

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road

Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: info@olaffld.org

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”
To Jesus through Mary.*

Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

Daniel Ford, Esq., Trustee

Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

*Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)*

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 1:30- 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Every Tuesday: 7-8:00 PM

Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy

Chaplet and Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer

*contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at
(203) 817-7528.*

Novenas

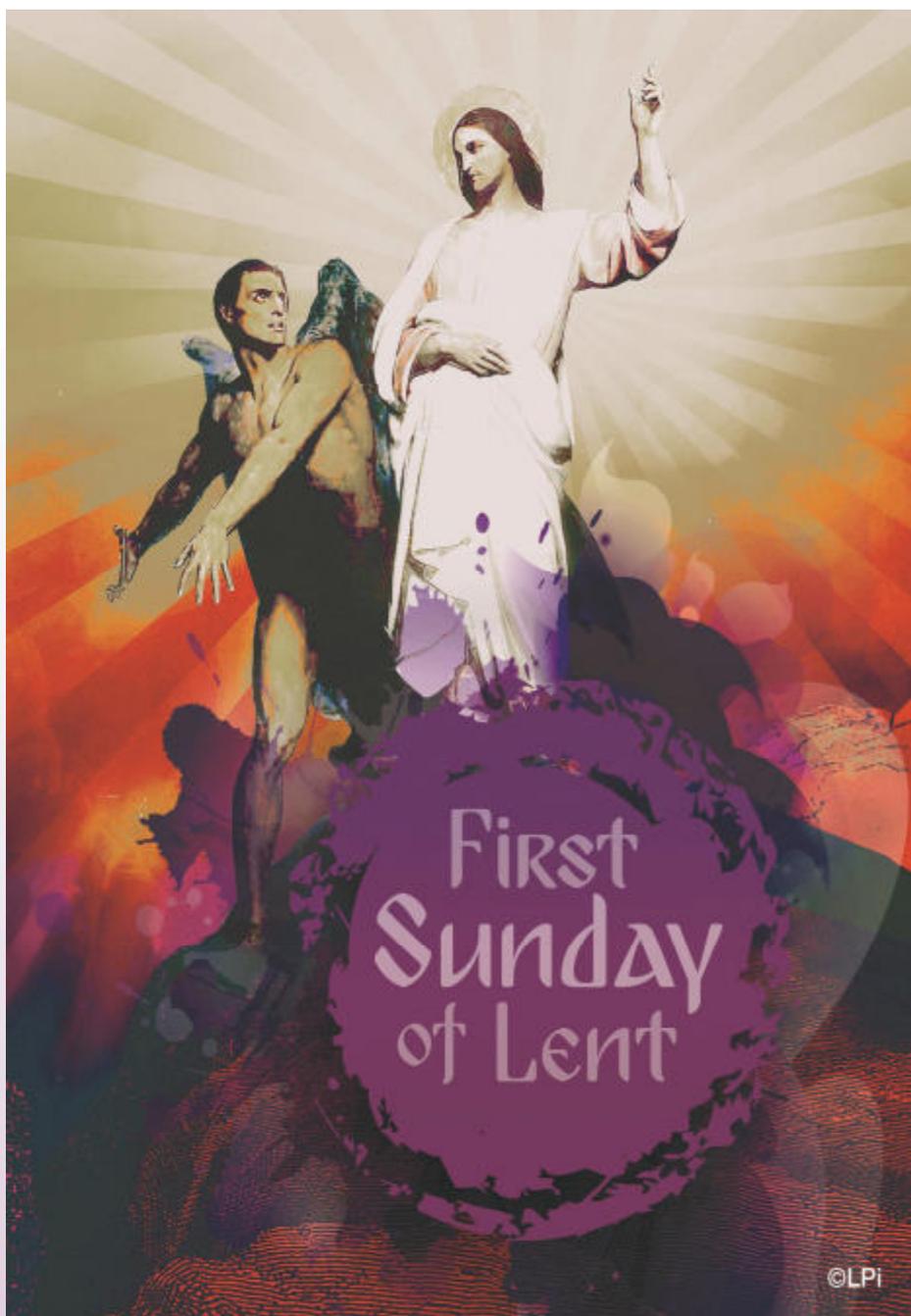
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.



