



ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

*523 Western Highway
Blauvelt, New York 10913*

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



*Fourth Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday*

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
 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, followed by
 Stations of the Cross at 7:30 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
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
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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY

A little light breaks into Lent this Sunday, and the Church can hardly contain its joy!

Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” This Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare Sunday*, when the Church takes a bit of a breather from Lenten practice and opens Mass with the Entrance Antiphon, “*Rejoice, Jerusalem ... Be joyful, all who were in mourning!*” (Isaiah 66)

Today, we look with joyful anticipation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves as a Church during the Lenten season. It is a day intended to encourage the faithful through the remaining days of penance.

There are special signs of joy permitted on this day – you may see flowers on the Altar, and the Priest may wear rose colored vestments instead of the Lenten purple penitential ones. The contrast between Laetare Sunday and other Sundays is thus emphasized.

In previous centuries, as a symbol of this joy, the Pope would carry a golden rose in his right hand when leaving Mass. Later, the golden rose consisted of a cluster of roses made of pure gold that the Popes would bless and then give to cities, churches, or shrines as a memento.

Be joyful!! This is a day to rejoice!!

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading

God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel

The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

PETITION OF THE WEEK

*Heavenly Father, may we always live with joy and happiness in the light of your love ...
Lord, hear our prayer.*

JOY

If a friend was asked to describe you in a few words, would *Joyful* be among them?

Did you know that *Joy* is a characteristic of followers of Jesus Christ?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of *Joy*.

“*Rejoice!*” said the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

“*For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled,*” was the response of St. John the Baptist as Jesus began His ministry.

Jesus said to His disciples, “*I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*”

As the Apostles preached the Gospel, they “*were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*”

Christian Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a promise of Christ. It will give us peace and contentment if we trust God in all life’s circumstances.

JOY AND ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II

“God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us.”

St. Pope John Paul II

Joy comes from within, ignited and encouraged by God. True joy may be obtained in the heartfelt gratitude of God’s love, mercy, grace, and blessings in our lives.

St. Pope John Paul II knew true joy. Sadly, he lost both his parents and only sibling by the time he was 19. He had a front-row seat to the horrors of the Holocaust and saw countless friends and neighbors led to their deaths. Under the control of a string of evil dictators, he watched his beloved homeland fall.

But thankfully, John Paul II knew his joy didn’t depend on the horrors or heartbreak of his past; only on *the truth of the Resurrection and the promise of Heaven*. He had a very strong faith and that heroic faith turned into joy, and that joy inspired and continues to inspire the world.

“We who are Christians have a further cause for joy: like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy. We discover joy when we discover truth – the truth about God our Father, the truth about Jesus our Savior, the truth about the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts.”

St. Pope John Paul II

THE GIFT OF GOD

Joy is love, joy is prayer, joy is strength. A joyful heart is the result of a heart burning with love.

We don’t need to look for happiness: If we have love for others, we’ll be given it. It is the gift of God.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

This weekend, our Parish will take up a collection for Catholic Relief Services. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that work to provide services including advocating for immigrants, providing humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, resettling displaced individuals, and working for increased peace.

Please be as generous as possible. Your compassionate caring can make all the difference in our world.

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money.

*Money is not enough, money can be got,
but they need your hearts to love them.
So, spread your love everywhere you go.*

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

A GENEROUS HEART

There are three Christian practices called for in Lent – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, or acts of charity.

The Lord commanded us to care for the poor and needy, not just collectively, but individually. This is your charge and obligation, especially during Lent.

You may believe that giving is something for the wealthy to do, but no matter your financial circumstances, you have so much to give.

A generous heart can be fostered with simple acts of generosity and kindness. Offer others your smile, best wishes, encouragement, enthusiasm, understanding, forgiveness, warmth, comfort, attention, help, wisdom, time, and yes, even your worldly possessions if you are so inclined. There are countless ways to walk your path of life with a generous heart!

As you commit to obey this commandment, your desire to give will fill your heart and overflow into your actions. To be gentle, warm, understanding and compassionate to others, forgiving of their mistakes, patient with their shortcomings and sympathetic to their plight is to offer grace and care for our fellow man.

Along with your commitment to give, this is a good opportunity to check your heart. Here are three simple suggestions to ensure your Christ-like hands are moved by a Christ-like heart.

1. Love those you serve. Look into their eyes and see them as the Children of God that they are.
2. Learn from them. Do not view yourself as a superior benefactor but as an equal, struggling mortal. Recognize that your life may have turned out very differently. *There, but for the grace of God, go !!!*
3. Pray for them, sincerely. Prayer is a principle of action and power. God will guide your actions and give you the power to carry out His plans.

When you have a loving, giving, and generous heart, you will give with pure motives. You won't give to ease *your* conscience, but to ease *their* suffering. And God will embrace and thank you for the way you kindly cared for His children.

ALMSGIVING DURING LENT

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7.

During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods, and performing other acts of charity. Almsgiving is not the tithing you are already doing – it's giving *above and beyond* what you normally give or do. It is a true penance.

When defining almsgiving, it helps to understand the meaning behind the word itself. The roots of the word "alms" can be found in ancient Latin and Greek words meaning mercy and pity. Similarly, the root of the word "charity" comes from the Latin "caritas," meaning love. Charity is essential to our Christian faith, as charity is basically an act of love.

A critical component of Christ's teachings is to love one another as God loves us. By caring for others and sharing your blessings with them, you are participating in the work of Christ on earth.

The widow with the two coins from Luke's Gospel is a wonderful example of almsgiving, even when we feel we have little or nothing to give.

Or the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes – this one carries **two** important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. No gift is too small or insignificant.

Look for ways to incorporate some of the following almsgiving examples into your Lenten practice ...

