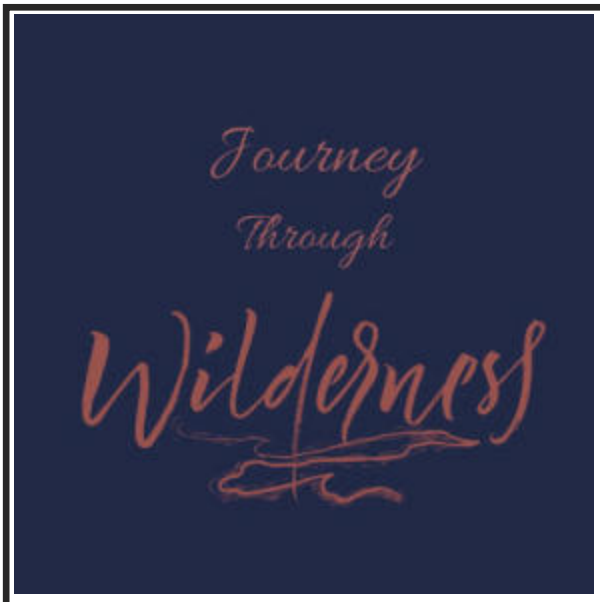
Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Roman Catholic Parish

21 February 2021
First Sunday of Lent



Lent 2021

When did life become so noisy, busy, complicated?

During this season of Lent you are invited into the wilderness.

A quiet place with less of us and more of God.

A place of encounter where you can see God's presence in your life.

This is no vacation destination.

The wilderness is not a safe place.

It can be dry and empty, desolate, a little dangerous.

And in the danger and emptiness we begin to look to God as our only source of comfort.

Time and again God invited the Israelites into the wilderness of desert so they could refocus their lives.

And Jesus went there as well to experience temptation.

This Lent go into your own kind of wilderness.

A place to be vulnerable and alone with God.

We are called to this wilderness experience these moments of realization that God is in our lives because all of us will inevitably experience a wilderness time at some point.

Lent offers the opportunity to begin preparing for those times that will undoubtedly take us by surprise.

How will you journey through wilderness this Lent?

[Visit our website, www.omoph.org, for ways to pray this Lent]

Rev. Paul F. Chateau, Pastor
United in Faith, Love and Service to Others
Oak Park Worship Location, Rectory, and Parish Office
13500 Oak Park Blvd. • Oak Park, MI 48237
Ferndale Worship Location
241 Pearson St. • Ferndale, MI 48220

Parish Office Phone Number
248.545.2310
Parish Fax 248.545.2312
Parish Email
omophparish@gmail.com
Parish Website
www.omoph.org

Mass Schedule
Sunday 9:00 am in Oak Park
and 11:00 am in Ferndale

MASKS MUST BE WORN
CAPACITY LIMITED
TO 75 PEOPLE
Please visit our website
www.omoph.org
for COVID 19 Guidelines

Sacraments:
Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, and Reconciliation
Please call the parish office at 248.545.2310

Marriage*—Must be active and registered members of the parish** ***(for at least 6 months prior to scheduling)
call the parish office at 248.545.2310.

First Communion and Confirmation
Please contact Natalie LaCroix, DRE at 248.374.9045

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 20, 2021
Vigil of the First Sunday in Lent
Rev. Raymond VanDeveire (1994)

Sunday, February 21, 2021
The First Sunday in Lent
9 am – Oak Park
Rhoda Hurley by Cornelius Henderson
Anne Kosek by Barbara Schoenbach
Mary Belkowski by Barbara Schoenbach
Jack Kissick—19th Anniversary of Death—
by Kissick Family
11 am – Ferndale
Michael and Sara Rayis Family by Muneer Rayis
For peace by Mary Irwin
Donald Joseph Baker by Reiter Family
Living and Deceased members of the Kemling
and Baracka Families by Dorothy Kemling

Monday, February 22, 2021
Rocco D. Palazzolo
Rocco M. Palazzolo

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Lisa Ann Palazzolo
Maria Ann Palazzolo

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Rev. Joseph F. Kernosek (1987)

Thursday, February 25, 2021
Margaret Kohn
Rev. Arnold f. Schneider (1981)

Friday, February 26, 2021
Carol McCormick—21st Anniversary of Death—
by Neil McCormick
Rev. Leo N. Sheltreau (1990)

Saturday, February 27, 2021
Vigil of the Second Sunday in Lent
Rev. John A. Blaska (2018
Rev. Paul A. Kreimes (2004)

Sunday, February 28, 2021
The Second Sunday in Lent
9 am – Oak Park
Rhoda Hurley by Cornelius Henderson
Rose Whitehead by Barbara Schoenbach
Frank Belkowski by Barbara Schoenbach
11 am – Ferndale
Michael and Sara Rayis Family by Muneer Rayis
Terry Reiter—1st Anniversary of Death—by Family
For the soul of Geminiano Deguzman by Sally Leo Diaz
Rev. A. Frank Pollie (2015)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRAYER LISTS

