We give the definition of ourselves over to so many things. We allow our society, friends, family, work, social groups, ethnicity, and even institutions define, classify, and color how we perceive ourselves. When we listen predominantly to the voices of others, we lose touch with what is happening within our own inner voice. If we listen carefully within, we can easily discover that we are in want and need. We know our incompleteness and also know that loneliness, sadness, and self-images can propel us outward in attempts to fill those gaps. We can become not only victims of our own prejudices but can find ourselves overly self-indulgent in things that can only satisfy for a short time, if at all.

It is no wonder that money and power are things that are so fervently sought after. As long as we can keep a steady supply going, the illusion of fulfillment and satisfaction can falsely persuade us as craftily as a master magician’s act. We live with illusions not truth. It is no wonder, then, that some of the wealthiest folks are also really the unhappiest. Whether we admit it, the lies we live and pursue will ultimately expose our superficiality. We all have to wrestle with who we are and what gives our lives purpose and meaning. Learn to listen more deeply, not to what others are saying about you, but to what God is echoing in your heart.

We can easily get confused and misunderstand, not only about who we are but who God is. Even the disciples and the Samaritan woman at the well missed the point Jesus was trying to make. There is only one Person who can satisfy the deepest yearnings and longings of our hearts — Jesus the Messiah. It is not the work of corporate America that will lead us to happiness or greatness but the work of the soul. We continue to resist acknowledging this and are happier in our world of misunderstanding and illusion. The life-giving water we truly need doesn’t come from the source of a well but from the Source of Life. Only God can reveal the truth of our sinfulness, the superficiality of our pursuits, and the illusions we hold so dear. Only Jesus can save us from ourselves and give us what we really need. If only our heads can catch up with where our hearts know they need to be, then will we find real contentment and life!
REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENT
As announced last weekend with Deacon Dale’s retirement April 19; April Mrs. Jackie Adams along with her responsibilities for Faith Formation will also be our visitor to the homebound, nursing homes and hospitals. She will be full time on our staff. Also, on June 1, Emily Brennan will be our Youth Minister.

FATHER DONOVAN

DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF ILLNESS IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY, WE WILL FORGO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD AND HOLY WATER AT THE ENTRANCE FOR A FEW WEEKS.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
PLEASE! We need 12 volunteers for one Mass a month to be the person who advances the slides on the projection. Matt can handle only one keyboard at a time. If you have the technical skills to click a mouse you are qualified, no one is too old, as for too young, let’s say 4th grade up. Please, email Father Donovan, jpdonovan@syrdio.org.

NAZARETH FARM
Students, Grades 10-12 interested in participating in a service camp experience in Center Point, West Virginia, August 9-15, 2020, please contact Father Donovan, jpdonovan@syrdio.org. Nazareth Farm operates on the four cornerstones of Service, Community, Simplicity and Prayer. Volunteers do home repairs and other service in a four-county region in the center of West Virginia, one of the poorest regions of our Country. More information can be found on nazarethfarm.org or by contacting Father Donovan.

LENT
Prior to Friday stations, we will have SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS. If interested in cooking, please call the office. The suppers will be Fridays until March 27. The LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS from St. Margaret Mary's will be April 3.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS
Confessions throughout the Saturdays of Lent will be 3:30 – 4:45 pm. Please do not wait until the Lights are on … which will be Monday April 6. Our PCA’s Penance Service will be Sunday, April 5, 4 pm at St. Vincent DePaul - Blessed Sacrament.

Tenebrae Service
Join us for a beautiful candlelit contemplative prayer service known as ‘Tenebrae’, Latin for ‘Darkness’ on Sunday, March 22 at 7pm. Throughout this quiet service of scripture readings, psalms, and beautiful choral music, candles are extinguished one by one as the readings are shared to tell the story of Holy Week. This gradual descent into gloom is a representation of Jesus’ increasing sorrow as the events of Passion Week unfold. After the last verse is read, the last candle is put out, and the service ends in darkness.

Christmas Craft Sale
Calling All Vendors! Do you have a craft you would like to sell before the Christmas Rush? November 14, 2020 9 am - 3 pm, Our Lady of Sorrows Gym. $25 per table. Limited electric available. Limited number of tables. All proceeds will benefit the OLS Youth Ministry program. Call Jackie Adams for more information, (607) 748-8287.

I would like to thank Fr. Donovan for his confidence in me as I take on the role of Pastoral Associate for our parish. I know I have big shoes to fill but I am very excited to carry on what Deacon Dale does so well. I truly feel that I have come full circle as so many of the people I will be spending time with were the very ones that prayed for me over 30 years ago when I became Catholic. I am blessed to not only be a part of this great parish but to be serving our community in such a special way. That being said, so many times we hear about someone needing our prayers or a friendly visit AFTER they have come home from a hospital or rehab stay. And sometimes we don’t hear about it until much later. What I tell people, if we don’t know we can’t pray. So please call the office and let us know if you want a visit or just want us to pray. 607-748-8287. I want to thank all who have said congratulations, sent an email or text it really means a lot to know that you will pray for me as I take on this huge responsibility.

