

A photograph of a wooden cross and a crown of thorns against a solid purple background. The cross is made of light-colored wood and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The crown of thorns is made of dried, spiky branches and is draped over the cross. The background is a deep purple, and the lighting creates strong shadows of the cross and thorns on the wall behind them.

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.



**BUILDING OUR FAITH,
BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you

with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation!

You may return your card by:

- ☐ mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- ☐ or bringing it to Mass next Sunday.
- ☐ or you may visit our parish website at <https://mtcarmel.ws/> and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish. To set-up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. We are grateful for your support!

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,

It's hard to believe we are entering into the last weeks of Lent. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the following Sunday we celebrate the great feast of Easter. When you come to church this weekend, you will notice the statues and cross covered with purple cloth. Why does the Church suggest we do this? First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time we are in. These purple coverings are a reminder that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a powerful reminder to get ready.

Second, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own lives on earth. We live in a 'veiled' world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty everywhere in our lives.

Lenten Blessings!
Monsignor Pedone

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard every Saturday during Lent from 2:30 to 3:30 PM or by appointment. There will be a DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE on Tuesday, March 26th beginning at 6:30 PM at Our Lady of Czestochowa, 34 Ward Street, Worcester. Priests from Our Lady of Czestochowa, St. Joseph and St. Stephen Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart-St. Catherine of Sweden Parishes, and Monsignor Pedone will hear confessions that evening.



**THE PASSION OF THE
CHRIST**

You are invited to join our parish Adult Faith Formation class in watching the movie **The Passion of the Christ**, which will be shown on Monday March 25th at 6:00 pm at the parish center. There is no cost! Even if you've already seen the movie, there is always something more and new to learn about the immense love and mercy God has for us! It may

be one of the best PRAYERs you pray and a way to "do something special" for Lent.

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.

**ST JOSEPH'S DAY HOLY HOUR
AND ICON EXPOSITION**

Tuesday March 19
 Feast of St Joseph
 6:30-7:30PM



Please consider carving out an hour of your time this Lent and join our Pastor, Deacon, and Knights of Columbus Council as we Pray a Holy Hour in Honor of St

Joseph on his Feast Day, and display his Icon. The Holy Hour will include Presentation and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Holy Rosary, A Reflection on Saint Joseph, and recitation of the Chaplet of St Joseph.

A Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father,

May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of you and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, and may we repent of what has been sinful, Lord Jesus.

Amen

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, March 24th after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.** Please bring the kids!!! We are in need of foiled wrapped chocolate eggs Please drop them off at the Parish Center. Thank you.

EASTER DONATIONS

We have a few families who have reached out to us asking for assistance with Easter dinners. If you are able to donate a ham and some fresh produce, that would be greatly appreciated. Please bring all donations to the Parish Center Monday-Friday from 8 am—4 pm or call the office at 508-753-5001, Thank you for your generosity.

**PARTNERS IN
CHARITY
APPEAL—2024**

**BE GOD'S
HELPING
HANDS**

The Annual Diocesan Partners in Charity Appeal for 2024 has begun in our parish. This year's theme is **“Be God's Helping Hands”** 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.

As of March 8, 2024, we have:

40 Gifts Total: \$ 16,525.

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.

What does “Partners in Charity” really mean?

This week we will spotlight two more examples of where your donations go:

Respect Life Office: This ministry serves the Diocese of Worcester by striving to build a culture of life, and upholding and promoting the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Through prayer, education, pastoral care, and public policy advocacy, the Respect Life Office works to proclaim the Gospel of Life in our midst throughout all ages and stages of life. By working together diligently, prayerfully, and courageously in the Lord's service, the culture of death that surrounds us today will one day be replaced with a culture of life.

Contact Mrs. Allison LeDoux at :

aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org for updates on upcoming events and for more information.

Office of Religious Education: The Office of Religious Education (ORE) works with the Diocesan Bishop and Superintendent of Schools to facilitate an encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ by providing religious education curricula, materials, and resources for Catholic schools and parishes. The ORE is involved in many things including workshops, ongoing training for religious education teachers in the Catholic schools and parishes, and certification programs for teachers.

