



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 14, 2021 | 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
4ro DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

WELCOME

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
closed for lunch 12-1:00 PM

MASSES NOW

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Mass is at 1:00 PM

DAILY MASS

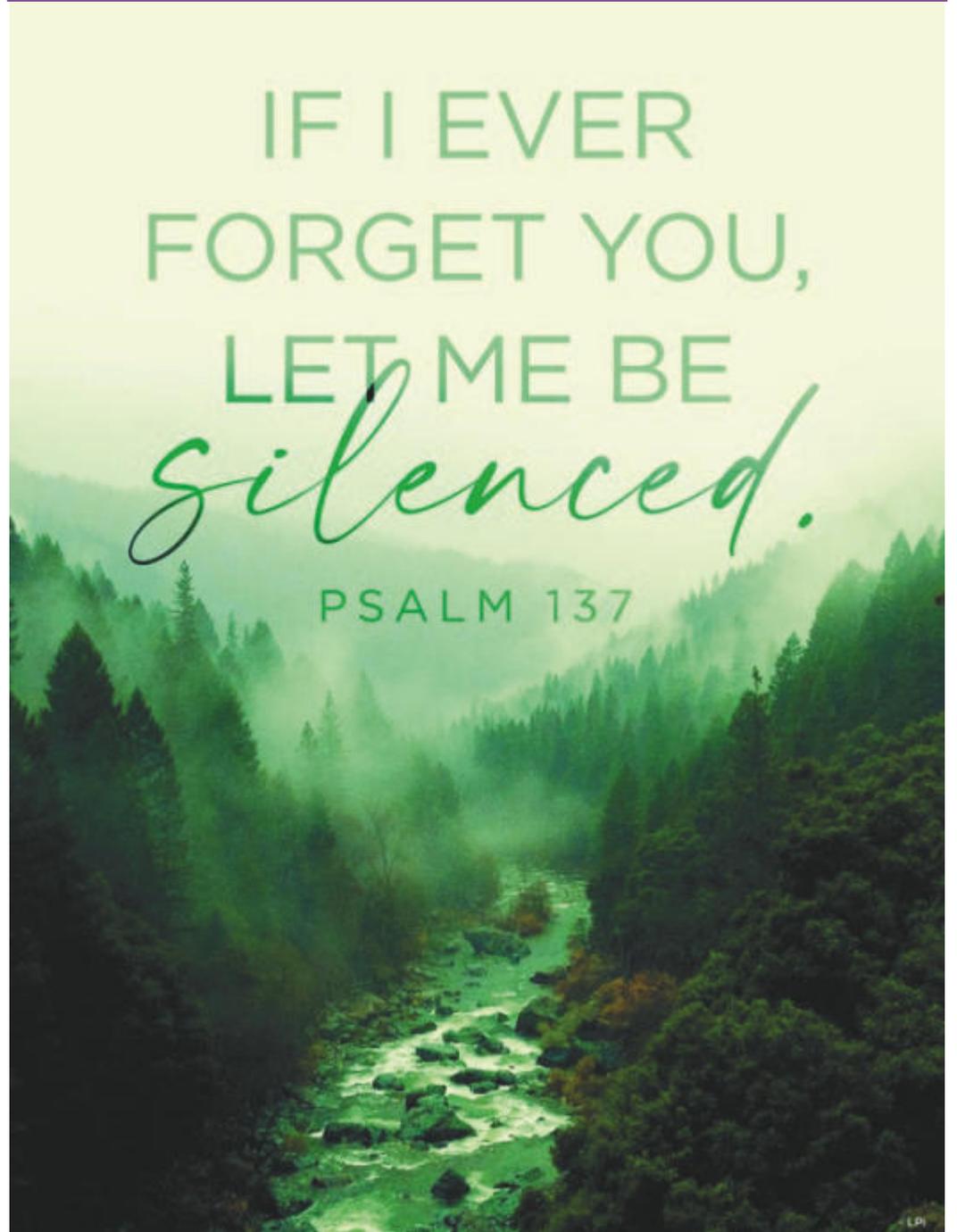
9:00 AM Monday-Saturday

MISSION

The Mission of St. Joan of Arc Parish is to put Jesus first in our lives by seeking to know Him in Scripture, Encountering Him in Prayer, Celebrating His Presence among us in praise and worship and uniting with one another in loving service.