- Remember the Titans! Remember Lent! -

One of the three primary temptations that Jesus experienced in the desert was when Satan offered Him all the Kingdoms of the world...with this one requirement...that Jesus bow down and worship him...as if.

When Christ looked out over all the kingdoms of the world he saw our cities today...in all their splendor and all their squalor, their cinemas and restaurants, their churches and brothels, their luxury flats, crack houses, slums and shelters, their parks, their docks, their prisons. He saw the shambles of our bombed cities...the kingdoms of the world and the so called glory of them.

No wonder then...that Christ enters the desert...bare except for certain animals...or in this case, the worst beast imaginable...the serpent...Satan...who tempted Adam and Eve out of their garden paradise into a world that would be decimated by the war between good and evil...giving into temptation and resisting temptation...worshiping God and worshiping Satan...and not only would Man be cursed by sin but the very land he was given to cultivate as God's Heavenly paradise on earth would be cursed:

As God said after the Fall of Man:

"Cursed is the ground* because of you!

In toil you shall eat its yield.

18Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you.

19By the sweat of your brow

you shall eat bread,

Until you return to the ground

from which you were taken;

For you are dust,

and to dust you shall return."

Adam's sin, my sin, our sin...would have...does have cosmic consequences.

And being led into the desert of Lent, far from the maddening crowd, we are invited to contemplate with Christ the devastating nature, danger and threat of temptation driven by the Holy Spirit as a trainer drives a boxer at a gym to train and prepare for the big fight, away from the distractions of the world...to focus...to get strong...to win.

And yet when modern man enters even the desert...instead of a training ground for holiness...he will erect mighty kingdoms to Satan with a Las Vegas mentality and desire opting for Sin City over the City of God...what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, unfortunately when we indulge such Vegas notions, practices and life-styles, the filth stays with us...and like a transmitted or infectious disease is carried by us to wherever we happen to go with the risk of infecting others.

One of the most horrific realities of how sin impacts both people and land is war. When Christ saw the Kingdoms of the World from the desert and from the Cross, how many battlefields and their dead did he see? War is Hell, how

very true, Hell on earth, the price of worshiping Satan over God.

We knew it from our own country having fought a not so civil war, all war though is so called civil, since we are all created in the image and likeness of God, it is always brother against brother, Cain slaughtering Abel over and over again.

One of the more instructive Lenten movies about resisting the temptations of the devil and going into a desert like environment to train and develop the self-discipline and control that are the main ingredients in becoming a champion is Remember the Titans:

The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school Football team on their first season as a racially integrated unit. In Remember the Titans... these young men had no business, given the terrible bigoted atmosphere of the times, coming together as black and white men...as one team let alone one family.

And so aware of this culturally imposed and embraced enemy status, Coach Boone would lead them far from the madness of the cultural crowd into the desert of Gettysburg College to train...one night taking the always quarreling boys to the battlefield of Gettysburg saying:

"This is where they fought the battle of Gettysburg. Fifty thousand men died right here on this field, fighting the same fight that we are still fighting among ourselves today. This green field right here, painted red, bubblin' with the blood of young boys. Smoke and hot lead pouring right through their bodies.

Listen to their souls, men. I killed my brother with malice in my heart. Hatred destroyed my family. You listen, and you take a lesson from the dead. If we don't come together right now on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed, just like they were. I don't care if you like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe...I don't know, maybe we'll learn to play this game like men."

And not only do they learn to play like men...but they learn to be men because life is lived more than just on the grid-iron...wherever your feet happen to fall is the grid-iron and the effort an athlete puts into winning is the effort every Christian must put into becoming a Saint.

