

Since 1848 The Parish Family of

*The Church of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Welcomes You*



*As we pray for you, we ask for your prayers.*

*Mass  
Schedule*

**Saturday**

8:00 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.

**Sunday**

7:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
(Sept.-May)

**Weekdays**

7:00 a.m.  
12:05 p.m.

**Holy Days**

5:30 p.m. Vigil  
(Day Before)  
7:00 a.m. &  
12:05, 7:30 p.m.

**National Holidays**

9:00 a.m.



# Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

91 Maple Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

973-539-2141, Fax-973-984-0632

Visit our Website: [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org)

Email: [assumption@assumptionparish.org](mailto:assumption@assumptionparish.org)

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. John E. Hart  
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Przemyslaw Nowak  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher  
In Residence: Rev. Dennis J. Crowley  
In Residence: Rev. Samuel Monaco  
In Residence: Rev. Msgr. Geno Sylva

Deacons: Brian Beyerl, John Brandi, Michael Hanly, Elliott Stein

Trustees: Dan Poling 973-451-1617, Kathleen Hyland 973-539-2860

Parish Coordinator—Linda Macios Secretary—Liz Rotunno Comptroller—Robyn Morris

Parish Office Hours Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Friday 8:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**Parish Registration:** Call 973-539-2141 or visit the parish website at [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org).

**Assumption School:** 973-538-0590; [www.assumptionnj.org](http://www.assumptionnj.org)  
Sr. Merris Larkin, S.C. Principal

**Religious Education:** 973-267-5638, Fax 973-267-4223

Email: [RelEd@assumptionparish.org](mailto:RelEd@assumptionparish.org)

Linda Macios: Director

Sharon Bertram: Coordinator Grades 6, 7, and 8

Lisa Sullivan: Confirmation—973-267-8519

Tara Speer: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sue Paradise: Secretary

**The Religious Education** program meets on Sundays, October-March. Kindergarten through 5th grade classes meet 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 6th through 8th classes meet immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Youth Mass. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes meet September-April on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Confirmation groups meet once or twice per month on Sunday evenings.

**Music Ministry**—973-539-2141, extension 19

Claudia Nardi: Director, Karen Chiappini: Organist

Adult Choir, Youth Ministry Choir, Children's Choir

**Holy Rood Cemetery**—973-539-7501

Website: [www.holyroodcemeterynj.com](http://www.holyroodcemeterynj.com)

Diana Loughman: Cemetery Director

Emerson Brito: Caretaker

Samuel Brito: Caretaker

**Church Sexton**—Doug Reisch

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday—4:15 to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made with a priest or deacon by registered parishioners **at least one year in advance** of the marriage date. Marriage arrangements should be made PRIOR to reserving reception facility.

**Baptisms:** Contact Liz Rotunno in the Parish Office to arrange your child's Baptism. For first-time parents, attendance at a Baptismal Preparation class is required. Prep classes are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

**Visitation of the Sick and Elderly:** Please keep us informed so that we may be attentive to those who are ill at home or in the hospital. Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion on Sundays.



## Ministries

Africa Surgery	Tom Johnson	973-292-3320
Altar Linens	Mike Cherello	973-267-6825
Altar Servers	Fr. John Hart	973-539-2141
Bereavement	Michele Cameron	973-769-9634
Bethany	Linda Macios	973-539-2141
Boy Scouts	Dave Lage	201-919-7259
Cub Scouts	John Lago	609-213-1790
Centering Prayer	Fr. Ken Lasch	973-538-2653
Children's Worship	Linda Cannilla	973-540-1683
CYO Basketball	Kevin Bopp	917-861-2876
Deaf Interpreter	Kathleen Skaf	862-432-6004
Divorced Catholics	Deacon Elliott Stein	973-539-2141
Endowment for Poor	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Eucharistic Min.	Hope Zenker	973-401-1010
Family Promise	Mary Dougherty	973-538-9003
Finance Committee	Dorothy Flynn	973-538-2634
Food Pantry	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Gardening	Lynn Tecza	973-539-2141
Giving Tree	Brian Morgan	973-462-6972
Good Samaritan	Pat Moore	973-539-2141
Home School Assoc.	Debbie DeAngelis	973-889-8520
Holistic Health	Michele Cameron	973-769-9634
Homeless Solutions	Ralph Ferrara	973-769-6418
JustFaith	Kerry Mowry	973-683-1220
Knights of Columbus	William C. Duggan, Jr.	973-960-6417
Lectors	Andrea Bozzi	973-656-9864
Moms and Tots	Henriette Kahn	973-539-1350
Nursing Homes	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
Pre-Cana	Ken and Rosa Rose	973-539-9845
RCIA	Fr. John Hart	973-539-2141
Respect Life	Anne Marie and Leonard Crann	973-539-4650
Senior Citizens	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
Soup Kitchen	Janet Dedrick	973-539-7811
Spiritual Direction	Annaliese Rush	973-455-0391
Ushers	Karen Florence	973-476-5542
Welcome /Hospitality	Anthony Romano	973-267-5433
Women's Cornerstone	Moir Clarkin	973-539-4390
Women's Faith Sharing	Louise Johnson	973-975-6651
Vocations	Gina Hurley	973-460-7241
Young Professionals	Deacon John Brandi	973-539-2141
Youth Ministry	Fr. Przemek	973-539-2141
	Lisa Sullivan	973-267-8519

