



st. patrick's

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. GROW DISCIPLES.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



In His Mercy

Loving Father,
you sent a rainbow
as a sign of your mercy
and of our relationship with you.
Soften our hardened hearts.
May the mercy that we show others

be a sign that through the waters of baptism
you live in us and that we are your
adopted children.
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today's readings: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15. "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature." With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day's Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God's Word is always relevant.

February 18, 2024



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 19

The Neighbor

In Matthew 22:36–39, Jesus tells the scholar about the two greatest commandments: loving God and loving neighbor. Today's passage from Matthew depicts how our actions show love for both God and neighbor. Inviting the sheep on his right to the kingdom, the Son of Man recounts that their feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger also fed, clothed, and welcomed Christ. When a reminder is needed on how God expects us to treat our neighbor, return to this passage. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8–10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, February 20

Patiently Waiting

Both the psalm and Gospel show us how to pray. Portraying the need for trust, the psalmist sings, “I sought the LORD and he answered me, / delivered me from all my fears.” In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they need to come to God with humility as they pray that his will be done. Instead of expecting instant gratification from prayer requests, keep in mind that God acts in his time, not ours. Be patient and trust; God will not leave you alone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–7, 16–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, February 21

Grateful Hearts

Jesus comments in today's Gospel on the generation's desire for a sign. How many times have you prayed and asked for a sign? Many of us want proof that God will come through for us. Remember that God knows what is best for each of us. During this Lent, seek to discern and appreciate what you have been given and thank God for what he has provided. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, February 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Upon Peter's assertion that Jesus is the Messiah, we hear Jesus tell Peter that he is the rock upon which the Church shall be built. As Christ's followers, we too must voice that Jesus is our Savior. Our faith can be the foundation upon which others' faith can grow. Pope Francis implores us to go out in mission so that through encounters with others, the Church will grow. Our faith is not a secret but a wonderful gift. This Lent, how will you contribute to strengthening the foundation of the Church? *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4–6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Friday, February 23

Continuing the Mission

On the optional Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr, the Church recalls a second-generation Christian who was a disciple of the apostle John. Before St. Polycarp was burned at the stake, he put his trust in God. He was unafraid of what would happen to him. Pray to be able to trust that God is with you, no matter the trial you face. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, February 24

Learning to Love

“If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?” we hear in today's Gospel. To love without conditions can be difficult. Yet this is what Jesus asks from us. When we have been wronged, it is tempting to seek revenge. Yet, Jesus shows us a higher path. Instead of revenge, Jesus loves everyone and instructs us to forgive. What would it mean for you to love your enemy and to forgive someone who has hurt you? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



LOVE GOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GROW DISCIPLES

Address: 7 East Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am - 3pm; Closed Fridays

Rectory Phone: 508-234-5656

Religious Ed. Phone: 508-234-3511

Rectory Fax: 508-234-6845

Parish Website: www.mystpatrickss.com

parish staff

live stream mass schedule:

Pastor: Rev. Tomasz Borkowski

FrTomasz@mystpatrickss.com

Deacon Chris Finan: Deacon

DeaconChris@mystpatrickss.com

Operations Manager:

Mrs. Allison Cwiakala: Allison@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Student Ministries:

Mrs. Aileen Lemoine: Aileen@mystpatrickss.com

Assistant Director of Student Ministries:

Mrs. Shelly Mombourquette: Shelly@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Music Ministries:

Mr. Christopher Bilodeau: Chris@mystpatrickss.com

Cemetery Superintendents:

Mr. Derek & Mr. Tom Ciccone: Dtciccone6@gmail.com

Director of A/V Ministries:

Mr. Shawn McPherson: Shawn@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Finance:

Mrs. Elizabeth Baker: Liz@mystpatrickss.com

volunteer support

Wedding Coordinator:

Ms. Mary Contino: MaryC@mystpatrickss.com

Bulletin, Staff Support:

Mrs. Marylin Arrigan: Marylin@mystpatrickss.com

Home Visits Coordinator:

Joyce Silva: Joyce.silva44@Verizon.net
or call: 508-266-0981

SACRAMENTS:

Masses: Sat. 4:30pm; Sun. 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM
Confession: Sat. 3:30-4:00 PM

**Call the Office for Information on receiving the
Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Matrimony,
Sacrament of the Sick and Homebound Visits.**

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Weekend of Feb. 17 & 18

Sat. 4:30 PM	+ John and Margaret Halacy By their Family
Sun. 8:00 AM	+ Elizabeth Feen (2nd Anniv.) By her Family
10:00 AM	+ Emma Baker By Liz and Mike Baker
5:00 PM	+ Jimmy Demers By his Family

Week of Feb. 19 - 23

Mon. 8:30 AM	+ Jeannette and Gerald Richer By Bill and Kathy Richer
Tues. 8:30 AM	+ Parishioners of St. Patrick's
Wed 4:30 PM	+ Robert Trifari (40th Anniv.) By his Daughter, Christine + Parishioners of St. Patrick's
Thurs. & Fri.	No Mass

Weekend of Feb. 24 & 25

Sat. 4:30 PM	+ Parishioners of St. Patrick Parish
Sun. 8:00 AM	+ Annette and William Loughlin By their Family
10:00 AM	+ Marylou Verla By Lu Quigley
5:00 PM	+ Harriet Henck By Sheila Henck

The Mass book is open for the months Jan-March. If you would like to book a mass in memory of a loved one, please call the rectory at 508-234-5656. The stipend for the Mass is \$10.00.

