

# *1st Sunday of Lent*

**LOVE LIFE**  
**LiVE**  **LENT**  
**TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**

**ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**February 21, 2021**

## *The Pastor Jots It Down...*

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John Bosco and St. Rosalie Parishes and School,

As we begin this sacred season of Lent, I want to wish you all, a very happy Lenten Season. You may have noticed the joyful cover of this 1st bulletin of this Lenten Season. Its not a traditional cover. But I do believe it speaks much about what this Lenten Season should be about – a time of optimism and joy.

All life is beautiful from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The Lord loves with an everlasting love the infant in the womb and the person on death row. His love is pure gift. He loves no matter how perfect or imperfect we are. His love for us never ceases in good times or in bad. He continually calls us to respond to His great Love by doing all in our power to defend human life, by cherishing our lives and seeking to walk more closely in friendship with Him.



Lent is time to be embraced with joy rather than a time to dread with its practices of prayer, fasting, alms-giving, and self-denial.

If we live Lent it will impact us, our families, our parish community, those we meet in daily life and the poor, leading to the transformation of the world. Holy Mother Church calls us this Lenten season to return our hearts to Jesus and to share more deeply with him in bringing about the coming of His Kingdom on earth.

It is important that we plan our Lenten program. I suggest that you write down your desired Lenten practices on paper. In doing so, be as specific as possible. Don't just say, I'm going to pray more during Lent or go to Mass more frequently. Rather, I'm going to get up 20 minutes earlier every day so that I can say the rosary before I get caught up in the events of the day. Or, I will make the effort to go to daily (or M-W-F or W-F or \_\_\_\_\_) Mass at \_\_\_\_\_ (Church) at \_\_\_\_\_ time.

When we have written down our chosen practices, then each evening before going to bed we can check up on ourselves on whether we accomplished what we said we were going to do. If so, thank the Lord. If not, express sorry for missing out, and promise the Lord you will try to do better tomorrow.

One area that we might like to look at and work on during this Lenten Season is our example. What example are we showing in the living of our Christian life? Are we trying to give the very best example and serve as models for our children and grandchildren? Are there areas where we give bad example?

Jesus has a special love for the children He entrusts to our care. In Matt 18:6 and he warns us of the gravity of putting stumbling blocks before children: "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea."

During these next weeks let us Love Life: Live Lent Joyfully! And Transform our Lives and our World.

God loves you all!

### ***St. John Bosco Catholic Church***

***Served by the Salesians of Don Bosco***

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*Pastor*

**Fr. George Hanna, SDB**

**Fr. Wilgintz Polynice, SDB**

*Parochial Vicars*

**Kevin Steel, Deacon**



*St. Gianna Beretta Molla:*

**Wife, Mother,  
Doctor, Lover of Life**

Gianna Beretta Molla was born in Magenta (Milan), Italy, on October 4, 1922, the tenth of 13 children. From her earliest youth, Gianna accepted the gift of faith and received an excellent Christian education from her parents. After earning degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia in 1949, she opened a medical clinic in Mesero, near Magenta, in 1950. She specialized in pediatrics at the University of Milan in 1952 and thereafter gave special attention to mothers, babies, the elderly and the poor.

On September 24, 1955, Gianna married Pietro Molla in St. Martin's Basilica in Magenta. Together, they would have four children: Pierluigi, Mariolina, Laura and Gianna Emanuela. Gianna met the demands of mother, wife, doctor with simplicity and balance. Gianna loved culture, fashion and beauty. She played piano, painted, enjoyed tennis, mountain climbing and skiing. She attended the symphony, theatre and opera in Milan. She also loved to travel.

In September 1961, toward the end of the second month of pregnancy with her fourth child, Gianna had to make a heroic decision. Physicians diagnosed a serious fibroma in the uterus that required surgery. The surgeon suggested that Gianna undergo an abortion in order to save her life. A few days before the child was due, she was ready to give her life in order to save that of her child: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child – I insist on it. Save the baby."

