

ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

523 Western Highway Blauvelt, New York 10913

Rev. Msgr. Francís J. McAree, S.T.D. Pastor



LENT

PRAYER

FASTING

ALMSGIVING



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, <u>www.saintcatharines.org</u>. 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 every Monday morning.

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 during Lent from 9-7 PM. Stations of the Cross follows at 7:30 PM.

Parish <u>R</u>eligious <u>E</u>ducation <u>P</u>rogram – 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: www.ourcyo.org 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

X

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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What is the biggest Catholic holiday? Did you say, "Christmas?" Well, yes, Christmas is very important, but it's not the *most* important. The Birth of Our Lord made possible His Passion, Death and Resurrection – and, through them, our Salvation. Which makes *Easter* the holiest season of the Christian calendar.

How many of us celebrate Easter with as much energy and enthusiasm as Christmas? It's time to celebrate it better! It's time to deepen or renew our connection to our faith and to God.

The Lenten season is relatively short – just 40 days in all. But, it's a season in which much can be accomplished in our spiritual lives. We can become closer to God and to one another. We can start a journey toward healing any burdens we carry. And, we can look forward to the awakening and the celebration that is Easter.

This year, try to spiritually enrich your Lent and Easter by celebrating its customs and traditions.

Even if it's not your usual practice, the 40 days of Lent can be a good time to become more involved in our Parish Lenten Activities and other Church events that will raise awareness of God and faith in your life.

I encourage all who are able to participate in devotions like our Friday Eucharistic Adoration from 9-7 PM, or Stations of the Cross, every Friday evening during Lent at 7:30 PM. Or, come to Daily Mass at 6:45 AM or 8:30 AM.

Those who cannot easily get out to attend events at Church – the homebound elderly or infirm and their caregivers, for instance, or parents of young children, could make the daily reading of Scripture a practice during Lent, a practice that may easily become a daily routine for the rest of the year.

As we enter this First Week of Lent, I ask not what you are giving up, but what are you giving? I challenge you to set spiritual goals for yourself to achieve during the coming weeks of Lent.

Please use this sacred time to repent and reflect.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

God's covenant with Noah when he was delivered from the flood (Genesis 9:8-15).

Psalm

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

Second Reading

The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Gospel

This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:12-15).

PETITION OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst ... Lord, hear our prayer.

FEAST OF FAITH

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our Church looks stark and simple – no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations.

And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The *Gloria*, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the *Alleluia*, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil.

These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter.

This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the Crucified and Risen One, and thus to be ready to sing *"Alleluia"* once again when Easter comes.

ST. CATHARINE'S + PARISH LENTEN ACTIVITIES + Daily Mass Monday – Friday 6:45 & 8:30 AM Saturday Mass 8:30 AM

Eucharistic Adoration Every Friday morning from 9 AM – 7 PM

Stations of the Cross Every Friday evening at 7:30 PM

Confessions Every Saturday from 4:00 – 4:45 PM

Reconciliation Monday, March 25 Confessions from 4:00 – 7:00 PM

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 28th. Good Friday is March 29th. The Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection is March 30th. Easter Sunday is March 31st.

+EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING LENT+ EVERY FRIDAY, 9 AM TO 7 PM

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration every Friday morning throughout Lent, following the 8:30 AM Mass, and concluding at 7 PM with Benediction.

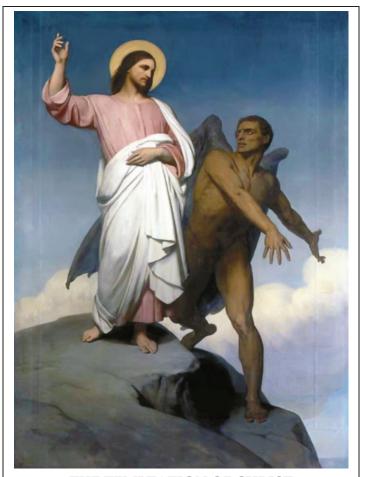
Please do your best to spend some quiet, quality time with Our Lord during this Holy Season.

+STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT+ EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM

One of our most traditional and beautiful Lenten practices is praying the Stations of the Cross.

Why not join Deacon Jurasek and make Friday evenings one of your special Lenten observances by joining us at 7:30 PM for Stations of the Cross.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024



THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST ARY SCHEFFER 1795-1858

Dutch-born Ary Scheffer was a Romantic Art painter during the first half of the 19th century, mostly known for his works based on literature.

But, towards the end of his life, and maybe after a religious experience, he started painting highly religious works, of which the painting above is an excellent example.

The characters impart emotion purely through easily recognizable expressions and gestures: the devil is promising the world, but Jesus is pointing upwards to His Father. Jesus is dressed in bright, pure clothes, contrasting with the dark, shadowy figure of the devil.

Finally, take a look at Jesus's face. He doesn't avoid looking at the devil. He faces him directly, looking straight at him and rejecting his false promises.

Everyone is tempted, on a daily basis, however obvious or subtle these temptations might be. We are all enticed to evil by the devil.

Jesus did not defeat the devil by solely staying faithful to His Father. He also defeated him by quoting Scripture (see the last lines of our Gospel passage today).

Lent is a wonderful time to deepen our appreciation, love, and faithful witness to God and His Word. It helps us remember that Our Lord is communicating with us every day, especially through the Bible.

THE BIBLE AND PRAYERS

Rediscovering Catholicism Matthew Kelly

The Bible is the richest treasury of prayers. Some of the prayers are obvious, like the Psalms. But, others are treasures hidden among the stories, waiting to be discovered.

The following words were spoken directly to Jesus and recorded in the Bible, so I believe they have a special power.

When I sense that God is calling me to something but I'm not sure what, or when I have a decision to make and don't know which option to favor, I pray the words of the blind man – *"Lord, open my eyes so that I may see."* (Matthew 20:33)

At other times, I use the words of the criminal next to Jesus on the cross, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."* (Luke 23:42)

And one of my very favorite prayers are the words of Peter when Jesus asks him three times, "Do you love me?" and Peter replies, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." (John 21:17) Sometimes I use this prayer when I have offended God with my words or actions. At other times I use them when I feel hopeless or inadequate in my attempts to express my love for God.

When my sinfulness overwhelms me, I pray the words that the man with leprosy spoke to Jesus, *"If you wish, you can make me clean."* (Matthew 8:2) Or Matthew's own words to Jesus, *"Forgive me Lord, I am a sinner."* (Luke 18:13)

I pray these simple prayers over and over in the moments of the day – at a stoplight, in the line of the supermarket, when I am on hold on the telephone. They allow me to stay connected to God, to speak and listen to Him.

PRAYER DURING LENT

There are three holy practices which Catholics are called to embrace during Lent. These three practices are **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving**.

As Catholics, we know we should pray every day. Prayer is conversation and communion with the God who made us and loves us. No relationship would flourish if we failed to spend time in the presence of a loved one, conversing with them and offering them genuine attention.

If you are praying once a week at Sunday Mass or saying only a quick "Good morning, God!" as you head to work, or "Good night, God!" before your head hits the pillow, make a commitment during Lent to pray daily.

How much time should we set aside for daily prayer? Priests and spiritual advisors say that fifteen minutes is the absolute minimum. That's a fairly easy-to-reach goal for all of us. Of course, if you are able, do not hesitate to spend even more time every day.

One thing is for sure, prayer is not easy. As soon as we even think of praying a thousand other distractions present themselves; and if we do manage to actually start to pray, our mind begins to wander all over the place.

(kindly, continue ...)

This is normal, and we are not to be discouraged, for when we realize that our mind is flying all over the place, we can then bring it back, and begin praying again.

And, what should we say when we pray? Instead of telling God what we need, try to listen to what He wants to say.

How can we listen to Him? We can simply begin to repeat, in silence, the Jesus Prayer: *"Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner."* Slowly, begin to say these words, the words which the blind man, Bartimaeus, said to Jesus. Try to approach Him with the same excitement, humble confidence, and trust as Bartimaeus did.

