



ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

*523 Western Highway
Blauvelt, New York 10913*

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





+ Holy Week Schedule +
Palm Sunday, March 24th to Easter Sunday, March 31st
Saint Catharine's Church
Blauvelt, New York

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY MASSES – MARCH 24

Masses are Saturday Evening at 5:00 PM, Sunday at 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM,
12:30 PM and 4:30 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 25 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Masses at 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM

LENTEN RECONCILIATION MONDAY – MARCH 25

Confessions from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

HOLY THURSDAY – MARCH 28

Mass of Convenience at 9:00 AM (*For those unable to attend the Evening Mass*)

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM

Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament

Decorated Repository (One Hour)

GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 29

Morning Prayer of the Church (*Tenebrae Service*) at 10:00 AM

Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, 3:00 PM

Reading of the Passion – Veneration of the Cross – Reception of Holy Communion

(During the Veneration of the Cross, we ask that no physical contact with the Cross take place; Parishioners are being asked to venerate with a bow or genuflection only.)

Stations of the Cross, 7:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY – MARCH 30

Morning Prayer of the Church (*Tenebrae Service*) at 10:00 AM

The Great Easter Vigil Mass, 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31

Easter Sunday Masses are at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:30 PM

(We do not have a 4:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SAVED BY GOD'S LOVE

Because the people broke the old covenant, God promised a new covenant, not in the blood of oxen and other animals, but in the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

This new covenant, foreseen from afar by Jeremiah and the prophets, was not to be engraved on stone, or written on paper, but carved on our hearts, so that we might know God intimately.

Not by keeping many laws are we to be saved, but by the love of God, living and real in our hearts through the sacrifice of Christ.

Our Eucharist is the pledge of that in dwelling of Christ, and of our response of praise and thanksgiving to God for the mercy, love, and kindness shown to us in forgiving our sins and cleansing our hearts of everything evil.

God issues this invitation to intimacy by offering us the chance to have our sufferings transformed into the perfect love of the Savior, who first loved us.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!*

LENT IS QUIET AND CHALLENGING.

The beauty of the Lenten season is that it presents an opportunity for each of us to return to the Lord with our whole hearts in small ways that transform us to Him.

Lent is about entering into the *quiet* so that we can listen to what it is that God is calling us to do. We are invited to quiet our minds in prayer; quiet our bodies in fasting; and quietly offer in almsgiving so as not to seek praise and admiration.

Lent is not about what is quick and easy, it is about what is *quiet and challenging*.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:31-34) *or* Ezekiel 37:12-14.

Psalm

Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) *or* Psalm 130.

Second Reading

Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:7-9) *or* Romans 8:8-11.

Gospel

If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) *or* John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45].

NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

Next weekend, we will provide palms to all of our parishioners to be held high in the opening moments of the liturgy, as we joyfully recall Jesus' entry into the holy city of Jerusalem.

Those who greeted Him on that day used what was both handy and traditional, since palms were carried to welcome in the joyful harvest feast of Succoth.

To this day, faithful Jews are directed to take a beautiful palm branch, green and straight as possible, called a *lulav*, and bind it with three myrtle branches fifteen inches long, and two longer willow branches. At the end of the temple service, everyone carries the *lulav*, circling the sanctuary in a dance called the *Hoshanot*, singing hymns of joy.

In other climates, Jews and Christians alike have had to make accommodations over the years.

In Italy, everyone will carry olive branches, often brought from their own garden. In England, forsythia branches are preferred, a relative of the olive, a sign of peace. Germans prefer pussywillows, and others will look for flowering Spring branches.

Whatever is used, and wherever in the world it is used, it should be the best way we have to express joy and welcome, and to remind us of the joy of Christ's victory even as we prepare to commemorate His Passion.

TASC PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER

NEXT WEEKEND, MARCH 23-24

Members of TASC (St. Catharine's Teen Association) will be selling Palm Crosses at all of our Masses next weekend. A suggested donation is \$1.

