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Long Valley, New Jersey**



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Stephano Montella  
Daniel Mungiello  
Anthony Nasisi  
John Rolli  
Jeremy Timog  
Anna Vrettos  
Peter Vrettos  
Ryan Weber**

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent



Saturday, March 13

5:30 pm For Kenneth J. Kaminski by June Sulovski

Sunday, March 14

9:00 am For Eufrosia Conca by Monteverde Family
For a Special intention for Michael by Tom & Joanne Solecki

Saturday, March 20

5:30 pm For Joseph Lariccia by St. Mark Woman's Bible Study

Sunday, March 21

9:00 am For Sandra Luongo by McBride Family



MASS CARDS...

Mass cards are available in the parish office. Remember that giving a mass intention is not only for a deceased person. A mass intention can be for a special occasion such as an anniversary or birthday. Donation is \$15.



For the Month of March

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family

Mass Candles:

Altar Breads & Wine:

LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Lector Name. Includes dates from March 13 to March 28.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Table with 2 columns: Date/Amount and Description. Shows March 7, 2021 collection totals and St. Mark's Faith Direct info.

Table with 2 columns: Supermarket Gift Cards and SHOPRITE and WEIS Gift Cards. Lists sales, profit, and YTD profit.

You can now text your gift to St. Mark's. We've made it easier than ever to make a gift with our new text-to-give option.

If you attend Mass at either Our Lady of the Mountain or St. Luke's you can drop your St. Mark's envelope in the collection basket and it will be credited as your donation to St. Mark's.

Thinking about spring cleaning? Why not streamline your offertory and simplify your support for St. Mark's and the ministries that mean so much to you? Now is a great time to make the switch to eGiving.



Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, James Barone, Bob & Jeff Cheripka, Louise Chiusano, Daria Cremonini, Brittany Cicchino, Carol DeAlvandres, Hugh Divine, Trisha Drechsel, Samantha Fania, Ed Franke, Ann Geary, Sue Geary, Heidi L., Daniel Huntz, Sarah Jones, Vincent Lai, Johanna Mayo, Mary McArdle, Denise Niessing, Girard Nolte, Jr., Georgette Petromelis, Rosemarie Picarelli, Christopher Popp, Tim Popp, John S, Don & Joyce Schmitt, George and Ann, Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Special Intention, Josh Winnker, Christopher Zeliff

## What Is Laetare Sunday During Lent?

### LAETARE SUNDAY

- The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem".
- The fourth Sunday marks the half-way point of the Lenten season, even though the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is the actual middle day of Lent.
- Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Symbolizing joy, rose-colored Mass vestments may be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays of Lent. According to the Roman Missal, instrumental music is permitted and the altar may be decorated with flowers.
- The tradition of using the color rose is thought to come from the tradition of the Golden Rose; at one time popes sent golden roses to Catholic heads of state in Europe on this Sunday.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was once called Refreshment Sunday, or the Sunday of the Five Loaves, for the miracle of the boy with loaves and fishes in the Gospel of John.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was also previously observed as Mothering Sunday, in reference to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, where the faithful are called "sons and daughters of God". Families visited the church where they were baptized, or made offerings to the cathedral, or mother-church, on this Sunday.



### ---GOD'S MERCY---

God's Mercy. How extraordinary. It is difficult for some to comprehend God's mercy because we live in a world that is not merciful. We live in a world that often

acts in a way contrary to God's mercy, a world that often does not forgive and seeks revenge. God's mercy is so opposite to the thinking of this world. Also some people may have grown up with a distorted picture of God that did not focus on God's love and mercy.

We can turn to Mary also asking her to intercede for us before her Son Jesus that we may receive the fullness of Jesus' love and forgiveness and mercy. There is nothing Jesus' mother would want more for us than to be close to her son Jesus. If we turn to God there is no sin that cannot be forgiven by God. Bitterness, anger, resentment and revenge in the world are destroying the world. There is a better way to live, the way of God, God's mercy. God's love and mercy is the cure for this world.

