



**The Season of Lent**

**BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:**

Edward B. Scharfenberger

**BISHOP EMERITUS:** Howard Hubbard

**PASTOR:** Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Sue Hyde

**+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS**

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

**E-MAIL:** immconcept@roadrunner.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:**

HELD AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

**TRUSTEES:** Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

**FINANCE COUNCIL:**

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, Mike Sanders & Linda Billert

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster  
Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman,  
and the two Trustees

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Richard Cherry

**We Pray Lent**

OUR LITURGIES put into prayerful reflection and celebration this Season of Lent. Curly and pussy willow branches grace the gathering space as a sign of a new springtime; violets and purples reflect our yearning for conversion; the Cross in our sanctuary beckons us to follow. Our Mass is simpler and serene. Liturgy is really a conversation between God and his people. The Word is spoken and dwells among us. Our music and prayer inspires us, challenges us, reassures us, places before us the demands of discipleship, and caresses us with love as God speaks tenderly, yet boldly and we respond as we come to faith. We pay attention more devoutly; perhaps together we will listen and be converted again...reformed as God's Holy People. We begin quietly and call out as we have for centuries, confident in the mercy of God, with the ancient Greek, "Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison". Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

We tell of God's amazing, soaring heights of gracious healing offered to all. The Gospel is proclaimed without any Alleluias (what a contrast to Easter's exuberance). The ancient stories of encounters with Christ become our stories. As we gather around the Lord's Table, we ask God to free us from apathy, complacency, fear, evil, and stubbornness that we truly hear God's life changing summons to discipleship. Because of Jesus' love, we will never be the same. We proclaim how God loves us through the Cross into the Resurrection...through Jesus' death into new life. And so we give thanks and seek to become reconcilers in our world. We celebrate Communion with Christ and with one another. We remember that we belong to God and to each other; even in silence God speaks to us, calling us beyond any fear or doubt. Within our heart, God's Word speaks to us of home, freedom, and life. After this Holy Communion, we sing supportively as a bonded community. We go forth believing evermore that we are sent out in the name of God as a people on a conversion pilgrimage...acting with justice, loving tenderly, serving all people, and walking humbly with God and each other. We leave our worship in quiet reflection to live faithfully every day.



## First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

### Faith Formation News Mass is Class

As part of our Family based focus, these are **next week's** readings so you and your family can start thinking about those lessons in Mass.

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a  
2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Here is this week's YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

#### First Week of Lent

**We will be announcing prep classes for confirmation and first communion in the coming days.**

Each week, there will be activity pages at the back of the church for students.

**Our next Family workshop is March 15, 2020 following Sunday Mass from 10:15 am to 11:30 am. The whole family is invited. Our workshops will be held at our church hall at Immaculate Conception.**

### LITURGY SCHEDULE Masses are celebrated at First United Church

#### Saturday, February 29

4:00 PM Mass

Betty Peer

(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

Daniel Taber

(Req. James & Velma Brown)

#### Sunday, March 1

9:00 AM Mass

"Boley" Bennett

(Req. Joan James)

Patricia Herrington

(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

#### Monday, March 2

12:00 Noon Mass

For the people of  
the Orthodox Church  
(Orthodox Churches  
begin Lent today)

#### Wednesday, March 4

8:30 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

#### Friday, March 6

12:00 Noon Mass

Manuel Custodio

(Req. Isabel Custodio)

#### Saturday, March 7

4:00 PM Mass

For all our people

#### Sunday, March 8

9:00 AM Mass

Tom & Helen Restino

(Req. Joan James)

Daniel Taber

(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

Michael Foster

(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

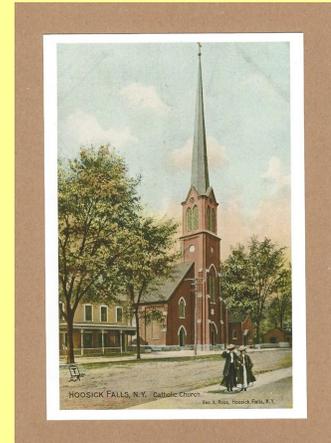
11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

### Singing Away the Winter Blues...great music, fine food and drink, uplifting joy



Thank you so much for the surprising birthday wishes and very overwhelming gift trip to the Shawangunks. It promises to be a wonderful adventure of cliff, hiking, cave exploring, canoeing, and eating. My sister Barbara is excited, too.  
- Fr. Tom Zelker

### SAVE THE DATE... BE THERE PLEASE! Parish Pizza and Meeting Sunday, March 29 Immaculate Conception Church Hall



2:00 pm - pizza and refreshments

2:30 pm - Presentation, discussion, and sharing ideas about our worship area in Immaculate Conception Church.