EASTER HAM, FOOD

& GIFT CARD COLLECTION

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND, MARCH 23-24

Please consider donating a ham and other food items to next weekend's Easter Ham & Food Drive. Whatever we collect will be given to families in need right here in our own Parish, the Neighborhood Food Pantry, and the Catholic Community Services Food Pantry.

We are also asking anyone who is able to please donate a gift card. It may be to a local supermarket, restaurant, or delivery service. Money donations are also welcome – they may be cash, check (made payable to *St. Catharine's Food Drive*), or Visa, Mastercard gift cards. You may place your gift cards in the collection basket at any of our weekend Masses.

Remember, it is the love and sacrifices made during a lifetime that determine the true meaning in our lives.

PARISH EASTER BASKETS

Please contact Msgr. McAree if you are aware of any local families who may be in need of one of our Parish Easter Baskets which will contain a ham and other food items. The baskets are made available through the goodness of our own parishioners and the Easter Ham and Food Drive Palm Sunday weekend.

Please send Msgr. McAree a note or phone him at 359-0542. All inquiries and gift distributions will remain strictly confidential.



SAINT PATRICK
PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND
FEAST DAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 17th

*May the Irish hills caress you.
 May her lakes and rivers bless you.
 May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
 May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.*

St. Patrick is one of the Church's most famous Saints. His story is one of deep personal faithfulness which led him to the edge of the known world where he evangelized the whole of Ireland.

Patrick used the shamrock (a clover plant with three small green leaves) to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The simple beauty of his explanation convinced everyone, and from that day the shamrock has been revered throughout Ireland.

In about thirty years, Patrick converted Ireland to Christianity, baptizing and confirming thousands. People who came into contact with Patrick had a deep impression that he cared for them and loved God intensely.

Patrick was a humble, pious, and gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us.



*When Irish stew is bubbling,
 and the soda bread is hot.
 And the Irish tea is steeping
 in a little Irish pot.*

*When the room is warm with laughter,
 and the songs are bright and bold.
 And there's poetry and magic
 in the stories that are told.*

*Isn't it a blessing?
 Isn't it just grand?
 To know the heart and soul of you
 belongs to Ireland.*



SAINT JOSEPH,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
TUESDAY, MARCH 19th

"With a husband's love he cherished Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; with fatherly care he watched over Jesus."
 (Preface of Saint Joseph, Sacramentary).

St. Joseph is honored this coming Tuesday as the faithful husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary and Joseph are the perfect model of a godly marriage. Their marriage was the faithful, loving relationship which God humbled Himself to be born into.

The marriage of Joseph and Mary exemplifies for us so beautifully what this Sacrament truly is – a union of love between three – husband, wife, and God.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

On Tuesday, March 19th, St. Joseph will be honored as the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This beloved Saint is also celebrated as the loving foster father of Jesus, the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, and of workers, fathers, and a happy death.

You may wish to use this as a daily prayer for the benefit of your spiritual life.

*"O our beloved Saint Joseph,
 adopt us as your children
 and take charge of our salvation.
 Watch over us day and night
 and preserve us from all occasions of sin.
 Obtain for us purity of body and soul,
 and the spirit of prayer,
 through your intercession with Jesus.
 Grant us a spirit of sacrifice,
 humility, and self-denial.
 Obtain for us a burning love for Jesus
 in the Most Blessed Sacrament,
 and a tender love for Mary, our Mother.
 Saint Joseph, be with us in life,
 be with us in death,
 and obtain for us a favorable judgement
 from Jesus, our merciful Savior."
 Amen.*

**+LENTEN RECONCILIATION MONDAY+
MONDAY, MARCH 25th, 4-7 PM**

Monday, March 25th has been designated by Cardinal Dolan as *Lenten Reconciliation Monday* throughout the Archdiocese of New York. From 4–7 PM, we will have a Parish Priest available in our Church for anyone who would like to stop by for confession.

The Lenten season gives us a wonderful opportunity to remind ourselves that the Sacrament of Penance is the best way to prepare for the Joy of the Resurrection of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a special part of your Lenten observance.