**ASK GOD FOR MERCY AND FORGIVENESS IN THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS LENT. EVERY MONDAY NIGHT 7:00PM-8:30PM**

**(OLM CHURCH). SATURDAY AT 5:00PM AND ANY OTHER TIME JUST ASK FR. MARCIN OR FR. JAYKE. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO TO CONFESSION!**



**All the best to all those who have received Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend.**

Congratulations on your confirmation. May God in all His goodness bless this special day with true happiness, and may you always keep the memory of your Confirmation day and let it and your faith be a guide.

Congratulations and best wishes!



### **Lenten Devotions and activities at OLM CHURCH:**

--- Join us for traditional Lenten Devotion every Friday morning at 10am (after 9:30am mass)

and in the evening at 7:00pm – **STATIONS OF THE CROSS!!!** Try to come once at least, bring your family, children, and friends and walk with Jesus his last journey.

--- Sacrament of Penance and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Monday night (7-8:30 pm)

### **From Fr. Jayke...**

#### **CHARITY AS A SOLUTION TO AVARICE**

My dear brothers and sisters, last week we were able to discuss about covetousness or avarice as the root of all sins and this week, we will be discussing the solution of this deadly sin. According to St. Isidore of Seville, the virtue of humility is one way to address the problem of avarice because it is the chief incentive that leads the monk away from the desire of money. However, St. Thomas Aquinas explains that the virtue of charity is still the best way to solve the problem. Charity comes from the Latin word "caritas," which stands in general "as the state of being in and responding to God's love and favor more specifically for our wholehearted love of God, love of neighbor, and the love of self. According to St. Thomas, charity is the friendship of man for God. Since charity signifies our friendship with God, therefore it is the greatest of all virtues where it attains God. This friendship is based on the virtuous, where the virtuous man is considered as the principal person (*Summa Theologiae* II-II, 23, 1, ad 3).

Charity is the life of the soul and is united with the body of man (*ST* II-II, 23, 2, ad 2). It is a special kind of virtue because it has a special aspect of good. Charity is the life of man's soul and a special virtue; therefore, its nature is to attain the love of God. Aside from attaining God's love, charity also involves man to love his neighbor as well. As St. Thomas says, the love of God involves love of neighbor for God (*ST* II-II 23). These two are the principles of charity, and Jesus Christ Himself says that they are very important because they are the greatest commandments. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus states that "on these two commandments depend on all the law and the prophets" (*Mt* 22:40).

Having said that charity disposes man to love his neighbor, it can be therefore a solution to avarice. Charity has the activity of the virtue of compassion, wherein it signifies almsgiving. Almsgiving is "a deed whereby sometimes given to the needy out of compassion and for God's sake" (*ST* II-II, 32, 1). Through this compassion, charity enables

man to gain the act of almsgiving. St. Thomas notes that because of the act of almsgiving that charity has as its aspects, it obliges man not only to will good to his fellowmen, but also to treat them as our brother, where we do good to them and help them in their needs. Furthermore, St. Thomas emphasizes in his *Summa Theologiae* that through charity, man has the desire to share his blessings with others. Because of charity, man has now the desire to help people who are in need, thus omitting the desire for riches and earthly goods, which avarice has. St. Thomas states that the earthly goods that God gave us may be ours to own, but we must also share it with anyone who can benefit from it (*ST II-II, 32, 9*). As St. Basil the great says that “it is the bread of the hungry you are hoarding, the clothes of the naked that hang in your wardrobe, the shoes of those who go barefoot that fall to pieces in your house, the money of the poor that you possess and do not use. You commit as many injustices as there are things you could give away.” So, my dear brothers and sisters, it is very clear that through the virtue of charity, the desire for riches or earthly goods is conquered.

In Christ Jesus,



**Don't (Just) Give Up**

Lent shouldn't be *just* about giving up – it should also be about giving.

This year more than ever, a great way to give would be to donate Supermarket Gift Cards to the Long Valley Food Pantry for their Easter Baskets. What's so great about that? Well, it provides needed food for families in this area, including some who have been affected by the pandemic (plus some Easter treats for the children in those families). And, it fulfills the very first Corporal Work of Mercy, "To Feed the Hungry."

It also happens to be very convenient. Just stop by the Supermarket Gift Card table in the gathering space and tell the nice person there, "I'd like to give!" What could be more convenient? You were going to buy gift cards for yourself anyway, weren't you? If that's still not convenient enough, just send a check to St. Mark's office and indicate that it's for the Easter Baskets.

