



**The Roman Catholic Parish
of St. Vincent de Paul**
250 Bebout Avenue
Stirling, New Jersey 07980
Phone: (908) 647-0118 Fax: (908) 647-5992

**We are a Catholic community
rooted in the Eucharist
and committed to the poor.**

Parish Office—908-647-0118
In an emergency call
973-222-0720
Parish website:
stvincentschurch.org
Parish email:
parish@stvincentschurch.org

PASTORAL STAFF

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Weekend Assistant

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*Death Is
Swallowed Up
In Victory*

Sunday Mass Schedule

(Vigil Mass)
Saturday —5:00PM

Sunday
8:30AM, 10:30AM
and 6:00PM

Confession: Saturday at 4PM
or other days by appointment.

Weekday Mass
Schedule

8:30AM and 7:00PM*
Monday-Friday
***weekdays in Lent**
8:30AM-Saturday

**"It would be easier for the
world to survive without the
sun than to do so without the
Holy Mass." St. Padre Pio**

SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT**Weekend of February 23rd and 24th**

Total collected at Masses: \$8,942

Online WeShare: \$3,644

Total Offered: \$12,586**Mortgage Reduction: \$2,942****Thank you to all who sacrificially support the mission of the parish.****Daily Mass Readings****Monday**

Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

WednesdayJl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2;
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18**Thursday**

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

**ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

The St. Vincent de Paul Endowment Fund for Catholic Education is available to registered, contributing and active parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish who have or who intend to enroll their child or children in a local Catholic Grade School. The Fund provides for the out of parish differential for each student and also provides Tuition Assistance to those with demonstrated need.

Application Forms for the Fund may be obtained by contacting Vera at the Parish House. **The completed forms should be returned to the Parish House by March 18th. No applications will be accepted after that time.**

Thank you to all who have contributed to this Fund in the past to assist in providing a Catholic education to children in our parish.

MASS INTENTIONS**MONDAY****March 4th
Saint Casimir****8:30AM**Ava Rose (*Living*)
Karen Cook
Jennie Olenowski**TUESDAY****March 5th****8:30AM**Private Intention
Karl Schlegel, Sr.
Virginia Musikevich**ASH WEDNESDAY March 6th****8:30AM**Jane Kehoe
Michael and Rita Pavlo
Sallye and Kieran O'Doherty**12:00 Noon**

Ginger Sweetman

4:00PM Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes**7:00PM**Robert Caporaso
Susie Matinho
Christine Dos Santos**THURSDAY****March 7th****Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, Martyrs****8:30AM**Mary Maguire (*Living*)
Walter MacDuff
Edward McCabe**7:00PM**

Karen Cook

FRIDAY**March 8th****Saint John of God, Religious****8:30AM**Maureen Meade
Brian Meade**7:00PM** Jane Marie and Anthony DeVincentis (*Living*)
Ernesto and Michelina Giacumbo**SATURDAY****March 9th****Saint Frances of Rome, Religious****8:30AM**Luciana Schlegel (*Living*)
Marian Zoll
Nicholas Houghton**The First Sunday of Lent****5:00PM (Vigil)**Eliseo and Elisa Espinosa
Vincent and Virginia Corsentino
Deceased members of the Turner Family**SUNDAY****March 10th****8:30AM**Robert Heim
Deacon Bill Wagner
Deceased members of the Norton Family**10:30AM**Rick Binner
Joseph Galante
Deceased members of the Ochrymowych Family**6:00PM**Susie Matinho
Christine Dos Santos
Deceased members of the parish

IT IS TIME TO RETREAT

A universal retreat for Christians is about to begin again this week with Ash Wednesday. I wonder how many will actually participate in this retreat experience? Some come for the magic of the ashes, sort of a superstition approach to the rituals of faith—got to get me some of those ashes—as if the ashes have some hidden power to cause or facilitate our conversion. If that were true, I would just walk into a gym and leave immediately with the hope that I would be fit and trim by Easter Sunday. If only it were that easy.

