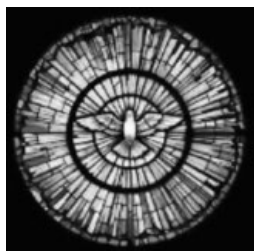


FIFTH SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**



**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.

**Reflections for Lent....**

Give up gossiping~~~~~Control your temper  
Give up sin~~~~~Turn to virtue  
Give up giving up~~~~~Hang in there!

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent and on this Sunday traditionally the Church covers statues and crucifixes. Why is this done? Covering crosses, statues and images or "veiling" with unadorned violet opaque cloths. It is an older custom of the Church that remains an option even to this day. The exact era it began no one is sure, but the origins seem to come from a medieval tradition of the "hunger cloth" which was a huge violet cloth hung in front of the altar to keep the congregation from viewing the altar. Originally Lent was a time that public sinners were "banished" from the church and had to do a public display of penance. Over time the understanding that everyone is a sinner prevailed and sinners were no longer restricted from the liturgy in church, but the hunger cloth gave all attending a "fast of the eyes." The cloths over time changed to smaller sizes and with more decorations.

The actual covering of images came later, perhaps continuing that theme of "fasting of the eyes."

At the end of the thirteenth century Bishop William Durandus of Mende (Southern France) explained this custom by the fact that Christ veiled his divinity during his passion. Durandus saw this explanation as implied in the Gospel passage which read: "But Jesus hid himself and left the temple" (John 8:59). The Church is reminding us of Jesus' humiliation and thus to imprint the image of the crucified Christ more deeply on our hearts.

In these last two weeks of Lent, let us make a more concerted effort to draw closer to our Lord Jesus in His suffering and death so that we can experience the true joy and freedom from the lasting effects of sin that Easter brings!

Lenten blessings!  
Monsignor Pedone

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

**A 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*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARISH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!**

The porchetta dinner last Saturday evening was a great success. Thank you for your hard work in organizing this event and thanks for all you do for our parish!

**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.

**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!

**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.

**ITALIAN FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER DINNER**

The dinner will be held on **April 29, 2023** after the 4:00 PM Mass. There will be a choice of steak tips or salmon, rice, veggies, and dessert. We will serve coffee, tea and dessert. The cost is \$35. BYOB. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses starting on Saturday, April 1st and also at the Parish Center. You must choose your entrée when you purchase your tickets.

**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 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

**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.

“The poorest person in the world is not the one without money. It is the one without God.”

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending March 19, 2023

Income

## Offertory:

Week-End	\$3,276.11	
Mail	990.00	
Fuel	540.00	
On-Line Giving	527.88	
Flowers	280.00	
Maintenance	185.00	
Ash Wednesday	23.00	
Latin America	10.00	
Easter	10.00	
Priests Retirement	10.00	
Palm Sunday	5.00	
Good Friday	5.00	
First Offering	5.00	
Total Offertory		\$5,866.99
Funeral Stipends		600.00
CYC—Youth and Family Programs		400.00
Candles		120.00
Mass Stipends		70.00
CCD Fees		35.00
Sanctuary Lamp		10.00
Total		<u>\$7,101.99</u>

Disbursements

Salaries and Wages	\$5,841.00	
Repairs and Maintenance	625.00	
Supplies	403.10	
CYC—Youth and Family Programs	300.00	
Funeral Stipends	250.00	
Employee Benefits	156.84	
Visiting Priest	100.00	
Total		<u>\$7,675.94</u>
Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations		\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$7,101.99	
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	(48.00)	7,053.99
Cash Over/(Short)		<u>(\$1,346.01)</u>

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](mailto: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.**

## 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.

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

As of March 24, 2023, we have:

**49 Gifts                      Total: \$ 16,395.**

Ways to donate:

**Online:** Go to [partnersincharity.net](http://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.

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 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**

**“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*

# MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 25, 2023—4:00 p.m.

**Elmer Sjosten** by Family

**William Riggieri** by Children

**Giuseppina Carusone** by Sisters

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

Monday, March 27, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Souls in Purgatory**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Sick of the Parish**

Wednesday, March 29, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Parishioners Intentions**

Thursday, March 30, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Maria Lilette Vasquez** by the Ortiz Family

Saturday, April 1, 2023—4:00 p.m.

**Mario Quarta** by Tony and Ann Marie Quarta

**Anne Chionchio Porcaro and Angelo and Anne Dell'Olio and Deceased Members of the Chionchio Family**

Sunday, April 2, 2023—8:00 a.m.

**Antonietta and Arturo Fraioli** by Josie DelloStritto and Family

Sunday, April 2, 2023—10:30 a.m.

**Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Marchese and Mr. and Mrs. Patsy Pezzella** by Family



**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, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Richard 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 Tataro, Nancy Meringolo, Veronika Montiverdi, Nancy Molinari and Joyce Molinari. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

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

**Vera Sbrogna**

By husband, Gus

**Michael Bernardi**

By Family

**Maria Lilette Vasquez**

By the Ortiz Family



## Ministry Assignments April 1-2

April 1 @ 4:00 pm

**Lector – Pat Solitro**

**Ministers – Irene Astrella & Chet DiLeo**

April 2 @ 8 am

**Lector - Chris Cook**

**Ministers - Joe Sama**

April 2 @ 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.**

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

**Start each day with a grateful heart.**

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

“Abortion Distortion”: When is a child a child? This was a headline in an article that appeared recently in the National Catholic Register. This was a true event that occurred in Massachusetts. In the Commonwealth v Peter Ronchi, the defendant stabbed and killed his pregnant girlfriend a week before her due date. Her unborn child also died, not from stab wounds, but from loss of blood circulation from the mother. The defendant was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and given two consecutive life sentences. The trial court’s instructions to the jury were “killing is not murder unless a human being is killed”. A viable fetus is a human being under the law of homicide. Then why is the killing of a viable fetus by abortion not a crime of homicide? This is the “abortion distortion”, one norm when it comes to abortion and a different norm when it comes to everything else. Harry Blackman in the 1973 Roe V Wade decision said the word “person” does not include the unborn. In 1981, The MA Supreme Judicial Court recognized the essential, fundamental right of “choice” in abortion. A homicide occurs when the defendant causes the victim’s death with intent to kill or reckless regard for life. This describes every abortion! The infliction of injuries on a pre-born baby resulting in death is a homicide. Then why is the murderous act of abortion not a homicide? This is an untenable and illogical situation. The only difference is the mother’s approval. The notion that life begins at viability is an unscientific assertion invented by Harry Blackburn to effect a political settlement of a moral crisis. The definition of human life then becomes entirely subjective. These two principles do not connect logically. There should be no double standard. Life exists from conception to natural death!

**UMass Memorial Ronald McDonald Care Mobile****Are You Uninsured?****Do You Need Medical or Dental Services?  
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Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
from 9 am—3 pm**

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**For more information, contact: Nardy Vega at 508-341-9416**

**For Covid-19 Vaccines, please call 508-334-2716**

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**MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB**

March 2023

**March 28, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
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.**



John Morello entertains parishioners at the annual Porchetta dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Monsignor Pedone commented, “It was a sensational evening, very relaxing and enjoyable. The food was delicious, the service quick and efficient, and the entertainment was remarkable.”



Parishioners dance to New York, New York by Frank Sinatra, sung by Knights of Columbus Grand Knight John Morello (Johnny Vincent).



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