## Mass Intentions



<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>February 11</b>
8:00 a.m.	Michael Sottile
5:30 p.m.	Valerie Roast O'Connor Albert Garcia, Jr.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>February 12</b>
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Lillian and William Marshall Irene Phelan
10:00 a.m.	Josephine Taylor Elise DeAngelis
12:15 p.m.	Susan Allanson Phyllis Schlafly
5:30 p.m.	The Schlegel Family Francis X. Rice
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>February 13</b>
7:00 a.m.	Theresa Di Paolo
12:05 p.m.	Kevin Caracciola
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>February 14</b>
7:00 a.m.	Angela Brandi
12:05 p.m.	Margaret Goger
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>February 15</b>
7:00 a.m.	Ann Prevosto
12:05 p.m.	Sheila Teschemacher
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>February 16</b>
7:00 a.m.	Theresa Di Paolo
12:05 p.m.	Patrick McCormack
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>February 17</b>
7:00 a.m.	Charles Seergy
12:05 p.m.	Nancy Garcia
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>February 18</b>
8:00 a.m.	Joseph Baron
5:30 p.m.	Mrs. Anne Brooks The Botsakos Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>February 19</b>
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Timothy Bartling Irene Phelan
10:00 a.m.	Mercedes Quevedo Cassidy Paula Stover
12:15 p.m.	Audrey and Robert Roast Remedios Pama
5:30 p.m.	Reynold Nunn Leonard Pergentile (2nd Anniversary)

### GATHER IN PRAYER

- Pray the Rosary weekdays 20 minutes before the 12:05 p.m. Mass.
- Pray the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.
- Eucharistic Adoration the first Saturday of each month 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
- Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.

### First Reading: *Sirach 15:15-20*

The book of Sirach is a collection of wise sayings and proverbs about virtuous living. In this portion, the sage declares to his fellow Jews that if they choose to observe the torah, they will be following God's will.

### Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

Continuing his discussion about true wisdom, the Apostle Paul observes that the Christian message of a crucified Lord appears foolish to those attracted by power and fame.

### Gospel: *Matthew 5:17-37*

Today's reading from Matthews's Gospel continues to present the Sermon on the Mount. As Moses taught the Torah on Mount Sinai, so, too, Jesus teaches an intensified Torah upon a mountain. In this passage, Jesus does not negate the Torah; he intensifies it in its own direction.

“What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has  
conceived”—  
the things God has prepared  
for those who love him—



**We invite you to prayerfully reflect  
on the Readings for the week of February 12**

Monday	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday	Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



**PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY  
FOR THE RECOVERY OF:**



Charles Arnolt, Charles Arteglier, Greg, John, and Tom Baxter, Paula Rose Carducci, Jim and Kay Cavanaugh, Kenneth Eastman, Frank Geraghty, John Geraghty, John Hyland, Patricia Ioannou, Kenneth Krause, Susan Krauss, Ruth Necco, Barbara O'Hagan, Mary Reisch, Eileen Scheibner, Rosalie Sottile, Nancy Arteglier, Marva Jean Corbin, Willette Greer, Liam Hanly, Margie Herman, Jim Mongey, Payton O'Brien, Lourdes Flores, Gerry Fraioli, David Kimmel, Kieran Kole, Sister Marie Graziano, William Moeller, Andrea C. Wright, Elaine Metzger, Rich Oelkers, Terri Abrams, Patricia McBride, Elizabeth Langenohl, Sharyn Zaslofsky, Florence Bryan, Grace Eagan, Baby Benjamin LeFebvre, Marion O'Leary, Miriam Tamburello, Stephanie Trincanella, Kathryn and Alvaro Vargas, Sr., Janet Drasco, Gloria Dabal, Lisa Mezik, Angela Wills, Nilan Family, Melissa Lebron, Lois Kenney, Kathy Vander Heijden, Ray Reid, John Allen, Jose Rafael Jimenez, Essie Cannon, Henry Baker, Mary Quinn, Judith Koziattek, Aidan Keatts, Marlena Fahmy, Noelle Albanito, Stan Gorski, Jack Guerriero. Olivia Crenshaw, Colin Wisniewski, Lauretta LaSalla, Gladys Deese, Daniel Fox, Therese Paragano, Lois Kuchera, George Corbin, Helen Lesniakowski, Justin Lee, Julie Winne, Alan Russo, Michael Faul, Jeanette Mahoney, Gerry Hogan, Dale Salomone, Bob Nace, Barbara Ryan, Shea Lucasko, the Family of Andrea Deiluiis, Robert Spitzer, Wioletta Piorkowska, Hedda Sivertsson, James Guy, Kason Foley, Maria Maister, Nora Naval, Tim Byrne, Sheryll Stripp, Brian Tilton, Deacon Ken Weaver, Jerry Lee Liston, Joseph Fiori, Francesca Kobylarz-Bongiorno.

Please call the Parish Office at 973-539-2141 with the names of who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

**FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION  
CONTINUES MARCH 4, 2017**

With this devotion, Our Lady makes an amazing promise: that She will assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, those who perform these Communions of Reparation on the First Saturdays of five consecutive months. The requirements to obtain this promise are:

- Confession
- Communion
- Five Decades of the Rosary
- Over the duration of the five months, to meditate on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, taking at least fifteen minutes each First Saturday.
- To do all these things in the spirit of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Join Fr. Przemek on the Five First Saturdays of 2017 at 8:00 a.m. for Holy Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY AND THEIR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE  
SERVED, OR ARE SERVING, IN THE ARMED FORCES**

