

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

St. Virgil's Parish

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., Feb. 20	5pm	Patricia Feliz
Sun., Feb. 21	8am	Mary Beth Stolworthy
	10:30am	John Cehelsky Marie Feeney Sandy Zegley Burham
	12:15pm	Salvatore Spatola Joseph Ward Clara Lombardo
Mon., Feb. 22	9am	Loretta Smith—4 th Anniversary Peter Gallo
Tues., Feb. 23	9am	Manny Salvador
Wed., Feb. 24	9am	Ines D. Bernardo
Thurs., Feb. 25	9am	Sheila O'Kane
Fri., Feb. 26	9am	Mary Spinola—6 th Anniversary



Readings for the Week

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Please remember in your prayers:

Ed Schrak, Kristie Farias, Mary Sullivan, Marie Loughlin, Steve Hogan, Doris Biache, Barbara Trzaska, Lydia Sesso, Robert Taylor, Mike Manley, Debbie Dallemolle, Harriet Lipari, Deacon Alan Lucibello, Bill Warrick, Tony Loughlin, Florence & John Luckey, Rosemary Paulison, Jackie Donnelley, Judy Taylor, Mary Eileen & Douglas Prisinzano, Colleen Dillion & Family, Mary Maffeo, Marie E. Logan, Rose Marie Warrick, Sandra Buck, Margaret Ellis, John & Elizabeth Zisa, Anne Benson, Bob Taylor, Kamasha Redhead, Miah Tully, Barbara Bock, Baby Emma Scannelli, Stephen Burke, Eileen Lagan, and Teresa Procopio.



Thank you for your continued generosity. The collection for the weekend February 13/14 \$5,390. In pew donations were \$2,708 and donations thru FaithDirect were \$ 2,682.

Starting with this new year, please consider using Faith Direct, an online giving service where you can donate the amount you currently give each Sunday through an online medium (Our parish number is NJ732)

You can also use Faith Direct for a one-time gift. You can use your cell phone and "text to give" at 973-221-9551 and follow the instructions for a one-time gift or Ctrl+Click this link below to make a one-time gift.



Please pray for all those who serve in defense of our Country, both at home and abroad, especially:

The deployed airmen of the 914 Air Refueling Wing

SSGT Blake Reidinger	LT Kelsey Bergh
PO1 Timothy Butchko	MJR Gary Windt
LT Patrick Leahey	2LT Ryan Feeney
MJR Stephanie Sittmann	SSGT Thomas Sittman
LTR Andrew McGuinness	SSGT Eric Wright
LCDR Daniel M. Leahey	LT Mark Van Ordan
LT Mark C. Leahey	MSGT T.J. Hopkins
LT Kian Federick Stewart	LT Tyler Huhn
DC1 Alexander V. Fernandez	CPL Irvin Carithers





Schedule for 2nd Week of Lent

Stations of the Cross: Fridays following the 9am Mass, in person and live-streamed and at 7pm in person and live streamed

Confessions: Saturdays 3:45- 4:30pm and Mondays 7 – 8:30pm

Novena to St. Joseph—Tuesdays following the 9am Mass in person and live streamed

Women in the Bible Tuesdays at 7pm (Contact Phil Alcock) teleconference

Forgiveness Lenten Study with Fr. Marcin on Wednesdays March 3, 10, & 17 at 7pm in the Tracy Center



Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession provides the Church’s teaching about the sacrament of Confession, including a practical “walk through” of what happens in the confessional and how every moment connects to Scripture, Catholic Tradition, and God’s passionate desire to be with you.

Join Fr. Marcin Kania on Wednesday evenings at 7pm for three sessions on March 3, 10 and 17. We will meet in the newly renovated Tracy Center where we have plenty of room to “socially distance.” The materials for the study are \$25. To register, drop the form below at the Parish Office or you can call the office (973-538-1418) or email svparishoffice@gmail.com.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parish Office News

The Church is open for private prayer and reflection Monday through Friday from 9:30am – 11:30am. You can access the church from the Parking Lot doors and are restricted to the area near the Blessed Mother’s statue.

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 3:45-4:30pm in Church in the newly created Confessional space behind the Altar. You also can make an appointment by calling the parish office.

The Parish Office is open to visitors daily from 11am – 1pm. You can reach the office by phone (973.538.1418) Monday thru Friday 9am – 4pm or anytime by email svparishoffice@gmail.com.



