

# ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

523 Western Highway Blauvelt, New York 10913

Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D.

Pastor



"In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there."

## St. Catharine's Church

523 Western Highway Blauvelt, N.Y. 10913

845-359-0542/Fax 845-365-2387 http://www.saintcatharines.org

Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D., Pastor Rev. Abraham Vallayil, C.M.I., Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. John Jurasek, Deacon

The link for St. Catharine's Live-Stream Weekday and Weekend Masses is on our website, www.saintcatharines.org. Please find the link at the very top of the Home Page.

**Sunday** 5:00 PM Saturday evening Vigil

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM,

and 4:30 PM

Weekday 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM

Saturday 8:30 AM

First Fridays 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM

## **Baptism**

First and third Sundays of the month at 2:00 PM. Parents should call Deacon John Jurasek at (845) 365-3618 for an appointment and Baptismal preparation.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM, and by appointment.

### Marriage

Couples should call the Rectory a minimum of six months prior to their marriage date to receive necessary information and preparation.

## **Anointing of the Sick**

Call the Rectory anytime for this request.

### **Parish Registration**

Every family living in our Parish is kindly requested to register at the Rectory.

## **Parish Devotions**

**Miraculous Medal** held after the 8:30 AM Mass on Mondays.

**Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass (Mon.-Fri.); Sundays, 12:00 PM in the Grotto or School Library depending on the weather.

**Scriptural Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass on Saturdays.

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Every Friday from 9-10 AM. Every First Friday following the 8:30 AM Mass until 7:00 PM.

Parish Religious Education Program – PREP Mrs. Bernadette Kowalchuk (845) 359-4014

St. Catharine's Early Childhood Center Mrs. Lorrayne Hubert (845) 359-4330

## PARISH MINISTRY & SERVICE CONTACTS

Adult Religious Education: Deacon John Jurasek,

(845) 365-3618

Altar Servers: Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618 or

Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739

Altar Society: Anna Stellwag, (845) 359-0769

Baptisms: Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618

Bible Study: Bernadette Kowalchuk, (845) 359-4014

Birthright of Rockland: Call (845) 623-9098 Bulletin: Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542 Choirs: Dr. Rene Dalandan, (917) 770-2468

CYO Basketball: Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739

CYO Basketball Website: <a href="https://www.ourcyo.org">www.ourcyo.org</a>
Early Childhood Center: Lorrayne Hubert,

(845) 359-4330

Eucharistic Ministry at Mass: Kerry Beckmann,

(845) 359-3986

**Eucharistic Ministry, Home:** Eileen McCaffrey,

(845) 359-9315

Homebound Ministry: Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016 Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Bob Vyskocil,

Email to grandknight@stdominic5343.com

Lectors: Veronica Rogers, (845) 624-1427

Parish Council: Kerry Beckmann, (845) 359-3986 Parish Nurse Program: Maureen Fallon, (845) 398-3806

Parish Office: Patricia McKenna, M-F, 9-5 PM, (845) 359-0542; Judith Scandiffio, Sat. 9-3 PM

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Louise Langan, (845) 359-5648 **PREP, Religious Education:** Bernadette Kowalchuk,

(845) 359-4014

**St. Ambrose Society:** Parish Office, (845) 359-0542 **Social Activities:** Joseph Onativia, (845) 365-1151 **TASC, Teen Association:** Richard & Rita Sarubbi,

(845) 641-3172

**Ushers:** Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016

Website: Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542

#### 1

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## **JESUS PRAYED**

In our Gospel passage today, we read what the secret is to Jesus' ministry – prayer.

A sentence that stands out is, "In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there."

These few words reveal how important prayer was for Jesus. This is the key to His ministry on earth – spending time in prayer with His Heavenly Father.

Just before the quoted sentence, we hear how busy a man Jesus was – healing, spending time with the sick, casting out demons, crowds gathering around Him, etc. Then, Mark brings it all back to its essence – prayer.

Jesus wanted to leave very early, to avoid the crowds and have time to pray.

Repeatedly in the Gospels, we hear about Jesus going to spend time on His own with His Father in prayer. Jesus nurtured His own spiritual connection with His Heavenly Father, and carefully looked after His own prayer life.

If Jesus could find the time to care for His spiritual life, we surely can, too.

### **TODAY'S READINGS**

## First Reading

Job experienced months of misery and troubled nights (Job 7:1-4, 6-7).

#### **Psalm**

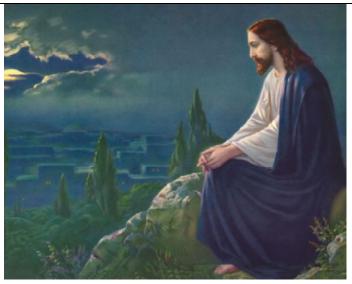
Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted (Psalm 147).