*CW3 Michael Benkosky* Green Beret, Special Forces, Airborne Joint Forces; *Commander William H. Shipp*, Military Professor, Naval War College, Newport, RI; *Andrew Vasquez* US Army; *Andy Soucy* US Army; *Dan Lessnau* Former Marine and Veteran of the Viet Nam War; *Kevin Felix* US Military Colonel; *Lt. Tim Fleury*, US Navy; *Staff Sergeant William J. McSweeney* Retired Marine Served Around the World; *Matthew Gonabe*, Lt. US Navy Pilot Serving in the Persian Gulf; *David Ribardo*, 1st Lt. US Army Serving in Afghanistan; *Capt. Brendan Griswold* 82nd Air Borne in Afghanistan; *Capt. Patrick Flynn*, US Army 1st Infantry, Afghanistan; *Sergeant Richard Galluzzo* Serving in Afghanistan, *Lt. Thomas Keyes Jr.*; *Bryan Chojnacki*, US Army, grandson of Annabel Wannemacher; *Cpts. Scott and Meghan Harra*, US Army in Afghanistan; *Captain Timothy Newcomb*, US Army Special Forces; *Col. Jason M. Barrett*, USMC in Iraq and Afghanistan; *Capt. James Cassidy*, USMC in Afghanistan; *Ensign Devon Cassidy*, Navy Nurse in California; *2nd Lt. Andrew Pineda* and *Capt. Laurence Pineda*, US Air Force, *SMSgt. John Bartow*, Stratton ANGB NY, *Douglas Reisch*, 1/325 Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, *Daniel Baron*, US Navy, Hawaii, *1LT Schuyler Orecchio*, 10th Mountain Division, Afghanistan, *Captain James Cassidy*, USMC in Washinton, DC, *1st Lt. Devon Cassidy*, Navy Nurse in San Diego, CA, *Special Operator 2nd Class Patrick Gaven*, USN, *Staff Sargent Brent M. Betit*, ARNG, *First Sgt. Jeramiah Dempsey*, USAF.

**GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY**

Need help? Our ministry can assist parishioners with shopping, banking, doctor and dentist appointments, and other errands. Contact our coordinator for February Jeanette Fredericks at (973) 216-2231.





## JESUS TEACHES US TO TEACH

*"... whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5: 17-37)*

Jesus is our Teacher. Here is a reflection I hope you will enjoy.

A college professor and Jesuit theologian remembers Sister Thaddeus, his fourth grade teacher at his parochial school in suburban Philadelphia in the early 1960s:

"My friend Vince had the worst handwriting in the class. Rather than upbraiding him, as other teachers had done, Sister Thaddeus would cheerfully tutor him during recess. 'It's getting better, you know. Keep up the good fight.' This was no minor issue. [In] Catholic grammar school, penmanship enjoyed quasi-sacramental status.

"The poorest pupil in class was Charlotte. The school's class structure was simple: the split-levelers, the row-houses and the people from 'the project,' where Charlotte lived. She also stuttered badly. In Sister Thaddeus's class, one of the girls would call out a pupil's name from a stack of cards as we plowed through the daily oral drills. After several weeks, however, I noticed that Charlotte was the one pupil whose name was never called. Only years later did I surmise that Sister Thaddeus had pulled her card to avoid any humiliation.

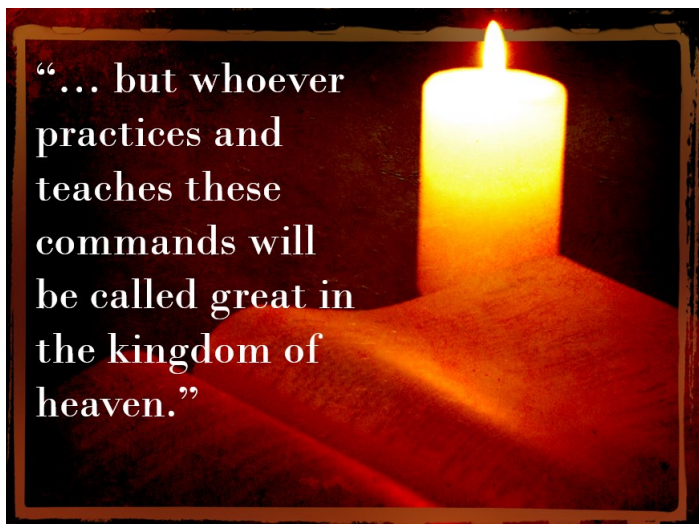
"Our parish was an endless round of social celebrations: the May procession, the carnival, the St. Patrick's dance, the St. Joseph table, bingo, the concert by the Mummers string band. Sister Thaddeus would circulate among the families with a warm greeting for each person. When our family showed up at the festivals, we often brought our sister Nancy, who had Down syndrome. Sister Thaddeus would always go out of her way to give a small gift to Nancy. We quickly acquired 'the Sister Thaddeus collection': a St. Bernadette medal, holy cards of Our Lady, a plastic rosary bracelet.

"After decades of teaching, it dawned on me that Sister Thaddeus had long ago made her own preferential option for the poor. Whereas many teachers play for the stars, Sister Thaddeus cared for the vulnerable. Her pedagogical compass was compassion. The Gospel made her tick." [From "Philosopher's Notebook: Teachers Who Teach" by Rev. John J. Conley, S.J., **America**, December 19-26, 2016.]

We hear today's Gospel about "teaching these commandments" and we instinctively think of formal instruction by professional teachers and pastors. But Sister Thaddeus and teachers like her understand that the most important lessons they teach the students entrusted to their care are compassion, justice and

integrity. In the example of Sister Thaddeus' selfless kindness and patient understanding, her students realized the kingdom of God in their young lives - and its continued reality as they became adults. By our commitment to what is right, by our compassion and caring for others, by our sense of awareness and gratitude for all that God has done for us, we do the great work of passing on the Gospel of reconciliation and justice as did Jesus in his own work as healer, teacher and friend. (Connections)

In Christ's Peace,  
Father John



**CHOOSE WISELY**

Matthew helps us to understand that Jesus does not make new laws. Rather, he brings us to a new vision based on love for God and others. This radical shift in the freedom to choose out of love is only possible through the infinite capacity of God's grace and our potential for wisdom.

