

THIS YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St. Joseph", from from December 8, 2020 to the same date in 2021. This presents us an opportunity to increase our love for St. Joseph and knowledge of him, "to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal" (*Patris Corde*).

Special opportunities to receive a plenary indulgence were also included, subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Holy See made provision in its decree that persons who are currently unable to go to Mass or confession because of public health restrictions may defer reception of those two sacraments until they are able to do so. Those who are sick, suffering, or homebound may also receive the plenary indulgence by fulfilling as much as they are able and by offering their sorrows and sufferings to God through Saint Joseph, consoler of the sick and patron saint for receiving a good death.

The following prayers and activities have been enriched with a plenary indulgence:

- meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father") or participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph;
- perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, inspired by the life and example of St Joseph;
- pray the Rosary together as a family or a couple, modeling the virtues of the Holy Family;
- dedicate with confidence their daily work to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker, including the efforts of those who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking more dignified work;
- devoutly recite the Litany of Saint Joseph or other suitable prayer, especially for the intentions of persecuted Catholics in the Church and around the world, and for the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution; or devoutly recite an another approved prayer to St Joseph, for example the "To you, O blessed Joseph" (available at USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-st-joseph-after-rosary).

AN INVITATION FROM A FELLOW PARISHIONER

I mentioned to a parishioner in passing that we unexpectedly had a bill for \$5,000 to repair our heating systems even though we have new equipment. He wrote me a note a couple of weeks later on the weekend of 3/7/2021. He wrote that he has (like many other parishioners) already received \$600 of the stimulus money and assuming the following Covid-19 Relief Bill is passed by congress, (I'm writing this article on 3/7/2021 so I don't know the final status of that bill) those individuals who make less than \$80,000, will each receive another stimulus check for \$1,400.

He wanted me to share that as a senior member of our parish community, he has generously donated \$2,000 (all) of his stimulus money to St. Mark's and he is hoping that others, if they are able to do so, also donate at least a part of their stimulus money as a special additional donation to help out St. Mark's in this time of need."

I'll also be following his advice and making a donation as well!

Deacon Frank

WEEKEND OF: Mar. 20-21, 2021

Parish Mission Statement:

**“St. Mark’s Roman Catholic
Church . . .
Called by God’s love to live the
life of Jesus in our world.”**

MASS TIMES

Monday Through Friday: Daily Mass at 8:00 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 8:30 am & 11:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 pm till 4:30 pm

CHURCH ADDRESS

St. Mark’s Church

54 Kuhn Road, Rochester, New York 14612

CONTACT INFO

Rectory 225-3710; **Office:** 227-6824; **Fax:** 225-6517

Website: www.stmarksgreece.com

Parish Email: rstmarkc@dor.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Reverend Louis Sirianni, Parochial Vicar, ext. 206, **Email:** fr.louis.sirianni@dor.org

Kristine Burgio, Faith Formation/Youth Ministry ext. 203, **Email:** kristine.burgio@dor.org

Deacon David Cadregari, Parish Deacon, ext. 305, **Email:** david.cadregari@dor.org

Denise O’Toole, Financial Director, ext. 202

Pregnancy Support

Pregnant and in need of support? We’re here for you!: optionline.org, Call 1-800-712-4357, Text: “HELPLINE” to 313131

Experiencing a prenatal diagnosis? You are not alone:

Be Not Afraid: www.benotafraid.net

Looking for hope and healing after abortion? Reach out today:

supportafterabortion.com, call/text: 941-202-4030, email: help@supportafterabortion.com

Stewardship Corner

PLEASE continue to support our parish during this time as best as you are able, so we can continue to be able to pay our monthly bills.

An easy way is through Online Giving (though you can still mail in your checks). Please see below to register! God bless you and keep you safe!

Secure Online Giving at:



February Collections: \$31,809.00

Budget for Feb: \$32,751.00

Period variance (-\$ 942.00)

YTD variance (-\$ 14,191)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it’s tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it’s okay to be scared, that it’s something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn’t the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being “troubled” and he speaks of “the time of judgment.” There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

“Yet what should I say?” he asks them. “Father, save me from this hour?” But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.”

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

5th Sunday of Lent—March 21, 2021

SUNDAY'S READINGS -

First Reading:

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)

Psalm:

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)

Gospel:

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/
Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30

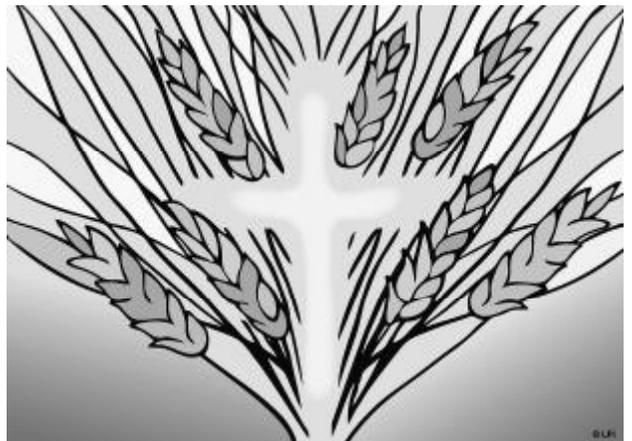
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/
Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39



LENT & HOLY WEEK 2021

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—Normal Weekend Mass Times

April 1 Holy Thursday—Mass 6:00 PM

April 2 Good Friday of the Lord's Passion—3 PM

April 3 Easter Vigil—5:00 PM

April 4 Easter Sunday Masses— 8:30 & 11 AM

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

April 11 @ 2:30 PM

LENTEN ABSTINENCE applies to Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics who are 14 years of age or older are to refrain from eating meat or meat products on these days. (This does not apply to fish, eggs, or milk products.)

