

"THE HOUR HAS COME FOR THE SON OF MAN TO BE
GLORIFIED." - JN 12:23

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, March 20

- 4:00PM † Antoinette Scaringe by By Son's
 † Joann Kearney and Linda Rucinski by The Martino Family
 † Kenneth Borden by Nancy Hotaling
 † John D. Fealey by Arthur Fealey
 † Catherine Zupan by Marion Zrelak

SUNDAY, March 21

- 8:00AM † Rev. Lloyd Rebeyro by The Sanna Family
 10:30AM † Joe Olivian by Kathy Olvan
 † Jeanne Ciancetta by Dottie & Warren Roberts Nash
 † Ryan Crannell Long by Ron, Honor, Sean, & Marah Kennedy

12:30PM (Latin) † Wladyslaw Hudak by Urszula Pulkotycki

MONDAY, March 22

- 7:00AM Domenika Truesdell (Birthday) (Living) by Family
 † Jim Stevens by Anonymous

TUESDAY, March 23

- 7:00AM (Latin) † Deceased Family members of Osorio Najera by Susana & Antonio Hebert

WEDNESDAY, March 24

- 7:00AM † Richard Smith by Ken & Mittsie Shannon

THURSDAY, March 25

- 7:00AM (Latin) † Kevin J. Kehoe by The Family

FRIDAY, March 26

- 7:00AM † Elmer Collins by The Family

SATURDAY, March 27

- 4:00PM † Ann M. Plath by The Family
 † Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Scaringe by By Son's
 † Patrick McHenry by The Family
 † Patricia Sim by Arthur Fealey
 † Fr. Lloyd Rebeyro by Robert M. John

SUNDAY, March 28

- 8:00AM † Fr. James Lefebvre
 10:30AM † David Wolff by Jadwiga Putkotycki
 † Lore Juergens by Joan McMahon
 † Luis Fuchs Sandoval by Vasquez/ Ruffino Family
 † Giuseppe Ruffino by His Grandkids
 † Anthony & Joyce Bonacquisto by Joe Bonacquisto

12:30PM (Latin) † The Williams Family by Eleanor Williams

BE A PRAYER PARTNER TO POPE FRANCIS

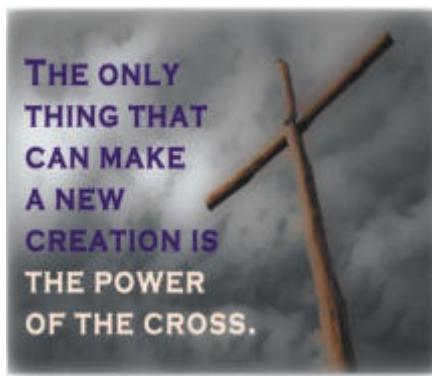
For those who have made the commitment to pray every day for the monthly intentions of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis: - for March he asks that we pray for: **Sacrament of Reconciliation** Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



United to our practices of prayer & fasting, almsgiving makes our Lenten journey complete. **Rice Bowls** are available from the parish office or in the back of church. At the end of lent, your spare change and donations make a difference. Return Rice Bowls on Holy Thursday

DO YOU RECEIVE THE EVANGELIST?

The **EVANGELIST** is the Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Albany. It is published weekly and provides interesting and necessary information for all in our Diocese. The parish will be happy to provide you with a weekly copy if you do not receive the paper already. Call Holly in our office to begin receiving your copy now.

FOLLOWING JESUS

Jesus uses an example from gardening and planting to describe the purpose of his own life. Not only is the season of Lent drawing us closer to the cross, in the gospel's time and season Jesus is about

to be lifted up from earth. Today Our Lord points to Good Friday when he will be lifted up on the cross. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit." The fruit of this harvest is life from Jesus himself. Our Lord gathers us at God's own harvest. When he's lifted from the cross, his death becomes our feast. Like a bountiful garden, this feast is more than enough to keep a single person *and family and friends* satisfied. This feast satisfies the *whole world* as Jesus draws everyone to himself.

This is the power of the cross and the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. The cross was the most humiliating method of execution in the ancient world. It was a sign of shame. But in faith we call the Friday of Jesus' crucifixion "good." And it is important to remember how wonderful and amazing both that day and Jesus' cross are.

God has taken the worst thing that ever happened, the crucifixion, and made it the seed of bountiful harvest. We celebrate it week in and week out at Mass. St. Paul says, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Each Sunday in worship we look at the worst of human sinfulness, our own sinfulness. God takes the worst of what we have done and makes it a sacrament of divine grace.

Jesus fulfills the vision of the prophet Jeremiah in today's first reading. They broke my covenant, complains the Lord. Nevertheless, the Lord will make a new covenant with people. "I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." God desires reconciliation with the world and a relationship with all people. God desires a relationship with all those whose lives are broken by sin. This is the power of the cross as it draws us up to new life. Jesus lifts us beyond personal failures. Jesus dies to a world marred by sin.

ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY CONSECRATION

Bishop Scharfenberger is inviting Catholics throughout the Diocese to join him in a 33 day preparation period starting March 10, with the book: *33 Days to Merciful Love*, by Fr Michael Gaitley, MIC. The preparation will lead to the annual diocesan Divine Mercy Consecration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:00pm. More information is on the webpage: www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration

WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES
FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF THE USHERS



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR
Dear parish family,
 Today begins the days of "Passiontide," the name given to the last two weeks of Lent. Up until now the liturgical readings and prayers have emphasized themes of

conversion, penance, and reconciliation. Now the attention turns more directly to the suffering and crucifixion of Our Lord. According to a very ancient tradition, statues and crosses in churches are covered. This custom dates to the earliest centuries of Christianity when originally the cross was covered in the last two weeks of Lent, so that it might be solemnly unveiled for a renewed veneration on Good Friday. Eventually images of the saints, too, were covered, as it was deemed unfitting to cover images of the Master and not the disciples. The Gospel of John tells us that as His last Passover approached, Jesus "hid Himself" and "did not go around openly," because His enemies were seeking to arrest Him. The great fathers of the Church assure us that this secrecy implies no hesitation on the part of Christ about His upcoming death. Rather, it shows His control: He would go to the cross at the time of His own choosing, i.e. the Passover! He would reveal Himself in this way as the true Lamb of God, and the passover from sin and death to holiness and eternal life as the real Pasch!

The liturgies of the Triduum at St. Mary's this year will be celebrated in the extraordinary form, in Latin. I know that many will be disappointed not to have the New Order of the Mass on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday night. But my ministry here includes the celebration of the Extraordinary Form and making the more ancient use of the Liturgy available as well as the New Order. And I simply am unable to accommodate both forms on these days. I invite you all to consider participating in these ancient rituals, even if you have never seen them before. I am working to provide materials for these sacred days to help the congregation follow along more easily. The Extraordinary Form is the way the Church worshipped for most of her history. Countless saints celebrated and participated in the Mass in this form. It is truly one of the treasures of the Church. And knowing and experience *all* of the treasures that the Church has to offer opens us up to the many avenues of spiritual growth that God has paved for us. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI taught that the ancient Mass helps us better understand the new Mass, and the new Mass helps us better understand the ancient Mass. We will keep the following schedule:

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 1st at 5:00pm

Good Friday Commemoration the Lord's Passion, April 2nd - 3 pm

(Stations of the Cross in English at 12:00 Noon)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 3rd at 8:00pm

Easter Sunday Masses, 8:00am and 10:30am, will be in English

NO LATIN MASS at 12:30 ON EASTER SUNDAY.

Please be assured of my prayerful wishes for all of you to have a blessed Easter. I feel more excited than ever as I look forward to celebrating the Easter liturgies with you this year, as I recall that last year we were unable to gather as a Church in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. May God give us true joy in the celebration of Our Savior's Death and Resurrection and the promise of salvation held out to us because of it! God bless you all!

With paternal love and affection,

Father Flannery

ST. MARY'S SENIOR PROGRAM

Please call our Parish Office if you know of a Parishioner who is sick, hospitalized or has moved to an assisted living facility or nursing home. Our Senior Program seeks to bring communion to the homebound or in health care facilities. They also have a telephone committee that checks in on the homebound as well as a committee that sends cards to these parishioners.

PARISH FINANCES

Thank you to all who continue to make their donations. It is a HUGE help. Please do what you can to assist the parish financially during this pandemic crisis. Over the past 6 months our collections are down significantly. Please do whatever you can to assist. Even though some cannot meet on a weekly basis at church, the bills must be paid and payroll must be met. Your contributions may be sent to the parish office or you may participate by using our "on-line" giving program (located on our parish website: www.hist-stmarys.org). Your help is greatly appreciated!



THIS YEAR'S BISHOP'S APPEAL IS DIFFERENT

What stays the same is our participation. Every parish continues to have a target goal (an assessment). Therefore we count on your generous participation to help us meet our goal. Every bit of your donation will help St. Mary's since we must make up the difference at the end of the campaign. Please do your best to give what you did in past years. If you can do more—please do so, since a number of our parishioners have suffered financial loss and difficulties because of the pandemic. **We need your help—our goal is over \$143,000 and so far our donations total \$73,635—an average gift of \$475 from 155 families—thank you—thank you.**



REVISIT YOUR PLANS FOR LENT

Our Lenten works of fasting, prayer, a growing awareness of others and their needs, all help us to become more aware of the presence of Christ in our lives. Please pray for the openness to grow spiritually, individually and as a parish family. Please consider the daily Mass as part of your Lenten observance, you can also make gifts to the poor through our poor boxes or rice bowls, and take time for spiritual and scripture reading. Revisit your commitments to practice an increase in good works, such as contacting older folks at home or in a nursing home, helping with parish outreach or family members' needs. A number of recollections and opportunities to participate in the Stations of the Cross are available on line. Get your daily email from Matthew Kelly at www.BestLentEver.com or from Bishop Barron at wordonfire.org.

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