



Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Piscataway



13405 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735-4564

301-292-0527 (Parish office)

301-292-2522 (School office)

Church E-Mail Address: parish@stmaryspiscataway.org

Church Internet Address: <http://www.saintmaryspiscataway.net>

Facebook Address: <http://www.facebook.com/StMarysPiscataway>

School E-Mail Address: school@smsp.school

School Internet Address: <http://www.stmaryspiscataway.org>

Pastor: Rev. Samuel I. Plummer (#101)
plummers@adw.org

Permanent Deacon: Dcn. George B. Ames, Jr. (Ret.)

Permanent Deacon: Dcn. Stephen McKimmie (Ret.)

School Principal: Miss Lysie K. Reavis (#131)

Director of Music/Liturgy: Dr. Eran Lupu (#106)

Parish Administrative Assistant: Ms. Michèle Fulk (#100)

Parish Bookkeeper: Ms. Claudette Kim (#107)

Weekend Masses

Saturday ~ 4:00 p.m., Main Church

Sunday ~ 8:00 a.m., Our Lady's Chapel

9:30 a.m., & 12:00 p.m., Main Church

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday; ~ 8:15 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Please refer to the bulletin prior to the Holy Day for the schedule.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Saturday ~ 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. in the Main Church (Jan 1st)

Sunday~ before 9:30 & 12:00 Masses or by appointment



Founded in Colonial Catholic History in 1640
+
Canonically Established in 1830

Welcome to our new parishioners and visitors!

**Be sure to introduce yourself to our pastor after Mass.
Registration forms are available in the gathering area
of the Church, at the Parish Office,
and on our website.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

—Infants: Newborn children of at least one Catholic parent should be baptized as Catholics shortly after their birth. Parishioners with newborns should complete a Baptismal preparation form (available online or hard copy) and call Fr. Plummer at the Parish Office to schedule a preparation class. Baptisms typically do not take place during Mass in the Lenten Season.

—Children younger than 7: are baptized "as infants." See above.

—Children 7 and older: if unbaptized, these typically receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the annual Easter Vigil, after preparation. Contact Fr. Plummer at the Parish Office to arrange preparations (301) 292-0527 #101.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

For a valid marriage, no matter who he or she marries, a Catholic must marry in the Catholic Church before a Priest or Deacon and at least two witnesses, unless he or she receives a dispensation from the Church. The bride or groom must be a parishioner of St. Mary's. Call Fr. Plummer at least 6 months in advance to arrange monthly preparation classes. As a Catholic Church, we are bound to observe the Rite of Marriage as prescribed in the Roman Ritual, and to observe additional diocesan and parish policies. Weddings are typically done on Saturdays, starting no later than 1:00 p.m., in either the Main Church or Our Lady's Chapel. Weddings typically do not take place in Lent. Musical arrangements must be made with our Music Director, Dr. Eran Lupu at (301) 292-0527 #106.

FUNERALS

If a Vigil service for the deceased is desired, please arrange for a viewing or wake at the funeral home of your choice. A priest or deacon will gladly come to the funeral home and celebrate the Vigil Service. There are no viewings or wakes in the Main Church or Our Lady's Chapel at St. Mary's.

To prepare a Funeral Mass in either the Main Church or Our Lady's Chapel, please call the Parish Office [(301) 292-0527] in order to arrange an appointment with a priest. As a Catholic Church, we are bound to observe the Order of Christian Funerals as prescribed in the Roman Ritual, and to observe additional parish policies.

For burial arrangements in our parish cemetery, please call the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Catholic Cemeteries at (301) 932-1766. A representative will meet with you at our Parish Office.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Required for unbaptized adults who wish to become Catholic. Non-Catholic Christians who wish to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who wish to receive Confirmation and/or Eucharist, as well as any other inquirers are welcome. Sessions are on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Call Fr. Plummer at (301) 292-0527 #101 to discuss your situation.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

All parish families' children in grades K-8 who do not attend Catholic school should enroll in this program. Weekly classes begin in September on Sundays from 10:40 a.m.—11:50 a.m.. Please call Fr. Plummer at (301) 292-0527 #101 to register.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

To arrange for a home "Communion call" contact the Parish Office.

