

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent



Consider this... Disciples Focus!

The Fifth Sunday of Lent is already upon us and this week you will notice something different in our worship spaces. Traditionally in the church on the fifth week of Lent all statues get covered, so that our attention is focused on the Stations of the Cross. We are fasting from the Sainly statues, images and devotional niches to focus and journey closer to Jesus. This week we focus on our prayer so that next week as we enter Holy Week beginning Palm Sunday, we are ready to journey with the Lord in the great mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

What is our focus on? When we look at our lives, is our attention distracted from the love of Jesus and the sacrifice he makes on the cross for all of us? What are the distractions that keep us from focusing on the mystery of Jesus' love for us? Each of us are invited to focus more clearly and intentionally on the transforming power of Jesus' love, but that may mean we need to 'cover' the other things that distract us in our daily living. Maybe we need to allow our screens to be darker more so that our attention is more focused on prayer. Maybe we make a real effort to refrain from complaining or negativity to focus on positivity and goodness. The next two weeks are an opportunity to focus on true love and what it looks like. Without that love, life is lost. Let's focus on real love by focusing on Jesus.

Palm Sunday... Next Sunday we begin Holy week with our celebration of Palm Sunday. Because of the anticipated crowds we have added two extra masses, Saturday, 4 pm in the Chapel and Sunday 10:30 in the Chapel. There are no reservations needed for Palm Sunday Mass. As you enter next week, the ushers will be distributing the palms that will be blessed. There will not be palms laying out for people to take, please make sure to connect with an usher when you arrive for your palms.

Holy week and Easter... Check our parish website for the full schedule for Holy Week. Easter Sunday there ARE reservations required for Mass attendance. We have also added additional masses to help accommodate everyone. Please check the website to make a reservation or call the parish office for assistance. As we weren't able to gather live last year for these Holy Days, let's make an extra effort this year to focus on the liturgies of Holy week.

Keep smiling
Fr. Bryan



FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

March 23rd

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7-8:00 p.m. (chapel)

Reconciliation will be available

March 26th

Stations of the Cross

9:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (church)

6919 Transit Road Swormville, N.Y. 14051

All are welcome here, St. Mary's is a safe place to meet Jesus.

716-688-9380 www.stmaryswormville.org



St. Mary's Bells Restoration Donations Total. \$45,538. Thank you!

If all goes well, our goal is to have the bells ringing for Easter! We have a lot to be proud of at St. Mary's and having the bells call our community to prayer and celebration is an amazing accomplishment and a great way to celebrate St. Mary's love in our community.



Beginning in 2015, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc. ("Foundation") began soliciting donations to its "Upon this Rock" ("UTR") capital and endowment campaign. The UTR campaign raised funds for many purposes, including soliciting funds for making essential upgrades to classroom facilities and technology of Christ the King Seminary ("CKS"), expanding CKS's role as a center of retreat and religious celebration, and establishing an endowment fund for CKS. Unfortunately, in early 2020, CKS's Board of Trustees determined that CKS would close at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. CKS's closure will make it impossible for the Foundation to use the UTR funds raised for CKS for their original intended purposes. However, under New York law, when the original purposes for which funds are donated become impossible to achieve, those purposes can be modified in a manner consistent with original intent by the New York State courts. For many years, CKS provided education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Buffalo and beyond. Accordingly, the Foundation has asked the New York State Supreme Court for the County of Erie to approve a modification of the purposes of UTR funds raised for CKS so that those funds can be used to support the education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, as determined in the discretion of the Foundation's Board.

If you have donated to UTR and would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to: The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc., attention Executive Director, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203 or an email to donor.info@frcdb.org. Copies of letters or email received by the Foundation will be provided to the Court. You may also make a formal filing in the legal proceeding entitled *Matter of the Modification of Endowment Funds of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., Inc.*, Erie County Index No. 814747/2020. In order for your submission to be available for the Court's consideration, **please be sure to send any letter or email, or make any filing, no later than Friday, April 9, 2021.**

Join us! Golfing May 21, 2021



- Reservations have begun for the St. Mary's Scramble Golf Tournament and are filling fast
- The registration form is on the parish website
- All are welcome to be a sponsor or donate a prize
- Volunteers are needed to help
- Visit the golf Tournament on the St. Mary's website for details



- Contact Dale Lesinski at dlesinski@divalsafety.com or Shawn O'Brien at gencowny@aol.com with any questions

Premier Basket Raffle May 21, 2021

Donations are needed for the Premier Baskets, see the St. Mary's website to view our wish list and registry

- Only new items please
- Donations collected Monday—Friday, 9am-4pm at the Parish Office
- A donation form must accompany any items that are Contributed. Forms are on the website or at the Parish Office



- Contact Janice O'Brien at 688-9380 or parishlife@stmaryswormville.org with any questions



Educating our Young Disciples...

