

February 7, 2016 The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 6

5 p.m. +**Joseph, Nettie and Joseph Roche, Jr.**
By The Kappus Family

Sunday, February 7

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**
By Susan Rineer and Family

10:30 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Monday, February 8 Saint Jerome

8:45 a.m. **Special Intentions**
By Matt and Mary Ann DeLany

Tuesday, February 9

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Ash Wednesday, February 10

8:45 a.m. +**Arnis Buza**
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

12 Noon **Blessings for the Kovacs Family**
By Mary Kovacs

6:30 p.m. +**Dave Patton**
By Mary Kovacs

Thursday, February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

8:45 a.m. +**Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Friday, February 12 NO MASS

Saturday, February 13

5 p.m. +**Members of the Kuharick Family**
By Family

Sunday, February 14

8:00 a.m. +**James Kane**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Concetta and Sabastiano Gallo**
By The Gallo Family

- **Divine Mercy Chaplet Devotion and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3 p.m.** Fridays during Lent
- **Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration 7 p.m.** Fridays during Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence only. The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59: one full meal a day, so as to experience hunger. Abstinence means to abstain from meat.



Our Lady of Lourdes Feast day February 11

Each year over 2 million people make their way through the mountainous country of

southeastern France to Lourdes. They come seeking cures, hoping to find answers, believing, and praying. At Lourdes, people recall the Lady dressed in white, with a blue sash, yellow roses at her feet, and a Rosary on her arm—the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On February 11, 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. This was the first of 18 visits, many of them with 20,000 people present. When Bernadette asked the Lady's identity, she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Just four years earlier, the pope had proclaimed it a dogma that Mary was conceived immaculate without original sin. The Blessed Virgin, through Bernadette, had come to call sinners to a change of heart. Her message was a request for prayer and penance. She also instructed Bernadette to tell the priests that a chapel was to be built on the site and processions held.

On February 25, 1858, the Lady told Bernadette to dig in the dirt and drink of the stream. Bernadette began to dig, and after several attempts she was able to find the water to drink. The water continued to flow from where she had dug with her hands until it was producing over 32,000 gallons of water a day—as it still does. There have been over 5,000 cures recorded but less than 100 of them have been declared miraculous by the Church. Most of these have taken place during the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

We may never travel to Lourdes and join in the processions, but we can know always that we have a Mother to help us and lead us to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray to her:

**Grant us, O merciful God, protection in
our weakness,
that we, who keep the Memorial of the
Immaculate Mother of God,
may, with the help of her intercession,
rise up from our iniquities.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.**

Question: "What are the Stations of the Cross and what can we learn from them?"

Answer: The Stations of the Cross, also known as the [Via Dolorosa](#), is a narration of the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ on earth that continues to provide spiritual conviction for every Christian and application to our lives. The Stations of the Cross serve as a stark reminder of the humble manner in which Jesus was willing to set aside any privilege of deity in order to provide a path to salvation through His sacrifice.

The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every church.

Similarly, the 150 Hail Marys that were recited for the rosary were an adaptation of the medieval monastic practice of reciting the 150 psalms in the Psalter.

Jesus' great sacrifice not only became the atonement for man's sins, but it also became the victory that would defeat and overcome death, which would have otherwise been the inescapable fate of all men who are born under the curse of sin. Sin carries its own inescapable penalty, and that penalty is death. Our Creator is just and fair and so demanded that the penalty for sin be paid. Because God is loving and merciful as well as just, He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for our sins, knowing we were otherwise doomed for all eternity ([John 3:16](#)). God's love and mercy are greatly demonstrated by the words of Jesus as He hung dying on the cross when He asked God to forgive those who were killing Him in their ignorance ([Luke 23:34](#)). It is easy to surmise that man's unwillingness to fully surrender in obedience to God's Word and law is because of his lack of knowledge and wisdom. The irony of that summation is the fatality it produced for Jesus on the cross becomes spiritual fatality for those unable to overcome the same ignorance that still plagues much of humanity today. The sinful man who refuses to accept the gift of salvation that Jesus made possible by His sacrifice is surely the product of rebellious ignorance and sin that separates a man from the wisdom of God.

Our Offering: \$3,367.35 (includes donations from Jan. 24); **Last Year:** \$2,840.92. Thank you to the parishioners who handed in their donations for Jan. 24. It is truly appreciated. God bless.

Fr. Damian

Church Announcements

- **During the Fridays of the Holy Season of Lent**, please join us at 3 p.m. for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy; Confessions at 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. and Eucharistic Adoration at 7:30 p.m.
- **Confessions** will be heard 30 minutes before the start of every Mass—weekends, as well as daily Masses.
- **Home Visitations:** Every First Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call Mary at the Parish Office to be put on the list.
- **Special Collection:** February 13/14: National Collection for Humanitarian and Church Needs for Severe Weather Relief in the United States
- **Feb. 14:** Hospitality Sunday after the Masses
- **Feb. 14: 11:30:** Youth Group Meatball Subs & Soda Sale--\$4.
- **Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:** 8:45 a.m., 12 Noon, 6:30 p.m.
- **Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Lenten Friday:** 3 p.m.: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Stations of the Cross:** 7 p.m. every Friday during Lent. Immediately following the Stations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place

Religious Education Schedule

Feb. 8: 7th Grade at Church with parents; all others at School

Feb. 10, 6:30 pm: Ash Wednesday: All grades at Church

Feb.15: No School: Presidents' Day

Feb. 19, 7 pm: Grades 1 thru 4: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 22: All grades at School

Feb. 26, 7 pm: Grades 5 thru 8: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 29: All grades at School



Please pray for:

Stephen, Elizabeth Ondroczy, Rosaria Incantalupo, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby

Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Charlie Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Eleanor D., Kerry Kraft