-Jackie

Join us for simple soup suppers during Lent! Our next supper will be this Friday, March 20 6:00pm in the Café.
Followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm

March 15, 2020
**Stations of the Cross**

**Tuesdays 8:00am**  
**Fridays 7:00pm**

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**Nut Rolls - Now Available Gluten-Free**

Our annual Easter nut roll sale is back with a new twist. Regular nut rolls are still $10. Gluten-free nut rolls are available this year at $13 each. We will make only as many GF as are ordered, so if you or someone you know needs GF, please make sure to get your order in by the April 2 deadline! Order forms for nut rolls are available in the Gathering Space. All rolls will be available for pick-up on Holy Thursday. If you will be away that week, please let us know and we will freeze your nut rolls for pick up during Easter week. Proceeds benefit our youth programs.

*Nut roll pickup will be Thursday, April 9 from 12pm - 7pm.*

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**IHM Associates**

There will be an IHM Associates meeting on Monday, March 16 at 7pm in the Library.

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**St. Cyril’s Ethnic Dinner**

Halupki, pierogi, kielbasa, haluski and homemade desserts! Sunday, March 22, 11:30am-2:30pm. Adults—$12, Children (5-12) $4. Take out is available. St. Cyril’s Center, 148 Clinton St, Binghamton.

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**Scholarship**

Laimons and Sylvia Drupa Scholarship - the Binghamton Garden Club is offering this scholarship in the amount of $10,000 to a graduating senior in a Broome County high school. The selected senior must major in a university undergraduate program in horticulture, environmental studies, botany, landscape architecture, biology (not pre-med) or other directly related fields. This award is not just a one-year award, but has the potential of multiple years if all the requirements are met. Interested applicants should contact their school guidance counselor. Submissions must be received by May 1, 2020. Contact M. Rankin, Scholarship Chair, at 773-8959 for more information.

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**FORMed®**

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**Joseph of Nazareth**

As Joseph is informed by God’s messengers about trusting and following his plan, this film presents beautiful vignettes of these and other powerful scenes in the life of Christ and the Holy Family that are authentic and inspiring.

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**Living Stations**

St. Margaret Mary’s Church will be presenting Living Stations of the Cross here at OLS on Friday, April 3 at 7pm.

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**IGNITE 2020 Catholic Men’s Conference**

Attention men of the parish, the theme for the 12th Annual IGNITE Men’s Conference is *Take Refuge in the Lord*. You can be part of it on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the SRC Arena & Event Center for an amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you. You can register for the IGNITE 2020 Catholic Men’s Conference online at [www.ignitecatholicmen.org](http://www.ignitecatholicmen.org).

There will be carpool leaving the church Saturday March 23 morning form the church. Sign up now! This is a day you that will affect you more than words can describe. Speaker are Steve Ray is a convert to the Catholic Church and the author of three best-selling Ignatius Press books, Chris Greisen a Former NFL quarterback and Fr Thomas Petri, O.P. Vice President and Academic Dean Assistant Professor, Moral Theology and Pastoral Studies, Dominican House of Studies.

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**Third Sunday of Lent**

**St. Patrick’s & St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Mission**

Parish Mission with Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC, author of *Miracles Do Happen: God Can Do the Impossible!* Monday, April 19 – Thursday, April 23 at St. Patrick’s Church, Binghamton. Sr. Briege McKenna was born in Ireland and entered the Sisters of St. Clare at the age of fifteen. Having suffered as a young adult with severe rheumatoid arthritis, she was transferred to her community in Tampa, Florida with the hope that the Florida sunshine would relieve her suffering. At the age of twenty-four, she was miraculously and instantaneously healed during the celebration of the Eucharist and sometime later received, in prayer, the gift of healing for which she has become so widely known. In 1974, again during prayer, she was given a deep spiritual insight into the mystery of the call to priesthood. Since then, bishops and priests in many parts of the world have invited her to speak and minister at their retreats and conferences.
Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each of us. God Created the Planet and There Is Plenty You Need to Do About It!

Teen Beta

God Created the Planet and There Is Plenty You Need to Do About It!

Monday, March 23: 6pm-8pm, Grades 9-12 Dinner: Pasta Primavera. The topic is intended to initiate conversations that are continued in your home. Please RSVP to Mrs. Adams by Thursday, March 19.

jadams@syrdioce.se.org

Starting the weekend of March 22, we will begin the Post It Prayer Project, which we did last year. Post It notes and directions will be handed out at each Mass March 21st and 22nd. Using only a few words, please write a Prayer Request on a Post It note. It could be a prayer of Thankfulness, a prayer to Request a Blessing from God, or a prayer of Forgiveness. Then, place your Post It notes on the outlined cross behind the Baptismal Font. These Post It Prayer Notes will be displayed for two weeks and then collected. They will be used to start the Holy Fire at the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass.

