

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BALLSTON SPA,  
& ST. MARY'S MISSION, GALWAY**

**~ Fr. Francis R. Vivacqua, Pastor ~ Deacon Ronald Hogan**

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St. Mary's Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysballstonspa>



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

- Jn 11:25



## MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY – March 30, (Lenten Weekday)**  
 7:45 AM + Mary Francis O'Brien *req. by* Gary O'Brien

**TUESDAY – March 31, (Lenten Weekday)**  
 5:30 PM + Pro Populo

**WEDNESDAY – April 1, (Lenten Weekday)**  
 7:45 AM + Lisa Poitras *req. by* Welch Family

**THURSDAY – April 2, (Lenten Weekday)**  
 7:45 AM + Pro Populo

**FRIDAY – April 3, (Lenten Weekday)**  
**NO DAILY MASS**

**SATURDAY – April 4, (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)**  
 4:00 PM + James W. Reagan  
 + Jean Pierson *req. by* Joe  
 + Lucian Buffardi *req. by* Maureen Winney

**SUNDAY – April 5, (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)**  
 8:30 AM + Pro Populo  
 + Ann Marie Cramer  
*req. by* Sandra Cramer Little & Family  
 + Regina Barnes *req. by* Stephanie & Sandra Barnes

**10:30 AM** + Zachary Zlotnick & Metro Zendran *req. by* Family  
 + Gabby Gava *req. by* Mr. & Mrs. William LaTour

**12:00 PM** + Virginia Carotenuto *req. by* Daughter  
 + Spec. Int. of Mary McNamara *req. by* Bob & Maureen  
 + Marlene & Kenneth Brown *req. by* Friend, Rita

My dear sisters and brothers, may the peace of Jesus Christ and the love of God our Father bring you comfort and conciliation. The staff at St. Mary's is implementing ways we can stay in contact with our parishioners. Even though we may not see each other physically, we are united in the Spirit of God. Please remember to tell your family and friends to like our Facebook page, utilize our parish website, and coming soon will be our parish YouTube page (so that we can celebrate Mass together).

Does God have a message for us during this Fifth Week of Lent? Absolutely. First, checkout the *Readings of the Week* down in the corner of this page. Each day, a theme is provided. This theme should help you reflect upon the readings of the day. For example, the theme for this Sunday is: *We have faith in Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life*. Today's gospel passage is the beautiful, heartwarming story of Jesus raising his dear friend Lazarus from the dead.

When we reflect upon this passage from John's Gospel, we recall that just before Jesus raised Lazarus, he was not afraid to show his sorrow through his tears. We are likewise called to feel the weakness which must naturally be present when we encounter death, or moments which feel like death. None of us have died because we are not able to celebrate Lent according to our traditions. However, many of us may feel a sense of darkness, of death if you will, because things are different. For me personally, my difficulty is not being able to see and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with all of you, my immediate family. Like Jesus, my heart aches as it seems we are divided by the "stone" between us. It's normal for us to weep like Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus with sorrow. When Jesus received the news "the one you love is ill" eventually he decides to go back to Judea. His disciples are sacred, worried, anxious to go back to a place where people tried to stone Jesus.

All our *suffering* during this time and the weeks to come, will be turned around because of our FAITH. Faith convinces us of Christ's victory over death. During this time, we turn to the sacred scriptures and find comfort in Jesus' actions. Jesus' arrival at Bethany was for "the glory of God." The Gospel is not just about Lazarus' resurrection, it's about *ours*. Likewise, all our human suffering, losses and doubts are reimagined in light of our faith in Christ. This profound faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit lives in us. With God's Spirit, we can overcome anything, even death itself. My loved ones, the tomb is empty, our hearts are full!

*Yours in Christ, Father Francis Vivacqua*



### Readings for the week of March 29th

To get the most of your journey during Lent this year, it is a good practice to reflect upon the sacred scripture readings of the week, especially to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

*Included with the readings below is a theme to reflect upon.*

**Sunday:** We have faith in Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life. Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**Monday:** Blessed are those who hope in the Lord. Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23/Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** In Jesus, God heals us and gives us the gift of eternal life. Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102/Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** God sets us free to love and live in him. Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** We are heirs to the promises of God. Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105/Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Persevere in the Lord despite hardship. Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18/Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Jesus gathers together all the children of God. Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

**Next Sunday:** We recall and commemorate the events of our salvation as we begin Holy Week. Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

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## Collections & OnLine Giving

Thank you for the many people who have signed up for OnLine Giving or mailed in their envelopes. We are so grateful to have such a generous family of parishioners who are willing to adapt to the times and continue to support St. Mary's.



