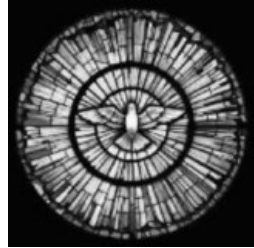


FIRST SUNDAY OF
LENT



**Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel and Our Lady of
Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others. We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please cut out and pray daily.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR FRIENDS,

The question is usually What are we going to give up for Lent?

With the best of intentions, we want to follow Jesus into the desert, imitating his forty days of prayer and fasting — but by Holy Week, it hasn't worked out as we had hoped on Ash Wednesday,

So maybe we need to rethink the question and approach: What do we want to DO this Lent?

And that's where fasting — fasting in the spirit of Jesus — plays a part.

The saints and prophets of Scripture fasted in order to focus their full attention on the things of God, to center their hearts and spirits on God's presence in their midst. In today's Gospel, Jesus fasts before beginning his public ministry of teaching and healing; his 40-day wilderness experience is his time alone with God to discern exactly what God is calling him to do.

So let's take on "fasting" not for the sake of mortification or penance but to focus our time and energy on more meaningful and fulfilling things in our lives.

At the outset, it's important to understand that dieting is NOT fasting:

The dieter skips food because I'm eating too much and it's bad for me. But the faster says Food is good but I'm hungry for something more fulfilling.

The dieter turns off the TV because It's boring and my streaming bill is too high. But the faster says There are more inspiring and enriching things I could be watching.

The dieter says I'm spending too much money on stuff. I can't afford it. The faster says I can use my money to help others who have so much less than I have.

Lent calls us to fast not from something because it is bad but to fast from something for something better.

And Lenten fasting does not have to be food. We can fast from things that entertain or amuse us in order to make time for works that stretch our souls and lift our spirits.

We can fast from shopping for the latest, the biggest and the most impressive so we can share our blessings with those for whom simple everyday survival is a constant struggle.

We can fast from our over-scheduled calendar to rediscover our family.

We can fast from anger, impatience and our need to be in control enabling us to heal broken relationships and bring peace again to our family or community.

The Lenten desert calls us to fast from status, self-interest and entitlement in order to stand with the poor, the abused, the lost and the forgotten.

These 40 days before Easter invite us to "fast" from whatever deters us from being centered fully in the great love of God that is especially present to us in this Lenten springtime.

Fasting is more than just not eating. It's about hungering. It's about emptying our lives of the things that fill — but fail to fulfill — our lives. Lent is the season for such meaningful and focused fasting — "fasting" not just for the sake of "giving something up" but for putting aside whatever derails or hampers our relationship with God and estranges us from others. Such fasting can be a powerful reminder of our need for God, of our need for redemption; it can be the beginning of transforming our lives from a stressful, frustrating struggle to make everything work to finding peace in discovering exactly what is genuinely important and fulfilling. Fasting can also be a beautiful means of expressing thanks to God from whom all good things come. Meaningful Lenten fasting enables us to go off into the "wilderness" and take a hard look at the choices we are making in our lives and the values upon which we actually live our lives, without the distractions that steal our attention and energy away from the things of God.

Lenten blessings!
Monsignor Pedone

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The confession schedule will be expanded for Lent. Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 11:00 AM until 12:00 noon and 2:30 to 3:30 PM in the church. There will be a Deanery Communal Penance Service during Holy Week on Tuesday, April 4th beginning at 6:30 PM, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 34 Ward Street, Worcester. Monsignor Pedone and other priests will be available to hear confessions at that time. Confessions can be heard by appointment as well. Please call the parish center at 508 - 753-5001.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows:

- ◆ Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- ◆ Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- ◆ Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

THE CHOSEN

During the Wednesdays of Lent (except for Ash Wednesday), we will again show episodes from the critically acclaimed series "The Chosen" beginning at 7:00 PM in the parish center followed by a discussion. This proved to be very popular and was well attended last year. Please join us and bring a friend!

Lenten Prayer

Lord, you call us to a change of heart and a life of radical discipleship. You bid us to take up our cross each day to be selfless servants of love and mercy, especially to the poor. During this Lenten season, I want to reset my priorities, discern what is important in life and grow in holiness. Lord, give me the grace to overcome my chronic selfishness and pride so that I may respond to the needs of the poor with urgent compassion. Amen.

Read Luke 9:22-25

Pope Francis



War in Ukraine...

February 24th marked the one year anniversary of the beginning of the War in Ukraine. At that time we had hoped the war would soon end but the death and destruction continues to this day. Let us not forget to pray for all those families involved in this terrible war.



RCIA NEWS

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & Our Lady of Loreto Parish is happy to welcome two individuals who have been on a faith journey, learning about and/or rediscovering

our Catholic Faith, with other members of our parish, since October.

On Sunday February 26th, our parish will be celebrating the Rite of Sending as we send, Catechumen, **Mylinh Nguyen**, and Candidate, **Brad Germain**, to St. Paul's Cathedral to be received by Bishop Robert McManus and elected to continued conversion in the Catholic Faith. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion during our Easter Vigil celebration!