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION/ADORATION WEEKLY TIMES

We are always in need of more adorers to make a "Holy Hour" before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's Chapel. Contact Anne Marie Ramsey (202) 368-7189, to "sign-up" for an hour within the following times:

Wednesday ~ 8:15 a.m. Mass to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday ~ 8:15 a.m. Mass to 7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet, 6:30 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays thru Fridays~ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Closed on most Federal Holidays)

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL OF PISCATAWAY

Thursday, April 7th, 2022

Confessions & Eucharistic Exposition

from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

in the Main Church



St. Mary's Choir—Do you enjoy singing? St. Mary's Liturgical Choir is looking for new choristers to sing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. No previous musical experience is necessary, only a love of singing (in tune). Singing is praying to God twice! Practice will occur on Thursday evenings, at 7:15 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

Next Practice: April 7th

Contact Dr. Eran Lupu at: eranlupu@icloud.com



RCIA/Adult Faith Formation—For those inquiring about Catholic teachings and are interested in becoming Catholic, and for Catholics who would like to deepen their knowledge of Catholic teachings. If interested please come to the Parish Hall Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. Brother Charles, OP & Brother Linus, OP are the facilitators.

Topic for April 6th:

"The Christian Vocation in the World/Catholic Social Teaching"
Come and be spiritually nourished.

Attention Immunocompromised Parishioners

If you are an immunocompromised parishioner who has stopped attending Mass during the pandemic, or if you know a parishioner who falls into this category, please contact Fr. Plummer at plummers@adw.org. Fr. Plummer is trying to gauge how many have not returned who were once regular Mass attendees. Depending on the number of responses, there might be an opportunity to have a special Mass for these individuals.



Our Cemetery Clean-up Committee will be going through the Cemetery this week (April 4-8) in preparation for Easter. If you have any family gravesites, please, come this weekend or all of next week to clean up things that have been placed there. All Christmas items will be picked up and thrown away. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 301 292-0527. Let us honor our beloved dead with beautiful gravesites in our cemetery. Thank you!



Important Donation Information—We would like to thank everyone who has supported St. Mary's Church and School during this 2021 calendar year with their time, talent and financial contributions. We look forward to the support from all of our members in the new 2021 year ahead. Realizing that some people wait until the end of the year to make sizable donations, we want to remind everyone that contributions are recorded on the date that they are received regardless of the date on the envelope or other source document. **Therefore, for contributions to be recorded for the year 2021, they must be received in the office by December 31, 2021. Contributions received after December 31 will be credited toward 2022.**



Eucharistic Exposition :

† Exposition is in Our Lady's Chapel after Mass (Approx. 9:00 a.m.) until **7:00 p.m.**, Wednesday, and Thursday (Devotions and Benediction).

† We need to be sure to have adorers the whole time the Lord is exposed. At least two people at a time would be ideal.

† Save Eucharistic Exposition through your commitment to be in the presence of the Lord for a full hour of adoration.

† We cannot provide this devotion without your participation.

† Please contact Anne Marie Ramsey, at (202) 368-7189, to sign up for an hour. Please, continue wearing your masks and use the hand sanitizer provided. Thank you.

COME SPEND TIME IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD!

We Need Adorers to cover on Wed. from 4-5p.m., & 5-6p.m.

On Thurs., we need Adorers from 10-11a.m., 12-1p.m., & 2-3p.m.

PSR (Parish School of Religion) this weekend

Our next class is Sunday, April 24th.

10:40-11:50 a.m.

In Classrooms



Pamphlets—There are some fantastic pamphlets for you to take home and read. You can find them in our pamphlet rack on the right-hand-side of the Main Church Baptistry when looking toward the Sanctuary.

