling and overturning their money tables. Our culture needs the message implicit in this Gospel. As Christians, it is our responsibility to reject destructive values and take on those that Christ exemplified. This can begin by resisting the urge to commodify everything and exploit what should be sacred; the natural world, religious belief, and most especially other people. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 children, women, and men are trafficked annually across international borders into every kind of degradation and slavery, humans created in the likeness of God reduced to their monetary value.

- Discover what can be done to stop human trafficking at www.freetheslaves.net/our-model-for-freedom/slavery-today/.
- Volunteer to clean our parish church in preparation for Easter, remembering that the building is the sacred house for God's holy people.
- Reflect on how you treat all people, especially those who perform services, such as the wait staff at restaurants and sales clerks at stores.

Church Building Update

Most of the church ceiling needs to be replace or reinforced. The most financially feasible way to do this is by sheet rocking over the current ceiling, bolting it to the wooden beams and repainting it. A test section is being worked.

The two big transept windows (on either side of the altar area) are in very poor condition and are falling down. They will be replaced by digital reproductions that will look just like the originals. The Immaculate Conception window is still in good shape. Improved exterior lighting is being considered.

The roof project is underway. Centimark Roofing has already repaired wind storm damage and preformed temporary fixes to other leaks. Roof replacement, gutter repair, and steeple restoration are to be done in April.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

"The shadow of your smile"...as workers paint the test section of a new ceiling. So far, the ceiling is secure and the colors match.

Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, April 5 at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall kitchen area. A faith-filled support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We are not alone in our grief, our shared stories bless us with Christ among us. Masks are required.

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to:

Immconcept@roadrunner.com

NO place for HATE

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE

Scripture Insights

Even people with little familiarity with Judeo-Christian beliefs are well acquainted with the reading from Exodus of the giving of the Ten Commandments. While these commands may be quite familiar to us, it is essential to recognize that they were delivered within the context of God entering into a covenant relationship with Israel. To be God's treasured possession, Israel must follow the behaviors specified in the words of the Commandments, also called the Decalogue. To be in close relationship with God requires that Israel assume responsibility toward its neighbor.

Psalm 19 is a song of praise for God's *torah*, or "instruction." Far different from the North American mentality that views torah as "law" in a restrictive sense, today's Psalm expresses quite clearly how Israel understood God's instruction as a guide for living well. Thus, the psalmist can speak of God's torah as being sweeter than "honey from the comb." People of the Law...regimented or freed?

When are the Turkey Vultures Coming Home to Roost?

Fill out an officially sanctioned form with your prediction of when the old buzzards will come home to Hoosick. Lots of prizes available.

Albany NY Chapter of Magnificat (*a Ministry to Catholic Women)* is hosting a Women's **VISITATION** (a Virtual Event) on **Saturday, March 13** from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM on **ZOOM**. **This is a Free Event**. Our Witness Speaker is **Amanda Torrelli**. Captivated by the consuming and merciful love of God, Amanda made a decision in her mid-twenties to explore what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Amanda believes that anyone can be used as a vessel of God's love regardless of their past, and encourages believers to share their gifts with those around them.

Online Registration: www.magnificat-ministry.org/ny-albany; or www.facebook.com/albanymagnificat; or email us at albanymagnificat@gmail.com and you will be sent the Zoom link. Questions, call Diane Bigos @ 518-810-1310.

Faith Formation News

As part of our Family based focus these are **This weeks and Next weeks** readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings for Sunday March 7
1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Readings for Sunday March 14
1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Here is this weeks YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

What's the Point of Fasting During Lent?

LENT

The first readings of Lent lead us through the history of God's covenantal relationships, highlighting the consistent fidelity of God toward all those with whom God forms such relationships. The covenant with "every living creature" after the Flood (Genesis 9:8-15) is, on the surface, simply a promise never again to bring a devastating flood as judgement. Beneath this promise, however, is a commitment to heal the broken world by attending to the human heart. The biblical story moves on the promises to Abraham, which commence this long, slow process. The story of Abraham's obedience to the enigmatic "test" (Genesis 22:1-18), while it raises ethical questions for modern readers, is intended to model the ideal human response to the offer of divine relationship, which is absolute trust in God even when God's will is mysterious, obscure, and even frightfully demanding. The story continues with the creation of Israel after the Exodus, as the descendants of Abraham and Sarah enter into a covenantal relationship with God that will be demanding for both parties (Exodus 20:1-17). Israel will continue to struggle to trust God, while God will struggle with the infidelity of Israel. Although repeated betrayal of the covenant relationship eventually leads to the Exile, God remains firmly committed to the relationship, not only redeeming Israel from exile (2 Chronicles 36:14-23), but also promising to reform their hearts so that they will be able to be faithful (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The servant of God promised through Isaiah represents this renewed and faithful Israel, who truly listens to God and fulfills its task of knowing God and making God known to the rest of the world (Isaiah 50:4-7).

