

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

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Third Sunday of Lent

“During Lent, let us find concrete
ways to overcome our indifference.”

POPE FRANCIS



**Giving – Fasting – Praying
Repenting – Forgiving**

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 4:00 PM

SUNDAY, 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 NOON

WEEKDAYS, MONDAY—FRIDAY, 9:00 AM AND 12:10 PM

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 11:00 –11:30

**Monday - March 8**

9:00 AM + Ann Santangelo
r/o Rose Bersch
12:10 PM + Howard Bixler
r/o Gail Ring

Tuesday - March 9

9:00 AM + Helen Donnelly
r/o Bob and Dee Papp
12:10 PM + Susanna Langone – Birthday
Anniversary
r/o Susan and Rick Brooks

Wednesday – March 10

9:00 AM + Schambach and Whalen
Families
r/o Liz and Charlie
Schambach
12:10 PM + Clara Perone (90th Birthday)
r/o Ray and Denise Perone
Family

Thursday - March 11

9:00 AM + Barbara Perre
r/o Betty Jean Di Iorio
12:10 PM + Antonio Armetto
r/o Giuseppa Armetto

Friday - March 12

9:00 AM + John Denvir
r/o Maxwell Family
12:10 PM + Joseph Henry McCaffrey
r/o Ziemba and Stark
Families

Saturday - March 13

9:00 AM + Oliver Primiano
r/o Frank and Helen Giesler
4:00 PM + Dorothy Anthony
r/o Virginia Consalvo

Sunday - March 14

7:30 AM + People of Blessed
Sacrament Church
Alexa Lawrence
r/o Castellano Family
10:00 AM + Lauren Richmond
r/o Laurie, Dean, Dara
Richmond
12:00 PM + Antonio Bianco
r/o Wife

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, March 8

Book Club, 10 am

Wednesday, March 10

Adoration, 9:45

Taize Prayer Around the Cross, 7PM

Friday, March 12

Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13

Confession, 11:00

Sunday, March 14*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Youth Group Meeting, 7 pm

WEEKLY ADORATION WILL BE
ON WEDNESDAYS AFTER THE
9:00 AM MASS UNTIL 11:45 AM



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

The Altar Bread and Wine is Offered for...

Eleanor and Gus Mille

The Sanctuary Candle burns before
the Blessed Sacrament for...

Harold Sheehan

BACKGROUND ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The origin of the Stations of the Cross stretches back to the Crusades when, as a result of the conquering of the Holy Land, Christians began making pilgrimages to the sacred sites where Jesus lived, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. Today, the Stations are depicted in many ways, including paintings, sculpture, and stained glass.

The meditations for this prayer practice vary as the tragic walk from condemnation to the cross unfolds. As pilgrims on a journey of faith, we use the Stations of the Cross to reflect on the ways we suffer humiliation, rejection, suffering, and death. This makes the Stations more than a historic re-creation of Jesus' walk to Golgotha. The prayers draw us into considering how Jesus accompanies those who suffer in today's world. The injustice of being arrested and falsely accused, the pain of enduring mockery, torture, and being forced to carry the means of one's own death, the grace of small acts of compassion in the midst of an agonizing climb, and the surrender of heart and soul to God's infinite mercy all draw us into a story that is as contemporary as it is ancient.

The Stations of the Cross are one of many spiritual practices that we can reflect on as we make our way through Lent. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we can seek ways to find and extend mercy to those who shoulder heavy loads. We can fast from destructive, cynical, or critical thoughts and behaviors, and embrace ones laced with gratitude, humility, and compassion. And we can pray for understanding and generous hearts so that we emerge from Lent, living as disciples of Jesus Christ. (Sadlier)

"Although it may feel like we've experienced an extended Lent since the pandemic began last year, this liturgical season of penance can bring us a renewed sense of purpose for the sacrifices we see making.

Bishop William Medley of Owensboro, Ky."

faith

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

March 7, 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..."
- Exodus 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

Please pray for our parish sick

Praying for our sick is a critical ministry for the entire parish. If you have a family member or friend who is sick and you would like our parish to lift them up in prayer, please send your names to Denise Metzgar at dmetzgar@blessedsacramentnj.org. In addition these names will also be added to our parish prayer line.



PARISH PRAYER BOOK OF INTENTIONS

In our Parish Prayer Book, we pray for the sick, needy, struggling, suffering, etc. Every intention in our hearts! No intention is too big or too small for prayer! St. Paul reminds us:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7



To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen. - Pope Leo XIII

2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Transformed by Christ Body and Blood –
Sent on Mission to Light a Fire in the Heart of the Church

The devastating global pandemic of 2020 caused the loss of countless lives, widespread critical illness and has impacted every family around the world in so many ways. The important work of Catholic Charities could not and did not stop during this time. Requests for basic services such as food, shelter and clothing increased and the staff at Catholic Charities truly lived out the Corporal Works of Mercy. Rental assistance and housing support continued. The Catholic Charities food pantry, one of the largest in Warren County, provided curbside delivery and made home deliveries to protect those most at risk of coronavirus. Critical counseling services were made available through tele-health and safe, socially distant visits.

Twenty-four percent – \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Your generosity and sacrifice helps to ensure that no one is left homeless, hungry, or without emotional support in these extremely difficult times.