*Adults:* How does Jesus' new law of love move me to a deeper understanding of the commandments?

*Children:* How will I act out of love for God and others this week?

*A Family Perspective:* Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: *God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.* Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family.

**SAVE THE DATE:****VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017!**

Get geared up and mark your calendars for VBS Summer 2017. The Maker Fun Factory will remind us we are each created by God and built for a purpose! We are currently looking for Adult volunteers. Any questions, please contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646 or [costa1112@yahoo.com](mailto:costa1112@yahoo.com) or Sarah Neuhoff at 202-210-9152 or [sarah.k.neuhoff@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.k.neuhoff@gmail.com). Camp Dates are August 7th-11th, from 9-11:30 a.m. Camper and Teen registration will open April 23rd.

Campers must be in grade preK4 - 3rd grade (fall '17), and Teen volunteers in grade 6 (fall '17) and older.

**BLOOD DRIVE ON FEBRUARY 15**

Blood Drive at the Saint Francis Residential Community, 122 Diamond Spring Road, Denville, NJ; Wednesday, February 15, 2017; from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM; sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club of Denville, the Denville Rotary Club, and New Jersey Blood Services

**WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING GROUP  
MEETS FEBRUARY 12**

The Assumption Women's Faith Sharing Group will meet on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. on the Campus of Villa Walsh. Please join us as we deepen our faith together. Faith Sharing is open to all women and please bring a friend! Any questions or directions, please contact Gina Hurley at [973 460 7241](tel:9734607241).

**RESIDENTS OF STRAIGHT AND NARROW  
WILL SPEAK TO OUR YOUTH TONIGHT**

On Sunday, February 12th, residents of *Straight and Narrow*, a Catholic Charities agency that develops and delivers education and treatment services to clients with addictive disorders, will join us for 5:30 p.m. Mass. The S & N Gospel band and choir will be providing the music.

Following Mass, these residents, along with representatives from Drug Free NJ, Daytop in Mendham, and others, will speak to all 6th-10th graders in our parish and their parents about this epidemic.

Thinking it can't happen to you? Truth is, we are all affected by the disease of addiction, in one way or another. Our families, our schools, our churches, our health care system, our emergency management system are all affected.

This presentation is open and appropriate to all in our community ages 12 and up.

**PIZZA NIGHT WITH THE BISHOP**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Pope John XXIII H. S., Sparta 7- 9 P.M. If you are a young man in high school or college, or even older, come join Bishop Serratelli and priests from the Diocese of Paterson for adoration, reflection, fellowship...and of course, pizza. For more information, please contact the Vocation Office at 973-777-8818, ext 711.

**SPEAKING OF FAITH**

Join Fr. Paul Manning Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at St. Paul Inside the Walls, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. as he interviews Christopher Bell. Mr. Bell is the founder of Good Counsel which is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader and innovator in creating supportive residential care and community-based services for homeless, expectant, and new mothers and their children in the context of the Catholic social tradition. Pregnant and expectant mothers, with or without other born children, including mothers with mental health or addiction challenges, from any location, are able to receive help in a Good Counsel home.

**FAITH DIRECT E-GIVING PROGRAM**

Your financial support is vital to Assumption's mission. Giving electronically allows you to contribute without interruption due to bad weather, as can happen in the winter months. Faith Direct is secure and convenient, and will provide you with an offertory card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). Our parish code is NJ294. You can also pick up an enrollment form at the parish office. Your generosity means a great deal to our parish family. Please consider using Faith Direct today.



**ASSUMPTION SENIOR GROUP**

Our next meeting will be held on February 28 in Rauscher Hall. We will be collecting our annual dues at this meeting, \$15 per member to cover the expense of speakers and entertainment for our programs. The program for our next meeting will be a presentation on Tanzania given by Johanna Burani. We are looking forward to seeing all of you on the 28th.

**ASSUMPTION SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Assumption School is happy to welcome new students at any time when space is available. Pre-registration forms for the 2017-2018 school year are available at [www.assumptionnj.org](http://www.assumptionnj.org) under "forms".

Call the school at 973-538-0590, or stop by the school office for further information. If you would like to visit the school, please call to set-up an appointment.

**ASSUMPTION COLLEGE FOR SISTERS' 16TH ANNUAL CARING BASKET GALA!**

**Save the Date - March 23, 2017.** Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, NJ, is proud to honor Father Brian Plate, Eileen and Les Quick and Terry and Prudence Pigott for their service to Church, family and community.

**JV BASEBALL COACH NEEDED**

Morris Catholic High School is seeking a motivated, dedicated individual to coach the Junior Varsity baseball team this coming spring starting March 3. Interested and qualified candidates should contact Bill Schilling, MC Athletic Director, at [wschilling@morris catholic.org](mailto:wschilling@morris catholic.org). Please provide a professional resume outlining prior coaching and baseball experiences as soon as possible.

**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED AT VILLA WALSH**

Villa Walsh Academy, located in Morristown, NJ, is looking for part-time school bus drivers. Interested candidates must possess a CDL with both the passenger (P) and school bus (S) endorsements. Most trips are late afternoon/early evening. There are also some weekend trips available. Please contact Jen Fleury, Athletic Director, at [fleuryj@villawalsh.org](mailto:fleuryj@villawalsh.org) or call [973-538-3680](tel:973-538-3680) x145.

