



Navigating the Desert

Like Noah being prepared to navigate the Flood, so the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. Why was he sent there? Did he need to learn something he didn't know? Did he lack something he needed? Jesus as God didn't lack anything, of course, but he needed time to pray, reflect, and prepare for his mission. He also wanted to set an example to follow. Another Scripture says he went into the desert to be tempted by the devil. That time of spiritual combat was helpful for him.

We also need to go through trials and crises to grow both in our spiritual lives and human maturity. We each have had our desert where we are challenged to our core and stretched beyond our limits. Perhaps it was a crisis such as a health, employment, or relational issue. But it doesn't always have to be such a dramatic event. It can be as simple and constant as the

prolonged embracing of daily challenges in a manner that leads to life. We probably look back and see these as some of our best times—if we truly encountered ourselves and our Lord.

The key is in peaceful acceptance, looking for what good can be learned from these inconveniences. In every cross there is a resurrection; in every storm a rainbow assures us of God's presence and victory. It tells us that clouds and storms will not lead to total death, but rather to a purified rebirth, growth, and newfound life and strength. He has promised us this.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

What important lessons have I learned from a challenge in my life? Maybe I can share that lesson with a friend or family member.



Piece: *Noah and the Flood*, 1508

Artist: Michelangelo

Location: Sistine Chapel

*[God said,] "I set my bow in the clouds to serve
as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

(Genesis 9:13)

**Parish of the Visitation
and St. Raymond
St. Andrew's Church**

Msgr. John R. Murphy, Pastor 315-384-4242

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot, Pastor Emeritus at PVSR 315-384-2064

Dcn. Lawrence Connelly, Retired 315-384-4879

Dcn. John Levison at SA, PV 518-594-7610

Dcn. Phil Regan at SA, PVSR 315-353-9917

Masses: Saturday: St. Andrew's~ 4:00pm; St. Raymond's~ 6:00pm

Sunday: St. Andrew's~ 8:30am; Church of the Visitation~ 10:30am

**Confessions: Saturday: Church of the Visitation~ 11:30-12:00pm and upon request
St. Andrew's~ 3:15pm and upon request; St. Raymond's~ before 6:00pm Mass as time allows**

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat Feb 17	4:00PM	ST. ANDREW'S - Anticipated Masses Intentions of the People of the Parish
	6:00PM	ST. RAYMOND'S - 3rd Anniversary Theresa Aldridge by Her Husband & Children
Sun Feb 18	8:30AM	ST. ANDREW'S - Joe Regan by Linda Hayes
	10:30AM	CHURCH OF THE VISITATION - 5th Anniversary Kim Grady by Jean & Family
Mon Feb 19	8:00AM	CHURCH OF THE VISITATION - Rita Robert by Ann & Rich Evans
	8:30AM	ST. ANDREW'S - 10th Anniversary Cecile Dufore by Her Sister Beverly Sabad <u>MORNING PRAYER AND MASS</u>
Tue Feb 20	8:00AM	ST. RAYMOND'S - Living & Deceased Members of the PVSR ARS by The PVSR ARS
	8:30AM	ST. ANDREW'S - Gertie LaBaff by Ernie LaBaff <u>MORNING PRAYER AND MASS</u>
Wed Feb 21	8:30AM	+ St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church ST. ANDREW'S - Edgar Amyot by Doreen Valade <u>MORNING PRAYER AND MASS</u>
	9:30PM	HIGH STREET APARTMENTS, Norfolk - Bill Reed by Rose Wagstaff and Family
Thu Feb 22	8:30AM	+The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle ST. ANDREW'S - Robert Sassone by Thomas Fiacco & Family
	5:30PM	CHURCH OF THE VISITATION - Edgar Amyot by Ted & Kathie Ashley <u>EVENING PRAYER AND MASS</u>
Fri Feb 23	8:00AM	+St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr CHURCH OF THE VISITATION - Monie Nightengale by The Elizabeth Brownell Estate <u>7:55AM – NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. PERIGRINE</u> <u>MORNING PRAYER AND MASS</u>
	8:30AM	ST. ANDREW'S - Ann Fiacco by Thomas Fiacco
Sat Feb 24	4:00PM	ST. ANDREW'S - Anticipated Masses Robert Regan by Roy & Frances Portolese
	6:00PM	ST. RAYMOND'S - Intentions of the People of the Parish
Sun Feb 25	8:30AM	ST. ANDREW'S – William Reed by John & Sharon Cotey
	10:30AM	CHURCH OF THE VISITATION - Lucille R. Martin Harvey-Moon by Ron Harvey & Family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 18 - No PVSR Religious Education Classes
Feb 18 - No St. Andrew's Religious Education Classes
Feb 18 - 33 Days to Morning Glory - 1:45pm-3:15pm - FAPC
Feb 20 - PVSR Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - 6:30pm-8:30pm - FAPC
Feb 21 - Stations of the Cross - 6:30pm - St. Andrew's Church
Feb 22 - 33 Days to Morning Glory - 9:15am-10:45am - St. Andrew's Church Hall
Feb 25 - No PVSR Religious Education Classes
Feb 25 - No St. Andrew's Religious Education Classes
Feb 25 - Stepping Stones Monthly Meeting - 6:00pm-8:00pm - FAPC