**COLUMBIETTE FUND RAISING EVENT...**

Monday, March 22nd and Tuesday, March 23rd, Mama's Pizza, Mountain Ave, Hackettstown is generously donating 10% of your food bill to the Columbiettes community outreach projects. There are 3 great ways to participate, takeout, delivery or dine in. There is a flyer available at both churches but don't worry if you don't have a flyer you can just mention the fundraiser to your server at Mama's (908) 852-2820. Any questions please call Marge Sanders 908-887-4503. Thank you for your continued support!

**GOLD ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR 2020...**

Did you celebrate your 50<sup>TH</sup> Wedding Anniversary in 2020? If you were married in 1970, the Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held on **Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 3:30 pm. The deadline to register with your parish office is Thursday, April 8, 2021.**



Since its founding, the Knights of Columbus has been involved in evangelization. In 1948, the Knights started the Catholic Information Service (CIS) to provide low-cost Catholic publications for the general public as well as for parishes, schools, retreat houses, military installations, correctional facilities, legislatures, the medical community, and for individuals who request them. For 70 years, CIS has printed and distributed millions of booklets, and thousands of people have enrolled in its catechetical courses.

**Reflection for the Week**

*Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.*  
Winston Churchill.

*If you would like to be a part of an international organization of nearly 2 million Catholic men whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd like to meet you. **Become a Knight!** [www.lvkofc.org](http://www.lvkofc.org)*

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 236...**

Do you like to camp and enjoy the great outdoors? Scouting offers you the chance to learn skills like hiking, camping and learn about nature. You'll meet other scouts like yourself that may be in your school or church. You'll learn how to help others in your community. The fun starts now-the values last a lifetime. A boy can join the boy Scouts if he is 11 yrs. old, or has completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, or the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 yrs. old.

Troop 236 meets the first 3 Mondays of the month at St. Marks from 7:30 pm-8:45 pm (out-side in the parking lot). We hope you will join us. For more information contact our membership coordinator at [membership@troop236.org](mailto:membership@troop236.org).

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY...** St. Marks Men's Bible Study will start a new series on the Early Church Fathers produced by St. Paul Center. Search for it on google or enter the following link to learn more: <https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/the-bible-and-the-church-fathers/>

For now, Men's Bible Study meets on Skype from about 8:00 to 10:00 am every Saturday. To join, install Skype on your phone or computer (with Windows 10 it is already there), send your email address to [sbranco1@gmail.com](mailto:sbranco1@gmail.com) and you will receive a clickable link via email.



**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.**



Today we mark the Fourth Sunday of Lent as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Day. The rose chasuble today reminds us that already we have reached LAETARE SUNDAY in Lent, just over half way through Lent. LAETARE means rejoice.

Our Gospel comes from the third chapter of St. John. The third chapter begins with Nicodemus coming to talk with Jesus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a Jewish religious leader, which implies he is one of the 71 members of the Sanhedrin, the supreme ruling council of the Jews.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. John uses light and darkness all through his Gospel as a symbol of truth and error, grace and sin. John is telling us symbolically that Nicodemus came from the darkness to Jesus, who is the light.



Jesus stresses that he has come to save us simply because of God's great love and not because we deserve it or earned it. But he cautions us that his love cannot save us if we do not open ourselves to it. It is like the light, Jesus says. We can choose to open our eyes and hearts to his light or we remain in the dark, the darkness of life without Christ. So we hear the famous verse John 3:16: God so loved the world, God so loved you and me, that he sent his only Son who died and rose to give us life. This is the new covenant that God offers us. We recall that love and express our faith in his love now as we celebrate our Eucharist.

We need Christ. We would be incomplete without Christ. We love the world and because we love the world we want to bring Christ to the world because we know the world needs Christ. The Father loved the world and gave his only Son. We love the world and want to bring Christ to the world because we know the world will not find happiness or peace any other way. Even though the world does not know it, Christ is the One whom the world seeks.

**But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.**

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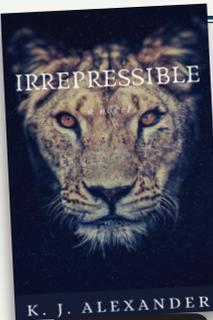
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