Our reality is that without Masses, there are no collections. It is important to remember the first part of being charitable is through the power of prayer. Our collections go toward the parish's operating expenses. If you haven't had the opportunity to enroll in our OnLine Giving program, please check out our website. If you need assistance, please email Ann McCauley. As always, thank you for your prayers and generosity.

We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:	
	<b>Mar. 22</b>
	Envelopes & Loose \$ 2,440
	On-line Giving 1,193
<b>Total \$ 3,633</b>	
To cover our weekly expenses, we need \$11,500.	

Pope Francis composed a prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection of the world during the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

*O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

1. **Jesus Is Condemned to Death.**  
Pontius Pilate condemns Jesus to death.
  2. **Jesus Takes Up His Cross.**  
Jesus willingly accepts and patiently bears his cross.
  3. **Jesus Falls the First Time.**  
Weakened by torments and by loss of blood, Jesus falls beneath his cross.
  4. **Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother.**  
Jesus meets his mother, Mary, who is filled with grief.
  5. **Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross.**  
Soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.
  6. **Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus.**  
Veronica steps through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus.
  7. **Jesus Falls a Second Time.**  
Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross a second time.
  8. **Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.**  
Jesus tells the women to weep not for him but for themselves and for their children.
  9. **Jesus Falls the Third Time.**  
Weakened almost to the point of death, Jesus falls a third time.
  10. **Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments.**  
The soldiers strip Jesus of his garments, treating him as a common criminal.
  11. **Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross.**  
Jesus' hands and feet are nailed to the cross.
  12. **Jesus Dies on the Cross.**  
After suffering greatly on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.
  13. **Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross.**  
The lifeless body of Jesus is tenderly placed in the arms of Mary, his mother.
  14. **Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb.**  
Jesus' disciples place his body in the tomb.
- The closing prayer – Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.



## *Seal the Doorposts with the Divine Mercy*

In this time of calamity, the Marian Fathers invite you to participate in a simple but incredibly powerful act of faith. To protect you and your family, we urge you to post an Image of the Divine Mercy on your front doors.

Father Chris Alar, MIC, explains why: You can clip the image from the bulletin, or print a larger version by visiting [TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage](http://TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage). If your image hasn't been blessed by a priest, the Church allows you to invoke a blessing yourself. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1669) teaches that lay people, on account of their baptismal priesthood, may administer certain blessings.

How can you invoke such a blessing upon the Image of Divine Mercy? While making the Sign of the Cross over the Image, say: *Oh, Lord, I seek your blessing upon this image, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.* Why is this Image so important?

The Image represents the Lord, the Lamb sacrificed for us, from whose Heart flows Blood and Water, the streams of God's mercy upon the whole world. The Lord promises us through St. Faustina "that the soul that will venerate [honor] this image will not perish" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 48). He also promises: "victory over [our] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death" and to "defend [us] as [His] own glory" (*Diary*, 48). The Lord said, "By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it" (*Diary*, 570).

Saint Faustina's confessor, Blessed Michael Sopocho, recalled additional promises our Lord made through St. Faustina regarding the Image: When chastisements for sins come upon the world and your own country will experience utter degradation, the only refuge will be trust in My mercy. I will protect the cities and homes in which The Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My Mercy.

Father Sopocho recalled that Jesus also said: Let everyone procure for their homes this Image because there will yet come trials. And those homes, and entire families, and everyone individually who will hold this image of mercy in deep reverence, I will preserve from every sort of misfortune. The time will come when all those who do so will give witness to the miraculous efficacy and to the special protection of mercy flowing from this Image.

What does this mean for us today? Recently, as the repercussions of the coronavirus became crystal clear, we prayed at Mass, "Let us seal the doorposts of our inner thoughts with the protective Word of God ..." This is a reference to Exodus 12, where God commanded the Israelites to "seal the doorposts" with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death may pass over those houses that have been marked.

