

# February 26, 2017 The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, February 25

5:00 p.m. **In Honor & Intentions of St. Philomena**  
By Mary Kovacs

### Sunday, February 26

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**  
By Henry Rebinski  
10:30 a.m. **+Bernie Brady**  
By Saint Theodore Choir

### Monday, February 27

8:45 a.m. **+Emma Hofmann**  
By Kathleen Hague

### Tuesday, February 28

8:45 a.m. **+Kathy McIntyre**  
By Henry Rebinski

### Wednesday, March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY

8:45 a.m. **+Beatrice and Thomas Nappi**  
By Angela Gross  
12 Noon **+Daniel Jukins**  
By Dad  
6:30 p.m. **Blessings for Healing of Mary Rupell**  
By Family

### Thursday, March 2 NO MASS

### First Friday, March 3 Saint Katharine Drexel

8:45 a.m. **+Joseph Moore**  
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

### First Saturday, March 4

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**  
5:00 p.m. **+Members of the Kuharick Family**  
By Rachael and Family

### Sunday, March 5

8:00 a.m. **+Thecla Supple**  
By Bill and Mary Supple  
10:30 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

## Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule March 1

8:45 am – Mass with imposition of ashes  
Noon – Mass with imposition of ashes  
6:30 pm – Mass with imposition of ashes

### Fasting & Abstinence During Lent

Catholics aged 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast are to limit themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration

of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent, forty days, not counting the Sundays--forty days of preparation leading up to Easter. The word "Lent" is related to our word, "length." This is a time of year when the days are getting longer; the length of daylight is increasing day by day. Just as nature moves from the deadness of winter to the new life of spring, so in the church we mirror that movement from death to life. The solemn season of Lent leads to the joy and vitality of Easter.

Lent is the time of preparation for Easter--penitential preparation. The whole season is a time for penitence. That's why the liturgical color for Lent is purple, which stands for penitence. And within the forty days of Lent, if there is one day that emphasizes penitence more than any other--the one day in the whole year that is the most penitential--it is today. This first day of Lent is called, "Ash Wednesday." For many centuries in the Christian church, Ash Wednesday has been observed as a solemn day of penitence.

Now the term "Ash" Wednesday comes from the traditional practice of placing ashes upon the forehead. You will notice, the minister applies the ashes in the form of a cross and speaks the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." What I want to tell you now is why this little custom of the ashes is such a fitting symbol for penitence; and how the kind of penitence shown forth by the sign of the ashes is important not only on Ash Wednesday but also during the entire season of Lent--indeed, all year long and the whole rest of our lives.

Death is the great equalizer. And the dust of death has been with us ever since our first parents. The curse was placed on Adam, "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The psalmist acknowledges the death sentence that God places upon us: "You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!'"

So this imposition of ashes shows us our common mortality. And our mortality--the fact that we all die--shows our common sinfulness. Sin and death go together.

As sinners facing death, what shall we do? In a word: Repent. We must put ashes on our heart and not just on our forehead. Penitence is saying to God, as David did when he repented of his sin, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Penitence is saying to God, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."

As the custom of the ashes indicates, Christians are marked with the sign of the cross. But this is not the first time that has happened to you. In Holy Baptism, you received the sign of the holy cross upon your forehead "to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." This ashen cross, then, proclaims not only your mortality but also your Savior--Jesus, who conquered sin and death for you and unites you to himself in baptism. In baptism you were buried with Christ and raised with him to newness of life. And so now Ash Wednesday is a reminder of our baptism, of the complete cleansing from sin that is ours in Christ. That sign is sure: Christ will redeem these bodies, even as he has redeemed our souls.



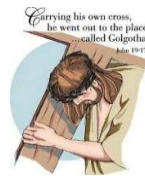
Again this year, we will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for our children. And again, we are asking parishioners to donate plastic eggs and non-chocolate candy. Our youth will be stuffing the eggs on April 8. If you are able to contribute to the egg hunt, please drop you eggs and candy to the Parish Center or just leave them in the Narthex. I know our children will be thrilled with the hunt, as well as we by just watching their faces as they scurry about looking for treasures!



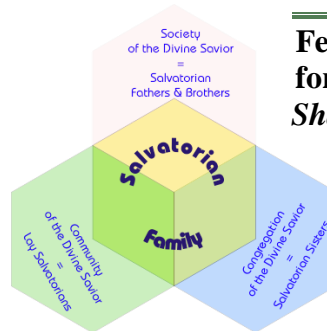
Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira Hedges, Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Maryann Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Cathy Moncello, Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple, Mary Rupell

**Church & Religious Education Schedule**

Feb. 26: 11:30: Good Friday Auditions  
Mar. 3, 6:30pm: All Grades in Church for Ash Wednesday



**Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



**Feb 26 Special Collection for Salvatorians**

*Share your gifts, and help us improve the lives of people who lack resources, of those in hospitals and prisons. Above all, help us reach the many*

*individuals who long to experience our Savior's mercy and love. Please give today. We thank you for your interest in supporting our new vocation.*



Our church will be holding a **Parish Lenten Mission** from March 18 through March 22, conducted by a visiting priest. I encourage you to join us in this spiritual journey during the solemn season of Lent.

Please check upcoming bulletins for more details and the starting times.

At the Easter Vigil, a new Paschal Candle is blessed and lit. It burns at every Mass until Pentecost Sunday when it is extinguished. If anyone would care to donate for the purchase of the Paschal Candle (\$200) in memory or honor of a loved one, please email the Parish Office at [sttheodorenj@gmail.com](mailto:sttheodorenj@gmail.com). Thank you.

- Tentative date for Spring Cleaning of the Church Grounds: April 8. Please consult upcoming bulletins for details and date.