You Shop. Amazon Gives—AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. Mary's Church and School, while shopping for baby shower, birthday, anniversary and graduation gifts. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (0.5%) to us.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donation. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

It is so easy! You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you'll need to search for "St Mary's Catholic Church" (be sure you type it in just that way and make sure you're selecting the St. Mary's in Clinton, MD) for us to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0681710 will result in a donation. Thank you for your support!



Around the Archdiocese



2022 Diocesan 2nd Collection
(Archdiocese of Washington)



April 24th

Church Missions in the US

Church Missions in the US—will support the Black and Indian Missions and Catholic Home Missions. It is directed to two important domestic missionary outreaches in the Church. First, it supports needy Black and Native American communities in the U.S. with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. Second, it supports home mission dioceses in the U.S. that are unable to offer their people basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service without outside help. **THANK YOU!**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | APRIL 3, 2022

Parish Week Events:

Sunday, Apr. 3 5th Sunday of Lent <i>Sodality Sunday</i>	8:00 a.m. Mass , Our Lady's Chapel 9:30 a.m., & 12:00 p.m. Masses, Main Church PSR —10:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., In Classrooms Sodality General Body Meeting—10:30 a.m., (PH)
Monday, Apr. 4 <i>St. Isidore</i>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC)
Tuesday, Apr. 5 <i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Eucharistic Exposition & Confessions—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., (MC) Evening Mass—7:00 p.m. (MC)
Wednesday, Apr. 6 Lenten Weekday	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Eucharistic Exposition—9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., (OLC) RCIA/Adult Faith Formation—7:15 p.m. (Parish Hall)
Thursday, Apr. 7 <i>St. John Baptist de la Salle</i>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Eucharistic Exposition—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., (MC) 12 Hour Confessions—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., (MC) Choir Practice—7:15 p.m. (Parish Hall) this week
Friday, Apr. 8 Lenten Weekday	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Stations of the Cross—7:00 p.m. (OLC) Lenten Meal (Soup & Meatless Pasta Dishes)—7:30 p.m. (Parish Hall-hosted by Sodality)
Saturday, Apr. 9 <i>St. Francis of Paola</i>	Confessions—2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., (Main Church) Vigil Mass—4:00 p.m., (Main Church)
Sunday, Apr. 10 Palm Sunday of the the Passion of the Lord Holy Name Sunday	8:00 a.m. Mass , Main Church 10:00 a.m., & 12:00 p.m. Masses, Main Church No PSR —This week. Will resume April 24th

Current Week's Mass Schedule—Lent

Mon., Apr. 4 8:15 a.m.	<i>St. Isidore</i> Joan Sartori (+)
Tues., Apr. 5 8:15 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i> Kristin Hernandez Corazon Ludovice (+)
Wed., Apr. 6 8:15 a.m.	Lenten Weekday Sixto Acap (+)
Thur., Apr. 7 8:15 a.m.	<i>St. John Baptist de la Salle</i> Felisa Castillo (+)
Fri., Apr. 8 8:15 a.m.	Lenten Weekday Melecio Castillo (+)
Next Weekend's Mass Schedule	
Sat., Apr. 9 4:00 p.m.	Sunday Vigil The Family of David Waltz
Sun., Apr. 10 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Jorge Garcia Dolojan (+) St. Mary's Parishioners Regina Mena

The names listed next to a specific Mass indicate an act of love for a living or deceased member of a family or a friend. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a specific date, or intention, please contact Michèle Fulk, in the parish office at (301) 292-0527, or parish@stmarvspiscataway.org.
Mass intentions are filled on a first come, first served, basis.

Customary Donation: Mass Intention—\$10 per Mass.

SANCTUARY LIGHT: For the week of *Sunday, April 3, 2022 to Saturday, April 9, 2022*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in the Main Church for the Intentions of the Ukrainian People and the Conversion of Russia.

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in Our Lady's Chapel for the repose of the souls of the Ukrainian People.

