***Historic Old St. John's Church***
***240 Bleecker Street***
***Utica, NY 13501***
***(315) 724-6159***
***historicoldstjohnschurch.com***


**Pastor**
Rev. Thomas R. Servatius (tservatius@syrdio.org)

**Pastor Emeritus**
Rev. John A. Buehler

**Parish Office**
Nancy Manley (nmanley@syrdio.org)

**Sr. Mary Theresa Outreach Center 1119 Elm St.**
Sr. Paula Mayer, DC 315-732-6171

**Pastoral Care**
Sr. Elizabeth Greim, D.C. (srelizabeth.dc@gmail.com)

**Religious Education Director**
Annette Gape (agape@syrdio.org)

**Spanish Apostolate**
Rev. Luis Olguin, Director 315-724-0389

**Vietnamese Community**
Rev. John (Tuoi) Nguyen 315-734-5209
Mr. Ly Trinh 315-941-6919

**Music Ministry**
Randy Migliaccio, Organist
Alex Meszler, Organist

**Sacrament of Baptism**
Please call the Office to make arrangements.

**Sacrament of Matrimony**
Please contact our offices ***at least six months in advance.***

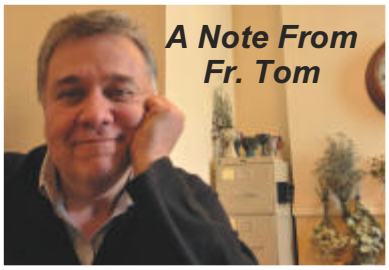
**Sacraments of Healing (Anointing/Reconciliation)**
Saturdays 5:00—5:30 and by appointment.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

| Date & Intentions | Requested By |
|---|---|
| **Saturday, February 20 & Sunday, February 21 1st Sunday of Lent** | |
| **4:00 pm** | |
| Sigmund & Blanche Dykty | Bill & Sue |
| Jaclyn Salerno Viti | Family |
| **9:00 am** | |
| Jaclyn Salerno Viti | Nunzio Melchiorre |
| Frank DiSpirito | Friend |
| **11:00 am** | |
| 19th Ann. Christopher H. Donalty | Family |
| Edna Zarnoch | Mike Dziura & Cathy Patterman |
| **Monday, February 22 (12:10pm)** | |
| Kathlyn Meehan Jones, RN | Husband, Norm |
| Daniel Brian Jones | Father |
| **Tuesday, February 23 (12:10pm)** | |
| Joseph N. & Sarah Calogero | Estate of Phyllis D. Calogero |
| **Wednesday, February 24 (12:10pm)** | |
| For the Living and Deceased Members of St. John's | |
| **Thursday, February 25 (12:10pm)** | |
| Gina Scire | Lou |
| **Friday, February 26 (12:10pm)** | |
| Mary C. Durso | Family |
| **Saturday, February 27 & Sunday, February 28 Second Sunday in Lent** | |
| **4:00 pm** | |
| 3rd Ann.Thomas De Crescenzo, Jr | Family |
| Donald O'Connor, Jr. | Mom & Family |
| **9:00 am** | |
| Ralph Gorton | Tom & Laurie Zielinski |
| Jaqui Gorea | Vincent J. Cavo |
| **11:00 am** | |
| Jeanette E. Zumpano | Jeanne Gossin |
| Peggy Waterman | Deborah Burke |
| Eleuterio David Medina | Wife, Delia & Family |

*If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention, please complete the form on Page 5 of the bulletin and mail it in or put it in the collection basket. From there, we will follow-up with you. Thanks.*

***Our Mission is to share the Gospel and Love of Jesus Christ with everyone and to serve others as Jesus did.***




*Hi Folks:*

*Some of you have asked for a little review of my recent homilies, and how they tie to Lent, and what to give up for Lent. So here goes:*

***Jan 24.*** *Four fishermen dropped their nets to follow Jesus. What in our lives do we need to drop during Lent in order to follow Jesus more closely?*

***Jan 31.*** *Paul wants us to be free from anxieties while Jesus drives out demons. What are those demons within us which make us anxious, and can we ask Jesus for the help to drive out those demons and be less anxious?*

***Feb 7.*** *Jesus grasps the hand of Simon's mother-in-law (who is in bed with a fever), and she gets out of bed, trusting the change within her. Can we have that same kind of trust—that Jesus wants to grasp our hand and lead us from our spiritual fever?*