Reflections :

I'd like to take a moment to talk about something important; something serious. This may be a sensitive subject for anyone with an active imagination, or a keen sense of preparedness. I'm talking, of course...about the zombie apocalypse.



I thought I was prepared. But then, one day I was in the car with my daughter, and we were talking about our emergency plans for, what some might say is, the inevitable reality that flesh eating zombies will one day, at the very least, severely disrupt our day-to-day activities. If I'm being honest, I'm a little concerned. Not so much about the potential for a zombie outbreak, but about the fact that after many conversations about preparations, my family still might not be as prepared as we should be. Sure, my daughter indulged me and listened as I went over the protocols, but I could sense she was trying her best not to spit her strawberry milk all over the dashboard in laughter. When we got home, my daughter told my wife all about our conversation, probably looking for some kind of confirmation that I hadn't completely gone off the deep end, but my wife just sighed and said, 'Sweetie, your father's been preparing for this for a long time.'

Heck yes, I have! Since I was a kid. My wife and I have had many conversations about the zombie apocalypse - and we're still married! It's because she knows. She knows that when the zombie bleep hits the fan, we're all gonna know what to do, and we'll all be safe. At least we'll think that we're safe...for a little while anyway.

I suppose there's the possibility that I might be overreacting. Perhaps I've seen too many movies. But I just want to be prepared because, well, ...better safe than zombie. Here's a joke; Where do zombies buy clothes? Aberzombie and Finch!

You're welcome.

You know, there have certainly been times in my life where I've felt like a zombie. Times when I've felt dispirited, isolated, unlovable and alone ... kinda dead inside; like a zombie. There are many who claim to have the answer to feeling like a zombie. But, God is the only one who can bring whole and lasting change. We can start by asking God to open our hearts and show us the next step. The more we ask God to warm our hearts, eventually, we may feel them on fire. When we open ourselves up to the words of Jesus, and take the time to ask what these teachings mean to us today, there's a chance we may feel our hearts on fire, just like those who heard Jesus speak all those years ago.

Lent is the perfect time to open our hearts as much as possible, and allow Jesus to minister to us. God doesn't want to tell us what to think, and we're not puppets simply moving where the strings lead us, with God as our puppeteer. I don't think that's how God works in our lives. But, that doesn't mean that God isn't working in our lives. God wants to be found! And he is waiting behind every closed door, and around every corner, and under every stone. God is constantly putting himself in places where he knows we can find him. The question is; are we looking? Are we listening? Lent is a great time to take stock of what our process is for this kind of stuff. Talking to one another, and listening to each other's stories about where we've heard and found God in our lives helps us to relate, not just to each other, but to our own inner selves. Reading Jesus' teachings, and related thoughts, such as the reflections in our Lenten reading Rebuilt Faith; these are all great ingredients for our internal spiritual stew, and Lent is the best time of year to give that stew a stir and see what amazing things God is cooking up inside us.

We may not all agree on the plausibility of a zombie apocalypse, but I'm willing to bet that wherever you go looking for God, you'll find him.

- Chris



Fish & Chips

Back by popular demand, Jim from Peg's Diner will be cooking delicious Fish and Chips Dinners again this year. Dinner options are baked fish/baked potato & coleslaw or fried fish/fries & coleslaw dinners for \$14.

Jimmy's Famous Clam Chowder is available for \$4/cup or \$6/bowl. Mac & cheese/fries for \$5. Dinners will be available for in house dining or pick up on Ash Wednesday & Fridays during Lent (Feb 14-March 22) from 4:30 to 7 PM.

Payment by Venmo, or Cash. To place an order call after 4:00, 508-234-3511

Thank you for supporting the Youth in Action Summer Service Trip to Nashville!

March 2024 Cash Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	Calendar 3/\$50 or 1/\$25 Over \$2K in prizes. You can win more than once!				\$50 Fish & Chips	\$25
\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50 Fish & Chips	\$25
\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$100 Concert Fish & Chips	\$25
\$250 St. Patrick's Day	\$25	\$25 Happy Spring!!!	\$25	\$25	\$50 Fish & Chips	\$25
\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
\$1000 Easter Sunday	ST. PATRICK'S		7 East Street, Whitinsville 508-234-5656 www.mystpatrickss.com			

Back by Popular Demand!

St. Patrick's Parish Cash Calendar

Get your Cash Calendar now to be entered to win cash prizes every day throughout the month of March!

Calendars can be purchased in church after Mass, on-line at our website, or by calling the rectory 508-234-5656.

1 for \$25 or 3 for \$50

Upcoming Second Collections:

Feb. 18: Utilities

Feb. 25: Catholic Free Press

Mar 3: Youth In Action

To Give a Contribution:

Text the word **mystpatrickss** to the number 508-475-5725 and it will bring you to the link to donate.