But just as these boys had to be taken out of the very environment that corrupted their attitudes and sensibilities...so they could properly train to be men and champions who put aside their short-comings and sinfulness for the benefit of the team...their family...so must we enter into the desert

with Christ...going bare-boned and instead allow ourselves to be influenced by Him and His holiness and not the devil and the culture he has a strangle-hold on.

Their perfect season in jeopardy... Coach Boone would later say to the men:

It's all right. We're in a fight. You boys are doing all that you can do. Anybody can see that. Win or lose... We gonna walk out of this stadium tonight with our heads held high. Do your best. That's all anybody can ask for."

And one of the team captains responds:

"No, it ain't Coach. With all due respect you demanded more of us. You demanded perfection. Now, I ain't saying that I'm perfect, 'cause I'm not. And I ain't gonna never be. None of us are. But we have won every single game we have played till now. So this team is perfect. We stepped out on that field that way tonight. And if it's all the same to you, Coach Boone, that's how we want to leave it."

And that is the attitude of Christ, He demands more of us... saying "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" because we too are in a fight, as the Saint Michael prayer at the end of each Mass reminds us.

Christ demands perfection and would not demand it, as Coach Boone would not demand it unless He saw that potential in us, and it is there, it is fully there. In being a team, the men reached perfection... remaining with Christ's Church we reach perfection.

As Coach Boone explained:

"Let me tell you something: you don't let anyone come between us. Nothing tears us apart. In Greek mythology, the

Titans were greater even than the gods. They ruled their universe with absolute power. Well that football field out there, that's our universe. Let's rule it like titans."

In Scripture and cultures where there is a worship of gods... those gods are demons... our fallen human nature craves the power of God minus loyalty to God... and yet, because of the Incarnation, because of Christ's victory over Satan in the desert. His victory over all sin and death at Calvary and Easter. He has given us absolute power to be more than gods... to be like God.

Christ throws down with the devil not to demonstrate his strength but ours... as if God can be tempted... but in Christ our humanity was tempted... and in that same humanity He resisted... so that we can.

And rather than command stones to be turned into bread, Christ commands His Church to turn bread into His body, the Bread of Life the Holy Eucharist... the true bread and true food that we are to eat so that we can live forever... and with this Bread of Heaven we are given the Kingdom that comes with it... thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

We get it all because Christ gave us His all... is our all... so that we can be greater than gods... greater even than champions whose praise and applause the sounds of which too quickly fade and go silent... to be Saints whose glory will be celebrated for all eternity.

Love is given only in man's gift of himself. There is no other way.

Christ has given Himself to us, that we may love the world with His love not destroy it with the devil's envy and hatred.

First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021

Temporary Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Closed on Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mr. Steven J Santoli, Principal - (203) 334-6271
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM
Before and After School Programs Available
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

Faith Formation

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM

Parish Finance Council

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

Parish Activities

American Heritage Girls Troop #4862: Monthly (except summer), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com. Currently suspended

Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.

Narcotics Anonymous Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently Suspended

Choir: Adults: Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.

Resurrection Choir: Sings at funeral Masses. Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

Knights of Columbus: Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

Parish Nurses: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

Blood pressure screening: Currently suspended

Sisters in Faith: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, February 20th

4:00 p.m. Frank Alagna

Sunday, February 21st

7:30 a.m. Paul Forey
9:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Edward Reese
10:30 a.m. Oliver MacKinnon
12:00 p.m. James McInerney

Weekday Masses

Mon. 2/22 7:30 a.m. Mariann Cirisoli
5:30 p.m. James Dowd
Tues. 2/23 7:30 a.m. Veronica & Fredrick Ehram
5:30 p.m. Paddy Joe Curtin
Wed. 2/24 7:30 a.m. Stephen & MaryAnn Joyce
5:30 p.m. Salvatore Romano
Thurs. 2/25 7:30 a.m. Daniel Errichetti
5:30 p.m. Carmen & Mary Cushing
Fri. 2/26 7:30 a.m. Joan O'Hara
5:30 p.m. Barbara O'Malley
Sat. 2/27 7:30 a.m. Peter McKiernan