LENTEN FAST applies to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and applies to all Catholics who have completed their 18th birthday until they have completed their 59th year. "Fasting means taking only one full meal and two smaller meals that, taken together, do not equal one full meal."

FRIDAYS OF LENT:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00 pm Stations will be streamed using Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksGreece/live>

Materials can be picked up in the Narthex or are available at:

<https://www.saintanneshelper.com/support-files/stations-of-the-cross.pdf>

LENTEN FISH FRY Our Knights of Columbus will present their annual fish fry each Friday from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Due to Covid-19 it will be Take-Out only with Curbside Service

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 3:30-4:30PM

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND PROGRAM UPDATES CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STMARKSGREECE.COM (USE THE GROWING IN FAITH TAB, LENT 2021 RE-

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 20

5:00 pm Theodore "TJ" Sigler by Susan Frederick

Sunday, March 21 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am The People of St. Marks Church

11:00 am Larry Curtis by Roxanne Curtis & Children

Monday, March 22

8:00 am

Tuesday, March 23

8:00 am

Wednesday March 24

8:00 am Special Intention

Thursday, March 25

8:00 am

Friday, March 26

8:00 am

Saturday, March 27

5:00 pm

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

8:30 am The People of St. Marks Church

11:00 am Kathleen Cannavino by Dennis Giunta

There are many open Masses and weeks available to light the Sanctuary Lamp for 2021

*This Week
Sanctuary Lamp:*

For all those in need of food



Prayer Requests

The following members and extended members of our Parish Family have had prayer requests made for them:

*Donna Sindon, Marie Pettrone,
Sister Jody Kearney, Jane Gunzelmann,
Jeff Biss, Gloria Minardo,
Amy Brewer, Shirley Mulliger, Jane Camiolo,
Michael Mele, Janet Ciaccia, Ken & Nathan Schultz,
Dawn Lamendola, Knycos, Timothy Glasow,
Evelyn Tisa, Skyler, Lynne Mikel, Mya Colon,
Emma Webster*

REMEMBER

The COVID 19 pandemic is still with us. Please be vigilant in wearing your masks and staying physically distant.

Names will remain on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please resubmit your prayer request if you would like your loved one added to the list.



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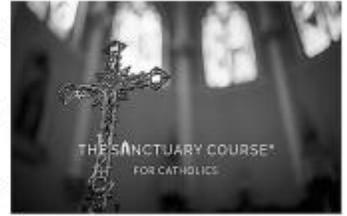
PICK OF THE WEEK

March 21, 2021

WATCH

THE SANCTUARY COURSE FOR CATHOLICS

Misconceptions surrounding mental illness can prevent us from responding well to those suffering. This eight-session course explores the realities of mental illness, as well as the need for faith-based conversations about this topic. Featuring stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists.



LEARN

A Bible Study on the Annunciation



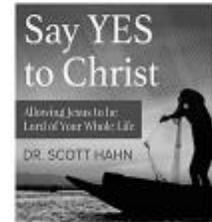
A BIBLE STUDY ON THE ANNUNCIATION

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26-38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

LISTEN

SAY YES TO CHRIST: ALLOWING JESUS TO BE THE LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE BY SCOTT HAHN

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



ST. MARK'S KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY

**FISH FRY DINNER \$12.50
DUE TO COVID-19, TAKEOUT BY CURB SERVICE
IN FRONT OF ST. MARKS CHURCH ONLY**



**FRIED HADDOCK, FRENCH FRIES, COLESLAW,
ROLL and COOKIE - NO SUBSTITUTIONS**

**4:30PM to 6:30PM FRIDAYS DURING LENT THRU
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2, 2021**

**This is the Knight's main fundraiser with proceeds directed
to charities in our area. stmarksknights.org**

Questions: 585-392-3307 585-227-5734

**Remember
TAKE OUT ONLY!**

LENT 2021 RESOURCES

(Found on St. Mark's Website)

To help you on your Lenten 2021 journey, find below a couple resources to choose from that will help you grow and become stronger in your faith during this season of fasting, prayer and penitence.

FORMED-40 DAYS TO GRACE AND GLORY.

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for Daily Lenten Reflections. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life. Available for FREE on FORMED. If you need assistance accessing FORMED, find instructions at:

<https://www.stmarksgreece.com/formed> (FREE)

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, BEST LENT EVER

Feed your soul with prayer this Lent. Inspired by his new book "I Heard God Laugh," deepen your prayer life while preparing for the celebration of Easter! If you choose to throw yourself into this experience, we promise you that you will be surprised by what God can do in your life with just an open heart. Matthew Kelly's book is available in our Narthex for free while supplies last. To experience videos, email, etc. see the St. Mark's website to [Signup for Best Lent Ever program.](#)

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Around 600 BC, Jeremiah prophesied that God would establish a new, unbreakable covenant with his people, one written “upon their hearts.” In what ways is your faith heart-felt?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews teaches us that Jesus learned “obedience” from his suffering. What have been some fruits from the suffering in your life?

Gospel:

We hear today of Jesus’ own struggle with his impending death. During this Lenten season, what has been a struggle for you?

GOSPEL MEDITATION - March 21, 2021—5th Sunday of Lent

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn’t need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God’s own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God’s DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life’s lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God’s law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus’ deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

How do we convince people that God’s law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God’s people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God’s deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, “Father, glorify your name.” By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done.

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