Church of the Visitation: 3 Morris Street, Norfolk, NY 13667, 315-384-4242

St. Andrew's Church: 2 Park Avenue, Norwood, NY 13668, 315-353-7303

St. Raymond's Church: 8828 St. Hwy 56, Raymondville, NY 13678

All mail to Visitation Rectory, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667

Email: visitationchurch@centralny.twcabc.com Website: norfolknorwoodraymondville.org

Office for the Parishes: 3 Morris St., Norfolk, NY 13667 Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:15am-3:15pm

Parish Secretary: Jill Garner **Religious Education:** St. Andrew's Ellie Prashaw, Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond: Carol O'Brien Gonthier

A PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Although about 90% of the American people say they believe in God, a large percentage are functional athiests, one respected priest evangelist has commented. We Catholic people in our parishes do believe, and strive to follow in the way of Jesus. But in all honesty, is there not more you can do to listen to the voice of the Lord and live life more in keeping with what he teaches? There is more I can do, for sure. Lent is the opportunity to work on that. Pray! Fast and abstain! Give Alms! Ask in the silence of your heart at Mass and afterwards today "Lord, what must I do to follow more truly in the way you have marked out for me?" Dare to ask: honestly, sincerely, attentively. God will not be slow to answer.

— Fr. Murphy

GUEST PREACHER

Deacon Thomas Kilian will be with us this Wednesday evening to share a special reflection during the Stations of the Cross 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "40 FOR 40"

Norwood and Norfolk K of C Councils are each holding their annual "40 for 40" can and food drives during Lent. Collection baskets are located in each of our three churches. All donations go to our two local food banks.



**Take the
journey**

...

STATIONS of the CROSS

The Stations (or Way) of the Cross are a mini pilgrimage; a set of prayers and meditations which help us to remember and share in the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. Please journey with us each Wednesday evening during Lent:

- ~ February 21st, St. Andrew's Church
- ~ February 28th, St. Andrew's Church*
- ~ March 7th, St. Andrew's Church
- ~ March 14th, Church of the Visitation
- ~ March 21st, Church of the Visitation*
- ~ March 28th, Church of the Visitation

All stations will begin at 6:30pm. Each week will feature a Deacon from the Diocese to share a special reflection.

* These sessions will be for all but presented in a format for our youth.



Want to Grow in Holiness, But Too Busy?

33 Days to Morning Glory *a Marian Consecration*

Looking for the quickest, surest, and easiest way to holiness, but don't know where to begin? In our hectic day and time, Saint Pope John Paul II and Saint Teresa of Calcutta knew that the quickest way to be transformed into a saint is through a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Schedule of Sessions

Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond
1:30 pm light social; 1:45 pm Program;
3:15 pm conclusion of session.

Sunday 2-18-18

Sunday 2-25-18

Sunday 3-4-18

Sunday 3-11-18

Sunday 3-18-18

Sunday 3-25-18

St. Andrew's Church

9:15 am Program;

10:45 am conclusion of session.

Thursday 2-15-18

Thursday 2-22-18

Thursday 3-1-18

Thursday 3-8-18

Thursday 3-15-18

Thursday 3-22-18

If you're looking for a simple way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Our Merciful Savior, and grow in holiness, join us for 33 Days to Morning Glory Small-group Retreat.

Contact Melody Levison
at (518) 594-7610 or the
office at (315) 384-4242.

For six weeks, we'll individually read about and reflect on four great Marian giants. They'll teach us the secrets to drawing closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary. In our weekly meetings, we'll share our insights within our small group and then watch a 30-minute video. The video by popular author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings our individual reflections and group experience into a clear and live-able focus. Join us!



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Thank you for the interest many of you have shown in our NHN Outreach Ministry. There will be a meeting for all those interested in volunteering with NHN on **Monday March 5th at 5:00 at the FAPC.**

Wagner's Whistle Stop Thrift Shop

Wagner's Whistle Stop Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers. They are located at 11 West Main Street in Norfolk and are open Tuesday & Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Please call 315-384-4572 for more information.