NOTE

WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF MAY 2021. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. WE WILL ALLOW ONLY 50% CAPACITY FOR EACH MASS AND YOU MUST PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. THANK YOU. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS.



NOTES FROM FR. PATRICK REBEL, PASTOR

In the first reading from Exodus from last weeks Mass, we understand that the Ten Commandments are a gift from God. These laws from God protect the special bond between Israel and Him. If the people are faithful to these laws, they will have a healthy relationship with the Lord; they will prosper if they put God first. If God is first in the lives of the Israelites, their relationship with God and each other will be secure. The people of Israel should regard their obedience to the Ten Commandments as gratitude for all God has done for them. God has brought them out of slavery from Egypt to enjoy freedom as God's children. Nothing can come before their, or our own, relationship with God. If we place things above God, like money, power, creature-comforts the military or even other nations, we commit the sin of idolatry. This will have a negative impact on our relationship with God. Because of the lack of faith of the Israelites, as well as their sins of idolatry, the people of Israel were delayed 40 years before they could enter into the Promised Land.

There are certain laws or commandments we must follow to secure a close relationship with God. We must respect the Name of the Lord and keep it Holy. Even saying "Oh my God!" is blaspheming the name of the Lord. We must observe the Sabbath by taking one day out of the week to worship the true God of Israel by going to Mass and dedicating Sunday to your relationship with God and family. We must never think that we can be self-sufficient and independent of God. This is because everything we have is a gift from God. This gift also includes having close relationships with others. This would include those God put before us like our parents, as well as the wider human family. We, and all believers, must never put our personal desires before the dignity of others.

In the Gospel from John, we saw last week how the merchants and money changers did not respect the Temple or the dignity of the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the Passover. This is the reason why Jesus cleans out the Temple. He made a whip out of cords and drove out the merchants and money changers. He overturned their tables and tells those who sold doves to get them out of there. He tells them that they are turning His Father's house into a market place. In the Gospels of Mathew, Mark and Luke, Jesus states that they are turning His Father's house "into a den of thieves". They have a legitimate business needed by the Temple; but that business cannot be within the walls of His Father's house.

These merchants are providing a valuable service to Jewish pilgrims. The fact that the oxen, sheep and doves are being sold in the temple is that these very pilgrims must offer animal sacrifice when they come to pray. Animals to be sacrificed could not have any marks, bruises or any type of scars. If they were considered imperfect they were not allowed, by the Jewish priests, to be offered up as a proper sacrifice to the Lord. These pilgrims could not take a chance and bring animals with them from long distances for fear of them getting injured or scarred along the way.

The money changers also provided a valuable service. To pay the Temple taxes the pilgrims had to use the local currency; which was the Jewish Shekel. When a pilgrim got into town, monies had to be exchanged for the Temple offering. However, these merchants took advantage of the pilgrims by overcharging them. They had a monopoly, charging more than the going market price. The pilgrims did not have a choice. To make the proper sacrifice and pay the taxes they had to pay the rates that the merchants and money changers demanded. It was similar to the over taxing by tax collectors forced on the Hebrews.

Like Jesus, we should have zeal for Our Father's House and a respect for ourselves and others. It is the mystery of His GRACE which keeps us coming back each Sunday. We should be in a state of grace to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We must give thanks to God has for all He has done, for giving us His Son and allowing us to be on the path to receive Salvation because of our having been Baptized into His Holy Roman Catholic Church.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

On Wednesday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, the Columbiettes will have a Corned Beef drive-thru dinner. The meal will consist of corned beef, potato, cabbage and Irish soda bread. The price is \$8.00 per dinner. Call Christie Fiorentino at (412) 266-2600 with your order by Saturday, March 14th, 5:00 pm.

NOTES FROM DEACON FRED

The Serpent and the Cross

Have we ever noticed our tendency to avoid the people we have offended? Confrontation is one of the most difficult actions we can take, especially if we are confronting a situation where we hurt someone. This type of confrontation goes right to the heart of pride. Most of us would elect to run away from the situation and start again. Our Creator has a different path for us to take. We must face our own shortfalls and ask our Lord for help and forgiveness and ask for the help and forgiveness of others.