The Church calls us to lift our brothers and sisters up in prayer when they are sick or struggling. The Parish continues to receive word about our parishioners who are ill, and we also receive requests about their well-being by others and ask why their names are not published. Since some of the members of our parish request that their names not be published when they are ill it becomes difficult. We strive to respect everyone's privacy along with trying to provide prayer support to all. We hope to list the members of our parish who are currently in need of our prayers, a visit, a note, or a phone call. To add a name to the listing, please contact the person first to make certain they want such information published and then contact the parish office at 248.545.2310. If you wish prayer during a time of illness or difficulty for yourself or for a family member, please contact the office by e-mail at omophparish@gamil.com or by phone at 248.545.2310. Names will be kept on the list for 4 weeks. Contact the parish office, at 248.545.2310, if you wish a name to remain on the prayer list for an additional four weeks.

Prayer REQUESTS

Pray for Our Sick, Their Families and Caregivers, and the Special Intentions of Our Parishioners

David Doig, Andy Doig, Euna Feschuk, Chuck Yodhes, Bernard Leke

Pray for Our Men and Women Serving in the Military

1st Lt Jacob Ashmore-USAF, Cpt Jonathon Ashmore-USMC, Sgt Cory Berry-US Army, LtCOL Thomas Goedert-USMC, Matthew Pelletier-USAF, Sgt Douglas Raven-US Army, COL David Rogers-US Army, COL Thomas Rogers-US Army, PFC Edy Silveira de Souza-USMC, Staff Sgt. John W. Tomassi-USAF, AB Ashley N. Vozel-USAF, SSG Noah Reiter-US Army, HM2 Maura Curtin—Navy, CPT Matthew Carey-USAF, HN Autumn-Kyoko Cushman--US Navy

OFFERTORY FOR FY 2020-2021:

	FEB. TD	YTD
Offertory Amount	$5,598	$131,027
Over/**(Under) Prior Year**	**($4,775)**	**($39,168)**
Over/(**Under) Budget**	**($4,702)**	**($28,973)**

Week of 02-07-2021 Offertory total: $3,172.00

On-line giving totaled $1,504.00 and drop off, mailed in, and dropped in offertory basket,
envelopes totaled $3,794.00 for a grand total for 2 weeks of February deposits totaled $5,298.00.

Christmas total year to date: $12,744.00.

THE 2020 CSA GOAL FOR THE PARISH IS: 33,695.00
AS OF 02-09-2021: 138 PLEDGES RECEIVED;
134 FULLY PAID
TOTAL PLEDGED: $89,020.00
TOTAL PAID: $87,996.68
REFUND DUE PARISH: $2,105.00;
refunds issued: $52,196.68

Faith Formation Perspectives
First Sunday of Lent
February 21
The Desert and Temptation by Satan

The Spirit sends Jesus out towards the desert where he spends forty days and is tested by Satan. While in the desert Jesus was with the wild beasts and was waited on by angels. After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus is in Galilee and he begins proclaiming reform one's life and believe in God's good news. (Mk 1:12-15)

Mk 1:12-13 is a brief account of Jesus going into the desert and being tested by Satan. Mt 4:1-11 and Lk 4:1-13 present a more detailed version of Jesus' encounter with Satan in the desert.

Jesus is sent to the desert by the Spirit. This area where Jesus was sent is called desert or wildness or wasteland. The desert is a place that tests one's very being. The conditions of the land tests one's disposition and will and the ability to physically, mentally, and spiritually survive. To lose one's way in the desert was certain death. We can read of the stories of Elijah, Moses, the Israelites during the Exodus from Egypt, John the Baptist and St. Paul having a desert experience and encountering God.

Mark's gospel account has Jesus put to the test by Satan. Mark does not elaborate on the test by Satan or the outcome of the test. It is in a desert that one can find all kinds of wild beasts both big and small and they can be dangerous. There is not a description of how the angels waited on Jesus. Mark presented a very basic account with very little detail of Jesus' temptation by Satan.

It is in this desert setting and experience that Jesus is tested by Satan that Jesus prepares and begins his ministry to proclaim God's good news as well as the authority to teach, the power to cure and heal and the command to expel demons.

By Leonard Piasta,
Faith Formation Commission Chair

First Sunday of Lent - Guide us, Lord

Lord, you brought salvation to Noah through the waters and carried him through his time of trial to a covenant of love. All times and all seasons belong to you. As we now begin this time, this season, our time of trial, stay close to us. Carry us through our temptations. Remove all that keeps us apart from you. Lead us by the right paths so that we may live in the light of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 21, 2021 - Forty Days

Today's readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15. After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Spirit drove him out into the desert, where he experienced temptation. Sometimes we fail to consider that, in the incarnation, Jesus took on every bit of the human experience, except sin. He knew what it was to be tempted, to face trials.