#### Second Reading

I have become all things to all, to save at least some (1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23).

#### Gospel

Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases (Mark 1:29-39).



OUR COVER ARTWORK
CHRIST ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
Josef Untersberger

Our cover artwork by Austrian artist, Josef Untersberger, shows Jesus praying, overlooking the city of Jerusalem.

Untersberger purposely used a limited color palette with only greens (symbolic for new beginnings), blues (symbolic for calmness and harmony), and purples for Jesus' cloak (conveying the royalty of Christ the King.)

The painting emphasizes Jesus' human nature and features His mind in action, in the midst of the physical demands of His ministry.

This is not a heroic, victorious Christ. He is portrayed as a humble, simple human Christ, with a tired facial expression.

A very soft, glowing light is emanating from Jesus. He is barefooted, a sign of humility and also conveys that He has been there for a long time ... praying.

## PLEASE PRAY

Please remember the names on our Parish Prayer lists in your own private prayers during the week.

Prayer is our most powerful tool for healing and we hope that this will allow us to more consciously remember St. Catharine's parishioners who are in poor health, have recently passed, or are in the Armed Forces.

Thank you.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAVE UNANSWERED PRAYERS

When it seems as though God is silent, it's easy to believe we've done something wrong, or we're praying to a far-away God, too distant from our troubles to get involved. Job, from our First Reading today, certainly may have felt this way.

When burdens are heavy, we are more prone to despair. This is why Jesus tells us that we "ought always to pray and not lose heart," Luke 18:1. He knows that we are tempted to lose heart by what may seem, at the time, like an unanswered prayer.

## 1. God hasn't forgotten about you.

All of us have been let down by someone we placed our hope in, and the memory of pain rushes towards us at the slightest hint of disappointment. But, God is not like us humans.

The truth is found in the fact that God has promised "never to leave or forsake" us (Deuteronomy 31:6), and He isn't a God who goes back on His promises.

You may have been neglected or pushed aside in the past. Regardless of the way you were mistreated, unloved, taken for granted or wounded, there is a God who saw the injustice and felt the depth of your broken heart. Don't worry, He hasn't forgotten about you!

## 2. Doubting does not make you a bad Christian.

One of the greatest theologians of all time, C.S. Lewis, became a Christian *in the process of trying to disprove the existence of God.* 

While some would say that harboring doubt is evidence of a shallow faith, the Bible tells us the exact opposite.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, He did so in the presence of Thomas, one who refused to believe the rumors of Jesus' Resurrection. Jesus, rather than publicly condemning Thomas, or scolding him for not accepting the story as truth, instead invited Thomas to touch the places He had been wounded as proof.

God is not intimidated by our questions. He has an infinite measure of grace to pour over us when we come to Him, heart heavy with concerns. He only asks that we bring our burdens to Him, rather than carry them alone.

Be honest with Him about your pain and frustration. David poured out his heart to God in the Psalms. Job expressed deep anguish in the midst of incredible grief and suffering. If you're confused and hurting, tell Him. Tell Him what you're really thinking and feeling. He hears your prayers even in the dark times when He seems removed and silent.

Trust Him and don't give up. He has a reward for your faithfulness.

## 3. There is something for you to learn, right now.

Open your eyes to the possibility that God has something for you to learn right now.

It's no coincidence that we often grow the most during a time of struggle. Loss and pain have a way of waking us up to what is really important.

Rather than postpone your growth, begin searching for present grace. God promises to give it.

(kindly, continue ...)

## 4. What comes next will be better than what came before.

God promises to take us from glory to glory, but that doesn't mean we won't have struggles or hard times. His Words that He will never leave or forsake us are meant to always remind us that, He is with us.

And when you get where you're going, there is a very good chance that the joy you feel will overwhelm any sadness or pain you felt along the way.

The power of prayer is the confidence that we are being guided and cared for, even when that guidance and care are not immediately apparent.

And, in the final analysis, prayer is not about *results*. It's about *our relationship with God*. God wants us to interact with Him, in order that we might know Him, trust Him, and remember Him in all that we do.

"Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."

Garth Brooks

## WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

By Harold S. Kushner

Innocent people do suffer misfortunes in this life. Things happen to them far worse than they deserve – they lose their jobs, they get sick, their children suffer. But when it happens, I do not believe it represents God punishing them for something they did wrong.