***Feb 14.*** *Jesus cleanses the leper. During Lent, can we fast from treating ourselves and others as lepers?*

*Give these some thought and prayer during Lent, and let's also be sure to put our thoughts and prayers into action. I know. Easier said than done. But let's remember that with God, all things are possible (read that somewhere. . . )*

*An interesting little observation from the past two weekends. I've seen it, along with others: We're beginning to see the return of people we haven't seen in a while. For a few, I assume that they're "ramping up" for Lent, which is a really really good thing. Good for you!!! Others, however have said one of following:*

***"Father, the COVID numbers are down far enough where I'm willing to come back."***

*or (a common one)*

***"Father, I got my vaccine and figured it's time to come back."***

*or (a really touching one):*

***"Father, I just miss it. I miss St. John's. "***

*Whatever reason, it's really great to have you back. And if you're not yet ready to come back, that's OK. No pressure. Just know that when you are ready, we're here.*

*Thanks folks.*

*Take Care, God Bless, and stay safe,*

## What is Lent

Ash Wednesday was a few days ago, starting the Lenten countdown toward Holy Week and Easter. But maybe some of us are not completely clear as to why these weeks of preparation are there in the first place.
One opinion is that Lent is a time to deprive yourself. You give up candy or smoking or desserts or heavy meals or … well, choose your favorite and then give it up. These are part of Lenten practice.

Lenten deprivation gave birth to Mardi Gras (literally meaning "Fat Tuesday"). In contrast to the toughness of Lent. Mardi Gras, at least in non-covid-19 years, had you eat all the fat you could, parade around in costume, go wild. The public usually does not recall that Mardi Gras has something to do with what is to them a quaint old practice, Lent. But that sharpens the question: what have they or we forgotten about Lent and its practices?

**Lent prepares us to witness the reality of our savior.**

Well, what if we described Lent as a "Retreat"?

A Retreat, in Catholic and other religions, is a space of days taken out to pray and to be with the Lord. Often one goes to a retreat house to do these. In St. Louis, for instance, there is a beautiful place called "White House"—different from the one for the president—which has a stunning view of the Mississippi River. For many decades Jesuits have preached retreats there every weekend and sometimes during the week. Sizeable groups of men or women stay for two or three days to meditate, listen to talks, and refresh their spiritual lives.

I am not saying that you should disappear to the nearest retreat house for the five weeks of Lent. But what about letting each Lenten day partake of certain retreat practices? For instance, what about setting aside a little time each day to let your insides settle down for a while, to create a space within you to welcome God. Maybe set up a special place in your home or someplace else just to pray. How about a picture or crucifix or maybe a candle? Or just 10 minutes of silence?

And why not use some time to read in advance the gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass? Sit down, read it slowly, and let the scene described take place within the your heart and mind. This week you could ask Jesus how it felt to have the Spirit drive him into the desert, as described in this week's Gospel.

The point?

Let the Lord's loving deeds be your motivation for "giving up" anything during Lent. Make a gift of gratitude to God—rather than just refraining from something or other. How does any of this prepare you for Holy Week and Easter? By doing exactly what Jesus does when he makes of himself a gift consisting of suffering and death. He is returning a gift of love to the Father. Lent prepares us to witness this reality of our savior.

John Foley, SJ
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***During Lent . . .***

***Rosary Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm***

***Stations of the Cross Fridays @ 7:00 pm***

***Please use the side entrance.***

***Join Us!!!***

**Getting Ready for Next Sunday**

*An excellent way to prepare for Mass is to ponder over the readings we will hear.*

*This coming week, take some time out and pray about our readings for next weekend:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Reading I: | Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 |
| Responsorial Psalm: | Ps 116:10, 15, 16-19 |
| Reading II: | Rom 8:31b-34 |
| Gospel: | Mk 9:2-10 |

**Needed: Gloves, Knitted Hats, Heavy Socks**

Our Sandwich Ministry has noticed that some of our guests are without gloves, knitted hats, and/or heavy socks. If you can help us out, please drop them off in the bins under the registration tables or at the Parish Center M-F 10—11am any weekday morning.

Thanks!!!