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Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction During Lent Tuesday, March 23rd 7:00-8:00 pm in the Chapel

Come and spend an hour with Our Lord in the Eucharist. This is a great opportunity to spend a little time in prayer or experience a little sacred silence during the busy weeks before Easter. Join our Deacons for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Fr. Bryan or Fr. Luke will be available to hear confessions during the holy hour. All are welcome. Covid protocols in effect.



When you are troubled, we are hope. If you have a child ages 12-17 who is displaying chronic behaviors such as: noncompliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, school failure, curfew violations, running away, illegal substance abuse and/or criminal activity in two or more environments (home, school and/or community), consider Catholic Charities' Multisystemic Therapy Program in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. MST is an intensive, family-focused intervention provided in the natural environment of the youth. Interventions are research-based and the program offers 24/7 availability. For more information about MST, call 716-204-0555, ext. 330 or visit www.ccwny.org/mst. In other WNY counties, office-based counseling is always available to families at www.ccwny.org/counseling.



Easter Duty. After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

Since the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains (for the foreseeable future) in place, Easter Duty, while admirable for those who may fulfill it, is also dispensed. Once the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is lifted, the importance of Easter Duty, along with regular attendance at Mass, will be a part of ongoing catechesis and evangelization. Please note that further instruction may be forthcoming from Rome regarding Holy Week, and as such, the diocese will provide guidance for Holy Week at a later date.

Disciples Support their Community...



ST. MARY'S CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE School Gym, 6919 Transit Rd., Swormville, NY 14051 Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

For an Appointment, visit www.RedCrossBlood.org Keyword: Swormville or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Power Red Donors Needed! Questions? Contact Ruth Burkard 741-2086 or Nancy Braunscheidel 688-8066. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council # 17530. Appointments Preferred. ID Required.



Daughters of Mary: We welcome all women to our next evening zoom meeting at 8:00pm on Wednesday, March 24th. This month we will be discussing the book, "You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You about Your Mission and Worth", by Danielle Bean. This book is not available at the library but can be purchased online for under \$15. If you run out of time to read, join us for the lively discussion and fellowship. Come and find hope and encouragement as you discover that you are enough, you are accepted for who you are as a beloved daughter of God. To be added to our email list and to receive the login info, send a message to Elizabeth Forman at daughtersofmary815@gmail.com or call 691-6554.

EASTER FLOWERS – This year we again invite parishioners to make a donation toward Easter Flowers in memory of their loved ones. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and enclose it in an envelope with your donation. Mark the envelope "Easter Flowers" and place it in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office. A list of contributors and honorees will be displayed by the Easter Flowers. (You may also use the Easter Flower Envelopes that are included in your envelope packets).



YOUR NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR (CIRCLE ONE)

(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)



Diocese of Buffalo Office of Pro-Life Telephone Hotline Numbers: Crisis Pregnancy, Abortion Alternatives & Healing, 847-2205. St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Centers, helping Mothers & Fathers in Need: Buffalo, 716-842-2229, Chautauqua County, 716-203-7593, Niagara County, 716-284-2229. WNY Postpartum Connection—For a directory of mental health and support services for pregnant and postpartum moms visit wnypostpartum.com



"Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law written in the heart (cf. Rom 2:14-15) the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree... In a special way, believers in Christ must defend and promote this right, aware as they are of the wonderful truth recalled by the Second Vatican Council: "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being". This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16), but also the incomparable value of every human person." Evangelium Vitae, (#2) Encyclical of Pope John Paul II, March 1995



Prayers for the Sick—May they receive the healing power of Christ: Christine Varnum, Rita Manno, Ray Nowak, Jr., James Staveski, William Roussie, Gail Armstrong, Madeline Coburn and Pat Woods.



Each year we purchase a new Paschal Candle for the church. The Paschal Candle is blessed and used in procession at the Easter Vigil, and then placed on the altar for the Easter Season. It is also lit for all baptisms and funerals throughout the year. If you are interested in donating the funds for this year's Paschal Candle in honor or memory of a loved one, please call our bookkeeper Joanne at the Parish Office. The cost was \$410.



ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Legion, Smith & New Roads, E. Amherst, Sunday, March 21st 8AM-NOON. Includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, beverage. Adults \$9, Covid regulations apply.



Clocks and Watches - During Lent, used clocks and watches are being collected for the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 1298 Main Street in Buffalo. Collection boxes are provided for this near church entrances.

Educating our Young Disciples...

