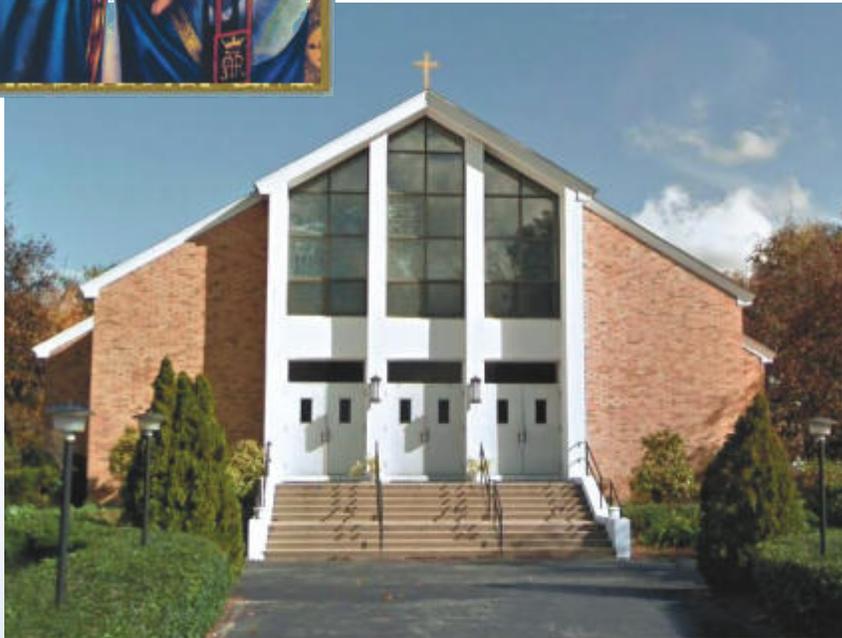




Our Lady of Mount Carmel *and* Our Lady of Loreto Parish

37 MASSASOIT ROAD, WORCESTER, MA
Parish telephone: 508-753-5001
Parish fax: 508-754-1537 Rectory: 508-304-9988
Parish e-mail - clergy@ourladyofloreto.net
or lisaolmc@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.mtcarmel.ws



MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone, Pastor
fpedone@charter.net
Gerald Montiverdi, Deacon
Donald Pegg, Deacon Intern
Joan D'Argenis, Director of Religious Ed.
joan_dargenis@yahoo.com
Maria Sciannameo, RCIA Director
Michael Sacco, Joseph Sama - Finance
Lisa Fenuccio, Administrative Assistant
lisaolmc@gmail.com
Julia Tufano - Secretary
David Soares, Parish Council Chair
Edward Amorello, Property Committee
Chair
Joan Venincasa, John DaSilva,
Sanghee Kim— Organists
Josef Konkol—Choir Director
Mary DiSilvestro, Sacristan
John Oliver, Hospitality Ministry
Patricia Solitro, Safe Environment
Coordinator

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To schedule a baptism please call
508-753-5001

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to be married should
contact the pastor at least a year in
advance. A program of preparation is
required for all couples planning to marry
in the church. To schedule a wedding
please call 508-753-5001.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact the parish office at
508-753-5001.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

Vigil: 6:00 p.m.
Holyday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

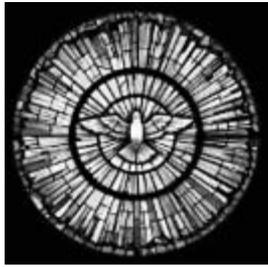
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00-3:45
Or by appointment—please call 508-304-9988 to schedule.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To become a registered member of the parish, please call
508-753-5001 or register on-line at www.mtcarmel.ws.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others.

We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please cut out and pray daily.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

We begin the holy season of Lent this week with Ash Wednesday. In my younger days, I was not very fond of Lent. It was a bleak time, still in the middle of winter with its seeming interminable cold and snow that was coupled with sacrifice and self-denial. Isn't life a drudgery already and then we have to add avoiding things that we thought we needed and certainly wanted and enjoyed?

