



**Saturday, February 27**

5:30pm – Gawlik and McCarren Families  
by Helen Gawlik

**Sunday, February 28**

8:00am – Ken Capriola by son, Paul Capriola  
10:00am – Betsey LaVecchia by Kevin O’Toole  
10:00am – Alice Wey by Ray and Carolyn Smith

**Monday, March 1**

8:00am – Gerry Dobb by Glen Cestaro

**Tuesday, March 2**

8:00am – Healing for Pamela Mary Woods  
by Mark Templeton

**Wednesday, March 3**

8:00am - Ade Madkour by John Bradbury

**Thursday, March 4**

8:00am – Eduardo Aaron by Ingrid Hennig Cabral

**Friday, March 5**

8:00am – Robert Dombrosky by Family

**Saturday, March 6**

5:30pm – Joseph A. Riley by Cynthia Smith

**Sunday, March 7**

8:00am – *Pro populo*  
10:00am – Frederick Maas by the Family

Dear All,

Someone asked me the other day to explain the Lord’s Prayer. Why? It seemed disjointed and disorganized. Half of it is given over to ‘buttering up’ the Divinity and the other to a strange collection of disparate petitions.

A bit of background will help with the first part.

The pagans of Jesus’ day were polytheists. And the gods of the pagans cared not a bit about human problems or miseries. Unless the human offered some advantage to the god or goddess, they were not going to get a hearing. The Jews had a completely different understanding of their God. There was but one of him and that One had chosen to reveal himself to them and no one else. Thus, when a Jew prayed, he was talking to someone who loved him, gave him a special place in his own life.

That’s why the instruction on ‘how to pray’ begins with the admonition that it must be ‘not as the pagans do’.

Based on his own experience, Jesus ratchets up the notion of a loving God by a notch or four. God is ‘Father’. The father of the prodigal son tells his older son ‘you are with me always and everything I have is yours’. Everything we have and are comes from the Father, and ... should he die (although God dies not) ... everything that ever was his becomes ours; the God who called us to life will one day give us his own life. He is truly Father, creator and raiser from death to his own life.

What could be more worth knowing, more adorable, than that the Lord of Life and the King of the universe is ‘our Father’? And so, we pray ‘hallowed be thy name’. And what could be more to our benefit than the coming of his kingdom and the fulfillment of his loving will for us, both on earth and in heaven?

The next two petitions are those of children as they turn to their Father: bread and forgiveness for their sibling rivalries. What is new here – in contrast to pagan praying – in that the recognition of God as Father, cancels out any possibility that one of us could deserve anything that would be denied to another. Our plea for mercy flows not from some ‘religious guilt’ but from our will to be set free from the egotism that keeps us locked in competition with each other instead of comforted by love.

The last bit of the Lord’s Prayer seems mysterious unless you read the two phrases in reverse order ... *deliver us from evil so that we do not fall into the temptation [to lose our confidence in your goodness]*. This is the prayer of the child who is being bullied.

Lest all his dependency and reliance be misread as a kind of infantilizing of the Christian, let us go back to the start and recall what every parent knows: no matter how old your offspring may be, they are always children to you. The Lord’s Prayer is not a prayer that I would say on my own; it is a prayer that I say because I have come to know the God of Israel as the Father of Jesus Christ. In that I have come to know that being loved is what life is all about.

Really and truly and fraternally yours, tm

**GUIDELINES FOR LENT**

- 1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.
- 2) **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. **All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.**
- 3) The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, “sufficient to maintain strength”, are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.
- 4) **Abstinence** refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.
- 5) The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.

**Latin High Mass in West Rutland:** On Sunday, March 7, at 5 pm, a traditional Latin Mass (a/k/a Tridentine or Extraordinary Form Mass) will be offered at St. Bridget's Church. This will be a sung Mass with Gregorian chant. For more information, please contact [latinmassvt@live.com](mailto:latinmassvt@live.com).

**Forty days for life**

Is a focused pro-life campaign that seeks to access God’s power through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and a loving vigil to end abortion. Participants gather across the street from Planned Parenthood in Rutland on each day of Lent until Palm Sunday. For further details you can contact Delia Warnecke at [havefaith180103@yahoo.com](mailto:havefaith180103@yahoo.com) or you can check out the *Forty days for Life* website.

*While we remain in a Co-vid cautionary state, there are no special Lenten Programs scheduled for the Parish this year. However, the Church is open 24/7 for prayer before the Eucharistic Lord – we have been fasting too long from The Bread of Life – or the Stations of the Cross. Of course, there is room at weekday Mass. With the vaccination program moving forward, this can become a more viable option (with masking and spritzing and social distancing, of course) than it has been. Do not return to Mass if you feel the least bit unwell or if you have been travelling and have not received a clean test after quarantining. But know that we cannot live forever without each other.*

**Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John & Diane Forcier at 802-657-3083 or visit them at <https://wwwmevtw.org/>.

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Let us learn to listen better to each other and God by participating in a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 19 thru 21st and Mondays and Thursdays in April 8-29

**Let us remember in prayer:**

all the sick, the dying, and those who care for them.