(No need to sign your name. God knows your heart.)

Lenten Question of the Week

Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

Answer: For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church’s thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on "why we do what we do" among the Church’s pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each of us. It is to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.
Sunday, March 21
9:00am Thomas Lynch – Loving Family
5:15pm Mary Lobevero – OLS Greeters

Sunday, March 22
8:30am Leo Begin – Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Colling
11:00am Joseph Farrell (Birthday) – Charles & Carole DiGiacomo
7:00pm (Newman House) Raymond Ferraro – Don & Marcia Eckerson

Please Remember in Prayer
...all who have recently died and their families.

Sanctuary Lamps
...are burning in the Church in memory of Thomas Lynch requested by his loving family.
...are burning in the Chapel in memory of Edward Harmon requested by his wife.

Altar Care for March 19th
Diane Sansone

A Lenten Retreat for Catholic Women
Saturday, March 21, 7:45 am-12:30 pm, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Endicott. Registration begins at 7:45 am. The retreat includes Holy Mass, breakfast, speaker reflection with Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, confession and Eucharistic Adoration. Registration is $20. Register by mailing the Women’s Commission, c/o Judy Wright, PO Box 288, Vestal, NY 13850 by calling Judy at 607-206-6205 or by emailing swc@syracusediocese.org; or register at the door. On check, please note “Southern Retreat.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 15 - 22, 2020</th>
<th>Parish Calendar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Mass (Church during Lent)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parish Calendar</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Wednesday 7:30am</td>
<td><strong>Parish Office</strong> (607)748-8287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday (Church) 9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Parish Email</strong> <a href="mailto:office@olsvestal.org">office@olsvestal.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Faith Formation</strong> (607)748-8287</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 15</td>
<td><strong>Food Pantry (Julie Slattery)</strong> (607)785-3214 <a href="mailto:pantry@olsvestal.org">pantry@olsvestal.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitality &amp; Nametag Weekend</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dennis Slattery</strong> Parish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Office Open after Masses</strong></td>
<td><strong>John Lahoda (Grand Knight)</strong> <a href="mailto:lahodaj@gmail.com">lahodaj@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td><strong>Baptism</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. If this is your first child, a baptism prep online class is required. Any questions please call Diane Rigotti at 748-8287.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td><strong>Marriage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance to make arrangements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td><strong>First Sacraments &amp; Confirmation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Meeting (Youth Rm)</td>
<td>Please contact our Director of Faith Formation, Jackie Adams <a href="mailto:jadams@syrdiocese.org">jadams@syrdiocese.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, March 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ministry to the Sick</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>If a family member is hospitalized or homebound, please call the Parish Office as soon as possible. Privacy laws may prevent a hospital from telling us your loved one is there.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosary</td>
<td><strong>If you are moving ...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Please call or email the Parish Office with your new address and phone number, or let us know if you are leaving the parish.</td>
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</tbody>
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| Novena of the Miraculous Medal | **The Best Catholic Content. All In One Place.**
| 7:00pm | formed.org/register |
| IHM Associates Meeting (Library) | Enter Parish Code: YVN4RP |
| **Tuesday, March 17** | **Bulletin Announcements** |
| 7:00am | ...must be received by Monday at 12pm for the upcoming weekend’s bulletin. Subscribe to our bulletin by clicking on the down arrow next to bulletin at olsvestal.org. Click on Subscribe to Our Bulletin, click on subscribe and enter your email address. |
| Rosary | **Parish Staff** |
| 8:00am | | Pastor | Rev. John P. Donovan | jpdonovan@syrdio.org |
| Divine Mercy | | Youth & Pastoral Minister | Deacon Dale Crottsley | deacondale@olsvestal.org |
| 8:00am-10am | | Director of Faith Formation | Jackie Adams | jadams@syrdiocese.org |
| Holy Hour | | Adult Faith Formation Administrator | Diane Rigotti | diane@olsvestal.org |
| 9:45am | | Business Administrator | Amy Sullivan | amy@olsvestal.org |
| Spirituality (library) | | Music Director | Matthew Vavalle mvavalle@syrdiocese.org | |
| 10:30am | | Front Office/Bulletin | Kelley Marconi | office@olsvestal.org |
| Mass at Vestal Park | | Back Office/IT | olsbulletin@olsvestal.org | |
| 4:45pm | | Maintenance | Kathy O’Brien | kathy@olsvestal.org |
| Youth Choir | | | Mitch Bomysoad, Peter Klie | |
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