



MARY, MOTHER OF
DIVINE GRACE PARISH

The Catholic Community of Divine Infant Jesus Church
and Divine Providence Church & School Westchester, IL

Ash WEDNESDAY



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2024

Welcome to

Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish



The Catholic Community of Divine Infant Jesus Church and Divine Providence Church and School

PARISH CHURCH LOCATIONS

DIVINE INFANT JESUS

Church: Newcastle & Canterbury Avenues
Rectory Office: 1601 Newcastle Ave.
Westchester, IL 60154

Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:30AM
Confession: Saturday following 8:30AM Mass
Anticipated Mass Saturday: 5:00PM
Sunday: 10:00AM

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Church: 2600 Mayfair Ave.
Business Office: 2550 Mayfair Ave.
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 562-3364
Hours: 8:00AM-4:00PM

Mass Schedule:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30AM
Anticipated Mass Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation: As announced in bulletin.

PARISH STAFF

Clergy and Consecrated Religious

Pastor Reverend Neil Fackler
nfackler@archchicago.org

Associate Pastor Reverend Bill McFarlane
wmcfarlane@archchicago.org

Resident Reverend Thomas Winikates
708-562-3364 - x29

Deacons Richard Hudzik
James Sponder

Liturgy & Faith Formation Director

Deacon James Sponder
708-562-3364 - x30
jsponder@archchicago.org

Director of Religious Education

Sr. Christine Nantaba, IHMR
708-865-8086-DI
708-562-2258-DP
cnantaba@archchicago.org

Sacristan

Sr. Veronica Nabayunga, IHMR
vnabayunga@archchicago.org

Pastoral Staff Office

708-562-3364

Director of Operations

Ms. Lisa Keeney lkeeney@archchicago.org

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Karen Luciano kluciano@archchicago.org

Director of Marketing & Enrollment

Mrs. Linda Hawkins lhawkins@archchicago.org

Director of Facilities

Mrs. Rose Gutierrez rosgutierrez@archchicago.org

Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Luis Galvez lgalvez@archchicago.org

Divine Providence School

2500 Mayfair Ave.
708-562-2258

Principal

Mr. Carlos Lopez
celopez@archchicago.org

Secretary

Mrs. Rita Doerge
rdoerge@archchicago.org

OUR MISSION and OUR VISION

MISSION STATEMENT - Who We Are

The mission of the faith community of **Mary, Mother of Divine Grace** is to inspire spiritual growth by worshiping, teaching and living by example our love of Jesus, His Church and our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT - Who We Strive to Be

The parish of **Mary, Mother of Divine Grace** will continually serve all people by being good stewards for future generations. We make Christ known by living and teaching our faith.

For additional information regarding our parish, please see **page 11** or visit our website: marymotherofdivinegrace.org

Today's scriptures, like those we heard last week, tell us of God's compassion. We hear of the Old Testament laws concerning leprosy and then we hear the story of Jesus healing a leper. Jesus performs this physical miracle of healing not only for the sake of the leper, but also as evidence of God's compassion for all those who suffer. My scripture commentary is on page seven.

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** continues this week with the pledge process at all the Masses. Archbishop Cupich has a short homily on CD that we will hear after the homily. This year's theme, *Together at the table*, reminds us that God has blessed us in order that we may share our blessings with others, particularly in passing on our faith to those who come after us. I do understand that many are in difficult financial circumstances and are not in a position to donate. I ask that those who are able to do so to please make a pledge to support the needy of our Archdiocese.

The **Mid-Year Financial Report** for the six months ending December 31, 2023 shows an operating loss of \$108,000, just over 16,000 worse than last year. Sunday collections are basically flat versus last year, while costs continue to rise for most goods and services. Our Archdiocesan Assessments are up nearly \$45,000 versus this time last year. School Tuition revenues are down 70,000 due to lower enrollment, offset by lower salaries and benefits due to having one fewer teacher than last year. Building and Repair expenses are down \$65,000 across both campuses due to the extensive work we did last year. The Operating Report is on pages eight and nine.

Since our successful School Open House two weeks ago, we have had several prospective families tour the school and twelve have already enrolled for next year. We are putting together a Search Committee for a new principal for next year and developing a renewed marketing program to increase enrollment and retention.

