



# ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

*523 Western Highway  
Blauvelt, New York 10913*

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



Love

is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

**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](http://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. Lorraine 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:** [www.ourcyo.org](http://www.ourcyo.org)  
**Early Childhood Center:** Lorraine 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](mailto: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

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ASH WEDNESDAY  
IS FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday is unique because it signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about.

The symbols of Ash Wednesday touch us in a powerful way. When we hear the words, "*Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return,*" we are reminded of our vulnerability and utter dependence on God.

We all know in our hearts that the cross of Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. We also know how difficult it is to internalize this truth, to pick up the cross daily and live it in all of life's circumstances. We know we need more prayer and discipline in our life, more genuine concern for others and less self-centeredness, more involvement in Church and community. So, we get our ashes, and turn back to the Lord.

People wear the cross of ashes on their foreheads without embarrassment or shame. It's like a badge of identification, reminding Catholics that we need to go back to being who we are supposed to be, fully and totally Christian.

It is as if Catholics are saying, "*I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I may slack off a little on my Church attendance and commitments. I have my faults and sins. But I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live and I'm going to try again.*"

And, now is the perfect time.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading**

The leper will dwell apart, making an abode outside the camp (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46).

**Psalm**

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation (Psalm 32).

**Second Reading**

Do everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31 -- 11:1).

**Gospel**

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean (Mark 1:40-45).

+ASH WEDNESDAY+  
FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

Ashes will be distributed at the following times ...

6:45 AM MASS

8:30 AM MASS

12:10 PM MASS

**5:00 PM SERVICE IN CHURCH FOR PREP STUDENTS**

7:30 PM MASS

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, falls on Ash Wednesday this year. They're calling it a "conflict" for Catholics, leaving many wondering what to do.

Both are significant days in our Catholic calendar. The conflict comes because Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer and penance – no meat, light meals, no snacking between meals – and St. Valentine's Day is a festive occasion – chocolates, dressing up and going out, and usually a nice meal.

**The answer is that Ash Wednesday has precedence, and the coincidence of St. Valentine's Day would not lift for us the duty of fasting and self-denial.**

Yet, a more positive way to look at it is that both days center on the *heart*.

The very symbol of St. Valentine's Day is the heart, the icon of love, especially the romantic love between a man and a woman. We'll send cards and boxes of sweets that are both heart-shaped.

Ash Wednesday, the first of forty days of prayer, penance, and charity we call Lent, leading us to Holy Week and Easter, is also about the heart: a heart called sacred, wounded by unreturned love, broken by callousness and selfishness: the heart of *Jesus*.

*This* heart is on fire with love for us, but surrounded by a crown of thorns. It is the love of *this* heart from which all true love flows. It is *this* Sacred Heart we trust this Wednesday; it is *this* Heart we turn to through our repentance and acts of sacrifice and atonement this Wednesday.

St. Valentine willingly bows to this Sacred Heart, for which even he lovingly gave his life eighteen centuries ago.

So, please consider making your Valentine dinner reservations for Tuesday or Thursday evening.



**FEBRUARY,  
THE MONTH OF LOVE**

Jesus Christ set a perfect example of kindness and love for us. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus showed His love for others by blessing and serving the poor, the sick, and the distressed. He told His disciples, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."* John 15:12

Here are some other wonderful quotes from the Bible on Love ...

"Three things will last forever – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him won't perish but will have eternal life." John 3:16

"But you, my Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy; you are very patient and full of faithful love." Psalm 86:15

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." John 13:34-35

"Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

"As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love." John 15:9

"Give thanks to the Lord because He is good, because His faithful love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34



**PRAYER TO ST. VALENTINE  
PATRON SAINT OF LOVE**

*Dear Saint and Glorious Martyr,*

*Teach us to love unselfishly and to find great joy in giving.*

*Enable all true loves to bring out the best in each other.  
Let them love each other in God and, in God, each other.  
Amen.*

**LOVE AND THE SAINTS**

Here are some wonderful quotes from the Saints about Love ...

"Let us love, since that is what our hearts were made for." St. Therese of Lisieux

"Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Pure love knows that only one thing is needed to please God: to do even the smallest things out of great love - love, and always love." St. Faustina

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." St. Augustine

"Not all of us can do great things. But, we can all do small things with love." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Lord, grant that I might not so much seek to be loved as to love." St. Francis of Assisi

"It is love alone that gives worth to all things." St. Teresa of Avila

"Since love grows within you, so beauty grows. For love is the beauty of the soul." St. Augustine

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." St. Augustine

"Every time you smile at someone it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them." St. Therese of Lisieux

"Love is difficult, but it is our essence. It's what lifts us up above all other creatures." St. Rose of Lima

*Love is patient, love is kind.  
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,  
it is not inflated, it is not rude,  
it does not seek its own interests,  
it is not quick-tempered,  
it does not brood over injury,  
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing,  
but rejoices with the truth.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.*

*St. Paul to the Corinthians*

*GOD IS LOVE*

Here's something interesting to try – why not substitute the word “God” for the word “Love” as in “God is patient, God is kind,” etc.