Faith Formation News—This formation year's focus is to Serve with a Heart Like Jesus

Prayer: Dear God, Thank You for giving me the Spirit of Your Son to live in my spirit. Please help me to serve others with His Heart. Let people feel Your love as You touch and bless them through me. Amen.

Scripture: "Serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Joshua 22:5

Serving with a Heart Like Jesus: : This year our families focused on the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, by choosing services that fulfilled each of the specific needs of others. The word mercy means reaching out to others with compassion, understanding, and a desire to help. As disciples, we are called to be intentionally thoughtful of those in need.



Family Faith Formation Update: As our formation year is coming to a close, we want to remind all of our families who participate in our program that **checklists are due by April 1st**. We hope our families had a meaningful experience together. Participants Mia Collins and Ella Siembida, from our last workshop for Catholic Principles and Relationship, led by Catechist Mary Getner-Witten, shared the posters that they made with their families.



Faith In Action! ! On March 21st we enter the season of Spring! As our earth awakens from Winter, let's take this opportunity to spot the first signs of Spring. As colors pop up, and birds sing, take note of the beauty of God's many creations.

Faith Challenge: During the season of Lent, we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and suffering. All of us go through ups and downs in life and have our own sufferings. Meet Carson, a 13-year-old boy, who, inspired by Jesus, offers up his sufferings. Carson suffers from a rare genetic skin disease that is very challenging and requires extensive daily care. His family found that praying has gotten them through many hard times. They decided to start a Facebook page to help other people who are also going through a time of suffering. He says "My pain has a purpose, whenever I suffer I offer up my suffering for the intentions of the people who request prayers. Even though I have one of the worst conditions, I can still be a happy person. Most people would be down a lot if they had my condition. Everyone has a purpose, and I guess my purpose is this." Carson prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet (special prayers using the beads of the rosary) live on Facebook every day at 3 pm. Get your Rosary and search **Praying with Carson on Facebook** to join him in prayer.

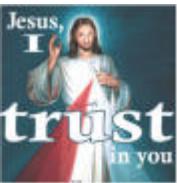
What to look forward to:

- **All families** – Attend Stations of the Cross offered every Friday during Lent in the Church at 7 pm.
- **Families with young children** - Watch "Take A Minute with Jesus" found in the weekly online newsletter each Sunday.
- **Families with teens** - Sign up to attend:
 - ◇ Teen Bible Study: March 22nd from 6:30pm -7:45pm

To get more information on these activities and more, check out our online calendar found on our St. Mary's website under the Faith Formation tab.

Contact the Faith Formation Office if you would like more information about:

- Our Faith Formation programs
- Adult Faith Enrichment
- Youth Ministry
- Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Among all the elements of devotion to the Divine Mercy requested by our Lord through Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, the feast of Mercy holds first place. Our Lord's explicit desire is this feast be celebrated the first Sunday after Easter. Pope John Paul II said at the canonization of St. Faustina "by this act today, I pass on the message of Divine Mercy to a new millennium". The Pope then on this day designated the first Sunday after Easter a feast day, and exclaimed it was the happiest day of his life. What happens on the feast of Mercy is that the Pope makes this extraordinary grace available to sinners and our souls can be cleansed and renewed, we are given a new life, a new beginning. On this day Jesus allows you to stand at the foot of the cross. He is making you present at the moment He expired, for it was at that moment He won Divine Mercy for the world.

The criminal who hung on a cross next to Jesus was the first person to benefit from this victory over death, because it was then that Jesus was given the power of Divine Mercy by the Father. Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise". So the gift you receive on the Feast of Divine Mercy is that which he gave to the thief on the cross, if you died the following day you would go straight into His presence in Paradise. You get complete remission for all past sins with no time in purgatory. For on this Feast day of Divine Mercy your whole past life being forgiven, there is nothing for you to be judged on. This is a gift of grace equaled only by that of Holy Baptism, not a baptism as you can only be baptized once, but equal to it. That means that on that day your soul can become as pure as the day of your baptism, when you were carried as babies to the font by your parents and baptized or as newly baptized adults, your souls become pure and as white as a new fallen snow.