The Israelite's complained against God and Moses because they were short of food and drink on their journey. God sent to them, as punishment, serpents among the people, which bit them and tormented them. They asked God for mercy and acknowledged their sin before God. Moses asked God to send the serpents away. But God did not. Rather, he asked Moses to mount an image of the serpent on a pole and raise it. Those that were bitten by the serpents were asked to look upon the mounted serpent, and they would be cured. They had to look upon the effect of their sinfulness to be cured from it. They were cured but they also were challenged to face the serpent head on.

As we look upon the cross, who is it that we see? We look upon the Son of God. We look upon the Creator's Son. We look upon an innocent man. We look upon the effect of our sin. How horrible the effect of our sin is. By looking upon the cross and meditating on its meaning, we naturally fall on our knees in sorrow. If we were present on Calvary on that day.... would we not be driven to tears... would we not ask for forgiveness at what we have done? The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent. It is from embracing our Lord's cross that we receive grace of forgiveness and the bite of our sin is cured. It is the gift of God's only begotten Son, His sacrifice, which redeems and cures the effect of our sinfulness. We know this through our faith and our lives are changed forever because of it. It shows in the way we treat others and in the way we invite others to come to the cross. Not because of our words but our actions which speak with much more conviction.

We come to realize that we can't run away from our sinfulness by hiding it in the dark. It is by looking at its effect upon our Lord. In placing our sinfulness at the foot of the cross, the Light of the World will look upon us and in His mercy intercede for us with the Creator... "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

NOTITAS DEL DIÁCONO

JOSE CRUZ

Un tiempo antes del exilio babilónico el pueblo escogido, desde sus líderes e intermediarios del templo hasta todos los ciudadanos, habían sucumbido al pecado, se habían alejado de Dios y se cobijaban en la oscuridad. El pueblo fue castigado y expulsado hacia un exilio mientras el templo se incendiaba. Pero ahí no terminó todo. Dios hizo a la humanidad a imagen divina y les prometió misericordia a nuestros antepasados de generación en generación. Dios no nos iba a abandonar en la oscuridad y por eso nos envió a su Hijo, para que por él todos fuésemos salvados. En todo momento y en toda circunstancia estamos invitados a ir a la luz. Aprovechemos esa oportunidad.

Ciro el Grande, constructor del imperio más grande que el mundo haya conocido jamás, era extranjero y pagano. Pero permitió a los pueblos conquistados dar culto divino libremente y de la manera que quisieran. De hecho, no sólo liberó del exilio a los israelitas, también los exhortó a reconstruir el templo. Las Escrituras lo consideran un instrumento de la voluntad de Dios. Isaías se refiere a él como el ungido del Señor y hoy el libro de las Crónicas argumenta que Dios lo inspiró para que "cumpliera lo que dijo Dios por boca del profeta Jeremías" (2 Crónicas 36, 21. 22). La voluntad de Dios es tan poderosa e influyente que aún el pagano y el extranjero puede ejecutarla. Las personas más inverosímiles pueden ser instrumentos de la voluntad de Dios.

La misericordia de Dios se destaca a través de todas las lecturas de hoy. La gente del pueblo de Dios "multiplicaron sus infidelidades" (2 Crónicas 36, 14), "[estaban] muertos por [sus] pecados" (efesios 2, 5) y "prefirieron las tinieblas a la luz" (Juan 3, 19). Sin embargo, el corazón de Dios se conmovió y les mostró compasión, no enojo; y envió a su Hijo a salvar, no a condenar. Al final, Dios responde con su misericordia, inmerecida y salvífica.

Pregunta de la Semana ¿Cómo la inmerecida misericordia que Dios me muestra impacta la manera en que trato a aquellas personas que me han hecho mal o a quienes considero pecadores?

This week we take up *The Catholic Relief Services Collection* to help **Jesus in disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give.

I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day? — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under Heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

We are now accepting Easter Flower donations to decorate our church for the 50 days of the Easter Season. If you would like to donate flowers in the name of a loved one, please pick up an Easter Flower envelope at the welcome desk in the Vestibule.

Please have all envelopes in the office by March 30th so that the names can be printed in the bulletin for April 11th, Divine Mercy Sunday. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per name.

We pray you are having a Spiritually fruitful Lenten Season.