But as time went on, and I attribute it to God's refreshing, astounding and renewing grace, I began to see more clearly that Lent is a special time to step back and to examine my relationship with God and become more aware of things I've allowed to hinder and sometimes diminish my relationship with God who should be the central, life-giving part of my life. Sometimes this relationship gets buried under the never ending pressures of everyday life. We are so much more than our very busy schedules. Often we like to look at our calendars full of appointments and things to do as an indication of how important we are.

One of my spiritual directors would often say to me: "If you're too busy to pray and give time to God, you're too busy. Make time for God because He wants to spend time with you and you will never regret that time you spend with God."

God never ceases to spur us on to possess a more abundant life and, being rich in mercy, God constantly offers us pardon and invites us to trust in His forgiveness. God never turns away from us, although often we turn away from God.

The Lord Jesus and His Church have set before us this sacred time of Lent to help renew and refresh us, a time of grace and reconciliation and invite us to turn back to God in spirit and to grant us hope in Him and a desire to be of service to others, while we entrust ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit.

Ask God to enlighten you and make you open to the special grace He wants to give you during this holy season. Please take advantage of the opportunities the parish is offering you to help you grow in your relationship with the Lord, perhaps by attending morning Mass, joining us in the Stations of the Cross in person or virtually through our Facebook page, by taking advantage of the special Scripture study sessions Joan D'Argenis, our parish Director of Religious Education, will be providing and through other activities that will be announced through the bulletin, Flocknotes and our website mtcarmel.ws

My prayer for you is that this Lent will be an extraordinarily grace-filled time of blessings and new life!

Monsignor Pedone

A PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always. Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Although we will not be able to meet and celebrate with cake and chocolates. We will continue our tradition of celebrating marriage. World Marriage Day (WMD) honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. A complete list of marriages being celebrated today are enclosed in this bulletin. We congratulate all of you.

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17TH

Masses will be celebrated at 7:00 am; 12:15 and 6:00 pm. Ashes will be imposed at all Masses.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Confessions will be heard every Saturday during Lent from 2:30 pm until 3:45 pm.

Ash Wednesday Blessing

Merciful God,
 you called us forth from the dust of the earth;
 you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism.
 Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days
 bearing the mark of ashes,
 and bless our journey through the desert of Lent
 to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice;
 our alms, a making of peace;
 our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,
 for in his Cross you proclaim your love
 forever and ever. Amen.

~Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

**REGULATIONS AND LITURGICAL NOTES
 LENT 2021
 GUIDELINES FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows:

- ◆ Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- ◆ Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty- nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- ◆ Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

Your Lenten Journey:

Lent starts on February 17 (Ash Wednesday.) We are in the process of planning different events. Many of these events will be on Zoom. If you would like to be included, please call Lisa in the office at 508-753-5001 or email Joan at joan_dargenis@yahoo.com and give us your email address so we can add you to the list.

Instead of thinking of Lent as a time to give up something, think of it as an opportunity to grow spiritually stronger and add more meaning to your life. The first activity planned is Stations of the Cross on February 19th at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The first meeting is scheduled for **Feb. 23rd at 6:30 pm. At that time we will discuss the variety of activities that we have planned for the Lenten season via Zoom.**

Here are a few of the things we can all do during this Lenten season:

Ash Wednesday—Mass and distribution of ashes:

In church -7 am, 12:15 pm, 6 pm

Video explaining Ash Wednesday -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vnGEJHg05E>

Stations of the Cross—In church, Fridays 6:30 pm or Remotely via Zoom, Fridays 6:00pm

Pray the Rosary

Be mindful of the 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign (See separate article)

Practice Community Outreach—Food Pantry, etc. Watch more meaningful TV programs, such as those on Catholic TV (Channel 101 on Charter in Worcester)