The Knights of Columbus will bring back our **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** on Saturday, March 9. Our Family School Association will host a **St. Joseph Dinner and Sweet Table** the following Saturday, March 16. It's exciting to see the return of some of our parish social events. Watch the bulletin and website for more details in the near future.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** this week. Lent is a joyful season that calls us to a deeper relationship with Christ. We journey with him, participating in his sufferings through the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The joy is not in the suffering. Rather, through the suffering, we develop a deeper understanding of Christ; and in the process we are drawn into a more intimate relationship with him and experience the joy of a closer, more loving relationship with God. Our foreheads are marked with ashes as a sign of our own mortality to help us enter this season of grace with humility. We hear either the words, "*Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return*" or "*Repent and believe in the gospel.*" The ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to remind us of Christ's crucifixion and death for our sake, that by his cross we have been redeemed, and that the cross is God's supreme act of love for us. **Little Black Books of Lenten Meditations** are available in the vestibule and at the rectory.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,
Fr. Neil

But first *pray*

Please remember to pray for all those who have gone home to heaven and their families including:

Robert L. Strauder
Husband of Earlene
Father of Robert Jr. & the late Victor

PLEASE REMEMBER

in your prayers...



Names will be listed for **(1) month**. If the sick person gets better or passes away, please notify the parish office.

Mike Alexander	Dan Kaiser
Patricia Alexander	Mary Kmet
Donald Armstrong	Linda Kotowski
Stephanie & Renz Babas	Jason Kuntz
Diane Bozek	Christina Coglianese Lee
Addison Brandenburg	Ashley Luecken
George Brent	Janet Mazur
Tracy Brewer	Gabriel Meier
Larry Brown	Miguel Merida
Betty Carrie	Ed Miranda & Family
Bernadette Colletti	Richard Mulfinger
Sandra Kay Collie	Cozeake & Yuki Nelson
Giovanni Corrigan	Daniel O'Brien
Anthony Di Vito	Donna J. Parker
Rachel Dula	Barbara Perniconi
Beverly Fotiadis	Cindy Shahboz
Gary Frezek	Carole Sheehan
Joan Gebhardt	Jade Solis
Vince Gerace	Steve Spomer
MaryAnn Giannelli	Diane Stachiw
Eileen Gorski	Giovanni Vivas
Geri Guidi	Florence & Kathryn Voves
Deborah Harris	Hank & Ellen Walsh
Arthur Hetiz	Nancy Wesclitz
Christopher Heitz	Tanya Winegard
Dan Johnson	Danute Zailskas
Shown Johnson	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS ACTIVELY SERVING IN THE MILITARY AROUND THE WORLD.

Lance Corporal	Nathaniel J. McDougall	Marines
Sergeant	Michael Nieves	Marines
Sergeant	Daniel S. Mahony	Marines
PFC	Ed Lacombe	Army
Lt. Col.	Michael J. Milas	Army
Lt. Col.	Paul Milas	Army
Captain	Larry Lentino	Army
Major	Matthew Kubik	US Air Force
Staff Sgt.	Jeffrey Niemiec	US Air Force

Mass Intentions

Divine Providence Church

Monday, 2/12 8:30a People of the Parish
†Mario Gentile
†Gentile & Locascio Families
†Anthony S. Luciano

Wed., 2/14 8:30a **Ash Wednesday**

Friday, 2/16 8:30a †Leona Cherner
†Glecyann De Guzman

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 2/17 4:00p †Al & Elaine Nelli
†Mangiantini Family

Sunday, 2/18 8:30a †All the Souls in Purgatory

Divine Infant Jesus Church

Tuesday, 2/13 8:30a †Babe Marek

Thursday, 2/15 8:30a †Paul DeChene

Saturday, 2/17 8:30a †Susan Marotta

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 2/17 5:00p People of the Parish

Sunday, 2/18 10:00a †Patrick M. Casey
†Helen Juvancic
†Bernice Kerzicnik



ASH WEDNESDAY - February 14 2nd Collection

Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

For more information please visit:
www.usccb.org/ccee.

Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish
Divine Infant Jesus & Divine Providence

February 4, 2024	\$ 8,165.00
WeShare	<u>\$ 4,501.67</u>
TOTAL	\$12,666.67

A graphic for Ash Wednesday. It features a large, dark, hand-painted cross on the left. To the right of the cross, the words "ASH WEDNESDAY" are written in a large, black, serif font. Below this, the text "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." is written in a smaller, black, serif font. At the bottom right, "Ecclesiastes 3:20" is written in a small, black, serif font. The background is a light gray with faint, stylized palm fronds on the left and right sides.