Religious Education

February 18, 2018-

All grades, Pre K-9th

Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's:

Relax! No Classes Mid-Winter Break

St. Andrew's Church:

No Classes Mid-Winter Break

Sunday March 4, 2018-

2nd First Communion Parent Child Meeting

Sunday March 18, 2018-

3rd Confirmation Parent Meeting

PARISH OF THE VISITATION AND ST. RAYMOND

SANCTUARY LAMP BEFORE THE TABERNACLE

The Sanctuary Lamp at the
Church of the Visitation burns this week for
The Raab Family
by Donna Raab



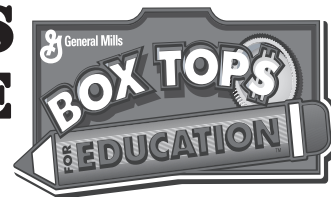
We welcome our congregation to come forward to view our decorations as we are aware some people may not be able to see them from the back of the church. Each Sunday something may be added or removed, so check back frequently.

Ash Wednesday - Purple Linen - desert scene, Crown of Thorns - Jesus suffering for us. A time of reflection, penance. May we remember today Jesus' sacrifice. His life for ours...His blood for our forgiveness. Beginning of Lent - a reluctant walk because we have to face sin, agony and death.

First Sunday of Lent -
Jesus walks in the
desert 40 days.



BOX TOPS ARE DUE 2/25/18!



Please begin to turn in all the Box Tops you have!

The box tops have to be trimmed, counted, and prepared for mailing. We need to have them ready to be sent in before **February 28, 2018.**

Your support in this program has been a great asset to our Religious Education program. **THANK YOU!**

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

SANCTUARY LAMP BEFORE THE TABERNACLE

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Andrew's Church
burns this week for
Lawrence Cline
by The Family of Mary Thomas



COFFEE HOUR

The next St. Andrew's Coffee Hour will be Sunday, February 18th after the 8:30AM Mass. Everyone is welcome to gather at the rectory for refreshments and fellowship. We hope to see you there! *Note that there will not be a coffee hour on the second Sunday of each month in deference to the Norfolk K of C Brunch*

ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LINE

Members of our Parish who would like a member of their family or a close friend put on our Prayer Line are asked to call either Doreen Valade @ 315-212-5729 or Ann Miller @ 315-353-2950. Please be sure the person we will be praying for agrees to this before you call. Everything you share with us is kept confidential.

ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER GROUP

St. Andrew's prayer group will meet at St. Andrew's Church Hall each Monday at 7:00PM. All are welcome to participate.

LENTEN LUNCHONS 2018

People of the Christian churches of Norwood gather at noon each Wednesday during Lent to share in lunch and a brief time of prayer. Plan to join with brothers and sisters of other faiths for this time of fellowship during this holy season.

- Feb 21 Methodist Church (with support from Congregational Church)
- Feb 28 St. Philip's Church
- Mar 7 Knapp Station Community Church
- Mar 14 St. Andrew's Church
- Mar 21 Free Methodist Church

OUR THANKS!

The family of Rita and Leon Robert recently made a generous donation to the PVSR in honor of their parents. Rita and Leon were faithful members of the Church of the Visitation for many years. We thank their family for their generous contribution.

Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond

February 11/12, 2017 - \$2,545.00
February 10/11, 2018 - \$1,882.00
Adult Env, \$1,567.00
Plate, \$75.00
Maintenance, \$140.00
Fiscal year-to-date adult envelope comparison: 2/11-12/17: \$62,358.00
2/10-11/18: \$64,469.40
Adult weekly envelopes:
2017 - \$2,330 ~ **2018** - \$1,567
Adult envelopes used:
2/11-12/17 - 55 ~ **2/10-11/18** - 43
2/3-4/18 - 57

St. Andrew's Church

February 11/12, 2017 - \$3,776.66
February 10/11, 2018 - \$1,903.00
Adult Env, \$1,117.00
Plate, \$569.00
Maintenance, \$61.00
Respect Life, \$10.00
Catholic Charities, \$70.00
Fiscal year-to-date adult envelope comparison: 2/11-12/17: \$51,916.00
2/10-11/18: \$53,388.00
Adult weekly envelopes:
2017 - \$1,107 ~ **2018** - \$1,117
Adult envelopes used:
2/11-12/17 - 60 ~ **2/10-11/18** - 48
2/3-4/18 - 57

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2017 Contribution Statements are available upon request. Please contact Jill in the Parish Office 315-384-4242 if you would like one.

SPECIAL COLLECTION THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous contributions last week on Ash Wednesday to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

LET US PRAY

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer emotionally, spiritually, or physically especially Alda Martin, Pauline Wells and Dale Wells. If you wish to have the name of a relative or friend listed for one month, please contact the Parish office at 315-384-4242.