Read a spiritual poem

Investigate religious artwork

Unplug from social media for a time

Read something inspiring

Take some time to slow down and reflect on the Season of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 6:30 pm during Lent. You are invited to join us personally or virtually through our parish Facebook page (Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Catholic Church, Worcester, Ma)

PROLIFE VIGIL

Saturday March 13, 11:00AM

**470 Pleasant Street, Worcester.
 Across from Planned Parenthood**

Join in peace with the Mt .Carmel Knights of Columbus and the American Heritage Girls as we participate with the 40daysforLife Spring Campaign praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet as a parish. Help us perform this act of Corporal Work of Mercy as we witness for the sanctity of life.

Join the 40 Days for Life prayer campaign

40 Days for Life is an international prayer campaign that has saved over 18,000 lives since 2007. The spring campaign starts on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. To learn more or to sign up to vigil, visit www.40daysforlife.com/worcester. Your prayers make a difference.

Our Catholic school students made signs and produced a video which everyone should see.

To watch the Virtual March for Life slideshow by Catholic School students, go to www.marchforlifeworcester or to the Diocese of Worcester website—Respect Life Department - March for Life.

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending February 7, 2021



Income

Offertory:	
Week-End	\$2,511.18
Mail	1,513.00
On-Line Giving	1,506.80
Maintenance	307.00
Fuel	109.61
Ash Wednesday	50.00
First Offering	15.00
Latin America	10.00
Solemnity of Mary	5.00
Total Offertory	\$6,027.59
Parking Revenue	395.00
Catholic Free Press	117.00
Candles	63.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Donations	20.00
Total	<u>\$6,662.59</u>
Expenses:	
Utilities: (January)	
Electricity	\$1,983.77
Natural Gas	1,783.32
Internet, Cable & Phone	<u>507.80</u>
Total Utilities	\$4,274.89
Music: (January)	
Organists	1,000.00
Cantors	<u>405.00</u>
Total Cost of Music	1,405.00
Salaries & Wages	5,797.00
Diocesan Invoices (January)	3,688.00
Calendar Raffle Winners	700.00
Home Missions	326.00
Employee Benefits	234.84
Funeral Stipends	100.00
Supplies	18.37
Total	<u>\$16,544.10</u>

PRIEST RETIREMENT COLLECTION

Please help us support our retired priests this Ash Wednesday as a part of our new Collection for Priest Retirement. A recent review of the benefits and expenses of priest retirement for our diocesan priests recommended a number of changes in benefits for those priests who have not yet retired. Bishop McManus accepted those recommendations after receiving the input and agreement of the priests in our diocese. These changes are projected to save up to \$12 million through the year 2050. Even with the change in benefits, however, annual deficits in funding for priest retirement as high as \$374,000 are projected for another eleven years. Please consider a donation to this Ash Wednesday Collection as a way to express your appreciation of the dedicated service of our retired priests to the people of our diocese. Review the Retirement Report Summary found at worcesterdioocese.org to learn more.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

We have begun this year’s campaign for Partners in Charity. By baptism, we are called to be the face of Christ, offering hope to people in need through works of prayer, charity and education. As Catholics, we join together in the mission of the Church through this important appeal. The agencies of the Diocese are faces of hope to many throughout Worcester County especially during this time of pandemic. The difference today for families is that those who were not in crisis before or were able to maintain stability in their home life are now facing crisis due to unemployment from the pandemic. They have had to negotiate the system for help with food, rent assistance or other forms of aid.

Your pledge is a tangible way to be the ‘face of Christ’ to the world through your support of the 27 agencies and ministries which rely on this appeal for funding each year. Materials and envelopes to assist in this appeal will soon be available in the vestibule of the church. Our goal again this year is \$50,000, which we met last year due to your generosity. I respectfully ask you to be generous again this year.