On the morning of April 21, 1962, her daughter Gianna Emanuela was born. Despite efforts to

save them both, on the morning of April 28, amid unspeakable pain and after repeated exclamations of "Jesus, I love you," Gianna died. She was 39 years old.

Her husband, Pietro, has described Gianna's life as "an act and a perennial action of faith and charity; it was a non-stop search for the will of God for every decision and for every work, with prayer and meditation, Holy Mass and the Eucharist."

The story of this remarkable woman spread quickly throughout the world. On April 24, 1994, during the International Year of the Family, Pope John Paul II beatified Gianna Beretta Molla. The Holy Father said her witness was a hymn to life.

Ten years later, on May 16, 2004, the same Holy Father canonized Gianna Beretta Molla, offering this new lay saint to the Church as a model of virtue, holiness, motherhood, professionalism and devotion.

In an age when marriage, family life, virtue and holiness are under assault, the life of Gianna Beretta Molla is a striking witness of hope and beauty. St. Gianna Molla's life and final decision were heroic. She reminds the Church and the world of the necessity of a consistent ethic of life from the earliest moments to the final moments of human life.

In the words of St. Gianna's friend, Piera Fontana: "Fifty years ago, before Gianna, how was it possible that only nuns, priests and friars were raised to the altar?"

**Why were we never raised to the altar? Gianna was raised to the altar. She represents all mothers... A mother has finally arrived."**

# *The Freshman Nerd*

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all his books. I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.'

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.

As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks.' They really should get lives.

'He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!' There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books.

He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, 'Boy, you are really going to build some serious muscles with this pile of books every day!' He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

# *Suicide and...*

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle.

He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school.

He filled out and did look good in glasses. He had more dates than I had, and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, 'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!' He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled.... 'Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began... 'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends....

I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them.

I am going to tell you a story.' I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

'Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.' I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and Dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did, I realize it's depth.

**Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.**

By: Kyle's Friend

# *The Help of a Friend*



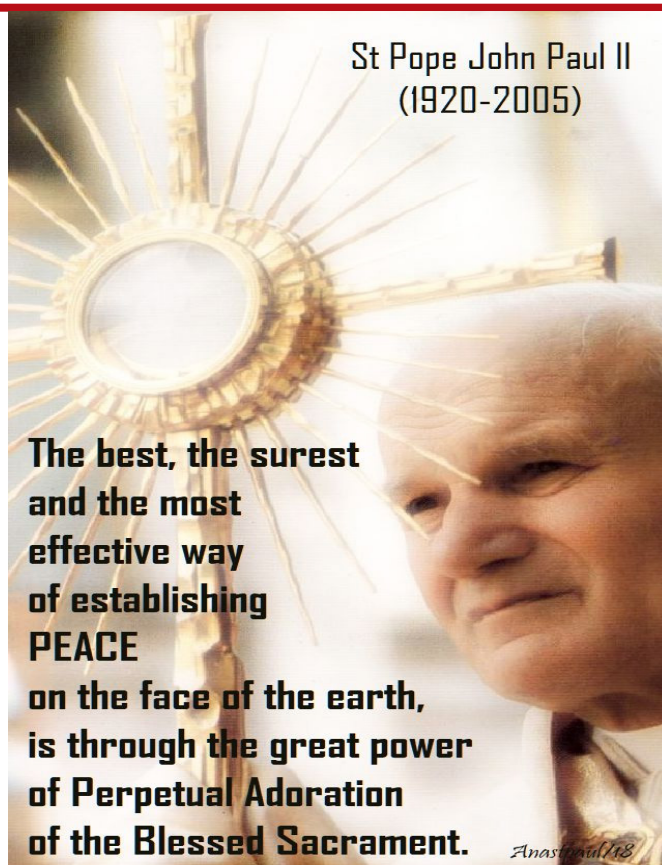


We are hosting a  
Baby Bottle Campaign  
Please take a bottle after Mass  
February 20-21  
and return it the following weekend  
with your donation to support this  
life-affirming ministry  
[www.womensnewlife.com](http://www.womensnewlife.com)