We don't know why one person gets sick, and another does not, but we can only assume that some natural laws which we don't understand are at work. I cannot believe that God "sends" illness to a specific person for a specific reason. I do not believe in a God who has a weekly quota of malignant tumors to distribute and consults His computer to find out who deserves one most.

"What did I do to deserve this?" is an understandable cry from a sick and suffering person, but it is really the wrong question. Being sick or being healthy is not a matter of what God decides that we deserve. The better question is, "If this has happened to me, what do I do now, and who is there to help me do it?"

There may be a sense of loss at coming to this conclusion. In a way, it is comforting to believe in an all-wise, all-powerful God who guarantees fair treatment and happy endings, who reassures us that everything happens for a reason.

But, there ought also to be a sense of relief in coming to the conclusion that *God is not doing this to us*.

If God is a God of justice, then He can still be on our side when bad things happen to us. He can know that we are good and honest people who deserve better.

If we believe our misfortunes are none of *His* doing, we can turn to Him for help. Our question then will not be, "God, why are You doing this to me?" but rather, "God, You see what is happening to me. Can You help me?"

We will turn to God, not to be judged or forgiven, not to be rewarded or punished, but to be strengthened and comforted.

Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.
(Psalm 130:7)

How many times have you said, "I trust God," or "I believe in God." Then, when the trials come, you run to Him asking, "Why me?" If so, you are not alone.

It is hard to have hope when you are facing difficulties, a terminal illness, the loss of a loved one. But, God tells us to put our hope in Him.

When we do, we get unfailing love from the Lord, our Good and Wonderful Father, in return. And the love of God can heal the deepest wounds and give peace in the most difficult circumstances.

Whatever you are struggling with, ask God to show you His mercy and His inexhaustible and limitless love.

### **GOD'S HANDS**

Have you ever imagined what God's hands may look like? My own father's hands were enormous, strong and calloused. Over the years, he used them to build, to fix every broken thing in our house. Yet, his hands were also gentle and caring. He took good care of his children and protected us.

Imagine what God's hands must be like! They must be larger, stronger, and more gentle and caring at the same time.

When we lose hope, have problems or worries, we must learn to put our problems "in God's Hands." We must let go of our problems, stop worrying and trying to resolve them ourselves. We must depend on Him to take care, protect and keep us safe.

We must believe, trust, and allow Our Lord to rescue us, hold on to us, and supply our wants and needs; to resolve our problems as only He can.

"God, I am worried and I don't know what to do. I leave this problem in your hands, please take care of it for me," should always be the first words that come to mind.

He is waiting for you and saying, "Trust me. I can handle anything you give me." You can trust Him with your life and your future.

We must open our hearts and minds in love, close our eyes in faith and trust, and ask God to *take care of it.*And, He will.

#### Lord,

I bow to You with a humble heart and fall into Your strong arms. Keep my feet firm and my heart strong no matter the turmoil around me.

Seal me with Your loving touch and protect me from this storm.

Oh Loving Father,

in You I place my faith.

Amen.



The Altar Flowers were donated In Loving Memory of Frank McGreevy

From
The McGreevy Family

**The Tabernacle Candle** will burn before the Blessed Sacrament the week of February 4

In Loving Memory of James Cleary

From Margaret and Eddie Doolan

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven."

"A time to heal"

We pray for God's tender mercy and loving kindness upon all of our loved ones who have experienced health issues. Walter Cahill, Helen O'Brien, Matthew Mencher, Lucy Decilla, Rory Tinston, Gary Baisley, Geraldine Moloney, Jim Grimm, Brandon Hernandez,

Billy Keenan, Diana Colon, Colleen Kusy, Amanda Lynch, Brian Domitrovits, II, Christian Perez, Nicholas Guiliano, Matilda Quinn, Nicholas Corbi, Liam Frawley, Noreen Larsen, Molly McGovern, Danny Newkirk, Cali Jhené Pritchard, Emmet Horvath, Darianna DeLise, David O'Hanlon, James Cunningham, Liam McLaughlin, Tom Collins, Rob Incognoli, Rose Cahill, Teresita Dural, Keira Cunningham, Gary Haley, Heather Mekkinosson, Jude DePalma, Gerald Spagnolo, Gabriella Larsen, Anne Marie Herman, Patricia Duffy, Justin Duffy, Fiona Moran, Carol Crane, Carol McGrath, Lisa Morehead, Vincent Fyfe, June Hudson, Colton Martin,

Lisa Morehead, Vincent Fyfe, June Hudson, Colton Martin, Ed Walsh, Jacqueline Tracey, Christopher O'Brien, Andrew Padilla, Paulette Maurice, Jack Bermingham, Margaret Brosnan, Jim Deremeik, Sr. Maureen Bradshaw, Peggy Finn, Ann Donohue, Heather Hovorka Plunkett, Edward Fitzpatrick, James Racca, Dr. Jose and Celia Botet, Mary Jane Knapp, Corona Balin, Judy Donohue, Frank Parisi, Colleen Scarry, Marion O'Leary, Judith Ferrara, Patrick Armstrong, Patty Neier, Anna Stellwag, Janet Kopac, Marjorie Tobin, Michael McManamon,

Kevin Kearney, Neil McDermott

"A time to mourn"

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Come and share your Master's joy.