EXPOSITION CANDELABRA: For the week of *Sunday, April 3, 2022 to Saturday, April 9, 2022 Wed., Thurs.,*

The Left-side Candelabra will burn this week in Our Lady's Chapel for the intentions of all families of unborn babies.

The Right-side Candelabra will burn this week in Our Lady's Chapel for the repose of the souls of all unborn babies.

Customary Donation: Sanctuary Light or Adoration Candelabra—\$10 per Week

MEMORIAL FLOWERS: The Tabernacle Flowers are donated by Rose Gazarek. No Flowers during LENT.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Mary Allen, Brian Ashby, Catherine Beck, Ed Bednar, Brendamarie Smith-Bottorf, Fr. Michael Bryant, Harry Burton, Leonard Carter, Paul Carter, Jr., Steven Carter, Myrtis Cline, Scot Cuzzo, Darlene Davis, Dawn De Chance, Nancy Cyr, Shari Deeb, Michael L. DeMoulin, Anju Diggs, John Diggs, Mary Ann Estes, Brice Ewing, Justin Faulkner, Ernestino Figueroa, Jr., Anita and Joe Foley, Theresa Fox, Bill Gates, June Gates, Harry Gorman, Amy Gray, Cathy Gwiazda, Mable Henson, Carol Hickey, Rusty Hickey, Merrill Horner, Normita Ijadunola, Soddy Johnson, Carol Kapitan, Karl Athanasius Kim, Enid King, David Kisan, Steliana Kruer, Jerry Laguilles, Jr., Frank Loeffler, Jr., Felis Luña, Judy Manion, Ruth Mararac, Bill Maxwell, Mary McNeice, Diane Miles, Janet Miller, Joseph Murphy, Jules Olive, Wendy Onsted, Melanie Pedri, Carmelita Penaflor, Walter Raley II, Eddie Randall, Shanda Reeck, Jim Ritchie, Susan Ritchie, Marco Rodriguez, Heather Rosales, James Rudasill, Michael Russell, Azucena Santiago, Greg Scheirer, Leanne Marie Schilero, Grace Schlosser, Gabrielle Sellers, Michael Sellers, Veronica Shourdes, Joseph Sienkiewicz, Eric Simon, Priscilla Simms, Katherine Smith, Shirley Smith, Kathy Tesi, Lorraine Thompson, Thelma Tilman, James Conrad Townes, Gil Vigneault, Kim Walls, Rena Walzel, Paul Watson, John Weaver, Donna Webb, Samuel Willett, Marie C. Williams, Joyce Windsor, Beverly Woods. and those with the Coronavirus. *Names will remain on the prayer list for at least 60 days.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD: We are honoring the anniversary of all of our beloved dead who died in the month of April, from 1999-2022. Sabina S. Amper (80), Joseph Babich (72), Eleanor "Frances" Beswick (76), Margaret E. Blandford (61), Theresa Margaret Buckley (72), Gloria Aquino Bondad (82), Leonard John Bonner (63), Anthony Gustine Claggett (90), Catherine M. Conner (80), Theresa Cyr Conway (45), Walter John Coulther, Jr. (78), John Joseph "Jack" Crowley (83), Stanley Peter Day (92), Kenneth Lee Feldmeier (58), Virginia Kehoe Foley (90), Shirley Ann Garofalo (79), Marie Goslin (88), John Pail Grant (67), Matthew W. Hamby (58), Lucy Hamilton (89), Charles Sylvester Hawkins (75), Eloyce Irvin (84), Edward B. Kaminski, Jr. (60), Lillian Frances Kaminski (72), Joseph Edward Keppler (60), Anna Mae Kilderry (93), Thomas B. Lancaster (70), Victor Thomas Lee (87), Vincent V. Manzella (89), William J. McDaniel (77), Madeline A. McDonough (77), Marion Agnes McKimmie (86), James Ignatius Medley (75), Tyrone E. Medley (40), Blanche M. Miller (83), Eugenia Clanor Mugol (93), Chukwudi Obiora Ogbuawa (47), Richard Roy Oldland (50), Ceferino Apostol Palma (73), Genevieve Kolar Parker (101), William Sandoval, Sr. (71), Michael W. Schauer (75), Patricia Ann Seaquist (66), James Richard Simpson (61), John Edward Slarb (36), Charlotte Leota Vigneault (86), Lillie Mae White (66), Shirley M. Windsor (76), Wilson Woodrow Wright (94), Mary Lee Young (85). NOTE: All of the names that were here originally, are now on the Prayer List Page on our website <https://saintmarvspiscataway.net/prayer-list>.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY HERE & AWAY: PFC Eric Bean, U S Army; Staff Sargent Brandon Fournier, USAF; LT. Laura Carts Hills, USCG; CPO Mary Patton, USNR; CWO2 Christopher Ramsey, USMC; and Major Stephen Voglezon, US Army. Please contact us if you have relatives in the military serving overseas.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL OF PISCATAWAY