"How we pray is what we believe and how we are to be." Visual presentation and sharing ideas about our church worship area. Please come and join together as a community of disciples.

Worship Space Committee Members:  
Beth Ferraninni, Lynne Mango, Nancy Laurin, Linda Hutchins, John Andrew Hayden, Linda Billert, Louise Cuik, Fr. Tom Zelker, and John Riley (architect).

Interested in joining our faith community as a member of the Catholic Church? Know someone who is? The invitation is extended. See Fr. Tom Zelker.

### Music and Singers for Holy Week and Easter

We need you once again...practice soon begins...music is available at Mass or our office.

### Re-Igniting Our Faith

As of this weekend, we've raised \$489,341.00 from 225 donations and pledges. Your support is important. Thank all of you for your gifts. Contribution forms are available at our Church office.

#### THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

**Tuna fish, peanut butter, cold cereal, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.**



Please bring these items to our donation box in church. There is always a need for old bags to be reused.

**Food Pantry Volunteers...** We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.

#### ADAPT Basket Bingo

Thursday, March 5 ICC Church Hall  
Doors open at 5:30pm; \$10 admission

#### Free Tax Prep

Our Hoosick Area Church Association is now preparing taxes. Please call 686-9491 for an appointment.

#### Hoosick Falls Turkey Vulture Festival

When will the vultures return to roost? Put your name/phone on a ticket and place in the vulture's nest. Cost \$1.00. Drawing of the winning ticket will take place on the day the turkey vultures return to downtown Hoosick Falls. Prizes and prestige! Proceeds support tree planting on our property.



#### Prison Ministry Meeting

Sunday, March 15 immediately after Mass, the ICC Prison Ministry is holding a letter writing drive. You can write one or two letters to our inmates. We write to Steven and to Mike. Our goals in writing to them this Lent is to try and convey our thoughts about Lent, Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus' death frees us all from our tombs; our prisons.

You can also write your letter at home and bring it to Mass.

There are rules to writing to an inmate. 1) the letter can only be on plain paper (*no cards, drawings, envelopes, etc.*) 2) you must use blue or black pen and 3) do not sign your last name or put your address on the letter.

The Prison Ministry will put all the letters in our Immaculate Conception envelopes and mail. Our ultimate goal in writing to inmates is to get at Jesus' message of "I was in imprisoned and you visited me." Both of our inmates are not allowed in-person visits so letters do make them happy and feel like someone cares. How do we know? They both wrote us so!

Make this Lent a time to get out of your own box and wish happiness to another human in difficult circumstances.

#### Church Hall Use

- The Church facilities belong to all the people of Immaculate Conception Church. Please remember it exists for the good of the whole community. Respect the building and its purpose as a Church. No activities are to take place during Mass times when we celebrate Eucharist.
- No alcohol is to be consumed.
- Do not use parish goods (plates, cups, food, etc.)
- Decorations must not wreck/ruin/harm paint or wood. Any tape used must be removed and cannot pull paint off.
- The hall tables, floor, restrooms, and kitchen must be cleaned and put back as required.
- Please bring lawn & leaf garbage bags. All garbage is to be put in the dumpster behind the Church. Garbage bags are to be replaced.
- Turn off all lights and heat. Close all doors.
- Do not drive/park on the lawn or garden.
- Any event must be approved and scheduled before using the facilities.

#### Render Unto Caesar

If you need tax contribution information please call our office.

#### Stone Soup Group

During the cold winter months, we make soup for our neighbors at Woodbridge, Wood Park, and the people served at our Food Pantry. You can make any soup (except cream soups) at home and bring it to the rectory or the 3 places served. Containers are available at our office. Your home cooking makes a great difference for our whole community. Call our office for further information.

#### Comfort and Hope Group

Monday, March 2  
in the Good Shepherd Room  
Open Support Group at 7:00 PM  
Regular Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30

#### Immaculate Conception Financial Summary

	2019 Jul-Dec
Avg Weekly Mass Attendance	254
Collections	\$ 93,726
Holiday Collections	\$ 13,414
Buckley	\$ 40,713
Other Receipts	\$ 22,407
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 170,260</b>
Staff/Office Costs	\$ 87,817
Diocesan School Assess. *	\$ 6,444
Utilities	\$ 14,319
Insurance	\$ 19,101
Maintenance *	\$ 14,260
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 141,940</b>
<b>Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 28,320</b>
Renovation Fund	\$ 73,344
<b>Total Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 101,664</b>
Collections per person / week	\$ 14.19

\* Diocesan School Assessment required upon the closure of SMA.