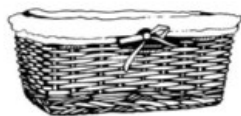
ASH
WEDNESDAY

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

8:30a Mass Divine Providence Church
1:30p Mass Divine Providence Church
w/DP School Community
4:00p Service Divine Infant Jesus Church
7:00p Mass Divine Infant Jesus Church

*Baskets are in both churches
for depositing old palms.*



DP = DIVINE PROVIDENCE / DI = DIVINE INFANT JESUS
(Presider Schedule subject to change without notice)

Monday, February 12, 2024 - Fr. Winikates
8:30a Mass - Divine Providence Church
6:15-7:30p RE Classes - DI School

Tuesday, February 13- Fr. McFarlane
8:30a Mass - Divine Infant Jesus Church
9:00a LATE START - DP School
9:15a Palm Burning - DP School Courtyard
1:00-3:00p Grief Support Group - DPMC
6:30p DI St. Vincent dePaul Meeting DI ANNEX

Wednesday, February 14–ASH WEDNESDAY
8:30a Mass - Divine Providence Church - Fr. Winikates
1:30p Mass - Divine Providence Church w/DP School
- Fr. Fackler
4:00p Service - Divine Infant Jesus Church
7:00p Mass - Divine Infant Jesus Church - Fr. McFarlane

Thursday, February 15- Fr. Fackler
8:30a Mass - Divine Infant Jesus Church

Friday, February 16– Fr. Winikates
 8:30a Mass - **Divine Providence Church**
 7:00p Stations - **Divine Infant Jesus Church**

Saturday, February 17
 8:30a Mass - **Divine Infant Jesus Church- Fr. Winikates**
 9:00a Confessions - **Divine Infant Jesus Church**
 4:00p Mass - **Divine Providence Church- Fr. Fackler**
 5:00p Mass - **Divine Infant Jesus Church- Fr. Winikates**

Sunday, February 18
 8:30a Mass - **Divine Providence Church - Fr. McFarlane**
 10:00a **FAMILY Mass** with Coffee and...
Divine Infant Jesus Church - Fr. Fackler

Saturday, February 17, 2024
9:00a – 9:30a at Divine Infant Jesus Church

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the reading from Leviticus, Aaron and Moses are given instructions by the Lord concerning leprosy. A priest must check the person's skin and declare them "unclean" if the condition exists. The leper, who must now dwell outside the community, is to wear torn garments and cry out when traveling, "unclean, unclean." At first glance this seems cruel, but it was the only way that the ancients had to protect the larger community from disease. St. Paul urges the Corinthians to "do everything for the glory of God." He tells them to imitate him, by not offending anyone, and by seeking the benefit of "everyone in every way" so that they may be saved. The gospel of Mark shows Jesus breaking the Law by touching a leper who has begged him for a cure. Cured, Jesus sends the leper to go to the priest and offer the prescribed sacrifice for being cleansed. He could then be, once again, accepted in the community.

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1 Mark 1:40-45

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

Together at the table

annualcatholicappeal.com

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED

These projections are based on anticipated needs and are subject to change. The list below is meant to summarize the far-reaching impact of the Appeal, and so is not a comprehensive list of all the archdiocese's ministries.

Low-income parishes and schools	31%	Support for parishes and schools serving financially challenged communities
Parish-based incentives	24%	After a parish reaches goal, donated funds return to the parish for local use
Archdiocesan ministries	15%	Outreach initiatives for young adults, families, children and others
Spiritual renewal efforts	8%	Transforming parishes to share our faith in new and creative ways
Priest formation	6%	Education and development for seminarians and priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago
Scholarships	5%	Tuition assistance for disadvantaged Catholic school families
Catholic Relief Services	4%	Support for those suffering from natural disasters around the world
Cost of the Appeal	7%	Printing, postage, processing costs for the Appeal

Cost of the Appeal **7%**

Catholic Relief Services **4%**

Scholarships **5%**

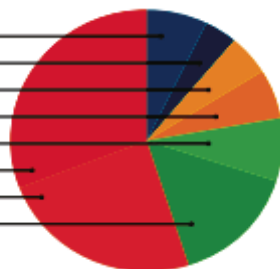
Priest formation **6%**

Spiritual renewal efforts **8%**

Low-income parishes and schools **31%**

Parish-based incentives **24%**

Archdiocesan ministries **15%**



To make a gift to the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal and for information on how Appeal funds are spent, visit annualcatholicappeal.com or scan QR code.