In the Bible, the number forty symbolizes a time of trial or testing. In today's readings, Jesus' forty days in the desert are placed alongside the experience of Noah and his family, the forty days of the flood. Neither reading leaves us in a time of trial. In the reading from Genesis, we see the rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah. In Mark, we hear Jesus proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand, the time for which they have been awaiting has come. At the very beginning of our season of preparation, we hear proclaimed the fruits that await us at its conclusion.

In this season of Lent, we have forty days to confront our temptations. We hear Jesus calling us to repent and believe in the Gospel. How might we use these forty days to ready ourselves to hear the proclamation at its end? What must I repent of so that I may better believe? This week think about obstacles that hold you back from God's love. Consider your temptations. How can you use this season to make yourself ready for what is to come?

This Week at Home

Monday, February 22 -
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

The people who surrounded Jesus often wondered about his identity. He healed the sick, forgave sins, preached the coming of the kingdom of God. Walking alongside him, seeing all that he did, Peter must have wondered about this question too. When Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers readily: Jesus is the Messiah, the one for whom all Israel has been waiting. Jesus founds the Church on Peter's proclamation. What is your response to the query "Who do you say that Jesus is?" *Today's readings*: *1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Tuesday, February 23 - The Lord's Prayer

When we step back to consider the prayer that Jesus taught and we memorized long ago, the challenge of the Lord's Prayer is seen in a new way. In saying "thy kingdom come," we long for God's kingdom of justice and righteousness. But are we anxious to do God's will, so that it is done on earth as

Continued on page 4

This Week at Home

Tuesday February 23 continued from page 3

it is in heaven? Do we forgive, even as we long to be forgiven? Take some time to meditate over each line of the prayer, perhaps writing each line and journaling with it. What might God be calling you to, as you reflect on the prayer that Jesus taught? *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, February 24

Turn Away from Sin

After his sojourn in the belly of the fish, Jonah traveled to Nineveh as God commanded. Upon hearing Jonah call them to repentance, the Ninevites changed their lives. It is tempting to seek big signs, but the call to conversion is daily. How can you reorient your life toward God today? How can you turn away from those things that are holding you back from his love? *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, February 25

Ask, Seek, Knock

In today's Gospel we are told to ask, to seek, to knock. Does this mean that God will give us our every desire? From both reason and experience, we know that sometimes we want things that are not good for us. Yet we are called to bring our needs and desires before God, who desires every good thing for us. What need can you entrust to God? How might giving it over to God transform its role in your life? *Today's readings: Esther C:12, 14–16. 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, February 26 -

Go First and Be Reconciled

Jesus' words about anger are challenging. Anger can come upon us easily, and sometimes we allow that emotion to govern our actions. But Jesus teaches another way. He says that before we bring our gift to the altar, we must go and be reconciled with the one we have wronged. How hard it is to admit we have made a mistake! Apologize to someone you have hurt and seek out the sacrament of reconciliation this week. *Today's readings: Ezra 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, February 27

Love Your Enemies

Jesus' instructions to love our enemies and pray for persecutors are familiar, yet somehow these instructions never fail to cause discomfort. Love our enemies? Pray for those who persecute us? Our natural inclination is to hurt those who have hurt us, to return actions in kind. Jesus holds us to a standard that seems impossible. This week, consider a person who has hurt you. Say one Hail Mary for that person and then another. As Mother Teresa said, prayer changes me and I change things. See what happens when you entrust that person to God. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*

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Come Home to Hope

Letter from Archbishop Vigneron to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit [issued Feb. 9, 2021]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Sacred Liturgy, and particularly the Holy Eucharist, is the very heart and foundation of our Catholic faith. It is during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that the saving death and resurrection of Jesus is made present to us, our covenant with Our Lord is renewed, and God, in the person of Jesus Christ, comes to us and makes himself truly present for us in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is an irreplaceable gift; a foretaste of Heaven itself.

When the pandemic first began, in the midst of tremendous uncertainty, it was necessary to suspend all public liturgies. During this time, we assessed the situation in light of public health information and explored a safe way to bring Christ to the people, both through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Given the gravity of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass, this decision was not undertaken lightly. Then, we cautiously returned to Mass with prudent restrictions, such as capacity limits and rigorous cleaning protocols, to allow for the resumption of essential public worship without undue risk of accelerating the pandemic. During these difficult months of pandemic, our pastors, parishes, and all the faithful have adapted in order to ensure the health and well-being of everyone in our local communities. I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the efforts that have been undertaken to implement and maintain the first-rate precautionary measures that have kept our parishes and schools safe.