HOLY HOUR FOR THE EUCHARIST

Mt. Carmel Parish Knights of Columbus
Please join us **Tuesday February 28, 6:30 PM** as we Pray a Holy Hour for the Eucharist.
This special service will include Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Holy Rosary, followed by a reflection on the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, including a short video presentation.

The Respect Life Ministry will be showing the movie "Unplanned" on Sunday, **March 5th at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center**. This is the true story of Abby Johnson, who worked at Planned Parenthood as a Clinical Director until she saw something that changed her life. Parents bring you high school age children. Family and friends are welcome. Free admission and complimentary popcorn and bottled water. Great Lenten event.

SAVE THE DATE

The "All-You-Can-Eat" Lenten Porchetta is back!
Saturday March 18 immediately following the 4pm mass

\$35 pp B.Y.O.B. Entertainment

Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference:

Saturday, March 25, beginning at 8:00 am at Assumption University, Worcester.

Tickets: Adult \$50 (after March 3 or at the door \$65)
Student \$30 (anytime)

Lunch is included with all tickets.

Visit <https://catholicmenworc.com> for list of speakers and more information.

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending February 12, 2023

Income

Offertory:

Week-End	\$3,332.79
Mail	940.00
On-Line Giving	763.75
Maintenance	370.00
Fuel	195.00
Home Missions	178.00
Catholic Free Press	117.00
Priests Retirement	70.00
Ash Wednesday	45.00
Easter	30.00
Flowers	30.00
Palm Sunday	25.00
Good Friday	25.00
Latin America	20.00
Catholic Relief Services	20.00
Total Offertory	\$6,161.54
Trust Income	248.33
Candles	126.00
Mass Stipends	60.00
Donations	50.00
Total	<u>\$6,645.87</u>

Disbursements

Utilities (January)	
Electricity	\$5,495.17
Natural Gas	2,578.50
Internet, Cable & Phone	<u>743.34</u>
Total Cost of Utilities	\$8,817.01
Payroll Taxes (January)	868.74
Rectory—Food & Household	593.53
Mass Stipends	500.00
Staff Christmas Luncheon	468.15
Calendar Raffle Winners	300.00
Rubbish Removal	250.00
Mass Coverage	200.00
Supplies	157.63
Salaries and Wages	120.00
Funeral Stipends	70.00
Publications	55.28
Total	<u>\$12,400.34</u>

Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations	\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$6,645.87
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	<u>(358.00)</u>
Cash Over/Short	<u>\$6,287.87</u>
	<u>(\$2,112.13)</u>

The brighter your light shines, the easier it is
for others to find their way.

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending February 19, 2023

Income

Offertory:

Week-End	\$2,870.07
Mail	1,584.00
Earthquake Relief	1,017.00
On-Line Giving	914.00
Catholic Free Press	195.00
Priests Retirement	170.00
Ash Wednesday	160.00
Maintenance	150.00
Fuel	115.00
Flowers	40.00
Easter	35.00
Home Missions	15.00
First Offering	15.00
Palm Sunday	5.00
Total Offertory	\$7,285.07
Transfer from Savings	80,640.00
Mass Stipends	230.00
Candles	86.00
Total	<u>\$88,241.37</u>

Disbursements

Church Lavatory Installation	\$44,314.00
Parish Center Boiler Conversion	16,052.14
Plumbing and Heating Repairs	7,278.42
Rectory AC Removal	6,820.00
Salaries and Wages	5,917.00
Mechanical Room Flooring	3,500.00
Electrical Repairs	2,675.74
Snow Plowing and Sanding	2,025.00
Other Repairs and Maintenance	380.00
Employee Benefits	156.84
Payroll Service Fee	117.00
Supplies	80.21
Total	<u>\$89,316.35</u>

Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations	\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$88,241.37
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	<u>(82,002.30)</u>
Cash Over/Short	<u>6,239.07</u>
	<u>(\$2,160.93)</u>

Start each day with a grateful heart.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR PARISH IN YOUR
WILLS, BEQUESTS AND UPON THE DEATH
OF LOVED ONES FOR DONATIONS.
MANY THANKS!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25, 2023—4:00 p.m.

Marcia DiLeo (5th Anniversary) by Family
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Giorgio, Frank, Francis and Stephen Giorgio by Family
Adolfo Ortiz, Jr. by the Ortiz Family

Sunday, February 26, 2023—8:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Sunday, February 26, 2023—10:30 a.m.

Marco Salerno, Vincenza Cafaro and Doriano Cafaro by Son

Peter Cosenza (5th Anniversary) by Wife and Family

Monday, February 27, 2023—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Tuesday, February 28, 2023—7:00 a.m.

Michael Viapiano (6th Anniversary) by Family

Wednesday, March 1, 2023—7:00 a.m.

In Thanksgiving for Charles Vasquez by the Ortiz Family

Thursday, March 2, 2023—7:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Saturday, March 4, 2023—4:00 p.m.