The readings from the epistles have behind them the problem of human sin and its consequences, which are estrangement from God and ultimately death. Yet the emphasis throughout the season is on the lengths to which God has gone, in Christ, to save us from those consequences. Our salvation, in other words, has been costly. The suffering that early Christians, and perhaps all faithful Christians, face from a hostile world points toward the suffering endured by Christ, not for his own sake, but to save all those who believe in him (1 Peter 3:18-22). Paul likewise assures us his audience that the God who sacrificed his own Son will not abandon his people; they have nothing to fear, not even death (Romans 8:31-34). The sacrificial act on our behalf remains, though, difficult for humans to accept, for it points toward an attitude—or wisdom—that is completely foreign to human ways and largely incomprehensible to us. It must be accepted on faith that this is truly the way God operates (1 Corinthians 1:22 -25). It is through the Cross, and not through any means recognizable to the world as "wise," that the "immeasurable riches" of God's grace have now been showered upon those who have enough faith in God to accept it (Ephesians 2:4-10).

The Gospel readings highlight Jesus as the fulfillment of God's expectations for Israel, not only as the promised Messiah but also as the ideal Israelite, or the ideal "child of God." In the wilderness, Jesus withstands the temptations to which we are all prey, keeping his eyes fixed resolutely on God and God's sovereign reign (Mark 1:12-15). The transfigured Lord manifests the glory that awaits him as the perfectly obedient Son who is able to place all of his trust in God's providential will for God's people, even to the point of laying down his life for them (Mark 9:2-10). Jesus, as the incarnate Word of God and temple of God's glory (John 2:13-25), most dramatically manifests this glory not through miracles but through his sacrificial death for the healing for all who will believe in it, a death that perfectly reveals the depths of God's love (John 3:14-21; 12:20-33).

Lent: Service and Prayer

Please consider donating food to our Pantry. People are hungry here in Hoosick Falls. Any food items may be left at Church or the Pantry.

Rice Bowls

The people of our Church help the poor and hungry throughout our world.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent 3pm in Church

Contemporary Meditations on Jesus' Cross and people of faith today.

Reconciliation Services

We come together as a community of mercy.

Tuesday, March 9, 4pm
Immaculate Conception Lower Church.
Monday, March 15, 6pm
Immaculate Conception Lower Church.

Please register in advance so the seating may be arranged properly. These are both the same exact communal reconciliation services; there is no need to come to both.

Cards of Hope

Lent is a season of restoring our bonds of communion with each other as we strive to live our creed. We extend ourselves to become a sacrament, a beacon of hope for the world. Let's not forget our neighbors, our homebound, those confined by winter, age, COVID, or infirmity. A simple note can light up a person's day. We are inviting you to share of yourself by writing a simple card ..about winter, Lent, joy, thinking of you, etc...to one of our people. Sign the card, address the envelope with the person's name, and drop it off at Church/ rectory. We will deliver the cards. Names of people to write to: Bill; Rita; Agnes; Pat; Warren; Neil; David; Carolyn; Louise; Bev; Ann Marie; Annie; Marge; Felicia; Don; Phyllis; Margaret; Al; Reta; Ralph; Joan; Tom; Sobie; Lorraine; Pam; Isabella; Helen; Winnie; Mary; Peg & Jack; Gail & Rich; Sue; Mary & John; Ellen; and Bette. You can write out as many or as few cards as you like. If you are unable to write out notes, blank cards may be left at church or our office.

HACA Ecumenical Lenten Devotion

For inspirational prayer from our local churches, see Hoosick Area Church Association Facebook Page

Virtual Lenten Retreat - "God's Healing in Us"

We are offering a Virtual Retreat for Lent, "God's Healing in Us" by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, a native of Schenectady and beloved priest of our Diocese. If you would like to receive this online retreat, please email the office and we will send it to you. This thought provoking retreat consists of three 30 minute segments.

Lent
March 6 & 7, 2021

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS
& ATTENDANCE
For February 27 & 28

Regular Offertory…….$3,436.00
Fuel Collection ……...…..…..$523.00
Total …...……...……...…$3,959.00

Attendance:
Saturday, February 27……..…53
Sunday, February 28……..…...52
Total …… 105

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Barbara Bouplon, Billy Benkoski, Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Dorothy Roy, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Linda Kane, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Peter Kane, Ronda Sharpe, Sally Williams, Stacy Rogers, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 518-686-7835.

HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.

Food Pantry Volunteers...We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 518-686-5310.

- Any food donations may be brought to church, our office, or directly to the Food Pantry.

- Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office, 518-686-5064.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.

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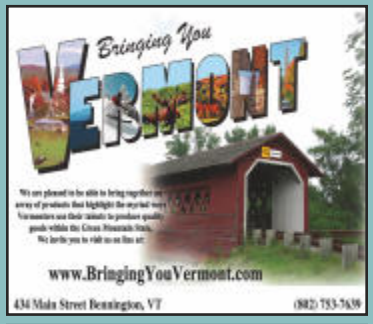

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