Financial Stewardship
For the week ending March 10, 2024

Income

Offertory:		
Week-End	\$3,661.19	
Mail	2,490.00	
On-Line Giving	1,699.76	
Maintenance	367.00	
Fuel	317.00	
Easter Flowers	205.00	
Priest Retirement	50.00	
Easter	20.00	
Palm Sunday	20.00	
Catholic Relief Services	10.00	
Total Offertory		\$8,839.95
Partners in Charity		2,000.00
Funeral Stipends		800.00
Mass Stipends		155.00
Candles		63.00
Total		<u>\$11,857.95</u>

Disbursements

Utilities: (February)		
Electricity	\$2,513.97	
Natural Gas	2,456.30	
Internet, Cable & Phone	678.67	
Total Utilities		\$5,648.94
Partners in Charity		2,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance		1,331.05
Office Expense		219.65
Salaries and Wages		150.00
Total		<u>\$9,349.64</u>
Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations		\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$11,857.95	
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	(2,265.00)	<u>9,592.95</u>
Cash Over/(Short)		<u>\$1,192.95</u>

We have had some requests from parishioners who contribute online, monthly, quarterly or otherwise to provide a listing of upcoming collections. So, going forward we will now publish this information in the bulletin each week. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lisa at lisaolmc@gmail.com or 508-753-5001.

March, 2024	Maintenance
March, 2024	Easter Flowers
March 3, 2024	Weekly Offering
March 10, 2024	Weekly Offering
March 17, 2024	Weekly Offering
March 17, 2024	Fuel Offering
March 17, 2024	Catholic Relief Services
March 24, 2024	Weekly Offering
March 24, 2024	Palm Sunday
March 29, 2024	Good Friday - Holy Land
March 31, 2024	Weekly Offering
March 31, 2024	Easter

**HOLY THURSDAY VISITATION
OF AREA CHURCHES**

Following an ancient custom in the Church, immediately following the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, we are forming a group to visit area Catholic churches. The parish is renting a bus for this purpose. If you are interested in joining us, please call Joan D'Argenis at the parish office at 508-753-5001 to reserve your spot.

EASTER DINNER IN A BASKET

The CYC will be raffling an Easter Dinner in a Basket. The basket will contain all of the fixings for an Easter Dinner for up to 6 people along with a gift card for the purchase of a ham. Tickets are \$2 each or \$10 for 7 tickets. Tickets will be available after all masses on March 16, 17, 23 and 24. The drawing will be held on Sunday, March 24 after the 10:30 Mass.

GUIDELINES FOR 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33) What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

God has his own time.

We are just impatient.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, March 16, 2024—4:00 p.m.

The Deceased Members of the Pasquale and Theresa D'Elia Family by Clara D'Elia
Domenico Viapiano by sister-in-law Ersilia Viapiano
Giuseppina Carusone by Sisters
Giuliano Taffuri by Aunt
Domenic & Rose Conte and Costa & Marie Patramanis by Family

Sunday, March 17, 2024—8:00 a.m.

Brendan Shanley and Maura & Hughie Cathcart
 by the Shanley Family
Richard Johanson (Birthday)

Sunday, March 17, 2024—10:30 a.m.

Eileen Gorman (3rd Anniversary) by friend Vera Novick
Maria Visci (Birthday Remembrance) by Family
Joseph Riggieri Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) by daughter Dolores

Monday, March 18, 2024—7:00 a.m.

Juliana Nosike by Family

Tuesday, March 19, 2024—7:00 a.m.

Joseph DiLeo (In honor of St. Joseph) by Family

Wednesday, March 20, 2024—7:00 a.m.

Juliana Nosike by Family

Thursday, March 21, 2024—7:00 a.m.

Martha Nasimiyu, Josephine Nafula and Daniel W.
 by Family

Saturday, March 23, 2024—4:00 p.m.

Frankie Morrone by wife Dianne and Family
Katherine Riggieri (Birthday Remembrance) by daughter Dolores
Thomas Maloney by Michael Chionchio and Family
Robert Soucy by Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Chionchio

Sunday, March 24, 2024—8:00 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Penny Family
Michael DelloStritto by wife Josie and Family

Sunday, March 24, 2023—10:30 a.m.

Isaac Preko, Julian Artavia and Teresa Fonseca
 by Family
Margaret Setaro (First Anniversary) and **Richard Setaro Jr.** (30th Anniversary) by Family
Elmer Sjosten by Family
George Cioccolo Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) by Wife and Family
Julia & Salvatore Marchese and Theresa & Patsy Pezzella by Family



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Sue Cozzolino, Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Joseph Vancelette, Madelyn Martin, 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, Isabella Gamble, Melissa Tolaro, Nancy Meringolo, Veronika Montiverdi, Joyce Molinari, Lillian Pascarelli, Lisa Cianci, Tina Donahue, Dolores Pellegrino, Lucinda Gremo, Ida Heath and William Fors. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

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 Francis "Butch" Rano and Michelina Terlizzi. God grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their families and friends.