Saturday, February 27th

4:00 p.m. Jane Haffey

Sunday, February 28th

7:30 a.m. Dr. Patricia O'Looney
9:00 a.m. Thomas Lynn
10:30 a.m. Peter Joseph Ward
12:00 p.m. Paddy Joe Curtin



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week
In loving memory of
Kenneth Van Vlack*

*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week
In remembrance of
Fr. Bill Sangiovanni*



PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico	Brendan Crosby	Robert Lancia
Josephine Amiot	Nicholas DeMaio	Sandy MacArthur
Christopher Amiot	Michael Devaney	Eugene Madara
Solange Anziano	Fred Eichhorn	Peter Maioriello
Lorraine Artale	Diane Fasanella	Noah Martinez
Ellie Art	Charlie Gordon	Leroy Moye
Carol Bertanza	Edward Grosso	Dave Reynolds
Michael Black	Suzanne Hannan	Donna Schmidt
Eleanor Bruckmann	Dcn. Vince Heidereich	Lillian Squilla
Letitia Ciccio	Tim Lambert	

February 13/14

	<u>2021</u>
Weekend Offertory:	\$3,985.00
Online Giving	\$2,245.00

Thank You

Online Giving

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

Statements for 2020

Contribution Statements are in the mail to all households whose annual contributions **totaled \$250.00 and above**. If you do not receive a statement, but would like one for your records, please call Janet at the parish office.

Black History Month Themed Rosary

Please join us this Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Church, for another Black History Month Themed Rosary. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be available and Confession as well.

House Blessing

As we emerge from a very rough and challenging and in many instances heart-breaking and heart-aching year, the need to draw strength from God's blessings seems more necessary than ever. And what better way to receive those abundant blessings of peace, comfort, strength, healing and protection than with a thorough House Blessing. If interested or know of someone who might be, **please call the Rectory to set up an appointment**. In this year dedicated to Saint Joseph, may this continued New Year be one for all of you of great happiness, health and holiness!

Easter Flower Remembrance



Your loved ones who are memorialized and honored with your Easter Flower contributions will be remembered at the Paschal Vigil, the first celebration of the risen Christ, which will be celebrated at **8:00 PM on Saturday, April 3rd**.

If you would like to include the names of your loved ones, please submit your envelope by **Monday, March 29th**. The names of your loved ones will also appear in our parish bulletin. Easter Flower envelopes have been included in your envelope packet. You may also give through Online Giving.

Lenten Rice Bowl

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Rice Bowl Collection Containers are available in the back of the Church along with a 40 Day Lenten Calendar. Please visit the web site that appears on the container for more information on this great Lenten activity.

Stations of the Cross

As we celebrate the season of Lent, please join us each **Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM** in church as we pray and meditate the Stations to commemorate the Passion of Christ and His sacrifice for us. All are welcome to follow the journey of Christ. Mask are required.

Best Lent Ever

Please join me and your fellow parishioners for Dynamic Catholic's **Best Lent Ever**, nothing will transform your life so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray. That's why this year's **Best Lent Ever** journeys through Matthew Kelly's latest book, *I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit*. (This book will actually be given out Easter Weekend to those attending Mass). Through out the forty days of Lent, you will receive a daily email with a short video. If you choose to throw yourself into this experience, you will be surprised by what God can do in your life with just an email, a short video and an open heart. To sign up, please visit <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever.html>.

Loaves & Fishes



The annual Loaves & Fishes campaign, a Lenten offering to feed our Fairfield County neighbors, sponsored by Catholic Charities is currently taking place without the traditional envelopes this year.

Catholic Charities food service programs continue to provide critically needed assistance via our soup kitchens, food pantries, and meal deliveries to the elderly. This year it is more critical to help our vulnerable neighbors struggling to feed their families due to the Covid-19 crisis. Catholic Charities is a leading provider of food resources throughout the county, serving over 1 million meals to individuals, families and the homebound elderly since the pandemic began, something all Catholics should take pride in. There are two ways to make your Loaves & Fishes donations today: 1) Give directly to Loaves & Fishes at www.ccfairfield.org/donate then select Loaves & Fishes when you make your donation. 2) Make your check payable to "Catholic Charities" and **mail to Catholic Charities Finance; ATT: Loaves & Fishes, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606**.