Monsignor Pedone

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a copy of your 2020 contribution statement please email Lisa at lisaolmc@gmail.com or call the main office at 508-753-5001.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

The brighter your light shines, the easier it is for others to find their way.

Did you know.....

The Liturgical color for Lent is **purple**, the color of repentance and sin.

The **ashes** we receive on Ash Wednesday symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are applied to a person’s forehead, the following words are prayed: “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.”

A LETTER FROM BISHOP McMANUS

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent months we have witnessed millions of people across our country and our world receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines. I join with our Holy Father in rejoicing that amidst “the darkness and uncertainty of the pandemic” this light of hope has appeared.¹

I also join with my brother Bishops in encouraging everyone to get the vaccine whenever it becomes available to you. As both the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have made clear, the reception of the presently available vaccines is morally justifiable and ought to be seen as “an act of charity toward the other members of our community.”²

Despite these clear signs of hope, however, the best scientific projections suggest that it will probably be many months before the impact of these vaccinations has a significant effect in abating the spread of COVID-19.

With a deep sense of longing for that day when we can worship freed of the present restrictions, most notably regarding the limitations on the size of our liturgical assemblies, I ask you to join me in praying for those researchers and health care workers who will make that blessed day come to be.

Conscious, however, that it is not possible under the present circumstances for us to accommodate the full number of Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, December 25, 2020.

For nearly a year we have prayed daily for “the faith to endure this hour.” As we enter the penitential season of Lent, may our Blessed Lord, who wept tears of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane and offered himself on the altar of the Cross for our salvation, give us the faith that he is not far from us on this way of sorrows. May he give us the graces we need to follow him, ever trusting in “the Son of Righteousness, who rises with healing in his wings.”³

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

1 “Moral Considerations Regarding the New Covid-19 Vaccines.”

2 Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Doctrine and the Committee on Pro-Life Activities United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. December 11, 2020. 2 the faithful in many of our churches, I am extending my suspension of the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 23, 2021.

3 Malachi 4:2.

Unique Lenten Program to do at home

Watch with Me is an online Lenten experience for adults - a brief time each week to stop, rest, reflect, listen, and pray a little. **Each Sunday evening during Lent** you will receive a link to participate at your convenience during the week - no meetings, no schedule. Each activity will include a little music and one or two short reflective prayers requiring 15-20 minutes of your time on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer. For questions or to register, please contact Romeo Marquis at Rmarquis48@outlook.com. It's free, but you must pre-register. Please feel free to share this information with family and friends everywhere.

(Note: If you participated in "A Time for Singing" during Advent, you do not have to register. You will automatically be included.)

MASS on TV:

Public Access Stations now carrying Masses:

Daily Mass

Worcester Ch 194 “the people’s channel” - 9 am

Spencer Ch 192—9am

Holden/Auburn Ch 191—9 am

Shrewsbury Ch 28 and 328—4:30 pm

Sunday Mass

Worcester Ch 194—Spanish—8 am

English—10 am; replays Monday—6 pm

Spencer Ch 192—Sunday 10 am

Holden/Auburn Ch 191—Sunday 10 am

Templeton Ch 8—Sunday 10 am

Athol/Orange Ch 13/135—Sunday 10:30 am

Paxton Ch 192 Sunday 4 pm, replay Monday at 6 pm and 8 pm

We hope to announce more towns in the future.

MASS continues to be available online from

worcesterdiocese.org both for Live Streaming @ 9:00 am and for viewing after 10 am on your computer.

Other options for MASS and the Rosary:

EWTN (channel 18 on Charter)

CATHOLIC TELEVISION (channel 101 on Charter)

NOTE:

If you do not have Spectrum/Charter as your cable provider, call your provider and ask what channels televise EWTN and CATHOLIC TELEVISION.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH IS PRESIDENT’S DAY, A LEGAL HOLIDAY. PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED, BUT MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AS USUAL AT 7:00 AM

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