The Season of Lent calls for our participation. It can be as simple as adding something in our walk with the Lord. For example, it may be more fruitful to approach Lent with the perspective that we add one thing, work on one area for deeper conversion, and give up one thing that we know is impeding true growth in our life with God and probably those around us. First, it is essential that we give this some reflection. What is something that can add to my Lenten journey? Go to Mass, Confession, Stations of the Cross, the parish mission, the talks on the relics and the Shroud of Turin, participate in Bible Study on Thursday? Truth is you do not even have to go far to add something that will benefit your Lenten journey. Adding one thing could very well be the enriching experience needed. What can I give up? That can be a very long list indeed. Perhaps looking for fault in others, gossiping about others, limiting technology – television, phone, internet and such distractions, unhealthy habits, foods and vices. What can I work on to bring me closer to Christ? Sin is of course an obstacle to the life of grace which God seeks to bestow on us. It is a disordering of our desires where God is not the object of our desire but person/things become that object. In her teaching the Church lists seven sins that are deadly. While the brief definitions offered here are by no means exhaustive, you can gain deeper insight through the Catechism. Pride: an excessive belief in one's own abilities, Lust: a powerful craving such as for sex, power and money, Gluttony: the desire to eat or consume more than you require, Greed: the desire for material wealth or gain, Sloth: laziness and the avoidance of work, Anger: the loss of rational self-control and the desire to harm others, and Envy: wanting what others have, be it status, abilities, or possessions. Taking time to reflect on where these disordered desires manifest themselves in our life of faith can be most meaningful. Then, of greatest importance, in prayer we must ask Jesus to give us the strength and grace to overcome these disordered desires with His help. Conversion and growth by our own efforts is so limited but when we seek conversion through Jesus that is much deeper and more radical.

All of this is to bring us to greater freedom and a more meaningful relationship with God. Each is invited on this universal retreat. When we become aware of the transience of this world and we question ourselves on the meaning of our existence, when we enter into dialogue with the Lord, it is then that we make the leap and become real people. The search for food and shelter, the drive to give continuity to our species, the search for what gives pleasure, are “appetites” we have in common with animals. Only when we experience the intimate need for another food, the specific of being human manifests itself in us. Lent is a privileged time to return to ourselves, to nourish and to let the divine grow within us. It is the time to listen to God's Word, not a superficial, distracted listening, almost fearful that the message penetrates too deeply into the mind and heart, causing disturbances and requires radical changes of direction in our lives.

“Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual ‘combat’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the Word of God, and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our baptism.”
Pope Benedict XVI— during the Angelus at St. Peter's, February 21, 2010.

Receive the Lord's invitation once more to repent and believe in the Gospel, to truly believe. The ashes imposed on Wednesday are not magic, they will not be the cause of our conversion, but receiving them may be the moment when we begin to understand our need for change. When we cooperate with the grace of Jesus our conversion is not only desired it is attainable. Let us pray for one another this Lent that it may be a time of true growth and conversion for the Body of Christ, the Church. Please pray for me and for the renewal of the priesthood. With the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary may we live this period of retreat joyfully and fruitfully. May she intercede for each one who approaches her Son in faith, hope and trust.

Peace,
Fr. Richard

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**Those who serve in the military:**

Tyler Nelson, Damian McCoy, Calla Ann Armenti, Dylan T. Jones, James Minogue, Stephen J. Campbell, Sean Milde, Frank Fasano, Richard Lister, Eric Leverone, Jay Donato, Frank Messina, Eileen Murphy, Peter Giovanni

Those who are ill:

Kevin Shea, Pat Bergin, James Castagna, Angela Mazzei, Mary Ising, Sharon Baker, Jennifer Pellecchia, Rhoda & Ike Blake, Denise Garcia, Rick and Susan Olkusz, Claudia Jardim, Cecile Fountain Jardim, Rita D'Angelo, Jim Fittin, Sandra Fittin, Jane Moran, John Daglian, Parker Watson, Annette McGrory, Lou Aroneo, Lucy Bustillos, Paula Matchen, Bill Wallisch, Larry Oster, Nanci Gamba, and Elizabeth Early

**Those who have died to this world
Requiescat in Pace**

May all the faithful who have departed this world rest in your eternal peace. Amen



The votive candle before the statue of the Blessed Mother is in memory of the **McDonald Family**.