"... a time to die ..."

Please pray for the deceased of our parish, who recently passed away. Especially for:

Carmen Relta
Stephen Lezzaro
Craig Vargo

**Help save a child's life:
Option Line Alternatives to Abortion:
Call: 1-800-395- HELP (4357)**

"Any woman who has felt a baby stir inside her [and] any man who has seen the tiny heart pulsing on an ultrasound screen, knows that abortion is about ending a life." *Karen Kissane*

"Cualquier mujer que ha sentido un gran revuelo al bebé dentro de ella [y] cualquier hombre que ha visto el pequeño corazón latiendo en una pantalla del ultrasonido, sabe que el aborto se trata de poner fin a una vida."

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

**Attendance: 429
Offertory: \$6503.50
February Online Giving: \$3405.00**

Please cut out the following and place on your refrigerator!!!



Lenten Fundraiser Dinners from the Knights of Columbus

We will continue our
Lenten Friday Fish Dinners
for the following dates:
March 19th and 26th.

The dinners will consist of *baked or fried fish, baked potato or french fries* served also with coleslaw, tartar sauce, sour cream and dessert. The cost will be \$8. Please state how you want your fish and your potato. For the Lenten Fish Fry Dinners, your order must be in before Wednesdays as the final day and not Thursday.

Pick-up for dinners will start at **5:00 pm on Fridays during Lent.** Thank you for supporting your Knights of Columbus.

To order your dinners by Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, please call: 352-556-4606.

*"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers,
you do for me."*

It is through your generosity that we are able to put these words into action.



PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING
Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time.

Please consider online giving.
Go to our website: www.StJoanofarcfl.com
and click on Online Giving. Thank you.

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Observances for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

Wednesday: St. Patrick, Bishop; St. Patrick's Day

Thursday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 † For the Souls in Purgatory
4:00 PM Healing for Richard Toledo req by Vicki and Keith Geelen

MARCH 14 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM † Rose LaRocca with love from the Parish Staff
11:00 AM † Vinnie DeChiara req by Loving wife, Ginger DeChiara
1:00 PM † For Our Parish Community

MONDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 AM † Clifford Aldrich Sr. req by Robyn Aldrich

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM † Thomas and Maryann Statuto req by Their Loving Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 AM † Angelo Rendace req by Eleanor Rendace

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

9:00 AM † Dolores Cuevas req by Joan Ruiz

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph req by Mary Jo Waggoner

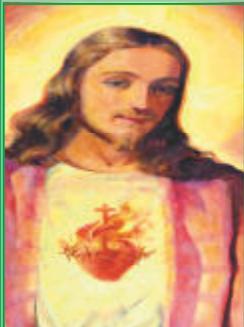
SATURDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 For the Physical and Spiritual Needs of Fr. Patrick Rebel req by Barbara Brush
4:00 PM † Alfred Lopez req by Marilyn Lopez

MARCH 21 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM For Our Parish Community
11:00 AM † Anthony DeMarco req by His Loving Wife
1:00 PM † Fabio Brenes-Chaves req by The Almanza Family

Remember in your prayers all those affected by the Coronavirus throughout the world.



Compassionate and Loving Father, in the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence. In You allow us to find hope and healing. Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands. Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom. Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart. Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love. Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet. We ask this in Your name. Amen

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel

Asst. Priests..... Rev. Edward Reiter
Rev. Michael Kouts
Rev. Dennis Kaelin
Msgr. Joe Sobiesiak

Deacons Deacon Fred LaPiana
Deacon Jose Cruz
Deacon Mike Ruffner

Parish Business ManagerAnne Cofone

Director of Faith Formation Mary Jo Waggoner
Stjoanreled@gmail.com

Director of Junior High and Youth MinistryNancy Lovelock
Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Music.....Joyce Thorpe
Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am & by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Please call the Parish Office. (352) 688-0663

MATRIMONY IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING MARRIAGE AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH, PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT THERE IS A SIX MONTH PRIOR NOTICE REQUEST REQUIRED.

PARISH INFO

OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(352) 686-7864

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“IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Served in our Parish Family Hall the 2nd Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & for our homebound, the 4th Thursday of each month.

MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP (NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME)

Wednesday 9:30 am-10:30 am

Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Closed during all Masses & the month of August.

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