*God is patient, God is kind.  
 God is not jealous, God is not pompous,  
 God is not inflated, God is not rude,  
 God does not seek His own interests,  
 God is not quick-tempered,  
 God does not brood over injury,  
 God does not rejoice over wrongdoing,  
 but He rejoices with the truth.  
 God bears all things, believes all things,  
 hopes all things, endures all things.  
 God never fails.*

Doesn't this give you wonderful insight as to who God is? God is love and His love for us is perfect and unconditional. There is nothing we can do that would cause God to love us more and nothing that we can do that would cause Him to love us less. God's love never fails!  
*God is love, and God loves you!!!*



**NEWS FROM “THE HIVE”**

*“The bee is more honored than other animals,  
 not because she labors,  
 but because she labors for others.”*

St. John Chrysostom

The theme for the month of February is Love and God's Love Letter to us – The Holy Bible!

All grades will be focusing on the Sacraments. Please pray for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students as they will receive two Sacraments this year – Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. What an exciting time for them!!

Please also pray for our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring. We all enjoyed a wonderful retreat at the Marian Shrine recently, which we hope to do again. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade are focusing on their Journey to Confirmation as well.

Father Abraham has been hosting “teaching” Masses for Grades 1-6. It has been a wonderful learning experience for all of us. Thank you, Father!

PREP Students have been participating in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* Soup Collection. Soup will be donated to the Neighborhood Food Pantry to be distributed to those in need in our Community. Our Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy Fundraiser continues until February 18. Candy will be delivered in March. All monies will be used to enhance our Religious Education Program. The funds are allowing us to add an extra special touch to our Program.

We ask that you continue to pray for the children in our PREP that they may “*open the door of their hearts to Jesus.*” God bless us all!



*The Altar Flowers were donated  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Margaret Shortt*

*From  
 Your Loving Family*

*The Tabernacle Candle will burn before the  
 Blessed Sacrament the week of February 11*

*In Loving Memory of  
 Fran Scheulen*

*From  
 Friends at St. Catharine's*



*“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,  
 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 Stellweg, Janet Kopac,  
 Marjorie Tobin, Michael McManamon, Joan Armus,  
 Kevin Kearney, Neil McDermott, Bridgid Kivlehan*

*“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, Alice Casey,  
 Toni Ann Volante, Richard Hudson*

*“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.*

**LENTEN REGULATIONS ON  
FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

During Lent, the Church calls the faithful to bring a spirit of penance into their lives through fasting and abstinence.

**Abstinence from eating meat** is observed on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent** by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.

**Fasting** is observed on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** by all Catholics who are 18 years of age, but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by fasting may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Those who are not specifically obliged to fast or to abstain are encouraged to join in those disciplines to the extent they are able.

The season of Lent culminates in the celebration of the Easter Triduum of the Lord's Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection. Holy Thursday this year is March 28<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday is March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection is March 30<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PETITION OF THE WEEK**

*Heavenly Father, please guide all of us in the days and weeks of Lent ahead. Strengthen us in our commitment to renew our spiritual lives and draw closer to you ...  
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 our Catholic faith.

**THE 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL  
STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**

Please join your fellow parishioners, prayerfully consider your contribution, and make your gift to the *Cardinal's Appeal* today. Our goal this year, set by the Archdiocese, is \$153,600 and, so far, we have pledges of \$21,440!! We are off to a wonderful start!!

Remember, you can pledge your gift now, and make payments in the coming months. You may also choose to make your donation online at [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org).

To all who have already made your commitment, we truly thank you.

**ANNUAL BOOSTER CLUB**

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

To purchase tickets, you may contact our Booster Club Chairwoman, Judy Scandiffio at (845) 359-1023.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE  
SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM  
ST. DOMINIC KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
150 ERIE STREET, BLAUVELT**

This Annual Event is back!! Our Dinner Dance will begin at 7 PM, and feature dinner and drinks, with music by our own Tommy Dunn and Jan Lynch Band, featuring all Ireland fiddler legend John Reynolds playing a mix of Irish, Country, Oldies and Classic Rock.

Parishioners and guests are welcome, and the price is only \$35 per head or \$60 per couple. This is for four hours of open bar, dinner, music and dancing!

Call now to reserve a table or individual seats: John Edwards 914-419-2252, Bob Vyskocil 914-671-9114 or Tom Schutz/Tommy Dunn 845-548-0219.

**TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION  
PETER'S PENCE**

Today'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.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**5:00** Veronica Stewart

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**8:00** Anthony Cicalo

**9:30** Guadencio Torres and Romualdo Cerbolles

**11:00** Anna and Dominick Vigliotti

**12:30** Patrick Kelly

**4:30** Joseph P. Spiotta

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

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

**8:30** Carolyn Byrne

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**6:45** Fran Scheulen

**8:30** Tom and Maureen O'Connor

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**6:45** Antonio Reyes

**8:30** Hugh and Molly McGovern

**12:10** Margaret Shortt

**7:30** Myriam Dubuisson – *Living – In Thanksgiving*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**6:45** Assunta Castelli

**8:30** Cathy Williamson – *Living*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**6:45** Michael J. McGrail

**8:30** Kevin Stadnick

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**8:30** Jimmy McCarroll

**5:00** Mary and Joseph Higgins

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**8:00** *Private Intentions*

**9:30** Catherine Linehan

**11:00** Scaringe Family

**12:30** Albert Piscitelli

**4:30** Jim McLaughlin





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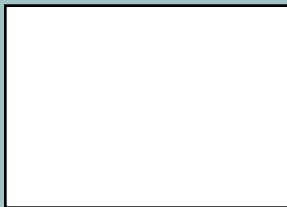
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