The votive candle before the statue of St. Joseph is in memory of the **Steger Family**.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

**Mass will be offered at
8:30AM, Noon and 7:00PM**
with the blessing and distribution of Ashes.

At **4:00PM** there will be Liturgy of the Word with the blessing and distribution of Ashes.



**Reborn through the waters of
Baptism and the outpouring of
the Holy Spirit, we embrace:**

Nora Clare Tomasello
daughter of Philip and Esther

claimed now for the fullness of eternal life.

The **second collection next week-end** will be for our **Diocesan Assessment**. Each parish in the Diocese of Paterson has a responsibility to assist in the operation of various Diocesan ministry offices. **Our parish's assessment this year is \$100,000.** This collection is taken to help us meet this responsibility.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10**

Moses discusses the power God has displayed in freeing his people from oppression and leading them to a rich land. He tells the people that they should make offerings to God to show their gratitude, then celebrate over the great things he has given them.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Paul tells us that if we proclaim, "Jesus is Lord" and truly believe that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. For God shows his mercy toward everyone who calls upon his name.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days, then Satan appeared to him and tempted him to turn stone into bread. After Jesus refused, Satan promised him great powers if Jesus would worship him. Jesus replied that he would worship God and no one else. Then Satan tried to persuade Jesus to put God to the test, but again Jesus resisted his temptation.

**RECONCILIATION THROUGHOUT LENT**

All Catholics are invited to experience the grace of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Lent. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held **every Monday during Lent starting March 11th until April 8th beginning after the 7:00pm Mass until 8:30pm**. Don't be afraid to take this opportunity to experience God's gracious mercy and forgiveness.

"It is the blind hope which I have in His mercy...there is my only treasure. Why should this treasure not be yours?" St. Therese of Lisieux

PALM FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Monday, March 4th is the last day to bring your blessed palm from last Palm Sunday to the church vestibule. After that time blessed palm from last year may be buried or burned in order to dispose of properly.

**ENCOUNTER LENT**

Join our faith community and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl.

During the 40 days of Lent we will encounter the needs throughout different parts of the world. For more information on the important work of CRS Rice Bowl visit www.crsricebowl.org

LENT 2019— Please save these dates and engage the opportunities for this season.

Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church

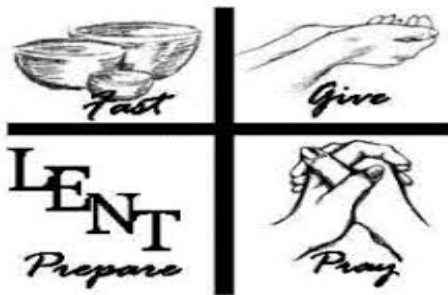
On **Monday, March 11th at 7PM** beginning with a talk in the church on the **Treasures of the Church** which will be followed by the exposition of sacred relics of the saints to be held in the gym.

Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with a very special collection of **over 150 relics**, some almost 2,000 years old. Those who attend will be able to examine and venerate each relic.