Scan this **QR Code** with your phone and it will bring you to our giving link.



OR: For **VENMO** accounts, search business for:



OR: For **PAYPAL** search @StPatricksParish.

Also, please consider St. Patrick Parish for a Charitable Bequest as part of your estate planning.



Week	Weekly Envelopes & Cash	Weekly Online	Weekly Total	Goal
1/14/2024	\$4,650.00	\$1,968.50	\$6,618.50	\$8,700
1/21/2024	\$3,413.00	\$2,994.50	\$6,407.50	\$8,700
1/28/2024	\$4,580.00	\$2,193.50	\$6,773.50	\$8,700
2/4/2024	\$11,330.00	\$7,883.51	\$19,213.51	\$8,700
2/11/2024	\$4,113.00	\$2,288.50	\$6,401.50	\$8,700
Average Weekly To-Date FY 2024	\$5,147.78	\$4,163.85	\$8,511.07	\$8,700

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LENTEN SCHEDULE 2024

Coming Up:

Anointing of the Sick: After Each Mass Next Weekend, February 24, 25

Drop-In Reconciliation: 2—3 PM March 3rd

More information about what's happening during Lent will be provided.



We want to thank the following businesses for their kind donations to our John 21 Fundraiser 2023:



Blackstone Valley Physical Therapy Services, Inc., Carr Funeral

Home, Crothers Tire Co., Bay State Floor Company dba Curtain Factory Outlet, Deiana's Furniture

Refinishing, East Douglas Insurance Agency,

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, First Evangelical Congregational Church, Foxy Travel Inc.,

Nydam Oil Company, Dr. Edward & Joanne Swiderski, Vendetti Motors, Village Congregational

Church, Whitinsville Monument Works, and Wych Family Dentistry



Our Lady of the Valley Regional School Update

Welcome to the OLV update, a biweekly entry to your parish bulletin. Here we will post news and information regarding Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, the wonderful Catholic elementary school and middle school academy located in the Blackstone Valley, sponsored and supported by St. Mary Parish, St. Patrick Parish and St. Peter Parish. We are blessed to have your prayers and support!

At Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, we begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday Mass attended by all faculty, staff and students in Kindergarten through grade eight. As with all school wide Masses, the greater school community is invited to attend as our students do a beautiful job providing the readings, the Prayers of the Faithful and the liturgical music. It is exciting to recognize that when Our Lady of the Valley comes together to celebrate Mass, it is the largest gathering of school aged children assembled for this purpose in the Blackstone Valley. This is not only a point of pride but also a great responsibility. We are blessed that our students are typically respectful, reverent and responsive during Mass as they represent the future of our Church.

As Lent begins, OLV will join with the worldwide Catholic community in prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. As a school community, our adherence to daily prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Praying the Rosary will continue. Our eighth graders will be organizing pizza luncheons on every Friday during Lent. And we will conduct myriad service projects, including the annual OLV Lenten Food Drive. Lent will manifest itself in other ways throughout our grade levels as we prayerfully reflect and recommit ourselves to the faith and to one another.

God bless you and yours,

Ed Reynolds, Principal

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Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee would like to make everyone aware of the fact that we have welcomed 31 new families in 2023. It's our mission to extend a personal greeting to new parishioners with our welcome baskets. Our ministry is a joyful one and a long lasting one----almost 30 years now. If you would like to join us then, please contact Rosalie Lamontagne at 508-498-0187.

One of our recent survey questions: Do you feel the basket is a meaningful experience and should we continue to bring to new families? The response was Yes we do. This was a very kind and welcoming gesture. It was lovely to meet another parishioner & confirmed for us we've chosen the right parish.

Please Help...Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

The BVES is looking for donations of \$5.00 gift cards from McDonalds, Burger King, Dunkin, or Subway. These gift cards will be given to the homeless this winter.

The cards can be dropped off at the rectory.



We are in need of additional volunteers to help with our John 21 Breakfast Program on Saturday mornings. Each team serves every 8 weeks on a rotating basis. If you can help please call the office at 508-234-5656.

Donations are always welcome.

NAC Food Pantry Needs Help With Donations

The NAC Food Pantry is located in the lower level of the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, MA 01588. Hours of operation: Tuesdays 10am-12pm and Thursdays 1pm-3pm and the last Saturday of every month from 10am to 12pm.

Please consider donating to those who need our help. Here are some suggestions: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap, Clorox / Lysol wipes, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant

Donated items can be placed in the boxes at the entrances of the church.
Thank you for your continuing support!



Let Us Pray for Those in the Service

Almighty God, we stand before you asking for your divine mercy and protection. Embrace with your invincible armor our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies both spiritual and physical and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families. Amen

Please remember the following service personnel in your prayers as they serve and protect our country:

L.Cpl. Aaron Marshall, Okinawa, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower,
U.S. Army, L.Cpl. Troy Monteville, Stateside, Capt. Jason Jordan,
US Army, So. Korea,
US Marine L.Cpl. Kevin James Sabin Lejeune, NC



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