



CHURCH OF ST. ANN

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

PARISH LIFE



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Monday 8:00am | 3-22-21 Thomas Sauickie Jr rq by Loving Family |
| Tuesday 8:00am | 3-23-21 Patricia Catena rq by Loving Family |
| Wednesday 8:00am | 3-24-21 Thomas Sauickie Jr. rq by Loving Family |
| Thursday 8:00am | 3-25-21 Anne & James Killeen rq by Loving Daughter in Law |
| Friday 8:00am | 3-26-21 Alice Barry rq by Michele |
| Saturday 5:00pm | 3-27-21 Barbara Spitzfaden rq by Janet & Mike Hartney Patricia Marshall rq by Loving Children |
| Sunday 9:00am | 3-28-21 Parishioners of St. Ann |
| 10:30am | Virginia Calicchio rq by Loving Family |
| 6:00pm | Catherine Ruglio rq by Larry & Marion |

Text **SignUp**

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to receive weekly messages from St. Ann



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is available for special intentions. The Lamp burns weekly for deceased members of a family or requests for a special intention. The donation is \$20. Please call the Rectory for further information.. This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for

Virginia Calicchio
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*

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| SUN 3/21 | Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 |
| MON 3/22 | 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 |
| TUE 3/23 | Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30 |
| WED 3/24 | Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42 |
| THR 3/25 | Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 |
| FRI 3/26 | Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42 |
| SAT 3/27 | Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56 |
| SUN 3/28 | 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 |

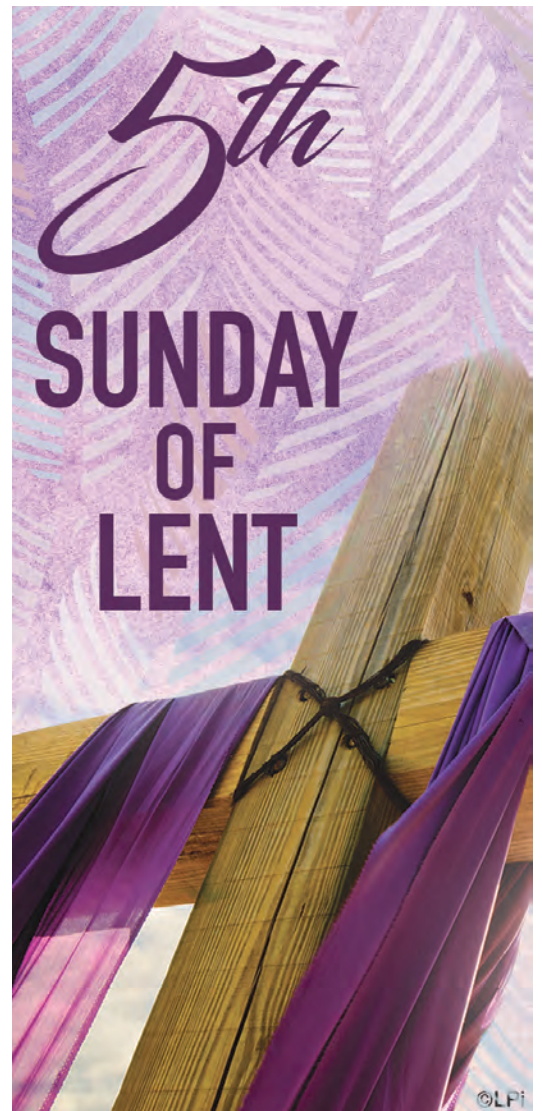
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday: | 5 th Sunday of Lent |
| Tuesday: | St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop |
| Thursday: | The Annunciation of the Lord |
| Sunday: | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins |

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

How do we convince people that God's law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God's people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God's deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, "Father, glorify your name," By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done.



*"Bloom
where you
are planted."*

— ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

All, from least to greatest, shall know me,
says the LORD,
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember
their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)



PSALM

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)



SECOND READING

Son though he was, he learned obedience
from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)



GOSPEL

Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to
the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "Father, save me from this hour?" But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

— 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:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion. Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

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- Jn 12:23-24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Around 600 BC, Jeremiah prophesied that God would establish a new, unbreakable covenant with his people, one written "upon their hearts." In what ways is your faith heart-felt?

Second Reading

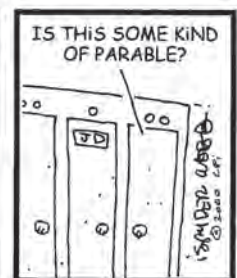
The author of Hebrews teaches us that Jesus learned "obedience" from his suffering. What have been some fruits from the suffering in your life?

Gospel Reading

We hear today of Jesus' own struggle with his impending death. During this Lenten season, what has been a struggle for you?



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



LITURGICAL LIFE

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| Saturday, March 27 | Confessions | 1P - 2P |
| | Palm Sunday Vigil Mass | 5P |
| Sunday, March 28 | Palm Sunday Mass | 9A |
| | | 10:30A |
| Tuesday, March 30 | Confessions | 7P |
| Thursday, April 1st | Holy Thursday Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration | 7P - 11P |
| Friday, April 2nd | Good Friday Service | 3P |
| | Stations of the Cross | 7P |
| Saturday, April 3rd | Confessions | 1P - 2P |
| | Easter Vigil | 8P |
| Sunday, April 4th | Easter Sunday Mass | 9A |
| | | 10:30A |



“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

- Mk 9:7-8

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