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

Frankie Morrone
 By wife Dianne and Family

Cursillo..... 2024 Schedule:

Women's: April 18-21 **Men's:** May 23-26
 October 3-6 November 21-24

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

One way to spread **JOY** is to put

Jesus first
Others second
You third

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

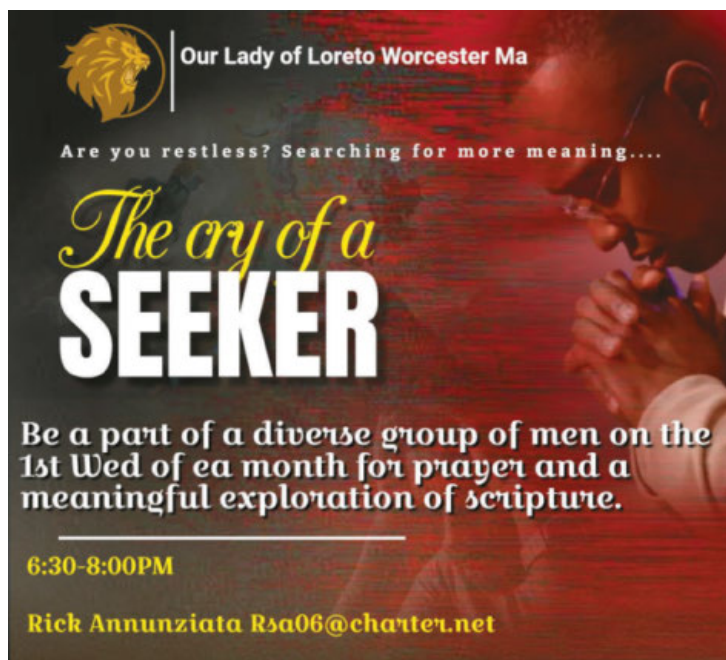
The MA Senate passed the radical Sex Act Mandate, but Speaker Ronald Mariano implied the House would not take up the bill technically killing it for now. The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure sent the "Pregnancy Center Gag Rule" to study, which means it is dead for this session. Pregnancy Resource Centers can continue to provide options to abortion. Respect Life organizations and every day citizens flooded their senators and representatives with texts, e-mails and phone calls to oppose these bills, and it worked. But there is still work to be done. The "Radical Abortion Expansion", the Physician Assisted Suicide", "School Vaccine and the "Pornographic School Textbook" bills still remain a threat. Contact your date senators and representatives to oppose these bills. Your voices are heard.

Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign:

February 14—March 24
(Ash Wednesday—Palm Sunday)

Many activities are planned for Worcester.

Visit www.40daysforlife.com for a list of events or to sign up for vigil hours.



Our Lady of Loreto Worcester Ma

Are you restless? Searching for more meaning....

The cry of a
SEEKER

Be a part of a diverse group of men on the 1st Wed of ea month for prayer and a meaningful exploration of scripture.

6:30-8:00PM

Rick Annunziata Rsa06@charter.net

FOOD DONATIONS



Through your generosity, we are able to help families in our local area. Please drop off food items in the church vestibule or at the parish center. Your donations to the Friendly House Food Pantry makes a big difference to someone who is hungry.

Ministry Assignments March 23-24**March 23 @ 4:00 pm**

Lector –

Ministers – Chet DiLeo & Sue Cozzolino

March 24 @ 8 am

Lector -

Ministers—Joe Sama

March 24 @ 10:30 am

Lector—Vera Novick

Ministers - Chizoma Nosike & Santina Macgregor

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.

Upcoming Events

- Golden Years—every Tuesday
- Knights of Columbus Fellowship—7 pm
(every 1st Wednesday)
- Knights of Columbus Meeting—7 pm
(every 3rd Wednesday) All men of the Parish are welcome to attend.
- “At the Foot of the Cross” - 6:30 pm -last Wednesday of the month (check with the office)
- Adult Faith Formation—6:00 pm—every Monday
- March 17—Happy St. Patrick’s Day
- March 19—St. Joseph Feast Day
Holy Hour 6:30-7:30 pm
- March 22—Stations of the Cross @ 6:30 pm
- March 24—Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 Mass
- March 28—Holy Thursday
- March 29—Good Friday
- March 29—Stations of the Cross @ 3:00 pm
- March 30—Holy Saturday
- March 31—EASTER SUNDAY
- April 7—Confirmation
- June 2—Trip to the Red Sox

Think about it.....

If we don’t teach our children and grandchildren who **God** is,
The world will teach them everything that **He** isn’t.

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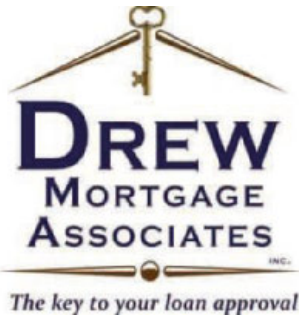
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