



## CHURCH OF ST. ANN

311 CARR AVE, KEANSBURG NJ | 732.787.0315 | STANNKEANSBURG@GMAIL.COM

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

# PARISH LIFE



Monday 8:00am	2-22-21 <b>Thomas Sauickie Jr.</b> <i>rq by Loving Family</i>
Tuesday 8:00am	2-23-21 <b>Joseph Moore</b> <i>rq by Joyce Dollinger</i>
Wednesday 8:00am	2-24-21 <b>Thomas Sauickie Jr.</b> <i>rq by Loving Family</i>
Thursday 8:00am	2-25-21 <b>Gill Van Wagner</b> <i>rq by Joyce Dollinger</i>
Friday 9:00am	2-26-21 <b>Kevin O'Hare</b> <i>rq by Loving Family</i>
Saturday 5:00pm	2-27-21 <b>Michael Suckow</b> <i>rq by Loving Family</i> <b>Ana Balsamo</b> <i>rq by Debbie Balsamo</i>
Sunday 8:00am	2-28-21 <b>Anne Rogers</b> <i>rq by Loving Family</i>
10:30am	<b>Maureen Stallery</b> <i>rq by Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gary Friberg &amp; Family</i>
6:00pm	<b>Phyllis Reed</b> <i>rq by Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gary Friberg &amp; Family</i>

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**Thomas Sauickie Jr.**  
*rq by Loving Family*

## WINTER SCHEDULE

Masses Mon - Fri 8A, Sat 5P, Sun 9A.

Office Hours Mon - Fri 9A - 1P.

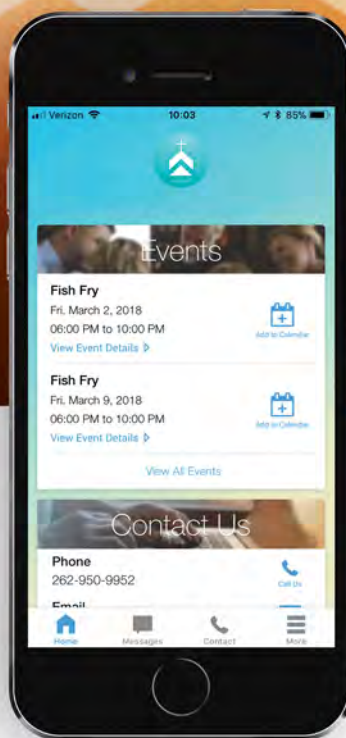
Church Hours Mon - Fri 8:30A - 12P.

Confessions Sat 1P - 2P *inside* the church sacristy.



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GooglePlay *Weconnect app v.3*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

<b>SUN 2/21</b>	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
<b>MON 2/22</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
<b>TUE 2/23</b>	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
<b>WED 2/24</b>	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
<b>THR 2/25</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
<b>FRI 2/26</b>	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
<b>SAT 2/27</b>	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
<b>SUN 2/28</b>	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

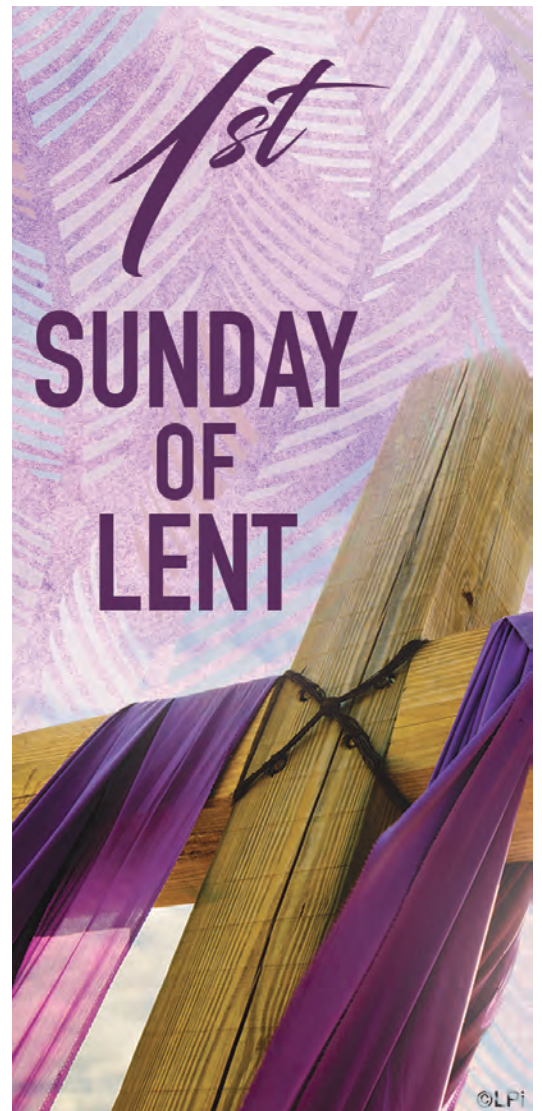
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
<b>Monday:</b>	The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
<b>Sunday:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God's sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space, and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God's covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!



*Repent,  
and believe  
in the gospel.*

— MARK 1:15



# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

I will establish my covenant with you,  
that never again shall all bodily creatures  
be destroyed  
by the waters of a flood;  
there shall not be another flood to devastate  
the earth. (Gn 9:11)



## PSALM

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those  
who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)



## SECOND READING

Christ suffered for sins once,  
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)



## GOSPEL

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for 40 days,  
tempted by Satan. (Mk 1:12-13)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.



# LITURGICAL LIFE

## RESPONDING *to the Call*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

##### The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



### WHY DO WE DO THAT?

#### Catholic Life Explained:

##### Question:

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

##### Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection. The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.



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**“Faith is to  
believe what  
you do not see.  
The reward  
of faith is  
to see what  
you believe.”**

**– St. Augustine  
of Hippo**

# **LITURGICAL LIFE**

## **QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

**Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture**

### **First Reading**

God promises Noah to use a “bow in the clouds” (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible's first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

### **Second Reading**

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

### **Gospel Reading**

We hear about Jesus' temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?



**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**



# LITURGICAL LIFE

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT CHURCH OF ST. ANN

Please join us all Fridays in Lent | 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19 | FEBRUARY 26

MARCH 5 | MARCH 12

MARCH 19 | MARCH 26

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REPENT

AND

REJOICE

*After John had  
been arrested,  
Jesus came  
to Galilee  
proclaiming the  
gospel of God:  
“This is the time  
of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of  
God is at hand.  
Repent, and  
believe in the  
gospel.”*

- Mk 1:14-15

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