For our parishes, schools, ministries and communities throughout Cook and Lake counties.

The Archdiocese of Chicago proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ and carries on his mission through our parishes, schools and ministries. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports low-income parishes and their schools, religious education classes and other outreach programs, Catholic Relief Services and the development of our priests, among other worthy programs and initiatives.

Moved by Christ's call to live as disciples, we come together at the table through the Annual Catholic Appeal to care for our Church and each other. As parishes meet their ACA goal, proceeds return to the parish to carry out the healing mission in their own local community.

With Heartfelt Gratitude

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have faced many challenges in our world—from diseases and social upheavals to climate disasters and economic uncertainty. Still, we hope, because the Lord has walked with us, and we have walked with each other. The Lord's table has sustained us. This year's Annual Catholic Appeal echoes these experiences.

This year, our theme is *Together at the table*. It evokes the Last Supper and the story of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus who are together at the table with the Lord. In these images, we know ourselves as gathered together, as fed by the Eucharist, and as missionary disciples sent into the world. Closely connected to this is Pope Francis' call for a synodal Church, that is, a Church "on the road together." When we are *together at the table*, the altar of the Lord's sacrifice, we find the true means that sustain us on our shared journey homeward.

Please consider joining me to support this year's Appeal, so that together we can be instruments of God's grace. Your generous contribution—I can assure you—will be a source of blessing for many people and for you yourself and your loved ones. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL HELPS SUPPORT

Our faith, which draws us ever closer to God as we work to renew our local Church within a new missionary age. We endeavor to grow as disciples so we might share the love of Jesus Christ in creative ways and strengthen our parish communities to welcome and invite others.

Our parishes, where our faith is lived out. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides significant funding to local parishes through the rebate program as well as support to under-resourced parishes and schools throughout Cook and Lake counties.

Our priests, who deserve our gratitude and support. The Annual Catholic Appeal provides funds for priest and seminarian education and ongoing development, providing our priests with important formation opportunities to best serve their communities.

Our schools, which offer a robust academic education and form a new generation in faith. Scholarships provide critical support to make Catholic education possible and foster our children's relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Today's scriptures, like those we heard last week, tell us of God's compassion. We hear of the Old Testament laws concerning leprosy and then we hear the story of Jesus healing a leper. Jesus performs this physical miracle of healing not only for the sake of the leper, but also as evidence of God's compassion for all those who suffer.

The Book of Leviticus deals with the laws and rituals of the Hebrew people, prescribing the way of righteousness under God. Today's reading deals with leprosy. Because leprosy was highly contagious, progressive and fatal, those afflicted with the disease were declared unclean and cast out from the community. Lepers had to warn everyone by crying out, "Unclean, Unclean". This cut them off from society as well as any means of employment, reducing them to beggars living outside the villages and towns. If an outcast were cured, he had to present himself to the Levitical priests who examined him and could declare him clean. After ritual purification, he would be allowed back into the community.

In the gospel, we hear the story of a leper who comes to Jesus, begging to be healed with the plea, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus is moved with pity. He stretches out his hand, touches him and says, "I do will it. Be clean." Immediately the leper was made clean. Jesus then tells him to show himself to the priests, in accordance with the law, which will be proof for them that he has been cleansed.

Jesus gives us a lesson in compassion. Because of the fatal nature of leprosy, the normal reaction of his time was to draw back in fear and to shun the leper. Jesus, on the other hand, lets him approach. The act of touching the leper would not only expose Jesus to catching the disease himself, but would also make him ritually unclean, and thus legally unable to enter the synagogue. In spite of that, Jesus lets mercy and compassion triumph over human fear and the letter of the Levitical law.