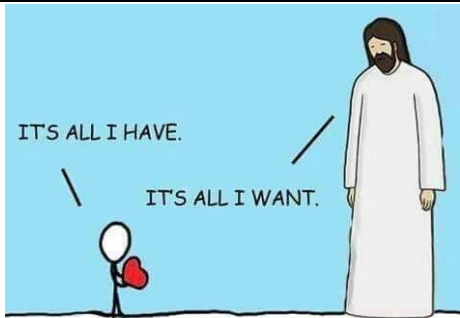
- *Donate food to your neighborhood food pantry.
- *Grocery shop or run an errand for an elderly neighbor.
- *Make a meal for a new mother or elderly neighbor.
- *Show an act of kindness to someone who may be difficult to get along with.
- *Support the work of the Church around the world by giving to organizations that serve impoverished populations.

"YOUR ALMSGIVING MUST BE SECRET"

Charity is essential to our faith, as charity is basically an act of love. If we were to do acts of charity and want to be seen doing them, we would come at it from an attitude of superiority where we would give something to someone who we would consider as inferior. This, of course, can't be right. So charity work needs to be an act of humility, done in love for the other person... and therefore in love for Our Lord.

Jesus said to His disciples: "Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in Heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6: 1-4.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

This past Saturday morning, the Second Grade Students in our Parish Religious Education Program received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. They were introduced to the power and graces that accompany this Sacrament by Monsignor McAree and Father Abraham.

No one likes to admit their sinfulness, but these children came to see the beautiful gift of Reconciliation as one more way of God expressing His endless love and mercy for them and for all of us.

They understand that we all need our Heavenly Father's forgiveness, and we must do our best in being examples of His mercy in our homes, schools, communities, and places of work.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they take the next step in their faith journey and prepare to receive First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 11th.

Lord, Have Mercy on Me

For the times I had a chance to help a friend in need
and I acted selfishly,
I would like to say I'm sorry as I can be,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

For the times that I have failed to do for someone else
what I'd have him do for me.
I would like to say I'm sorry as I can be,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Jesus said that we must always try to tell the truth
and the truth will make us free;
for the times that I have failed to tell the truth,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

For the times I took the easy way and didn't perform
up to my ability,
I would like to say I'm sorry as I can be,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
O Lord, have mercy on me.
O Lord, have mercy on me.



*The Altar Flowers were donated
In Loving Memory of
Lillian & Patrick Gallagan*

*From
Your Loving Daughter, Sally*

*The Tabernacle Candle will burn before the
Blessed Sacrament the week of March 10*

*In Loving Memory of
John Harte*

*From
The Smyth Family*



*"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 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.
Richard Hudson, Andrew Duggan, Jr., Hannah Duggan,
Rosemarie Higgins, Brian Duffy,
Farida Brillantes*

"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.*

ST. CATHARINE'S BULLETIN BOARD**GOLDEN WEDDING JUBILEE MASS
AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd, 2:30 PM**

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary at any time during 2024 are cordially invited to attend the *Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass* at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York, Sunday, June 2nd at 2:30 PM. His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan will be the Celebrant.

Please contact St. Catharine's Rectory at (845) 359-0542 to register. Registration will close May 13th.

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.

**LENT
HALF A DAY OF RECOLLECTION
WITH FR. RAVI
MARCH 23rd, 9:30-12:00 PM
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
82 LAKE ROAD WEST, CONGERS**

"Transforming the Cross of Christ into a Pathway for Spiritual Awakening – Navigating Technology from Distraction to Disciple and Discipleship."

Please phone St. Paul's Church at (845) 268-4464 to reserve a seat.

**JOIN FR. RAVI ON A
CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO
IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AND ENGLAND
12 NIGHTS, 13 DAYS**

SEPTEMBER 15 TO SEPTEMBER 28

All-inclusive trip cost including breakfast and dinner - \$5,500.

For registration and more information, please contact Martina Collins at (914) 320-8412, or via email to jackben1412@gmail.com.

**ALBERTUS MAGNUS HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS
MAMMA MIA!**

MARCH 22 & 23 at 7 PM,

MARCH 24 at 2 PM

To purchase tickets go to

<https://www.showtix4u.com/events/AMBoxOffice>

or call (845) 793-2227.

Albertus Magnus High School is located at
798 NY-304 in Bardonia, NY

**THE 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL
STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
COMMITMENT WEEKEND IS NEXT WEEKEND**

At all of our Masses **next weekend**, you will have an opportunity to make your commitment to the *2024 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal*.

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

Please join your fellow parishioners, prayerfully consider your contribution, and make your gift to the *Cardinal's Appeal*. 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 all who have already made your commitment, we truly thank you.

TITHING - GOD'S WAY OF SHARING

Last Week's Tithing \$17,669

All that I have comes from you, Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

5:00 Noemi Cicalo

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 Margaret Knapp

9:30 Clancy and Tracey Families

11:00 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nasuta

12:30 Jane Doyle Ench

4:30 Ruth and Donald Rogers

MONDAY, MARCH 11

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

8:30 Mary Reilly – *First Year Anniversary*

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

6:45 *Special Intentions*

8:30 Mary Reilly

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

6:45 Joseph and Muriel Greeley

8:30 Catherine Cicalo

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6:45 Jose Alicea

8:30 Harry McAuley – *Deceased – 100 Birthday*

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

6:45 Robert C. McGrail

8:30 Deceased Members of the Bomeisl Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:30 Paz and Gino Figuracion

5:00 Walter and Barbara Kinkel

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 Edward McLaughlin

9:30 Patrick O'Connor

11:00 Peter Fegan

12:30 Mary and Pat Mullen

4:30 Geraldine F. Hennigan