

February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 3

5:00 p.m. +**Members of the Kuharick Family**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, February 4

8:00 a.m. + **William and Jesse Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Christopher Roddy**
By Sue and Roger Siersma

Monday, February 5 *Saint Agatha*

8:45 a.m. +**Peter Gross and Charles Folk**
By Angela Gross

Tuesday, February 6 *Saint Paul Miki*

8:45 a.m. +**Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

Wednesday, February 7

8:45 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**

Thursday, February 8 *NO MASS*

Friday, February 9

8:45 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

Saturday, February 10

5:00 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Sunday, February 11

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph, Nettie and Joseph, Jr. Roche**
By The Wyker Family

10:30 a.m. +**Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari**
By Sam and Marietta Tridante

relationship to the 40 days Christ spent fasting in the desert before entering into his public ministry (Mt 4:1-11). Catholics imitate Christ by spending 40 days in spiritual discipline before the celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Fasting is a biblical discipline that can be defended from both the Old and the New Testament. Christ expected his disciples to fast (Mt 9:14-15) and issued instructions for how they should do so (Mt 6:16-18). Catholics follow this pattern by holding a partial fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence from certain foods is also a biblical discipline. In Daniel 10:2-3 we read, "In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks." Catholics use a practice similar to Daniel's when, as a way of commemorating Christ's Crucifixion on a Friday, they abstain from eating meat on that day of the week during Lent. The only kind of flesh they eat on Friday is fish, which is a symbol of Christ.

Even the Ash Wednesday practice of having one's forehead signed with ashes has a biblical parallel. Putting ashes on one's head was a common biblical expression of mourning (1 Sm 13:19, Est 4:1, Is 61:3; see also Est 4:3, Jer 6:26, Ez 27:30, Dn 9:3, Mt 11:21, Lk 10:13). By having the sign of the cross made with ashes on their foreheads, Catholics mourn Christ's suffering on the cross and their own sins, which made that suffering necessary.

Lenten Schedule

February 14: Ash Wednesday: Masses: 8:45 a.m., 12 Noon, 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday 7 p.m.

Lenten Retreat: February 25 thru 28

Every year during Lent Catholics ask why do we fast and abstain. How can we explain our Lenten practice?

Answer

Explain that Lent is the 40 days before Easter in which Catholics pray, fast, contemplate, and engage in acts of spiritual self-discipline. Catholics do these things because Easter, which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, is the greatest holy day of the Christian year (even above Christmas) and Catholics have recognized that it is appropriate to prepare for such a holy day by engaging in such disciplines.

The reason Lent lasts 40 days is that 40 is the traditional number of judgment and spiritual testing in the Bible (Gn 7:4, Ex 24:18, 34:28, Nm 13:25, 14:33, Jon 3:4). Lent bears particular



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars



Hospitality Sunday

February 11

Please join us after the Sunday Masses for coffee, tea and treats. And, if you are able, please consider donating bake goods.

Catholic Spirit Annual Drive

The annual drive to support the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, is February 3 & 4 in our church. Please support their good work by using your envelope. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of *The Catholic Spirit* and will be greatly appreciated. And please remember to take home a copy of the paper—it has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic.

World Marriage Day: Sunday, February 11

World Marriage Day honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife. The commandment given to us by Jesus is to “love one another (John 15:12). Covenantal love between a husband and wife is a daily decision, simple by challenging. It is an ongoing process of learning about each other and how to accommodate differences so that both spouses can feel satisfied and grow in love for each other. For life-giving marriage resources, please go to the USCCB marriage resources website: www.foryourmarriage.org and be prepared to find videos along with interesting articles for couples in every stage of marriage, including the challenges facing couples today: unemployment, parenting, balancing work and family, care giving, etc.

Thank you very much to the following for their donations toward our Paschal and Altar Candles:

*George and Georgianne Merlo
Gerd and Kathleen Plenkers
Thomas and Patricia Perna
Jatty Grmek*

*Joe and Marjorie Dante and
In loving Memory of the Rodriguez Family*

Our Weekly Offering

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.

Sunday 1/7/18: \$2,562. (-\$1,075)

Sunday 1/14/17: \$2,211. (-\$1,426)

Sunday 1/21/17: \$2,354. (-\$1,284)

Sunday 1/28/17: \$1,918. (-\$1,719)

Very Tuesday @ 6:30 pm: Bible Study
Every Friday during Lent: 7 p.m.: Stations of the Cross

February Calendar

2/5, 6:15 p.m.: 6th Grade in Church for confessions

2/7, 7pm: Altar Rosary Society Meeting

2/11: Hospitality Sunday 9 & 11:30 a.m.

2/12, 6:15 pm: 5th Grade in Church for confessions

2/14: Ash Wednesday: Masses: 8:45 am; 12 noon, 6:30 pm

2/14, 6:15 pm: Children and parents in church for Ash Wednesday

2/16: 7 pm: Stations of the Cross

2/19: No Religious Education & Parish and Religious Education Offices closed

2/23: 7 pm: Grades 1 thru 4: Stations of the Cross

Feb. 25, 26, 27, 28: Lenten Retreat



If you wish a statement for your 2017 contributions, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Rupell.