LENTEN SCHEDULE (PRIOR TO PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND) MORE TO COME NEXT WEEK!

Fridays of Lent:

Friday, ~~March 11th, 18th, 25th~~, & April 8th: **Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m., in Our Lady's Chapel

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Lenten Meals (Soup and meatless pasta dishes) at 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall:

~~March 11th (Holy Name Society), March 18th (Families in Christ Jesus Community),~~ March 25th (Spirituality and Evangelization), April 1 (Knights of Columbus), April 8th (Sodality of Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

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First Friday April 1st begins the 24 hour Eucharistic Exposition after the 8:15 a.m., Mass in Our Lady's Chapel concluding with 9:00 a.m. Mass on First Saturday, April 2nd, in Our Lady's Chapel
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m., in the Main Church
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Tuesdays of Lent:

Eucharistic Exposition and Confessions—6:00 p.m., in the Main Church
Mass—7:00 p.m., in the Main Church



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2022

- Sunday:** Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
- Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6/Jn 8:12-20
- Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday:** Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

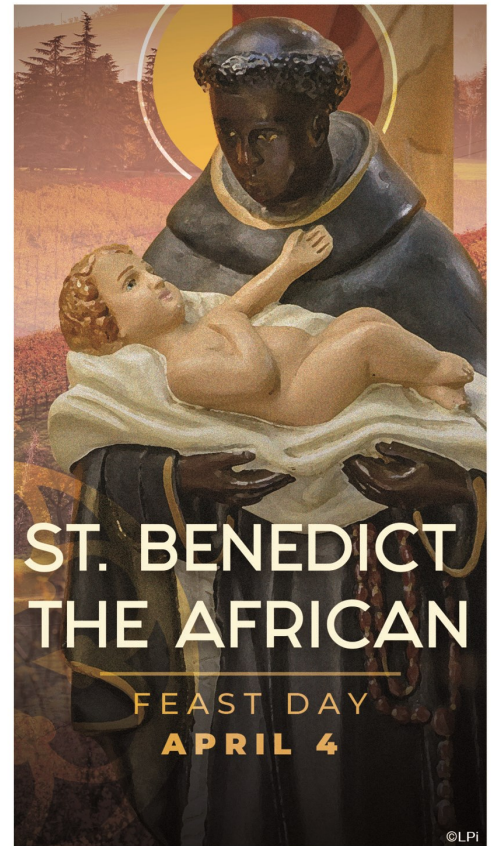
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2022