This Lent, try spending at least fifteen minutes in prayer a day. If you already do this, why not add the Rosary to your daily habit. Here at St. Catharine's, we pray the Rosary every morning in the Church following the 8:30 AM Mass, and on Sundays at 12 PM in the Grotto or the Library of the School (depending on the weather). Please, join us!!

LISTENING TO GOD IN SILENCE

St. Mother Teresa

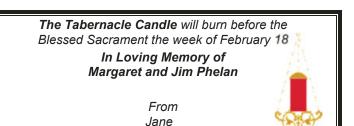
Prayer is a two-way process – speaking and listening. God speaks to us: we listen. We speak to God: God listens. God speaks in the silence of our heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. Our words are useless unless they come from the bottom of the heart.

If we really want to pray, we must first learn to listen – for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. Silence of the heart, not only of the mouth, is necessary. Our prayer life suffers so much because our hearts are not silent. We are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper silence and aloneness with God. To be alone with God, to dwell lovingly in God's presence – silent, empty, expectant and motionless.

Listen in silence, because if your heart is full of other things you cannot hear God's voice. But when you have listened to God's voice in the stillness of your heart, then your heart is filled with God. Then you can hear God in everything – in the person who needs you, in the birds that sing, in the flowers, the animals – that silence which is wonder and praise.

This Lent, Fast From ...

Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and have trust in God. Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words; be silent and listen.



"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 serious health issues. We also pray for all those who assist and care for the sick that God may continue to give them patience, compassion, strength, and courage.

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 Stellwag, Janet Kopac, Marjorie Tobin, Michael McManamon, Joan Armus, Kevin Kearney, Neil McDermott, Brigid Kivlehan, Edward Monks

"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 Ann Volante, Alice Casey, Richard Hudson, Andrew Duggan, Jr., Hannah Duggan, Rosemarie Higgins

"A time for war and a time for peace"

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask your protection for all our men and women in military service. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from You. 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

Lent is the penitential time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and personal sacrifice meant to draw Christians more deeply into the sacred mystery of Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

During Lent, the Church calls the faithful to bring a spirit

of penance into their lives through fasting and abstinence. The following fasting and abstinence regulations are to be observed:

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.

OUR PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY

For emergencies requiring the presence of a Priest, please call (845) 359-0542 and listen to the prompts.

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 19th, following the 12:30 PM Mass.

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

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ROCKLAND COUNTY MITE BOXES

You can help make a difference in the lives of those Rockland County residents less fortunate by picking up one of the small Lenten Mite collection boxes from the Ushers tables in the lobby of the Church and making coin offerings throughout Lent.

Please return your box to the Rectory at the end of the Lenten Season.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE SATURDAY, MARCH 9th, 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.

TITHING - GOD'S WAY OF SHARING

Last week's Tithing \$12,694 All that I have comes from you, Lord.

THE 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

We are asking that you please join with your fellow Parishioners, prayerfully consider your contribution, and make your *sacrificial* gift to the 2024 *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal* today.

This year, our goal, set by the Archdiocese, is \$153,600, and, as of this week, we already have pledges in the amount of \$23,180!

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.

To those who have already given, we thank you for your generosity.

<u>NEXT WEEK'S</u> - SECOND COLLECTION CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

<u>Next week's</u> Second Collection will help offset our Archdiocesan assessment for the Catholic School System in New York. Thank you for your continued support of this monthly collection.

MASS INTENTIONS	
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17	
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
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19	
6:45	Bob Minichiello
8:30	Thomas Hogan
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20	
6:45	Special Intentions
	Carolyn Green – <i>Living</i>
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21	
	John D'Andrea
	Catherine Cicalo
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22	
	Grace Dennerlein
8:30	1 1
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23	
6:45	The People of St. Catharine's Church
8:30	Stephen and Jack Davin
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24	
8:30	Ann Surles
5:00	Edward R. Miller
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25	
8:00	The People of St. Catharine's Church
9:30	Clancy and Tracey Families
11:00	5
12:30	Marie DeCicco
4:30	James Woods





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