### **ADORATION RETURNS FOR PANDEMIC WEDNESDAYS**

Adoration of the Most Blessed Eucharist is offered in church on Wednesdays following the 7 AM mass until 8 PM Benediction. Because of generous, committed, and scheduled adorers, all who wish quiet time to pray are welcome to visit and experience an intimate visit with Jesus. New Adorers are welcome to register by sending name, email, and phone number to [StJohnBosco@AdorationServants.org](mailto:StJohnBosco@AdorationServants.org) or to the Chapel Coordinator, Edie Meaux, at [EdithMeaux@Cox.net](mailto:EdithMeaux@Cox.net). You must be registered to receive the door code.

*May Jesus be adored!*



### **Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

The Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration will take place on Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in St. Philip Neri Church in Metairie. Please Note: This celebration will not be a Mass, but a prayer service. Attendance of Mass for Sunday obligation will have to be met within one's respective parish. To register, please contact the Parish Office 340.0444 or [office@saintjohnboscochurch.org](mailto:office@saintjohnboscochurch.org) before March 12, 2021.

### **Vocation Prayer Intention**



February 19 - 25  
please pray for  
**Brother Kevin White**  
who is in  
Post-Novitiate studying in  
Orange, NJ

## *Announcements*

### **NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Effective Weekend of March 6/7**

**Saturday: 5:30pm Vigil**

**Sunday: 9:00am, 12:00 Noon, 8:00pm**

### **LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE**

**ST. JOHN BOSCO**

**Monday-Friday: 7:00 am**

**ST. ROSALIE**

**Monday-Friday:  
7:00 am & 12:10 pm**

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**7:00 p.m. every Friday during Lent**

## *Pope's Prayer Intention February*



We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

## ***Important Reminder -***

Please follow all CDC Guidelines

**If you or someone in your household have been exposed to, or have tested (and may be waiting on results) for COVID19, please stay home.**

## *Sanctuary Candle*

*In Memory of*  
**Jim McKenna**

## *Bread & Wine*

*In Memory of*  
**Jim McKenna**

## *Mass Intentions*

### **Saturday, February 20**

8:00am Parishioners of St. John Bosco  
5:30pm +Jacqueline G. Guillot  
+Wayne Delaune, AOD 2/18  
+Joyce Sonnier  
+All Souls in Purgatory  
Conversion of Sinners  
+Leboria Burrell  
+Duffy & Derek Dumas  
+Peter John Paul Nguyen  
+Joseph Lai Duc Anh  
+Rita & Oren Breaux, Sr.  
+Matthew Foret

### **Sunday, February 21**

9:00am +Marilyn DeBlanc  
11:00am +All Souls in Purgatory  
+Joseph Hung Monh Do  
+Gene Robinson  
+James' Soul  
+Guise Mai Mien  
Damon Blum  
+Steven Hourcade  
Happy Birthday Hannah Ha Jordan  
Happy Birthday Andrew Vuong  
Happy Birthday Lauren Hoang  
+Maria Hoang & Joseph Nguyen  
+Peter & Maria Nguyen  
+Mary Ann Ramos

### **Monday, February 22**

7:00am +Raymond Ducote

### **Tuesday, February 23**

7:00am +Maria Pham

### **Wednesday, February 24**

7:00am Phanxico Vu Huu Chi

### **Thursday, February 25**

7:00am +Paul Nha Chu

### **Friday, February 26**

7:00am +Joyce Sonnier, MOA

### **Saturday, February 27**

8:00am Parishioners of St. John Bosco  
5:30pm +Jacqueline G. Guillot  
+Wayne Delaune  
+Joyce Sonnier  
+All Souls in Purgatory  
Conversion of Sinners  
+Leboria Burrell  
+Duffy & Derek Dumas  
+Dale Hymel  
+Abdon & Quiaoit Families  
+Antoine Domino, Jr., MOB

*"Act today in such a way that  
you need not blush tomorrow."*

*~Don Bosco*