Louis Fazio, Jr. by Family

John Ellis by Family

Sunday, March 5, 2023—8:00 a.m.

Alfonso Polselli (First Anniversary) by Family

Sunday, March 5, 2023—10:30 a.m.

Carmella D'Elia by Carmine and Esther



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Cafone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Sue Cozzolino, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Joseph Vancelette, Madelyn Martin, Anthony Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Charlene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tufano, Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Richard and Rita Sharameta, Cindy Worthington, Beverly DeMarco, George Burton, Charlotte O'Mara, Renate Perry, Angela Vizzo, Jacob Rivera, Stephanie Berthiaume Cowie, Fulvia D'Amico, Dermot Kelly, Margaret Setaro, Isabella Gamble, Melissa Totaro, Nancy Meringolo, Veronika Montiverdi, Nancy Molinari and Joyce Molinari. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY APPEAL—2023

The Annual Diocesan Partners in Charity Appeal for 2023 has begun in our parish. By our baptism, we are called to "be the Face of Christ", offering hope to those in need through works of prayer, charity and education. This is the reason for the annual Partners in Charity Appeal in the Diocese of Worcester.

Our goal this year remains the same at \$50,000.

Through early donations we have to date:

15 Gifts

Total: \$ 9.025

Ways to donate:

Online: Go to partnersincharity.net

By phone: Development office 508-929-4366

By mail: Checks payable to Partners in Charity Appeal, note the parish, send to:
 Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm St.,
 Worcester, MA 01609

Through the Parish: at Mass or the office

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Ministry Assignments March 4-5

March 4 @ 4:00 pm

Lector – Pat Solitro

Ministers – Chet DiLeo & Irene Astrella

March 5 @ 8 am

Lector - Fran Penny

Ministers - Joe Sama

March 5 @ 10:30 am

Lector—Juanita Pignataro

Ministers - Debbie & Gerry Woods

Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot fulfill your assignment. Thank you for the good work that you do! If a substitution is made, please contact Julie so the announcement sheets will be correct.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a copy of your 2022 contribution statement please call the main office at 508-753-5001 or email lisalmc@gmail.com

"Every morning, on rising, we reaffirm before God, our decision to be faithful, come what may in the course of the day."

Pope Francis
Amoris Laetitia

OPEN HOUSE

The Golden Years Club is always welcoming new members. Please come and socialize, make some new friends, and see some old ones. **Join us for an Open House on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.**

The Club meets every Tuesday at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish Center (located behind the church) every Tuesday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Parish Center is handicap accessible with no stairs and easily accessible restrooms.

We enjoy a 50/50 raffle, bingo, and card games weekly. Also Holiday parties, Paper Sales, Bake Sales, and Cook-outs throughout the year. We honor our deceased club members with a Memorial Mass in May in the chapel in the Parish Center.

There is also a Visiting Nurse who comes once a month and will check vital signs, review medications, etc. along with a flu shot clinic annually.

The Golden Years Club proudly supports the Friendly House Food Bank, Pernet Family Health and The Be Like Brit Foundation.

MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

February 2023

February 28, 2023

10:00 AM	Socializing
	OPEN HOUSE for New Members
12:00 NOON	Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch	Bingo

*Bingo for members only

ALL DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK WOULD BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED.

PASSEOVER SEDER

On **Sunday March 26th at 1:00 PM** Rick Annunziata will be hosting a Passover Seder at the Parish Center.

The word Seder means order. The Passover is all about order. There is a particular way of celebrating the feast. It is also filled with symbolism, some of which is part of our modern Mass. More than anything the Passover is ancient, going back 3500 years or more.

Imagine traveling back in time to a Biblical Passover?

We will all have the unique opportunity to see and experience how Jesus fulfilled the feast as we embark on His journey and that of Moses. We will also discuss how the feast still applies to us today!

Space is very limited. If you are interested in attending please reach out to Rick at Rsa06@charter.net

Upcoming Events

Adult Faith Formation (every Monday - 6:30 pm)

Golden Years (every Tuesday)

Knights of Columbus Meeting—7 pm
(every 3rd Wednesday) All men of the Parish are welcome to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—6:30 PM
(every Friday during Lent)

“The CHOSEN” - 7:00 pm
(Wednesdays during Lent)

February 26—Rite of Sending (RCIA Candidates)

February 26—“Mother Teresa—a Documentary”

February 28—Holy Hour on the Eucharistic

March 1—“The Chosen”

March 5—Film “Unplanned”

March 18—Lenten Porchetta Dinner

March 19—St. Joseph Feast Day

March 25—Annual Catholic Men’s Conference @
Assumption University

March 26—Passover Seder

March 26—Confirmation Commitment Sunday

March 26—Passover Seder

April 1—First penance

April 6—Holy Thursday

April 7—Good Friday

April 8—Holy Saturday

April 9—Easter Sunday

May 7—First Holy Communion

May 19-21—Diocesan Youth Retreat

Consult flyer for all Lenten activities.

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