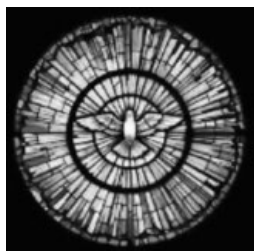


FOURTH SUNDAY OF
LENT



**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.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 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.

A Lenten Prayer

With our eyes on Jesus, we journey through Lent trying to understand and accept what God has in store for us. Jesus did this, and he is our example. Even as he died, Jesus gave himself over to whatever God wanted of him. Help us Lord to do your will.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR FRIENDS,

In the Gospel today, to the question of who was to blame for the tragedy of the man born blind, Jesus replies: Nobody. He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. Jesus doesn't allow us to solve our problems through assigning blame. Jesus challenges us to discern the light of God in the midst of whatever darkness we experience.

In Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of God, everything, even the most painful and debilitating tragedy, can become an occasion in which God's works can be revealed if we seek resurrection rather than recrimination — but that can't happen if we nurse our grievances, isolate ourselves in our anger, focus only on finding someone to "blame."

We all suffer times of pain and hurt and confusion that we have little or no control over. The challenge to us as followers of Jesus is not to seek someone or something to blame but to move beyond our anger and brokenness to transform our Good Friday experiences into Easter resurrection.

Lenten blessings!
Monsignor Pedone

**PLEASE MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL SILENCE
BEFORE EACH MASS. PEOPLE AROUND YOU
ARE TRYING TO PRAY. THANK YOU!**

Laetare Sunday...

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of **joy**. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. This is also the **Second Scrutiny** in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

The Church's liturgy, on this the Fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ.

The **Solemnity of St. Joseph** is usually celebrated on March 19, but has been transferred to March 20 since the liturgy of the Lenten Sundays take precedence.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL MEETING

There will be an Italian festival meeting on Thursday, March 30, at 6:30 pm.
All are welcome to join us to plan for this year's event.

THE MIDPOINT OF LENT

Didn't we begin the season of Lent with the best of intentions? Do we feel like nothing is going on? If so, can a six week journey be completed in the next few weeks? The answer is YES! It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready.

Beginning again is possible when we have the desire for something real during Lent. Feeling guilty for not doing much about Lent won't get us very far. What we need is a real expectation that God has something for us to hear, to learn, to change—and we need to be ready to listen.

Lent really begins when we can say: "Help me Lord! Help me to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges presented to me today. Give me freedom to make different choices, act on the graces you give me, refrain from escaping but rather give myself to loving as you have loved me.

Let's give Lent a new start in the days ahead. God is offering us more than we can ask or even imagine.

Stations of the Cross

Join us on Fridays at 6:30 pm to reflect and pray about what Jesus has done for us by participating in The Stations of the Cross. Afterward there will be a short adoration period and benediction.



If you are looking for "something to DO this Lent", come to the Stations of the Cross.

Friday, March 31—Stations will be sung by the Choir.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE EUCHARIST

Mt. Carmel Knights of Columbus

Please join us **Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 pm** as we Pray a Holy Hour for the Eucharist.

This special service will include Exposition and Benediction of the the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Holy Rosary, followed by a reflection on the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and a short video presentation.

**Scrutinies: Examining our lives**

The primary way that the Catholic Church assists the catechumens (called the elect after the celebration of the Rite of



Election on the First Sunday of Lent) in the conversion process during Lent is through the celebration of the rites called Scrutinies. These ritual celebrations on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are communal prayers celebrated around the elect to strengthen them to overcome the power of sin in their lives and to grow in virtue. To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. *The community does not scrutinize the catechumens; the catechumens scrutinize their own lives and allow God to scrutinize them and to heal them.*

All of us are called to continuing conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the elect in scrutinizing our own lives and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our hearts.

Every Catholic should spend some time reflecting on what obstacles to gospel living exist in his or her own life. Then when the Scrutinies are celebrated, we will all know that the prayers are for us as well as for the elect.

Taking seriously this dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective on Lenten "giving up." What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, which is to say we are to give up whatever keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. Along with the elect we all need to approach the season of Lent asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live the gospel values that Jesus taught us. Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ and to the way of life He has exemplified for us.

This year, during the next three Sundays, March 12th, 19th, and 23rd, we at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & Our Lady of Loreto Parish, will join with Catechumen/Elect, Mylinh Nguyen and candidate, Brad Germain, who are continuing their journey to becoming members of the Catholic Church or continuing their initiation, in celebrating these scrutinies.

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!

K of C Pro-Life Vigil

Saturday April 1 10-11AM

Across from 470 Pleasant Street
Please consider joining the Mt Carmel Knights of Columbus as we hold prayer vigil across from Planned Parenthood. Pray with us the Holy Rosary and Dive Mercy Chaplet as we witness to the Pro-life cause in this Act of Corporal and Spiritual Mercy.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18, 2023—4:00 p.m.