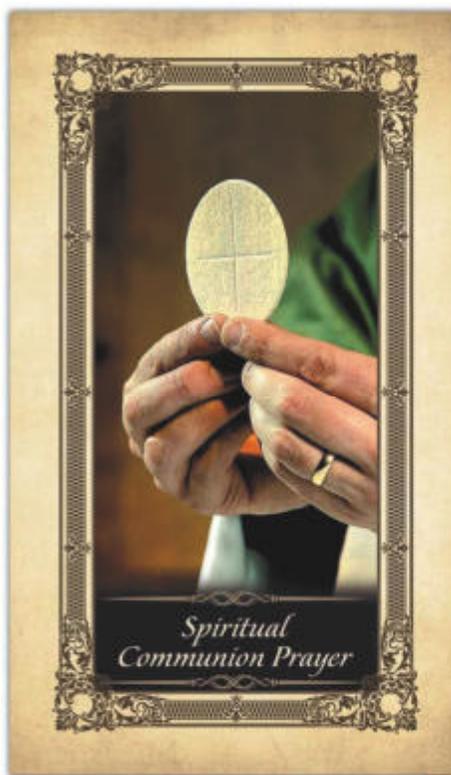
Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God. By offering Himself as atonement for our sins and those of the whole world, by the outpouring of His Blood and Water, He freed us from eternal death and sealed us for eternal life.

So please, I urge you to put the Image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You" upon your doors, as many have done in times of calamity.

Remember, it is Jesus whom we worship in this Image. Also, while this act of faith may not guarantee your family won't be physically affected by the virus, it will guarantee that, by your trust in Jesus, you will obtain His promises of love and mercy, which will surround you and remain in you forever.

***Jesus, I trust in you!***





**Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My **Jesus**, I believe that You are present in the Most **Holy Sacrament**. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You **into my soul**. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually **into my heart**. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. **Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

KE24-669 

Lenten resources available on the St. Mary's website at <https://stmarysballstonspa.org/lent-2020>

*2020 Lenten Gospel Reflections and Daily Meditations from Bishop Barron*

Spend your time with Christ in the Gospel this Lent alongside Bishop Barron and the Word on Fire community. Receive these daily Gospel reflections in your inbox every morning - Go to <https://www.lentreflections.com/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by [giving alms](#), and to practice self-control through [fasting](#). Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis



Lenten Reflections—Sign up to receive these reflections straight to your inbox every morning at <https://formed.org/lent-2020>

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Lenten Resources



Throughout Lent we are asked to seek our Lord in [prayer](#), to practice self-control through [fasting](#) and to serve others through [almsgiving](#) (USCCB). During Lent, each person is invited to consider how our Lord is inviting him or her to walk with Him through Lent. Go to the diocesan website at <https://www.rcda.org/lent>

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<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever>



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The month of March is **"Music in Our School Month"** and our St. Mary's School students were involved with writing and drawing projects that shared their love for music. The theme for 2020 is **"Music Changes Our Lives"**. Even in this time of "remote learning" while our school is closed, our students are still participating with music while at home through activities that are shared with them by their music teachers. Music continues to change their lives despite what else happens in our world.



Here are some of the thoughts submitted by our students about how music has changed their lives or the lives of other people:

- ♪ "With music, you can get a little history lesson if you listen to older music. You can also become closer to the Lord through music."
- ♪ "I change the lives of others by playing my violin when someone is sad or by singing Happy Birthday on someone's special day. When I play my violin, I can bring them laughter. When I sing Happy Birthday, it can bring joy!"
- ♪ "Music has changed my life by introducing me to my instrument of choice, the ukulele! I enjoy playing it because of its small size and beautiful sound. I'm learning the song "Fly Me to the Moon". Learning an instrument is one thing, enjoying it is what counts!"
- ♪ "Music has changed my life by putting me in my happy place when I feel sad and alone. Sometimes, if I get anxious before a basketball game, I will listen to a motivational song on my headphones. My favorite is "Underdog" by Alicia Keyes - I like this song because it talks about people rising up and overcoming their obstacles."
- ♪ "Music has changed my life by keeping me busy. I love playing my violin so much that I practice for a long time. Music has also changed my life by making me happy. I watch the videos my mom has taken of my concerts and see how far I have come."
- ♪ "Music changed my life because the songs I learned in music class made me want to sing more and to play my favorite instrument - the drum! My teacher made me more confident!"
- ♪ "Some songs can help you get into a certain mood like calm, energized, happy, or sad. Songs can help reflect your inner feelings. I think music can strengthen your bond with God. Music can affect your daily life without even knowing it."
- ♪ "Music changed my life when I first started playing the recorder. I learned that if you practice, you will always get a beautiful outcome. Practicing teaches you responsibility and an open mind to learning something new."



### Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace.  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the  
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our  
death. Amen.

### Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in  
Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

*"Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed." Job 8:7*

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