**MASS ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 4/5**

5:30 p.m.	249
7:00 a.m.	107
8:30 a.m.	258
10:00 a.m.	360
12:15 p.m.	460
5:30 p.m.	
Total:	1,434

**FINANCIAL BLESSINGS****Assumption is a Tithing Parish**

The collection total for the weekend of February 4/5 was \$26,494. The collection total for this weekend last year was \$21,144.

**Pastor's Note:** Thank you so much for your sacrificial giving to Assumption in our weekly offertory. Your unstinting generosity and your enthusiastic participation the life of our vibrant Parish enable us to accomplish the work the Lord has entrusted to us. Together we are building God's reign of justice, love and peace.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

In February, parishes throughout our Diocese take up a special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. I hope you are able to participate in this worthy cause.

Through your generosity, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe Collection funds important projects in 28 countries. These projects include seminarian education, youth ministry, social service programs and church construction and renovation.

In Armenia, a grant was provided to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for a summer camp for 850 children who are orphans, live in extreme poverty or reside in poor isolated villages. In Romania, funds were used to help in the building of a Cathedral that not only serves as a house of prayer but also hosts activities for children and youth. In Montenegro, where societal views portray the elderly as a burden, a grant was provided to create educational materials in support of the dignity and rights of seniors. In addition, 100 people were also given training to advocate for the rights of this marginalized group.

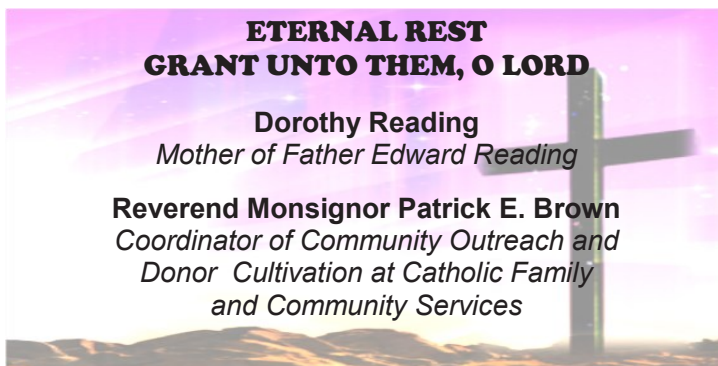
These are just three examples of the good and holy work being done with the help of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. With your support, great strides are being made to bring the faith to generations lost under Communist rule. I ask you to please be as generous as possible when this collection is taken up in your parish.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli  
Bishop of Paterson

**ETERNAL REST  
GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD**

**Dorothy Reading**  
*Mother of Father Edward Reading*

**Reverend Monsignor Patrick E. Brown**  
*Coordinator of Community Outreach and  
Donor Cultivation at Catholic Family  
and Community Services*



### 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MURRAY HOUSE DINNER DANCE DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The 47th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance will be held at the Brownstone in Paterson on **Sunday, February 19th at 6:00 p.m.** This is the longest existing Annual Diocesan Event that supports Catholic Charities. Joe Duffy, retired Catholic Charities President, will be honored at this event as the Person of the Year, for his nearly 50 years of service. Tickets cost \$80 and are available at [www.dpd.org/murray](http://www.dpd.org/murray) or by calling Chris Brancato at 973-406-1104.

### BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER WITH VNA

Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey hospice volunteers provide terminally ill patients and their families with practical and emotional support. VNA offers a free comprehensive training program where volunteers learn the philosophy of hospice and become prepared for this rewarding work. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license and auto insurance, and pass a criminal background screening.

For more information, please contact Rachel Enderle, Volunteer Coordinator at [renderle@vnannj.org](mailto:renderle@vnannj.org) or call 973-451-4128.

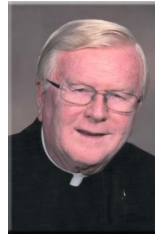
### MORRIS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CONDOMINIUMS IN MORRISTOWN

Applications are now being accepted for 2 lower income condominiums to be built on Willow Street, in Morristown, New Jersey. Once completed, the homes will be sold as affordable homeownership to the selected applicants. Applicants should check online at [www.morrishabitat.org/homeownership/apply-for-home-ownership](http://www.morrishabitat.org/homeownership/apply-for-home-ownership) for details on qualifications.

### CALLING ALL MORRIS PLAINS BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PLAYERS!

Registration is now open. Players between ages 4 and 12 years old are welcome. We're looking forward to a great season and we need you to make it happen! Sign up today! [www.mpbbaseball.assn.la](http://www.mpbbaseball.assn.la)

### REV. MSGR. PATRICK E. BROWN



The Reverend Monsignor Patrick E. Brown, the Coordinator of Community Outreach and Donor Cultivation at Catholic Family and Community Services, Paterson, died in the Lord on Sunday, February 5, 2017. Monsignor Brown, ordained a priest in 1978, faithfully served in priestly ministry for over thirty-eight and

half years.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 18th, 1978 by Bishop Rodimer in the Assumption Church, Morristown. That same year he received his Masters of Theology from the Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University.

He was named a Monsignor by Pope John Paul, II on May 29, 1998. On June 20, 2001, His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan inducted him into the Knights of Malta. Later that year, he was inducted into the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher. He served for four years at Our Lady of the Lake, Sparta and for ten years at Christ the King, New Vernon, and Saint Vincent DePaul Church, Stirling where he served as Pastor for eighteen years, before moving to Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wayne. In January of 2000, Bishop Rodimer appointed him Dean of Southeastern Morris County. In October of 2000, Bishop Rodimer appointed him Chaplain of the Morris County Chapter of Legatus.