\* Maintenance includes work done that was recommended by the Critical Review Team

## - LENT 2020 -

A journey of Conversation, Conversion, Prayer, and Service. We listen to the Holy Ones among us including, Casimir, Patrick, Mary of Nazareth, and Buddha.

#### St. Casimir Feast

Wednesday, March 4 - 6:00pm St. Joseph's Room

Patron Saint of Lithuania and Poland. We will dine on lots of Kapusta, Borst, Kielbasi as we celebrate an ancient heritage.

#### Wisdom and Learning from Our Neighbor's Faith

"Sister" Jun Yasuda "Peace Maker"

Spiritual Leader at the Grafton Peace Pagoda

Wednesday, March 11, 6pm at First United Church

Soup/sandwich meal; prayer; and discussion of how "to create a more happy way"; wisdom from the Buddhist tradition.

#### Hoosick Falls

St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Saturday, March 14

Our parish is marching in the parade again this year. We need parish banner holders, candy throwers, walkers, and someone to "be" St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Ireland. We'll meet at the rectory at 12:30 pm.

#### St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer of St. Patrick

6:00 pm - Corned Beef and rye bread accompanied by Hoosick Falls Central High School Jazz Band.

Please bring cookies or an Irish dessert to share.

#### Empty Bowls Dinner

At Unihog, Center St., Wednesday, March 18, 4pm-7pm  
Delicious soups; student crafted bowls; local music; supports the ministry of our Food Pantry. \$10 for 2 soups and 1 bowl.

#### How Baptized Am I?

Discussion led by Linda Hogan - Wednesday, March 25  
(Annunciation of the Lord) - 6pm in the St. Joseph Room  
Soup and sandwich dinner, dialogue, and prayer.

#### Communal Reconciliation Services

Tuesday, March 31 - 6pm at First United (ICC) Church  
Wednesday, April 1 - 6pm at St. Patrick's Church

#### Rice Bowls

Catholic Relief Services - We help alleviate hunger and poverty throughout the world.

**Little Black Books**  
Meditation on  
the Sunday Gospel

**The Word Among Us**  
"Come and Follow Me"  
daily Scripture  
and reflections

**Wednesday Noontime  
Prayer and Lunch**

12 Noon at the Hoosick Falls Baptist Church, we gather as a Christian family to pray and share.

# Lent



Lent is the season of endings becoming beginnings. It mirrors and prepares us to celebrate the mystery of the Cross, where the end of mortal life becomes the beginning of eternal life. The readings inspire us to take up again and more firmly the practice of making ends meet by saying “no” in order to be free to make new beginnings by saying “yes.” That is the essential dynamic of balanced Lenten asceticism.

The Lectionary (the Readings for Mass) is built in counterpoint. On the one hand, the Sunday readings unfold facets of the Paschal Mystery we prepare to celebrate and embrace. Between sin and redemption lies a long history of temptation, epitomized here in the confrontation between Jesus and the Tempter. Our redemption costs the sacrifice of the beloved Son in whom burns the Fire of God. Among the conflicting voices of good and evil, we are charged to listen to this chosen Messiah and follow him through law and Cross into the glory of God. Exile to the land of sin and death calls out for deliverance given through the Cross. The Gospels reveal Jesus in dialogue with many people. Jesus challenges preconceived notions of religion, God, power, and belonging. Jesus refreshes us with real love and honest faith. Liberation through the new covenant made in Christ’s blood forges a new people of God, fed and strengthened by the Eucharist (the risen Christ) and thus made responsible to turn and feed the world. The resurrection that awaits, reaching back from Easter future, seizes us and transforms us into disciples and servants in service of all those God loves. Palm Sunday returns to what lies between now and then: the journey of Jesus from acclaim to desolation through suffering and death. There Christ’s ultimate “no” to the voices of evil, clamoring at him through human weakness (the unfaithful disciples) and cruelty (the judges, torturers, and executioners) become the ultimate “yes” to love too deep and far-reaching for us to understand. What appears to be the final end becomes in fact the greatest of beginnings.