The Significance of Mass Intentions

When a priest celebrates Mass each day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person or a special intention. By doing so he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention. It's a holy and pious practice to pray for the dead with a Mass Intention so that they may be released from their sins. In addition, a Mass offered for yourself, spouse, children, or friends for a special intention like the healing of a disease or in thanksgiving for blessings is an effective and powerful way to receive God's graces. So let's remember those we love or who are in need by way of having Masses offered for those specific persons and/or special intentions. We still have ample opportunities for this coming year to have Masses offered, including several of our weekend Masses. Please call or email the parish office to schedule your intentions. The **Mass Intention offering is \$15 per Mass**.

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In Celebration of Black History Month, during each week, there will be two Masses dedicated to a particularly inspiring Black Man and/or Woman of Faith.

This week's Mass:

Tuesday, February 23rd at our 5:30 p.m. Mass
Wednesday, February 24th at our 7:30 a.m. Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Will take place on **Friday, March 5**, following the 7:30 a.m. Mass and will conclude on **First Saturday, March 6**, prior to the 7:30 a.m. Mass. **Due to Masses on Friday at 9:00 AM, 5:30 PM and Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed during these times.** All are welcome to come and spend an hour with Jesus.

Lenten Fish Fry Survey

Please respond in the comment section of our Facebook page Fish Fry posted last week. Our WONDERFUL SeptemberFest Committee would like to offer a fish fry on **THREE Fridays in March: 12th, 19th, 26th.** It would be pre-ordered/take out. If you would be interested in supporting this event please respond **"yes" or "no"** in the comment section. Thank You!

Live the Liturgy

Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God's sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space, and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God's covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. 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. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!



Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Genesis 9:8-15/Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/ 1 Peter 3:18-22/Mark 1:12-15
Monday:	1 Peter 5:1-4/Psalm 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/ Matthew 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Isaiah 55:10-11/Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jonah 3:1-10/Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/ Luke 11:29-32
Thursday:	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Matthew 7:7-12
Friday:	Ezekiel 18:21-28/Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday:	Deuteronomy 26:16-19/Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Matthew 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Romans 8:31b-34/ Mark 9:2-10

Communion Antiphon

"His faithfulness will protect you with a shield." - Psalm 91:1



On Ash Wednesday the next life-saving campaign of "40 Days for Life" began and will run to March 28th. The Lenten prayer vigil will take place at the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 4697 Main Street, Bridgeport (adjacent to Bank of America), daily 9 AM to 5 PM. Join this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion. For more information and to sign up visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bridgeport> or contact Lenore Opalak at snowdenopalak@icloud.com.

Sunday Family Rosary

Looking for a way to grow in faith as a family for 2021? Join with hundreds of other families from around the diocese **every Sunday at 7:30 PM for the Sunday Family Rosary.** Visit either the diocesan website (bridgeportdiocese.org) or The Leadership Institute site (formationreimagined.org) and look for the praying hands at the top of the home page. If you and your family would like to volunteer to lead, follow the prompts to sign up for any Sunday you chose.

Sunday of the Word of God/Bible Challenge

How familiar is your family with the Bible? Does the Bible have a place of prominence in your home? Join with families around the world starting for **Sunday of the Word of God**, established by Pope Francis in 2019. Please visit www.formationreimagined.org for a simple ceremony you can use at home to enthrone your Bible.

Be sure to also join **The Family Bible Challenge**, which launched on January 24th. Now in its eighth season, **The Family Bible Challenge** continues to expand with families all over the country to grow in their knowledge of Sacred Scripture. We hope you enjoy the weekly reflections and quizzes.

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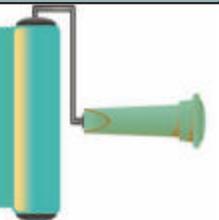
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