Monsignor Brown was active in the community as Chaplain of the Morris County Jail, Chaplain of the Long Hill Township Police Department; the Morris County Sheriff's Department, and the Morris County Police and Fire Academy.

He was recognized and honored by many organizations inside and outside the Church, receiving the Ubi Caritas Award from the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, the President's Award from the Diocesan Federation of Home School Associations, the Archbishop Walsh Award from Seton Hall University, the St. Ignatius Loyola Medal for Community Service from the Jesuit Community, the Civilian Award from the Morris County Sheriff's Office, among many others.

Please keep Father Patrick, his sisters, his brother and all their family, the parishioners of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Wayne, the staff of Catholic Family and Community Services, the Priests of Paterson and his many friends in your prayers, especially at the Eucharist.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations to the [Catholic Family & Community Services, 24 DeGrasse Street, Paterson, NJ 07505](http://www.catholicfamilyandcommunityservices.org) would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation online please click on the blue text above. If you are donating online in the area where it asks where to send acknowledgement of your donation please type "The family of Rev. Msgr. Patrick E. Brown" and your donation will be properly acknowledged to the family.





Assumption Religious Education

# Pasta Supper and Basket Raffle

Join us on **Saturday, March 18** for good food and great company at our annual Pasta Supper and Basket Raffle. Enjoy pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, beverages and dessert, and take a chance or two on our incredible basket raffle. All proceeds from the evening benefit our Religious Education program.



**Saturday, March 18 at Assumption School**  
**5 p.m. or 7 p.m. Seatings**

**Ticket Prices**

Children 12 and under	\$ 5.00
Seniors	\$ 8.00
Adults	\$10.00

*Take out orders available between  
5:30 and 6:30 p.m. only.*

Tickets available online at [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org)  
Or fill out a reservation form found at the doors of the church.

Assumption Young Professional Presents

# CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS HUMAN DIGNITY

**Presented by Deacon John Brandi**

**Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**Rauscher Hall**

**RSVP by Feb. 23**

[pnowak@assumptionparish.org](mailto:pnowak@assumptionparish.org)

**Pizza provided**



## Women's Cornerstone Experience

# Take His Hand Walk With Joy

March 3 - 4 2017

The Cornerstone Retreat is a spiritual renewal process that brings women together to strengthen and rediscover faith and relationships. Overnight accommodations and meals will be provided at Quellen Spiritual Center in Mendham. Registration brochures can be found at the doors of the church, or contact Louise Johnson at [17johnson@gmail.com](mailto:17johnson@gmail.com).

Visit [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org) for information.



## Travel to the Shrines of Portugal and Spain with Monsignor John Hart



Join Monsignor John E. Hart of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Morristown, on a pilgrimage to the **Shrines of Portugal and Spain**, including Fatima for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Blessed Mother. This ten day trip departs from Newark on September 24, 2017, and returns October 3, 2017. The cost of the trip is \$2,799.00 and includes;

- Round trip transportation to Newark Airport from Assumption Church
- Round trip direct flights from Newark to Lisbon, and Madrid to Newark.
- 8 Nights in first class accommodations, and much more!

**\$100 Discount Per Person If You Register Before April 1**

For more information, visit the parish website at [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org), or email Monsignor Hart at [assumption@assumptionparish.org](mailto:assumption@assumptionparish.org). To speak to someone by phone, please call Assumption at 973-539-2141 or call Select International Tours at 800-842-4842.





# Catholic

## UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 2017

## Your Daily Lenten Journey With Fulton Sheen

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

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The word *Lent*, from the Middle English word *lenten*, means “springtime.” The Lenten season lasts forty days because Jesus went into the desert for forty days of fasting, meditation, and reflection before beginning his ministry.

The Congregation for Divine Worship describes Lent as a time of preparation for Easter. “It is a time to hear the Word of God, to convert, to prepare for and remember Baptism, to be reconciled with God and one’s neighbor, and of more frequent recourse to the ‘arms of Christian penance’: prayer, fasting and good works.”

The quotations collected in this article are from the writings of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. They invite us to enter the season as an active participant.

### DAY 1: INVITE GOD IN

There isn’t a single soul at which God hasn’t knocked thousands of times. As the sun is always illuminating, so God is always acting on the soul. The first impetus always comes from him. He seeks us before we dream of seeking him; he knocks before we invite him in; he loves us before we respond.

*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.*

—Revelation 3:20

### DAY 2: GIVE GOD YOUR HEART

God will love you, of course, even though you do not love him, but remember if you give only half your heart, he can make you only fifty percent happy. Only you have the freedom to give your heart away. To whom do you give yours?

*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.*

—Psalm 86:11

### DAY 3: PERFECT TRUST

In the order of divinity, nothing is accidental; there is never a collision of blind forces hurting us at random. Instead, there meets a divine will and a human will that has a perfect trust in ultimate good, although it may not understand how until eternity.

Every human being is, in point of fact, like a baby in the arms of his or her loving mother, who sometimes administers medicine.

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

—Romans 8:28

### DAY 4: PURIFY YOUR HEART

Prayer opens possibilities. Houseplants cannot live without water; the flowers will not blossom without drink. Windows will only let in light if we clean them. Our hearts will let God in if we purify them. Blessings come to those who put themselves in an environment of love.

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

—James 4:8

### DAY 5: SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Away with mediocrity! Lift up your hearts! The world is looking for light. Will you hide yours under bushels? The earth is looking for savor; will you let the salt lose its savor?