This is what happens to you when you receive the gift of a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday. All that is required to receive this gift is to go to confession (it can be 20 days before or 20 days after Divine Mercy Sunday) but preferably before. Also you must be merciful to others and desire this gift. Then attend mass and receive Holy Communion on that day, and say two prayers. An Our Father for our Pope's intentions, The Apostles creed, and adding a devout prayer to Merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus I Trust in You). This year Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated April 11th, the first Sunday after Easter. Divine Mercy Novena, the schedule will be as follows: April 3 (Holy Saturday): after 9am Morning Prayer. April 4 (Easter Sunday): after Masses, April 5,6,7,8,9: in the chapel, 7pm with adoration (led by deacons/priests). April 10: after 9am morning Mass in the Church. April 11: (Divine Mercy Sunday): after all Masses. Celebration of Divine Mercy will take place at St. Pius X Church, N. French Rd., Getzville, at 3pm on April 11.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 21, 2021**

Saturday, March 20, 2021—Vigil

4:00PM Janice Morawski (birthday)
by Gina & Todd Gullquist

Sunday, March 21, 2021—Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30AM Michael States by Mom & Dad
9:30AM Stella Chiodo by Michael Giammusso
11:30AM Michael Valentic by Deacon Rick Stachura &
Deacon Gary Hoover
6:00PM Sam Ward by his estate

Monday, March 22, 2021

7:00AM Joe & Kelly Kosak by a friend
9:00AM Lucy Dahm by Linda & Jim Beardi

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021—St. Turibius of Mogrovejo,
bishop**

7:00AM All Souls' Intentions by Parishioners
9:00AM Alfonso Milioto by the Iacono Family

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

7:00AM People of the Parish by Fr. Bryan
9:00AM Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
By Cristina Dabski

Thursday, March 25, 2021—Annunciation of the Lord

7:00AM All Souls' Intentions by Parishioners
9:00AM Marlene Pidgeon by husband Tony & daughters

Friday, March 26, 2021

7:00AM All Souls' Intentions by Parishioners
9:00AM Loretta Stachura by Mary Cannon

Saturday, March 27, 2021

9:00AM Spencer Kapperman by wife Judy
4:00PM Frederick Quackenbush by Kathy & Jack
Brownschidle (church)
4:00PM Prayers for our Country (chapel)

Sunday, March 28, 2021—Palm Sunday

7:30AM Elizabeth Wagner (birthday) by Linda Dohn
9:30AM Kelley, Megan, Young & Bach Families
by Elizabeth Megan
10:30AM Marie C. & Jacob J. Monkelbaan by their estate
11:30AM Janet Moore by Peter & Susan Jabrucki
6:00PM Kenneth Hoelscher by Pat & Marty Mahady

Prepare Next Week Sunday's Readings

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

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others
spread leafy branches that they cut from the fields.*

Mark 11:8

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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4pm

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am & 6pm

Daily: 7 & 9am Mon.-Thurs. Chapel

7 & 9am Fri. Church

9am Sat. Church

Holy Days: 5pm Vigil, 7 & 9am, 7pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

First Friday, 9:30am-noon in the church

Confession: Saturday 3-3:45pm

Pastoral Team

Rev. Bryan Zielenieski
frbryan@stmaryswormville.org

Rev. Luke Uebler
frluke@stmaryswormville.org

Deacon Paul Snyder, III psnyder3@founderssoftware.com
Deacon Gary Hoover dcnh1@outlook.com
Deacon Richard Stachura
DeaconRick@stmaryswormville.org

Phone: 688-9380 Fax: 688-6025

Mon.-Fri. 8:30AM-4:00PM

rectory@stmaryswormville.org

Website: www.stmaryswormville.org

Bulletin Articles

bulletin@stmaryswormville.org

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Director of Liturgy

Donna Allan ext. 26
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Elementary School pre K-8

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Phone 689-8424 Fax 689-0004
principal@stmaryschoolsormville.org

Home School Assoc. President

Kimberly Colaiacovo
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Communication Coordinator

Debra Lesinski
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Family Faith Formation

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familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org

**Director of Faith Formation
& Children's Catechumenate**

Karen Smaczniak ext. 14

**Sacrament Coordinator for
Penance & Eucharist**

Betsy White ext. 36
sacraments@stmaryswormville.org

Youth Ministry

Phone: 639-8891 Fax: 39-8891

**Director of Youth Ministry
Sacrament of Confirmation**

Christina Egleston ext. 42
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Assoc. Youth Ministers

Thomas O'Brien & Tori Egleston
ext 15 youth@stmaryswormville.org

Parish Life Coordinator

Children's Liturgy
Janice O'Brien ext. 41
parishlife@stmaryswormville.org

RCIA / Adult Formation

Deacon Richard Stachura 542-4233
Family Faith Formation 688-0599

**Parish Council Chair/
Vice-Chair**

Stanley Zak 741-3673
Tony Pidgeon 688-5278
parishcouncil@stmaryswormville.org

Readings During the Week

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

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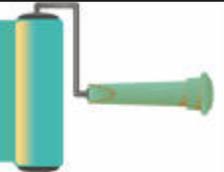
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