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Lent
- Monday:** St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
- Next Sunday:** Holy Week begins; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Mercy makes us attentive to the voice of truth. We do not know what ever happened to the woman caught in adultery, after her encounter with Jesus. It is hoped that she found what she needed to feel true sorrow. What we do know is that through his gentle and wise persuasiveness, Jesus puts the Pharisees in their place and opens the door to grace for this child of God. Being exploited and used to test and discredit Jesus, she who is publicly known to be a sinner is now the victim. Jesus never tolerates people being used and immediately rushes to her defense. As the author of mercy, Jesus became her advocate and opened the door for her to God's love. Jesus also stands between us and the harsh, judgmental, and often hurtful stance of our world. He invites us to grace, to leave the sin that binds us, and for which we are often criticized, and pursue a life of virtue and freedom.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Benedict the African (1524-1589), was born in San Fratello, Sicily to Cristoforo and Diana Manasseri, Africans who had been taken as slaves. Some accounts claim that because of his parents' loyal service that Benedict was given his freedom at birth, other sources say that his freedom was granted when he turned 18. At 21 Benedict joined a society of hermits living under the rule of St. Francis of Assisi. Eventually he succeeded his friend, Jerome Lanze, as their leader. When the Pope disbanded the independent hermit society, Benedict joined the Order of Friars Minor and he was sent to Palermo, to the Franciscan Friary of St. Mary of Jesus. There Benedict worked in the kitchens and despite being illiterate and a lay brother (not a priest), he also served as Master of Novices, and as Guardian of the Community. St. Benedict was known throughout his life as a brilliant cook under whose hands food seemed to multiply miraculously, a healer, and a spiritual leader with profound understanding. He is recognized as the patron saint of African Americans.



FIRST READING

See, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it? (Is 43:19)



PSALM

The Lord has done great things for us; we
are filled with joy. (Ps 126)



SECOND READING

I consider everything as a loss
because of the supreme good of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have accepted the loss of
all things (Phil 3:8)



GOSPEL

"Let the one among you who is without
sin
be the first to throw a stone at her."
(Jn 8:7)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We love to make examples out of those who have erred and done wrong. Publicly punishing others serves as a means of demonstrating the consequences for what is deemed inappropriate or wrongful behavior. While this may appear an effective way of achieving conformity to established rules, it runs the real risk of distorting motivation. Obviously, we want people to do what is right and pursue healthy, virtuous behaviors and ideals. But is fear of punishment ever the best motivation for avoiding one action in favor of another?

Doing something out of fear is never healthy. Focusing exclusively on our behavior and what others expect or think, leads to living life with a self-focused superficiality. We become more concerned about protecting ourselves from something negative and unpleasant, than investing ourselves in the freedom, wonder and awe of being human! We can still find our way to the unacceptable or inappropriate behavior as long as we do not get caught! Being a whole, focused, and God-centered human being requires more. It demands an investment of the heart. Virtuous, moral, and mature lifestyles reflective of the Gospel necessitate love.

When we experience and recognize love, God's unconditional love, in the depth of our soul, we fall in love with what we have found. We then find ourselves leaving destructive and sinful actions behind in search of something more holy, dignified, true, integral, and loving. This is really "mercy realized." God's tremendous, loving, eternal forgiveness and willingness to bring us back to something more real and tender is transformational. The respect for myself that I receive from God is so life changing that it causes me to run quickly away from anything sinful and self-destructive to things that are whole and holy.

There are many people who want nothing more than to judge or criticize us. What would actually stoning the woman caught in adultery really accomplish? Nothing more than the inflation of the already self-righteous egos of a few men who think they have power. They have no power because they are sinners too, just like everyone else. What all of us have is the humble ability to express sorrow for pursuing destructive thoughts and actions and receive the power of God's mercy. Then, Jesus' request to "go and sin no more" will be one we proudly heed and follow.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Make a Way

What's your comfort zone: emotionally, professionally, personally? We all have one. But did you realize that you can have one spiritually? Think about what you like and what you don't particularly enjoy when it comes to church, prayer, and liturgy. We all have "those songs" we crinkle our noses at, either because they're too modern or too old-fashioned. We all have "those people" in our parish whose ideas we aren't so sure about, whether that's because they're trying to change too much or because they seem always to be looking toward the past. Also, when was the last time you sat on the OTHER side of the church during Mass?

As much as we may not want to admit it, even (and especially) as people of God, we get deeply attached to our own personal comfort zones — and we tend to view those outside with distrust.