***Keep in touch***

| | |
|---|---|
| Website: | www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com (includes link to our bulletins) |
| Facebook: | (Look for Historic Old St. John's Church) |
| Instagram: | @historicstjohnsutica |
| Youtube: | Search for Historic Old St. John's Utica |
| E-Mail: | stjohnsutica@syrdio.org |
| Faith Formation Blog: | Historicstjohnsutica.blogspot.com |

## CRS Rice Bowl

In Madagascar, families gather to watch puppet shows that entertain and teach. They love seeing the brightly colored puppets talk to each other, tell stories and ask the crowd questions. After each show, parents leave with new information to help their families.

Half of all children in Madagascar are undernourished, meaning they don't have enough nutritious food to stay healthy. Parents want their children to grow up healthy and strong, and the puppet shows give them new knowledge they can use right away to make sure that happens. Community health workers trained by CRS use the puppets to teach families about how doctor visits, hand washing and *rainbow* foods—different colored foods like tomatoes and carrots that have important vitamins and nutrients—are necessary to stay healthy.

Frankline and Labaladezy have eight children. Their youngest child, Thorin, is almost a year old. While Frankline was pregnant with Thorin, she and her husband Labaladezy watched the puppet shows and learned new ways to support Thorin's growth and development. When Thorin was born, his parents fed him different, more nutritious foods and took him to the health center for regular check-ups. Thorin is growing a lot and is reaching all his developmental milestones.

Frankline is happy her youngest son is doing so well, and she sees the positive effects of their new rainbow diet on the rest of the family. She says, "I dream that my children will stay healthy. I hope that Thorin may become a doctor or a leader in our community." Every parent wants their children to reach their full potential, and CRS is helping make sure they can do just that.

***Rice Bowls are available at the registration tables.***

***Lent in practice – who must abstain from meat and when?***

Catholics ages 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and Good Friday (April 1st) as well as on all Fridays during Lent.

***Lent in practice – who must fast and when?***

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required to fast (eat only one full meal; two smaller meals may be taken but may not be equal to the one full meal) on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and Good Friday (April 1st). When possible, the fast from Good Friday should continue until the Easter Vigil. This is called the "Paschal Fast." It is done to enter into the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare more fully to celebrate his Resurrection.

## *Faith Formation News*

First Reconciliation is scheduled for
Saturday, 3/6/21 at 1:00 pm.
Please arrive by 12:45pm.

Also, Please make sure your child is also on the 2/28/21 Zoom class for their refresher.

Next Zoom Class 2/28/21

Lenten resources available on the blog
www.historicstjohnsutica.blogspot.com

## *Financial Stewardship*

*For the period February 8 - February 14*

| | |
|---|---|
| Regular Envelopes | $ 2,514.00 |
| Loose Money | $ 1,230.73 |
| Mailed In Contributions | $ 2,173.00 |
| Weekday Mass Collection | $ 272.00 |
| Budget Stretcher | $ 281.00 |
| Repairs & Improvements | $ 148.00 |
| Vietnamese Mass | No Mass |
| WeShare (Electronic) | $ 425.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 7,043.73** |

*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Special thanks to all who have been "making up their contributions during this very challenging time. It is greatly appreciated!!!*

## Have you considered WeShare?

A growing number of parishioners are now using WeShare, an online service for those who wish to give to their parish electronically. Stewardship to your parish is made easier than ever with this online giving system. One-time or recurring donations can be made using your debit card, credit card, checking account, or savings account.

### How do you do it?

Either scan this this box with your phone →

or visit:
**historicoldstjohnschurch.weshareonline.org**

Then:
1. Click on any collection.
2. Select your donation amount and frequency.
3. Enter in your account and payment information..

Thanks!!!

## *Bulletin Deadline*

*We generally need to transmit our bulletin by Tuesday Morning, and we need time to edit the bulletin before transmission.*

*If you would like something placed in the bulletin, please submit it no later than Monday 9:00 am.*

*Please send your submissions to nmanley@syrdiolorg*

*Priority needs to be given to parish-related news and events. After that, we will do our best.*

*In the event of a Monday holiday, the deadline is the Friday before the Monday holiday. Thanks.*

## *Mass Intention Request*

*Need a Mass Card?*
*Fill out the form below and mail it to the office.*

*We'll give you a call to confirm.*

*And if needed, we'll mail the Mass Card to you or to whomever you request.*
*Just let us know when we call.*

***MASS INTENTION REQUEST***

***Please CLEARLY PRINT all information. Thanks.***

Intention: _____

Date/Mass Time Requested: _____

Requested By: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (_____)_____ e-mail: _____

*Suggested Donation: $ 10.00*

***Please send your Mass Donation separately from your regular donations***

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