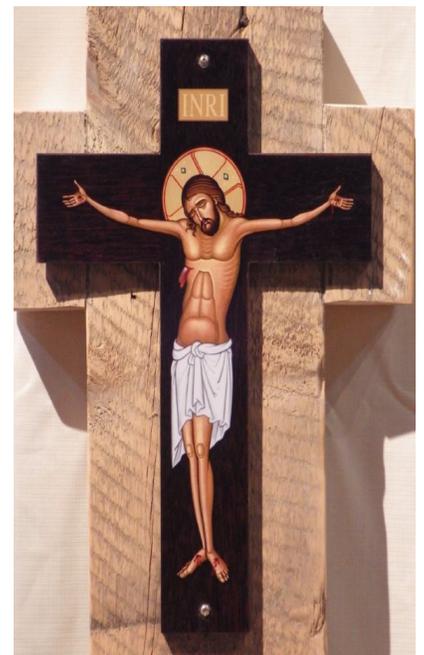
In counterpoint to the Sunday readings, the weekday selections entwine our own everyday story with the sweeping story of Christ. Where the Sunday readings provide the model and the “why,” the weekday readings supply the basic “how” and “what.” The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are given flesh, and a very enriched flesh at that, through Old and New Testament stories and exhortations. Fasting extends from food to material goods. Physical fasting strengthens us to abstain from more difficult “noes”: ceasing to treat others in ways that fail to reflect the holiness of God, in whose image we were made to live in love. Further, it requires us to refuse bias and prejudice, narrow expectations and judgements, all that confines us in a world too small for God’s ways. This recurring theme is punctuated with reminders of our covenant identity of God’s startling mercies, and of the hope that lies before us. Jesus’ renunciation of life on the Cross is the greatest icon of human fasting.

However, “no” without “yes” is barren. Through abstaining from ways of eating, accumulation, thinking, and doing, we are drawn forward into ways of feeding others, giving to others, making judgments, and acting on the love we see in God’s covenant law, old and new, and in the life and death of Jesus. Here we are urged to take up the works of justice and mercy which are the larger definition of almsgiving. Perhaps the most challenging of mercy’s works is the forgiveness of us. Our underlying “yes” is “yes” to living in God’s image in all our relationships with family, friends, and strangers alike.

The illusion that self is source and center is the root of all sin. We are reminded on the contrary that neither “yes” nor “no” is possible without prayer, lest our motives and goals dwindle into petty pride and selfishness. Besides specific instructions regarding prayer, the reading offer models, including the Our Father and numerous prayers for forgiveness.

Through all these themes are woven repeated references to the imagery of the great Easter sacraments of life for which we prepare: fire and light, water, bread, and oil, as well as the essentials of word and community. Readied by God, we become prepared to live as People of the Creed, givers of life for the whole world.

Crafted from the foundation beams of our Church, we continue to build up the reign of God with living stones. Jesus Christ is our true cornerstone.



**This Week: February 29 & March 1**

Lectors: Team 2  
Counters: Mike Shea, Gina Harrison & Andrea White  
Next Week: Heather Hassett & Eileen Bakaitis

**(You are responsible to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.)**

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE**

**February 22 & February 23**

Offertory ..... \$3,211.00  
Fuel ..... \$998.00  
Total ..... \$4,209.00

**Attendance:**

Saturday - February 22, 4:00 PM ..... 112  
Sunday - February 23, 9:00AM ..... 186  
Total ..... 298

**This week's second collection is for Faith Formation and Black, Native American & Latin American Missions (Feb. 29 & Mar. 1). The next second collection is for Catholic Relief Services (Mar. 21 & Mar. 22).**

*\* In order for your contribution to be counted, please be sure to include your full name and/or envelope # if using a plain envelope.*



- ◆ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office, 686-5064.**

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.

**WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Ronda Sharpe, Matt Waykus, Veronica Hoag, Keith Buck, Bill Ellis, Dave Hanselman, Felicia Martelle, Pat Carnard, Cheryl McLaughlin, Hanna Stevens, Jean Shaw, Lenny Darosa, Neil Watykus, Corrine Philpott, Jeff Babson, Shirley Bissonette, Cassandra Percy, Chris Haynes, Janet Smith, Sandy McCart, Jack Ellis, Dawn Myers, Hope Kjelgaard, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Lorraine Kalinowski, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Sally Blinstrub, Judy Quackenbush, Jane Davis, Sally Williams, Deanna Aldrich, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.

**THANKS...from a parishioner.**

**Our Sponsor of the Week is...**

**Mahar Funeral Home**

**Family Owned Since 1926**

**Pre-Planning, Cremations Services, Monuments**

**686-5123**

**Timothy J. Smith ◆ George E. Smith**