Virtual Lenten Sharing Group

Led by parishioner Carole White-Conor, we are offering a Lenten Faith-Sharing group (virtually) again this year.

The book they are proposing is Joyce Rupp's "Jesus, Friend of My Soul". It is a book of short daily readings and reflections beginning on Ash Wednesday. The group will meet on Monday evenings, beginning the Monday after Ash Wednesday (February 22) and for the next 6 weeks - ending March 29 (the Monday of Holy Week). If you are interested in joining this group, please email at carolewc44@verizon.net or you can call her on her cell: 201-213-0038. The book can be purchased from Amazon.

A special Invitation from Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel parish:

EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH, MEANING, FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

Do you have questions about the meaning of Life? About the Christian Faith? Have you ever wondered whether Christianity is relevant to your life? Have you ever thought, "there must be more to life than this"? We invite you to experience **Virtual ALPHA**, where you will be able to explore these questions and share your point of view, without any judgment. The next series begins **Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30pm**. Our team of Alpha leaders looks forward to welcoming you! Please visit <https://www.ndcarmel.com/alpha> to find out more about the series, view testimonials from past participants, and register!

Evangelization Corner



Remember how, just two years ago, giving up chocolates or caffeine for Lent felt like hell? Now that struggle today would be a godsend for many of us. As we wrote in last week's column, this past year has been difficult, at times politically divisive, and definitely tiring. It feels as if the turmoil and pandemic we have gone through in 2020 has been a year-long Lent. It has been a time of change (some might say crisis) and the real question is how we are going to eventually come through it. After the events of this past year, are we going to surface as people who serve others from a place of humility with love, reflecting the revealing God? The basic rule of any difficult situation is that you do not come out of it the same way you go into it. When you get through it, you come out either better or worse, but not the same. It is how we grow.

God is calling us to be Christ-centered – humble, healing, and merciful. During this first week of Lent we should slow down, re-think our priorities, put aside our worries and concerns and determine what is most important to each of us. It is time to ascertain what we believe, what we value,

What we want, and what we seek.

As we continue on our ultimate journey toward the celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery, it is a time for spiritual self-improvement through sacrifice. But it should be less about "What we give up" and more about "How are we willing to change". Lent is a wonderful spiritual pilgrimage that can help us to come closer to our loving God. It should be about breaking the bonds of sin, strengthening our personal relationship with Christ, deepening our own faith, and sharing our faith with others. The goal this Lent should be for each of us to find inner peace and contentment and to remind ourselves to spread the Good News that salvation is for all who believe in Jesus Christ. To spread the news that we are all loved and that our sins are forgiven if we allow the grace of God to change our hearts.

Even during this time of masks and social distancing you can develop a "Spiritual

Plan" for Lent; one that includes prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. You can also join a small Lenten group, take the Fridays of Lent seriously (i.e., join the passion of Christ by doing a small act of penance and praying the stations of the cross and abstaining from meat), go to confession and, if possible, participate in all the celebrations of the Triduum Holy Days.

May the Lord's peace be with you always!

Evangelization Ministry

Weekly Reflection

It seems amazing that we are already into Lent, a season dedicated to penance and hope. The Epistle was written by Peter to strengthen those being persecuted. Historians are not sure if this Epistle in fact was written by Peter or a follower of Peter. This was a common

Practice done to give the epistle more credence to the readers. Think how we would feel if we were in the shoes of those people being persecuted. To encourage the followers of Christ, Peter reminded them of Noah and the ark; and that Christ, who had suffered for us, "had gone to heaven and is the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers, subject to him." Peter is reminding them of God's eternal covenant, which is our covenant also.

Mark's Gospel, as Peter's Epistle, reminds us that while Christ was in the desert for 40 days, the "angels ministered to Him," and He proclaimed: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.:"

Let us use Lent to take time to reflect on the importance of our seeking forgiveness and making our lives better, especially in these difficult days in which we are living. And by all means, let us rely on the power of "hope."

Lord, help us how we can learn from our past and trust in "hope" for the future.

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1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Final

thoughts...

If you know of a parishioner who is not yet signed up for Flocknote but would like to receive them, email the parish office at svparishoffice@gmail.com to request to participate.

Donate at Faith Direct: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NJ732/20872> or "Text to Give" at 973-221-9551