*Anyone from **Our Catholic Parishes** may request to have a person included in the bulletin for prayers. We will adhere to the practice of including a name for one month before removing it. Prayer can always be requested again at any time.*

ST. RAYMOND'S CHAPEL MASS SCHEDULE

Father Jack Downs will celebrate daily Mass at St. Raymond's Church in the rectory chapel at 8:00AM according to the following schedule:

Week of February 18: Mon, Wed - Friday

Week of February 25: Mon, Wed - Friday

PARISH OF THE VISITATION AND ST. RAYMOND

Lector and Ministers of Eucharist

Church of the Visitation

2/18/18 – Dorothy Gately, Gil Gonthier, Jean Gang
2/25/18 – Laurie Dufresne, Kris Layo, Dorothy Gately

St. Raymond's Church Lector

2/17/18 – Sue Cobb
2/24/18 – Nancy Demo

Collection Counters

2/18/18 – Fred Baxter, Francis Sharlow
2/25/18 – Mike LaShomb, Donna Raab

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lector and Ministers of Eucharist

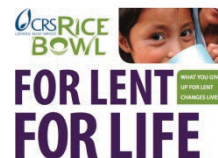
2/17/18 – Kathleen Colorusso, Lisa & Ted Levison
2/18/18 – Andy Burnett, Cathy Cray, Linda Regan
2/24/18 – Linda Regan, Ted Levison, Pat LaRose
2/25/18 – MaryEllen Todd, Elaine Haggett, Andy Burnett

Collection Counters

2/18/18 – Phil Regan, Doreen Valade
2/25/18 – Rita Jackson, Ellen Farrington

CRS – RICE BOWL

Through Catholic Relief Services you can help millions. Every year the Catholic community in the United States assists more than 100 million of the world's poorest people with innovative, long-term solutions to poverty, hunger, drought & disease and emergency crisis relief. Join in this Lenten season by picking up your Rice Bowl at church and visiting www.CRSRiceBowl.org for more information.



ST. JOSEPH'S HOME – SPECIAL COLLECTION

Please be generous with a gift in the second collection to be taken up this weekend at all Masses to benefit St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg. As the only Catholic nursing home in the diocese, the need is great. Your sacrifice to support us today helps to ensure the continuation of this respected Catholic healthcare facility into the future. Contribution envelopes can be found in the bulletin and in the back of each church. Gifts may also be sent directly to: **St. Joseph's Foundation**

ATTN: Lori Smithers
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning February 19th, and until further notice, Jill's hours at the CV Rectory will be Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9:15am-3:15am and Thu 11:00am-5:00pm.

MASS TIME CHANGES

The Mass times and locations have been modified to accommodate the practices vital to experiencing the season of Lent to its fullest. Pay special attention to schedule each week so you may experience the richness of the season and in turn grow in your faith.

Calendar

Monday

February 19

Lenten Weekday

Lv 19:1–2, 11–18

Mt 25:31–46

Tuesday

February 20

Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10–11

Mt 6:7–15

Wednesday

February 21

Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1–10

Lk 11:29–32

Thursday

February 22

Chair of St. Peter,

Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

Friday

February 23

Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21–28

Mt 5:20–26

Saturday

February 24

Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16–19

Mt 5:43–48

Sunday

February 25

*Second Sunday
of Lent*

Gn 22:1–2, 9a,

10–13, 15–18

Rom 8:31b–34

Mk 9:2–10

Dear Padre,

Why won't the priest hear my confession right before Mass?

Theoretically, any time is a good time for penitents to reconcile and renew their relationship with the Lord! In practice, the priest's refusal to hear your confession immediately before presiding at Mass may be as much for your benefit as his. In his preoccupation with last-minute details of leading the assembly, he may think: *"How can I be more attentive to this individual and*

to a worthy celebration of the sacrament of penance without delaying Mass?" He might also be reacting to a penitent's mechanical understanding of the sacrament that fosters a scrupulous practice of devotional confessions—that is, confessing only minor sins in preparation for Communion.

Anyone who is conscious of serious sin is not to "receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess" (*Code of Canon Law*, 916). In this case, the person makes a sincere act of contrition, including a resolution to confess as soon as possible.

"The Eucharist is not ordered to the forgiveness of mortal sins—that is proper to the sacrament of Reconciliation" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1395). Nevertheless, "the Eucharist strengthens our charity...and this living charity wipes away venial sins [and] the Eucharist preserves us from future mortal sins" (CCC 1394–95).

Catholics in a state of grace show respect for the dignity of the Eucharist, but trying to confess grave sins to a priest right before Mass may lessen the dignity given to one sacrament over another if the celebration of the sacrament of penance is rushed or the celebration of Mass begins late.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CNS PHOTO/MIKE STECHSCHULTE, THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC



A Word From Pope Francis

In the face of tragedies which take the lives of so many migrants and refugees...expressions of empathy and compassion cannot help but spontaneously well up. "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). This is not a question directed to others; it is a question directed to me, to you, to each of us.

—Forum on Migration and Peace, February 21, 2017