*No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

—Matthew 5:15



## DAY 6: PRAY ALWAYS

Prayer is that which establishes contact with the divine power and opens the invisible resources of heaven. However dark the way, when we pray, temptation can never master us. The first step downward in the average soul is giving up the practice of prayer—breaking the circuit with divinity, and the proclamation of one's own self-sufficiency.

*Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

—Matthew 26:41

## DAY 7: CULTIVATE VIRTUE

True peace has a firm trust in God despite its own past sins; false peace shrinks from the thought of God because it will not put an end to present sins. The only way to keep evil out is to let God in. Character-building consists not in the elimination of vice but in the cultivation of virtue; not in casting out sin but in deepening love. An endeavor to expel evil without praying for the presence of God is doomed to failure. Nothing is secured without God's love spread throughout our hearts.

*[Jesus said,] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

—John 14:27

## DAY 8: HAVE HUMILITY

Humility is like an undergarment: We have to have it, but we should never show it. Pride is what we think ourselves to be; humility is the truth we know about ourselves, not in the eyes of our neighbor, but in the eyes of God.

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble.*

—Proverbs 11:2

## DAY 9: BECOME FIRE

The tragedy of this world is not so much the pain in it; the tragedy is that much of it is wasted. It is only when a log is thrown into the fire that it begins to sing. It is only when the thief was thrown into the fire of a cross that he began to find God. It is only in pain that some begin to discover where love is.

*John [said], "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

—Luke 3:16

## DAY 10: UPROOT EVIL

Socrates observed that "people are afraid of letting themselves be cut and cauterized for their healing." In like manner, spiritual goodness can be feared because it will demand a painful uprooting of what is evil. Similar to how some get used to living in disorder and dread cleaning. Those who get used to sin dread confession.

*The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

—John 1:29

## DAY 11: CRUCIFY PRIDE

Belief in the resurrection of Christ does not start with the reality of an empty tomb or with the fact that dead men rise. It begins with the truth that crucified men rise up. Only those who have in some way presided over the crucifixion of their pride and selfishness know what it is to rise from the dead. They become "new creatures."

*And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

—Galatians 5:24

## DAY 12: GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE

God loves us despite our unworthiness. It is his love which makes us better, rather than our betterment. Often during the day, say, "God loves me, and he is on my side, by my side."

*But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

—Romans 5:8

## DAY 13: FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

We would all like to make our own crosses; but our Lord did not make his own cross, neither shall we. We can take whatever he gives us, and make the best of it. The typist who works on routine letters...the student in her studies, the sick in isolation and pain, the mother dressing her children: Every such task can be ennobled and spiritualized if it is done in God's name.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

—Colossians 3:17

## DAY 14: AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE

There is a world of difference between a gift and a sacrifice. A sacrifice is a gift plus the love and personality of the giver. A gift comes out of the pocketbook; a sacrifice comes from the heart.

*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

—Psalm 51:1

## DAY 15: I AM POOR

So long as there are poor, I am poor. So long as there are prisons, I am a prisoner. So long as there are sick, I am weak. So long as there is ignorance, I must learn the truth. So long as there is hate, I must love. So long as there is hunger, I am famished.

*[Jesus said,] "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

—Matthew 25:40

## DAY 16: COMFORT THE SORROWFUL

Help someone in distress and you will lighten your own burden. The joy of alleviating the sorrow of another is the lessening of one's own. If we dig someone out of a hole, we get out of the hole we are in.

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:11

## DAY 17: THE POWER OF HOPE

One of the beautiful effects of hope is that it relieves us of the morbid fear of failure. As pride grows less in us, therein grows relief from terror of humiliation through failure. Once God and obedience to his will become our all-encompassing desire, fear of the hostility of others completely evaporates. We are ready to be "fools for Christ."

*And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you.*

—Psalm 39:7

## DAY 18: DYING TO SELF

Only by dying to our lower self can we live to the higher. By surrendering control and crushing our egotism, we develop our personality. How does the plant get its power to develop? By being unresponsive and unrelated to others or by surrendering and adjusting itself to its environment that it may survive?



*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

—Matthew 16:24

### DAY 19: A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

There is going to be a tremendous transformation of social position at the last day, for God is no respecter of persons. Our social position in the kingdom of God will depend not upon our human popularity but only upon those things we carry with us in the shipwreck of the world—a clear conscience and the love of God.

*Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.*

—1 Peter 3:16

### DAY 20: THE SCARS OF CHRIST

The scars of Christ teach us that life is a struggle—that the conditions for our final resurrection are the same as his. Unless we bear a cross in our lives, there will never be an empty tomb. Without Good Friday, there will never be Easter Sunday. Unless there is a crown of thorns, there will never be a halo of light. And unless we suffer with him, we shall not rise with him.

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.*

—Romans 8:18

### DAY 21: BECOME A NEW PERSON

You can put off your old nature and put on a new. Since grace is regeneration, it makes little difference what your old nature was. If I throw away an old coat, it does not matter why. The only thing that matters is that I throw it away. And when I do so, I get a new coat.

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away see, everything has become new!*

—2 Corinthians 5:17

### DAY 22: GOD'S GRACE

God's grace is never wanting to those who long to cooperate with it. The desire and dedication to be wealthy lends way to wealth. The will to belong to Christ makes people Christians.

*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*

—2 Corinthians 12:9

### DAY 23: DO NOT GIVE UP

Our occasional failures must not be mistaken for deserting God. Two attitudes are possible in sin: We can fall down and get up, or we can fall down and stay there. The fact of having fallen once should not discourage us. Because a child falls, he or she does not give up trying to walk.