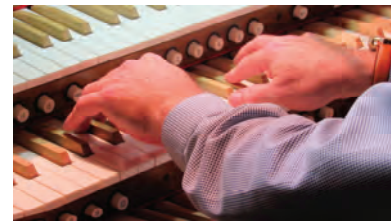
Mary and Music through the Centuries' Rescheduled



Monday, March 15th 7 pm

Come and Join Us!

Council of Catholic Women will be hosting Mary and Music Through the Centuries. The meeting is open to all in parish. Michael Burns will present the music.



SPRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 8th at 10:00

Parish Hall

Discussion will be on Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father by Fr. Calloway,

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Teresa Rusmislal at trusmislal@verizon.net

MEATLOAF NEEDED FOR SHIP

Council of Catholic Women are collecting meatloaves for SHIP. Please make a 2 pound meatloaf, bake it, wrap it in foil, freeze it and put it in a plastic bag with the date on it. Meatloaves may be placed in the freezer in the conference room next to the parish office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joanne Bixler at jjjobix@verizon.net. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF
THE SOUL OF

Peter Usher



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE
SOUL OF

Dianne Bertolotti



SOCIAL OUTREACH EASTER APPEAL

Collection will conclude on Monday, March 22nd

Our parish families experienced a much blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas because of the generosity of their Blessed Sacrament neighbors. Unfortunately, for some, the need for the basics continue. In keeping with the season of Lent, and our love for one another, we hope, through your help, we will be able to provide some joy for them this Easter.

We would appreciate anyone who can donate ham, turkeys and lasagnas. We are also accepting gift cards to Shop Rite, Acme, Target and Walmart which will allow families to provide food long after Easter. Any cash donations will be used to complete a basket for Easter dinner.

Please bring your offerings to the Parish Office (Monday through Thursday between 9am to 4pm). If you have any questions, please contact Roe Bersch at roebersch@aol.com. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Marriage Encounter

Now that Spring is around the corner, why not shake off those winter blues and pump some new life into your marriage.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions, 7 – 9:30PM, presented on Sunday & Wednesday evenings from April 11 – May 4.

Phone Tom & Ruth DeFalco 1-732-904-9636 for application and information.

Visit us at: www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org for more information

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

O Lord, be present with all those who serve our country. Comfort their spirits with your divine presence. Keep them close to You and grant them strength, wisdom and grace.

Especially those in our parish family,

LCdr Douglas Stahl, Navy
Spc. A. J. Anderle, Army

If you have a family member, relative, or friend in the military, especially overseas, or in a dangerous assignment, please let us know so we can request the prayers of our parish family. Simply furnish their name, rank and Branch of Service to Denise Metzgar at dmetzgar@blessedsacramentnj.org.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

First Station ~ Jesus is condemned to die Jesus, it is hard to imagine how you stayed quiet when so many people wanted to hurt you. Be with me when I feel afraid. Remind me to trust in God's love for me.

Second Station ~ Jesus takes up his cross Jesus, the cross was such a heavy load for you to bear. Yet you took it on your shoulders and carried it bravely. Give me courage when I have to face something difficult in my life.

Third Station ~ Jesus falls the first time Jesus, the weight of the cross caused you to fall down. Lift me up when I make mistakes that cause hurt to others or to myself. Help me to trust in your forgiving heart.

Fourth Station ~ Jesus meets his mother Jesus, you saw the sadness in Mary's face when you met her on the road. How painful it was to see you suffering. Fill my heart with kindness when I meet someone who is sad.

Fifth Station ~ Simon helps Jesus carry his cross Jesus, Simon's help in carrying the cross must have been such a relief. Remind me how important it is to be helpful when others need my assistance.

Sixth Station ~ Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. Jesus, did you expect a strange woman to come forward to wipe your bleeding face? It was a simple thing to do and yet it provided so much comfort. Show me small ways I can soothe the pain of others.

Seventh Station ~ Jesus falls a second time Jesus, once again you fell to the ground. Even with Simon's help, it was a struggle to get up and continue your journey. Strengthen me when I am tempted to give up and remind me to rely on your love when I need to keep going.

Eighth Station ~ Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem Jesus, even in your anguish you stopped to offer encouragement to the grieving women. Help me to be a comfort to others.

Ninth Station ~ Jesus falls the third time Jesus, this fall must have been the hardest. You were tired and in great pain yet you struggled to your feet and resumed your journey. Inspire me to keep going when the way grows long and weary.

Tenth Station ~ Jesus is stripped of his garments Jesus, how humiliating it was to be stripped of your clothes in front of a large crowd. Remind me to show respect to others and to do nothing that robs them of their dignity.

Eleventh Station ~ Jesus is nailed to the cross Jesus, I can't imagine the agony of having nails driven through my hands and feet. Yet, in the midst of your pain you forgave those who did this terrible deed. Grant me the courage to forgive when I am wounded by others.

Twelfth Station ~ Jesus dies on the cross Jesus, with a great sigh you gave up your spirit. Show me how to surrender in small ways so that each day I make an offering of my life to you.

Thirteenth Station ~ Jesus is taken down from the cross Jesus, it was heartbreaking for Mary to hold your lifeless body in her arms. Comfort me when I grieve over the loss of someone I love.

Fourteenth Station ~ Jesus is laid in the tomb Jesus, how dark and lonely it must have been to walk away from the tomb and yet your friends would know great hope in the days ahead. Remind me of the light that emerges from darkness because of your great love. May my faith in you grow stronger each day. (Sadlier)

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