A PURE AND CLEAN HEART

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

Too often people see Lent as a time of gloom and darkness rather than an opportunity to draw closer to God.

Yes, it is a somber and penitential time, but we must celebrate it with a spirit of joy in anticipation of the Resurrection! And, how much more glorious will that day be if we are of a pure and clean heart!

What a gift the Church gives us in this Lenten season of prayer and reflection. What a gift God gives us in His mercy to forgive that for which we are truly sorry.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation provides a unique opportunity to experience the goodness and mercy of God, especially during the season of Lent.

Here at St. Catharine's, we have Confessions every Saturday from 4-4:45 PM. On Reconciliation Monday, March 25th, we will have Confessions from 4-7:00 PM.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to create in yourself a pure and clean heart!

CONFESSION IS A GIFT

*Rediscover Catholicism
by Matthew Kelly*

"If you want peace in your heart, I personally invite you to come to Confession. There is no treasure in life like a clear conscience.

If you approach this Sacrament with a sincere and humble heart, you will experience the flow of grace in your life.

Listen to the words of absolution: *'By the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'*

As the Priest speaks these words, the floodgates of grace are opened and your soul will be filled with a deep peace. You will experience an inexplicable lightness and an intoxicating sense of joy and liberation.

Confession is a gift!"

*The Tabernacle Candle will burn before the
Blessed Sacrament the week of March 17*

*In Loving Memory of
Louis Mazzucca*

*From
His Loving 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 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.

*Richard Hudson, Andrew Duggan, Jr., Hannah Duggan,
Rosemarie Higgins, Brian Duffy,
Farida Brillantes, Philip Benincasa, Sr.,
Sister Michaela Connolly, O.P.*

"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.*

PETITION OF THE WEEK

For our Parish Family, that the prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent may bring forth a new Springtime of faith in our lives ... Lord, hear our prayer.

**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.

**EVENTS AT
ALBERTUS MAGNUS HIGH SCHOOL
798 NY-304, BARDONIA, NY**

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.



**ROCK AND RODEO BASH
SPRING FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 7-11 PM**

Are you a little bit country? Or a little bit rock and roll? Join us for a fun evening with Live Music featuring Kickin' Nash, small plates, BYOB or cash bar. Raffles, 50/50, contests and more! Tickets \$65 until April 10th.

For registration and more information please go to www.albertusmagnus.net.

**MILITARY BRIDGE
AT OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART
IN TAPPAN
FRIDAY, APRIL 5th**

Basket Viewing 6:30 PM; Games start at 7 PM
\$10 entrance fee
BYOB & Snacks

Sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society

YOUR EASTER GIFT TO OUR PARISH

Your Easter contribution to St. Catharine's should be something which truly reflects your love of God and our Parish. Special Easter envelopes may be found on the Ushers tables in the lobby of the Church.

Thank you and may God bless you and your loved ones with a truly Blessed Easter.

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

At all of our Masses **this 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*.

Please join your fellow parishioners, prayerfully consider your contribution, and make your gift to the *Cardinal's Appeal*.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's Second Collection will help offset our Archdiocesan assessment for the Catholic School System in New York. Thank you for your continued support.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

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

MONDAY, MARCH 18

6:45 Joseph Dobbo

8:30 Tom and Maureen O'Connor

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

6:45 Giuseppe & Pia Rinaldi & Doreen Grillo

8:30 Judith Scandiffio – *Birthday Wishes*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

6:45 Philip John Azarcon

8:30 Joseph Spiotta

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

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

8:30 Dr. Thomas Joyce

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

6:45 Carlos Campusano – *Living*

8:30 Grace Dennerlein

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:30 Josephine Geenty

5:00 Pat Haughey

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – PALM SUNDAY

8:00 Sixta Lamartino

9:30 Charlotte & Daniel Ross & Philomena Grand

11:00 Thomas Quilter

12:30 John Long

4:30 Kayla Fitzpatrick