Caroline and Felix DiSilvestri by Family
Raymond and Joan Julian by Family
Katherine and Joseph Riggieri (Birthday
 Remembrance) by daughter Dolores

Sunday, March 19, 2023—8:00 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Penny Family by Family

Sunday, March 19, 2023—10:30 a.m.

Eileen Gorman (First Anniversary) by friend, Vera
 Novick

Isaac Preko and Julien Artavia by Family
**Pepino, Pauline & Tom Pellegrino and Nicholas
 Verdolino** by Fran and Santino

Monday, March 20, 2023—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Tuesday, March 21, 2023—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Wednesday, March 22, 2023—7:00 a.m.

The Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 23, 2023—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Saturday, March 25, 2023—4:00 p.m.

Elmer Sjosten by Family
William Riggieri by Children

Sunday, March 26, 2023—8:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Sunday, March 26, 2023—10:30 a.m.

Frank and Elizabeth Pellegrino by Fran and
 Santino

Dora C. Martin (15th Anniversary) by grandson,
 Michael C. Martin

Joseph Aromando (10th Anniversary) by Julie and
 Family

George Ciociolo Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) by
 Wife and Family

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.



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, 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, 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.

The Waters of Baptism

Juliana Louise Case
 daughter of

Gregory and Angela Case
 was initiated into our Christian family
 through the Sacrament of Baptism recently.

The Parish family of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our
 Lady of Loreto welcomes her.



THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:

Katherine and Joseph Riggieri
 (Birthday Remembrance)
 By daughter, Dolores

Frank Morrone
 (Anniversary)
 By Family



Rest in Peace

*We, the parish community of Our Lady of
 Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto, extend our
 deepest sympathy to the families and friends of
 Silvia Cazzaniga and Ella Fallon. God grant
 them peace forever and bring comfort to their families
 and friends.*



Some people bring light into the world just by being in it.

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)

March 19—St. Joseph Feast Day

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

March 26—Confirmation Commitment Sunday

March 26—Passover Seder—1:00 pm

March 28—Holy Hour for the Eucharist—6:30 pm

March 30—Italian Festival Meeting—6:30 pm

March 31—Stations of the Cross sung by the Choir

April 1—First penance

April 2—Palm Sunday

April 6—Holy Thursday

April 7—Good Friday

April 8—Holy Saturday

April 9—Easter Sunday

April 16—Confirmation

May 7—First Holy Communion

May 14—Mother’s Day

May 18—The Ascension of the Lord

May 19-21—Diocesan Youth Retreat

Cursillo for 2023:

Cursillo weekends are a wonderful, fun way to give you a
start on this journey.

**2023: Women’s: April 27-30
September 8-11
Men’s: June 8-11
December 7-10**

For more information contact **Elizabeth Santley @ 508-304-8871**, or at **esantley@yahoo.com**. Applications are
available in the vestibule of the church.

**If anyone who has made a Cursillo and would like to
be a sponsor, please contact Elizabeth Santley.**

Five Simple Rules to be Happy

Free your heart from hatred
Free your mind from worries
Live simply
Give more
Expect less

MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

February 2023

March 21, 2023

10:00 AM Socializing
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM VNA “Keep Well Clinic”
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

March 28, 2023

10:00 AM Socializing
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

*Bingo for members only

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RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Massachusetts Citizens for Life has been a strong voice for
life from conception to natural death. They have filed, with
several pro-life legislatures, four life affirming bills for the
2023-2025 General Session.

HS1383: An Act Relative to Abortion Pill Reversal ;Informed Consent.

Medical abortion prescriptions are available at public Uni-
versity Health Clinics, telehealth calls and chain store phar-
macies. This bill mandates that all dispensaries advise wom-
en that if she has taken the first of two pills for medical abor-
tion, she can change her mind and stop the abortion.

HS1390: An Act Relative to Protecting Women’s Health; Preserving Maternal and Unborn Child Life.

Medical evidence shows serious risks to women’s health are
greatest in later stages of pregnancy. This bill protects preg-
nant women from life-changing health risks, including death,
that accompany a third semester abortion. This bill will also
stop also stop infanticide for abortion survivors. Current law
allows babies who survive an abortion to be left to die and be
discarded as medical waste. This bill mandates life-saving
treatment for every born-alive baby who exhibits an ability
to live outside the womb.

HS1393: An Act Relative to Down Syndrome

49% of unborn babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in
Massachusetts are aborted. This bill will prohibit an abortion
based solely on a diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

HS3000: An Act Relative to Securing Parental Consent for Human Sexuality Education

Currently 87% of MA students as young as 14 must take a
course on “How to access valid and reliable information ,
products and services related to pregnancy. Parents must be
notified of the curriculum, but their consent is not required.
This bill mandates that the parent or guardian must be notified
and affirmatively consent to the curriculum that includes
human sexuality education.

We will keep you abreast as these bills come up for discus-
sion and votes. We will then ask that you contact your rep-
resentatives to support the bills. We will provide all neces-
sary information along with a prepared statement.

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