Jean Arcieri, John D'Andrea, Bob Minichiello, Lorraine Cooper,

Joseph Spiotta, Mary Maguire, Nora Hartney,

Irene Callaghan, Julie Mullin, David Sansone,

Louise Hovsepian, Toni Volante, Alice Casey

"A time for war and a time for peace"
Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need, and bring them home safely. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### PETITION OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the grace that you pour into our hearts, a grace that bears fruit in faith, hope, and love ... Lord, hear our prayer.

## MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION

Please be sure to pick up a copy of the Magnificat Lenten Companion from one of the Ushers' tables in the lobby of the Church. This lovely little booklet, our gift to you, provides a series of original reflections to guide you through every day of Lent.

By spending a few moments meditating on the inspiring daily reflections and the short prayers that follow them, you will discover all that is true, good, and beautiful about the Catholic faith.



## ST. CATHARINE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER REGISTRATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 4-7 PM

Registration for September 2024 will be Tuesday, February 6th from 4-7:00 PM for anyone new to our Program. (Snow date would be Thursday, February 8th from 4-7:00 PM.) Children must be 3 or 4 by December 1st of the incoming school year. Please email us at stcatharinesprek@gmail.com if you would like more information about the Registration process. Thank you!

### ANNUAL BOOSTER CLUB

Tickets cost \$100 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. The Grand Prize is \$8,000. The Drawing will take place on Sunday, May 19th following the 12:30 PM Mass.

To purchase tickets, you may contact our Booster Club Chairwoman, Judy Scandiffio at (845) 359-1023, or any one of our Captains - Kerry Beckmann, Bridie Bennett, Margaret Doolan, Lorraine Holmes, Sinead Noonan, Joe Onativia, Irene Schutz, Barbara Shaw, or Gary Sozzi.

We are always in need of new Captains. If you are interested, please contact Judy Scandiffio at (845) 359-1023. Thank you.



## SOUP-ER BOWL OF CARING SOUP COLLECTION - MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Our PREP students will be collecting cans of soup during the month of February. Soup will be donated to the Neighborhood Food Pantry here in South Orangetown to be distributed to those in need in our community. If your child/ren are in PREP, they may bring their cans of soup to class. Otherwise, please look for the bins in the lobby of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

## **NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION** PETER'S PENCE

Next Week's Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to respond with emergency assistance to those who are suffering as a result of war, natural disaster, and disease.

Your generosity allows the Pope to respond with promptness, love, and compassion so God's people will never feel alone in their time of misfortune.

## THE 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

We are often reminded by Sacred Scripture that in order to love one another, we must share the blessings which God has provided to us. As Catholics, we are called to serve our neighbors with compassion and humility.

We are asking every family to participate and make a sacrificial pledge to the 2024 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. This year, our goal, set by the Archdiocese is \$153,600.

The success of The Appeal - helping those less fortunate, spiritually nurturing our youth, caring for our retired priests and religious, growing the many ministry programs that serve our communities - depends on us.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

Madeline McAree

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Anna Gavioli – 6 Year Anniversary 8:00

9:30 Platner & Whittington Families

11:00 Robert Reyes

**Daniel Dinan** 12:30

Dina O'Sullivan 4:30

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Marguerite Armstrong 6:45

8:30 Joe Onativia, Sr.

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**Private Intentions** 6:45

Patrick Ridge 8:30

## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

6:45 Antonio Giustra

8:30 Deceased Members of the McHugh Family

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

6:45 **Private Intentions** 

8:30 Brian, Tom and Aidan Handley

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

6:45 The People of St. Catharine's Church

Joseph P. Spiotta 8:30

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

8:30 Jan Korszun

Veronica Stewart 5:00

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

Anthony Cicalo 8:00

Guadencio Torres and Romualdo Cerbolles 9:30

Anna and Dominick Vigliotti 11:00

Patrick Kelly 12:30

4:30 Joseph P. Spiotta



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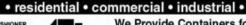
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