But what if God had a comfort zone? What if He viewed us, in our sin and our misery, as too "far away" from Himself to reach? Thankfully, our God is a God who "opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters." Our God is a God who does "something new." The call to stewardship demands that we look outside of ourselves. Our thoughts, our opinions, our preferences — these things are not important to the steward. Even if there is a vast, dry desert of discord, or a seemingly endless wasteland of opposing views between us and our neighbor, God challenges us to "make a way" out of our comfort zone, that together we may announce His praise.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

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Then Jesus straightened up and said to her,
"Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said,
"Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."
- Jn 8:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Active during Israel's captivity in Babylon around 550BC, the prophet Isaiah reminds the Israelites of God's saving acts in their history and offers hope for a new future beyond exile. How does your faith in the Lord offer you hope in times of distress?

Second Reading

Paul speaks to the Philippians of his firm belief that what matters most in his life is his intimate connection to Christ Jesus. How do you think anyone develops this depth of passion for Jesus?

Gospel Reading

The scribes and the Pharisees tested Jesus' fidelity to the Mosaic Law by using a woman caught in the act of adultery. In reply, Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and showed mercy on the sinful woman. When has someone shown you mercy over judgment?

REPENT & BELIEVE



5th SUNDAY OF LENT



**READ THE
GOSPEL AND
COMPLETE A
PUZZLE!**

SHARING THE GOSPEL

When we do something wrong, God does not want to punish us. God just wants us to stop, learn from our mistake, and make better choices next time. Try to remember that the next time you catch a friend sinning. Instead of tattling, talk to your friend, and gently help your friend do what is right.

PRAYER

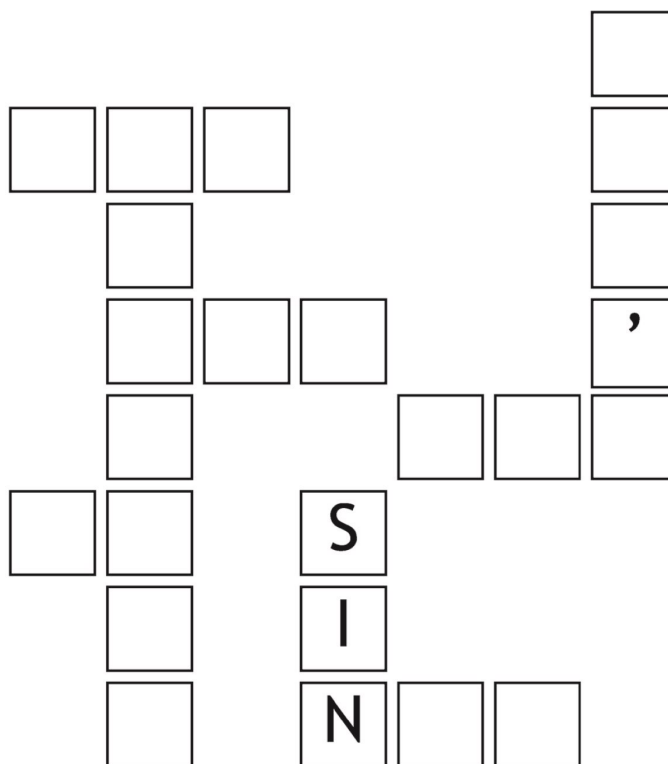
Dear God, help me to be kind to my friends when they make mistakes. Help me remember that sometimes I make bad choices, too.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Name one thing you have done wrong. Jesus can forgive you for your mistakes. Try to forgive other people, too.

KIDS CORNER

Fit the Gospel message into the empty squares:
You may go now, but don't sin anymore.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Lent



*Jesus bent
down and
began to write
on the ground
with his finger.
But when they
continued
asking him, he
straightened
up and said to
them, “Let the
one among you
who is without
sin be the first
to throw a
stone at her.”*

- Jn 8:6b-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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