In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics and many have been healed through this ministry. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be a portion of the veil of Our Lady as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

Parish Lenten Mission March 23 – 27 Come join us for an exciting Parish Mission, presented by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Our speaker will be Fr. David Gunter, MIC. Fr. David W. Gunter, MIC is a member of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He was ordained in 2009 for the Archdiocese of Boston. Prior to entering the priesthood, he studied at Northeastern University receiving a BA in Economics and Geology in 1981. He went on to obtain an MBA from Babson College in 1984. He entered the Marian Fathers in July 2014, and completed his novitiate in August 2015, when he professed first vows. Over the last few years, Fr. David has been researching Marian apparitions, Marian teachings by saints and popes, and has compiled an exciting program based on a book he has written called *The Triumph*. The Mission will be on the ***The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart!*** Fr. Gunter will preach at weekend Masses on the 23rd and 24th, offering mission talks after the morning and evening Masses, Monday through Wednesday. Admission is free, materials will be made available on Divine Mercy and Mary. More details will follow—for now mark the dates in your calendar.



Monday, April 8th (after 7PM Mass) — A presentation on the Shroud of Turin - more detailed information to follow.

Daily Mass—Monday through Friday 8:30AM and 7PM.

Confession—Each Monday during Lent after 7PM Mass.

Mondays—Sr. Elsa has begun a new book for reading and discussion. The book is entitled ***Into His Likeness: Be***

Transformed as a Disciple of Christ by Edward Sri, a Catholic theologian and author of several Catholic best selling books. Dr. Sri provides an in-depth exploration of how to live as a disciple and experience the transformation Jesus wants to work in our lives. This book will help you to follow those initial promptings of the Holy Spirit so you may more intentionally encounter Jesus anew each day and be more disposed to His grace. New members are welcome to join. The Book Club meets following the 8:30am Mass on Mondays in the Church Meeting Room. New members are welcome.

Thursdays—Bible Study: Getting Ready For Sunday Fr. Richard examines the context and culture within which each upcoming Sunday's Readings were written and their meaning. Following these discussions one cannot help but have a more profound and richer understanding of Sunday's Scripture readings. Discussions take place on **Thursdays from 1:00pm to 2:00pm** in the Church Meeting Room and repeated on **Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:00pm** in the Library. All are welcome to attend one or more sessions. Previous attendance not required.

Fridays—**Stations of the Cross** after the 7PM Mass.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding from age 14 onwards.

Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist—the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for all the sacraments—for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

FISH AND CHIPS DINNER

Our annual **Fish and Chips Dinner** will be **Saturday, March 30th** in the Pastoral Center Gym. Doors open at 5:30pm. Plan on a very enjoyable evening and bring your friends. Take out orders will be available. The proceeds from the dinner will benefit our sister parish in Haiti.

If you are able to help with set up, serving and/or clean up please contact Terri Apuzzo at terriapuzzo@gmail.com.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The following items are **greatly needed** to replenish our Food Pantry: Peas, Carrots, Corn, Peaches, Mixed Fruit, Green Beans, canned Pink and Navy Beans, Spam, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Pancake Mix, Honey Nut Cheerios, Tomato Paste, Spaghetti Noodles, mixed Vegetables and canned Chicken. **Please bring all items to the basket in the church set aside for food pantry items.**




St Vincent de Paul
Youth Ministry Presents

Mardi - Grateful

From Feasting to Fasting:
From Mardi Gras to Lent

Tuesday March 5, 2019
7:30 pm
JP11 Room

This event is for all those in High School
Bring a Friend!

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS



When weather conditions cause closures and make conditions for travel difficult or hazardous, please call ahead to the parish office (908-647-0118) to check that Mass and parish events are able to take place as scheduled. In some cases it may be more prudent to offer Mass at 12 noon on a day when weather patterns may have changed for the better. When schools are closed due to weather conditions parish events, with the exception of Mass, will also be cancelled.

Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown is offering a silent, co-ed retreat for adults. The theme of the weekend retreat is "Rejoice and Be Glad" and will begin with dinner on **Friday, March 29th** and conclude after **lunch on Sunday, March 31st**.

Since 1927 retreatants have visited Loyola to encounter God, illuminate the heart and enjoy peace. A silent retreat creates a sacred, meditative opportunity for reflecting on God's presence in our lives and for realizing more deeply how blessed we are. Details about the Center may be found at www.loyola.org as well as weekend retreat registration information.