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*

—Galatians 6:9

### DAY 24: OUR HUNGER FOR GOD

Our hunger for the infinite is never quieted; even those disillusioned by excess of pleasures have always kept in their imagination a hope of finding a truer source of satisfaction than any they have. Our search for the never-ending love is never ending. Not everyone can identify this infinity, which they tend and yearn for, but it is what the rest of us call God.

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.*

—Psalm 42:1

### DAY 25: LOVE BEGETS LOVE

God did not love me because I am lovable. I became lovable because God poured some of his goodness and love into me. I then began to apply this charity to my neighbor. If I do not find him lovable, I have to put love into him as God puts love into me, and thereby I provoke the response of love.

*Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

—1 John 4:7

### DAY 26: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Are you in the valley of despair? You should know that the Gospel of Christ can be heard as good news even by those whose life has been shattered by bad news, for only those who walk in darkness ever see the stars.

*He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

—Colossians 1:13–14

### DAY 27: ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED

The one who sees the most faults in his

neighbor is the one who has never looked inside his own soul...in meditation, by finding ourselves worse than others; we discover that most of our neighbors are better than ourselves.

*And we urge you, beloved...encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:14

### DAY 28: SURRENDER TO TRUTH

Abandonment of self to Truth is a prelude to entering into the joy of the Lord.

Before a lump of clay can be formed into a shapely piece of pottery, it must first be abandoned to the potter and lie passive in his hands.

*Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

—Isaiah 64:8

### DAY 29: GOOD THOUGHTS

Evil thoughts are best destroyed by good thoughts that crowd them; evil loves destroyed by stronger loves of good. Evil is not to be fought, head-on, by mere brute willpower; it is better for us to flank it, to drive it from the field by a greater love of God. A mind filled with ideas of love and beauty has little room for evil notions.

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

—Romans 12:21

### DAY 30: BE PATIENT WITH GOD

Give God a chance. The prolongation of his incarnate life in the Church is an offer, not a demand. It is a gift, not a bargain. You can never deserve it, but you can receive it. God is on a quest for your soul. Whether you will know peace depends on your own will.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

—Ephesians 2:8

### DAY 31: THE WAY TO PERFECTION

God wouldn't let you suffer pain or experience sadness if it didn't in some way minister to your perfection. If he didn't spare his own Son on the cross for the redemption of the world, then we know at times, we too may suffer that we might develop into happy and perfect children of a loving Father.



*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

—Romans 12:2

### DAY 32: SANCTIFY THE MOMENT

Those who sanctify the moment and offer it up in union with God's will never become frustrated. They overcome all obstacles by making them occasions of prayer and channels of merit. What were constrictions are transformed into opportunities for growth.

*When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly.*

—1 Corinthians 4:12–13

### DAY 33: THE BELOVED

You will find that, as you pray, the nature of your requests will change. You will ask fewer and fewer things for yourself and more and more for his love. Isn't it true in human relationships that the more you love someone, the more you seek to give and the less you desire to receive?

*The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.*

—Song of Songs 2:8

### DAY 34: BECOMING YOU

Try meditation for at least fifteen minutes a day. You will make two great discoveries: who you really are and who you are on the way to becoming.

*We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.*

—2 Corinthians 4:16

### DAY 35: PRAYER OF THE SAINTS

The person who thinks only of himself says only prayers of petition; the one who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession; whoever thinks only of loving and serving God says prayers of abandonment to God's will, and this is the prayer of the saints.

*Do not love the world or the things in the world...[T]he world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.*

—1 John 2:15, 17

### DAY 36: TOWARD PEACE

The remaking of the world must always begin with the remaking of one ego. The largest share of the burden of saving the world weighs on those who boast that their bread is the bread of life and their wine is the wine of Christ. The gigantic task must be done one soul at a time—each single response to grace is a step taken toward peace and joy for all.

*Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

—Psalm 34:14

### DAY 37: THE MIND OF CHRIST

The essence of Christianity consists not in obeying a set of commands, neither in submission to certain laws, nor in reading Scripture, nor solely in following the example of Christ. Before all else, it consists in being re-created, remade, and incorporated into the risen Christ so that we live his life, think his thoughts, and will his love.

*For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

—1 Corinthians 2:16

### DAY 38: EMPTY YOURSELF

Asceticism and mortification are not the ends of a Christian life. They are only the means. The end is charity. Penance merely makes an aperture in ego into which the light of God can pour. As we deflate ourselves, God enters and fills us. And it is God's arrival that is the important thing.

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God...emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.*

—Philippians 2:5–7

### DAY 39: GETHSEMANE

No believer ever went into the Gethsemane of bitter grief but that he found his Master had gone a little farther.

*And going a little farther, [Jesus] threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."*

—Matthew 26:39

### DAY 40: ENDURE SUFFERING

Even those who have some degree of sanctity find it hard, sometimes, to remain on the cross until the end. The world is full of half-crucified souls who have succumbed to the challenge of the world and come down from the cross. Few like our Savior will stay until the end that they, like him, might utter the cry of triumph: "It is finished."

*I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

—2 Timothy 4:7

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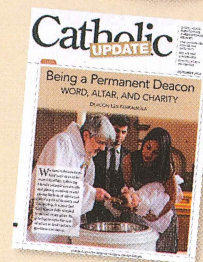


**NEXT  
ISSUE**  
The Benefits  
of Reconciliation  
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IMPRIMATUR: REV. MSGR. MARK S. RIVITUSO, VICAR GENERAL, ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS, DECEMBER 20, 2016.

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