Even though leprosy is curable today, it still causes fear. During my first mission visit to Haiti we visited a leprosarium. I watched nurses interact with patients, caring for them and sharing their lives. Knowing it was safe, I still had fears of coming into contact with them. It was hard! I tried to imitate the nurses and overcome my fears. I did not fully succeed, but I was able to begin to see the lepers as people, not as objects of pity or fear.

Many of us fear the stranger and those who are different. We, too, can recoil in fear of, or act with indifference toward the poor and the marginalized. Jesus invites us to trust in God's love and step beyond our fears. St. Paul tells us that the way to do this is to do everything for the glory of God; not seeking our own benefit but the benefit of others, that they may be saved. And in doing so we find salvation for ourselves.

Fr. Neil

ASH WEDNESDAY

In the first reading, we hear God's invitation to return to him with our whole hearts. The prophet Joel calls the elders to proclaim a fast for all the people, offering repentance for their sins and a return to the Lord's favor. The Lord hears them and takes pity on his people. St. Paul implores the Corinthians to be reconciled to God, reminding them that Christ himself has reconciled us to God. He tells them to act quickly because now is the acceptable time of salvation. Jesus tells the people that acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving should be done in secret. Those who do these acts in public may fall into the trap of hypocrisy, doing deeds for the esteem of their brothers and sisters. But such acts done in secret for the Lord alone will be rewarded by God.

Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish
2024 Mid-Year (July 1 - December 31, 2023) Financial Report

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>Church Income</u>			
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	\$ 302,935	\$ 302,069	\$ 816
Christmas Collection	55,250	42,916	12,334
Easter Collection	0	500	(500)
Other Collections	8,513	8,714	(201)
RE Tuition and Fees	22,185	20,094	2,091
Lease and Rental Income	102,063	95,147	6,916
Fund Raising Net Income	1,804	(2,094)	3,898
Interest and Investment Income	12,857	(3,372)	16,229
Miscellaneous Income	<u>27,218</u>	<u>32,097</u>	<u>(4,879)</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 532,825</u>	<u>\$ 496,071</u>	<u>\$ 36,754</u>

Church Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 371,208	\$ 297,571	\$ (73,637)
Books and Supplies	9,610	17,167	7,557
Administrative Expenses	13,861	15,877	2,016
Food Service/Meals	9,539	5,618	(3,921)
Heating Fuel	13,874	17,976	4,102
Electricity	12,335	16,409	4,074
Other Utilities	16,815	16,717	(98)
Maintenance and Building Repairs	33,261	62,691	29,430
Altar and Liturgical Supplies	18,271	32,516	14,245
Archdiocesan Assessment	46,374	30,969	(15,405)
PRMAA Assessment	14,310	11,235	(3,075)
Property/Casualty/Auto Insurance	39,646	24,116	(15,530)
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>18,323</u>	<u>14,875</u>	<u>(3,448)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 617,427</u>	<u>\$ 563,737</u>	<u>\$ (53,690)</u>
Church Operating Income/(Loss)	<u>\$ (84,602)</u>	<u>\$ (67,666)</u>	<u>\$ (16,936)</u>

(February 5, 2024)

() = *Unfavorable: Lower Income/Higher Expenses*

Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish
2024 Mid-Year (July 1 – December 31, 2023) Report

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>School Income</u>			
Tuition	\$ 512,845	\$ 584,747	\$ (71,902)
Fees	29,441	28,488	953
Outside Funding Sources	(2,153)	21,098	(23,251)
Fundraising Net Income	16,544	51,176	(34,632)
Miscellaneous Income	<u>20,424</u>	<u>10,099</u>	<u>10,325</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 577,101</u>	<u>\$ 695,608</u>	<u>\$ (118,507)</u>
<u>School Expenses</u>			
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 458,855	\$ 519,132	\$ 60,277
Books and Supplies	18,779	35,716	16,937
Administrative Expenses	30,829	21,612	(9,217)
Heating Fuel	1,440	5,390	3,950
Electricity	7,684	4,985	(2,699)
Other Utilities	12,344	15,138	2,794
Maintenance and Building Repairs	36,116	71,275	35,159
OCS Assessment	8,586	10,100	1,514
Property/Casualty Insurance	23,248	26,284	3,036
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>3,158</u>	<u>10,820</u>	<u>7,662</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 601,039</u>	<u>\$ 720,452</u>	<u>\$ 119,413</u>
School Operating Income/Loss	<u>\$ (23,938)</u>	<u>\$ (24,844)</u>	<u>\$ 906</u>
Parish Operating Income/Loss	<u>\$ (108,540)</u>	<u>\$ (92,510)</u>	<u>\$ (16,030)</u>