As part of our adaptations, many of our parishes have broadcast Masses over the internet during these last several months. While this has been a means to help Catholics nourish their souls when they could not be present for Mass, we must remember that it cannot become the norm. God did not come to us virtually. He came to us — and continues to come to us — in the flesh. As Catholics, unmediated contact with the Real Presence of the flesh and blood of Our Lord in offering this sacrifice to the Father is irreplaceable and essential. We recall Christ's own words when he foretold the gift of the Holy Eucharist:

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (John 6: 54-56)

In recognition of the essential and central nature of the Eucharist Sacrifice in our lives as Catholics, and in acknowledgement of my duty as shepherd to care for the souls of everyone within our diocese, it is important that I lead more of us back to Mass, when and where possible. That is why the general dispensation from the Sunday obligation will be extended only for one month, until March 13. With its expiration, I intend to grant some particular dispensations to those in need. It is time for us to welcome back more of the faithful with a renewed amazement that we have a God who is so close to us and who has such a deep

Continued on page 5

SUPPORT OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

A BIG THANK YOU to all of those who have continued to support our parish. **Offertory is down and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a direct impact on our ability to pay our monthly bills.** Contributions may be mailed to the parish office at 13500 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237. You may also securely and safely donate online via our website or from the parish mobile app. Call Chuck White, Finance Council Chair, at 734.635.2598, if you have any questions about online giving.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING FUTURE DONATIONS TO CSA TO AID OUR STRUGGLING PARISH

The Good News is that we made our 2020 CSA Goal. The bad news is that as a parish we are struggling to recover from the dire financial effects of the pandemic. The Good News is that now that the CSA goal has been met, 100% of your future CSA donations will fully aid the parish. If you want to help the parish and get the biggest bang for your buck we ask that you consider making all future donations to CSA, instead of weekly or Christmas offertory. Checks must be made payable to the Archdiocese of Detroit – CSA or AOD – CSA. BE ASSURED THAT THESE DONATIONS WILL BE DEPOSITED IN OUR PARISH SAVINGS ACCOUNT. If you have questions or would like additional information please contact: Chuck White, Finance Council Chair, at 734.635.2598 or Vicki Mazurek, Director of Finance, at 248.545.2310.

Come Home to Hope continued from page 4

love for us that he comes to us in flesh and blood. Active participation in Mass is an occasion for all of us to avail ourselves of the immeasurable spiritual graces Christ desires for his faithful through his Paschal Sacrifice.

We know that there remains the concern for spread of infection, particularly among the winter months when we live indoors to a greater degree. All of us must remain vigilant to limit its spread, particularly among those most vulnerable. With this in mind, I am granting particular dispensations from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for people in certain circumstances, including those who are ill and those who care for anyone who is at-risk of serious complications from COVID-19. I am making a particular request that those who are ill or think they might be ill to refrain from this in-person participation in the liturgy as an act of justice and charity to others. Those who would experience significant anxiety or fear of getting sick from being in a public setting are similarly dispensed from their obligation to attend. More information about the particular dispensations can be found here *[visit AOD.org]*. In allowing the general dispensation to expire, we welcome back to Mass all Catholics who have already been engaged in other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of exposure, such as eating out at restaurants, traveling, partaking in non-essential shopping, and widening one's circle of contacts. These individuals should also prepare to return to Mass in recognition of its preeminence in our lives as Catholics.

The health and safety of our communities is and always will be paramount as we continue to closely monitor local conditions. For that reason, I am continuing the liturgical directive that all the faithful present at Mass, with the exception of small children, wear a mask or face-covering. If this proves impossible for you or a family member, please speak with your priest. Additionally, our churches will remain limited to no more than 50 percent of available capacity for the near future, and many other existing protocols will remain in place. The Archdiocese is committed to assisting pastors to adjust Mass schedules or offer additional public Masses, insofar as possible, to make it easier for as many of the faithful as possible to attend Mass while still practicing social distancing during the approaching Lent and Easter seasons.

At the beginning of this pandemic, I entrusted the Archdiocese of Detroit to Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness for those who suffer illness, asking that, through her intercession, God would grant healing and protection to the people of southeast Michigan and beyond. I ask you, brothers and sisters, to join me in offering prayers of thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for her intercession so far and to pray for her continued accompaniment. With her help, let us persevere in hope to face the challenges of this virus and continue to give witness to our confidence in the good news of the Lord's victory over suffering and death.

With assurances of my prayers for you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND 2021 ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

The 2021 contribution envelopes and calendars are available for pickup at the parish office in Oak Park. You may pick them up between 10am and 1pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU COME TO PICK THEM UP.

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