() = Unfavorable: Lower Income/Higher Expenses

Notes:

Church Miscellaneous Income includes stole fees, mass stipends, votive candles, donations
School Miscellaneous Income includes other scholarships, donations, reimbursements, etc.
Other Utilities include telephone, water, sewer, scavenger, internet and telecommunications
Other Expenses include conferences, meetings, hospitality, dues, advertising, donations, etc.



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

11 February 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Fasting *\'fa-stin*

Refraining from food and drink for religious purposes. Biblically, it implied not eating or drinking from morning till evening.

The Catholic Church defines **fasting** as one full meal a day, with two additional breaks. Catholics observe a eucharistic **fast** and abstain from food and drink one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. They also **fast** annually on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday if in good health and between the ages of 21 and 59.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-fasting>

CONTEXT

Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: **fasting** and almsgiving. —*Saint Augustine*

There's something about it that makes sense, Lent. You give something up, and everything's more joyful. —*Elaine Stritch*

When my stomach hungers from **fasting**, it is a reminder of the spiritual hunger my soul experiences at every moment of my existence. —*Bishop Robert Barron*

WHY IT MATTERS

When we're self-sufficient, it's easy to forget that God is our ultimate source of life and hope. **Fasting** is a visceral reminder to trust in God. **Fasting** helps us to detach from worldly things not because they are bad but to remind us that God is the source of all gifts.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "**Fasting** and abstinence . . . help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart" (2043).

RELATED WORDS

Abstinence | Sacrifice | Asceticism | Mortification

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why do we fast?

Why **fast**? Our survival requires us to eat and drink. When we refrain from these most basic activities, it reminds us that "we do not live by bread alone." **Fasting** provides us with an opportunity to affirm our faith in God's providential care.

Fasting as a spiritual practice falls into the category of sacrifice. As in other acts of religious sacrifice, **fasting** takes something away from us. **Fasting** stirs us to contemplate justice—many in this world go without food—and motivates us to pray in a deeper, richer way. Because we don't want to do it, **fasting** is regarded as a penitential practice: We do it in reparation for sin, ours and the world's.

When you think of everything **fasting** can do—encourage fidelity and humility, awaken the spirit of justice, enhance prayer, assist those who are tempted—the question becomes: Why *not* **fast**?

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-fasting>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

ASH WEDNESDAY, DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
(FEBRUARY 14)

The spirit of our fasting

Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are ancient spiritual practices that foster humility and charity. In the words of fifth-century Doctor of the Church Peter Chrysologus: "When you **fast**, see the **fasting** of others. If you want God to know you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give."

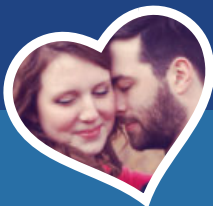
READINGS: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/021424.cfm>).
"When you **fast**, do not look gloomy."

FAITH IN ACTION

Use **fasting** as a way to see more clearly the things you've missed by inattention.

Ed the Plumber
Ed the Carpenter
708.652.1444
 Best Work • Best Rates
PARISHIONER DISCOUNT

catholicmatch®
Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/IL

**SUPPORT OUR
 ADVERTISERS!**

**Place Your Ad Here and
 Support our Parish!**

Instantly create and
 purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



4lpi.com/adcreator

SHORT STAFFED?

Place an ad here to find new
 local talent for your business.



CALL 800-950-9952

WEST-HILL **CARSTAR**

Joe, Mark & Adam Esposito
 4907 Butterfield Road, Hillside

708-449-7477

Riverside Funeral Directors



BRIAN D. KURATKO
Funeral Director

**PROUD DIVINE INFANT PARENT
 PARISHIONER**

*Traditional Funerals, Cremation Services
 Alternative Services, Pre-planning Options*

Located in:

**CONBOY-WESTCHESTER
 FUNERAL HOME, INC.**



708-609-5585 or 708-FUNERAL
 10501 West Cermak Road, Westchester, IL 60154



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Mary Mother of Divine Grace Church, Westchester, IL

B 4C 01-4105