

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643
 WEBSITE: www.stmarysmarietta.org www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta EMAIL: info@stmarysmarietta.org



February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY MASSES - Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 3:30-5:00 PM (or anytime by appointment)

BAPTISMS - Contact Parish Office

WEDDINGS - Contact Parish Office *six months* in advance

Rector - Rev. Msgr. John Michael Campbell (fatherjmike@gmail.com)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. (emaxfield@diosteub.org)

Retired - Rev. Dale Tornes

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend

Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740-350-4224, ontkotb@suddenlink.net)

St. Mary School - 320 Marion St, 740-374-8181 (www.stmaryscatholic.org)

School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi (elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org)

DRE - Mrs. Deborah Coty - (dmcoty22@gmail.com)

Parish Council Chairman - Larry Hawn (740) 373-9095

K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304-494-6170)

CWC President - Jenn Tinkler

Hibernians - Mr. William Rathbone (740) 374-5492

Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740-525-6360)

Health Ministry - Mrs. Janet Jaeger (740-374-6768)

Daily Bread Kitchen - Mrs. Carol Henshaw (740-885-1181)

St. Vincent De Paul - Help Line (740-376-1334)

Welcoming Committee - Jim Naylor (740) 350-5510

Divine Mercy Gift Shop - Barb Ritchie (740) 538-4733

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM	- Louis VanFrayen, 43 rd Anniversary
SUN	8:00 AM	- Liv/dec'd of the Walter & Mary Crum Family
	10:00 AM	- Mark Bradley
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish
MON	7:45 AM	- Tim Strahler
	12:05 PM	- Lucille Henry
TUE	7:45 AM	- Francis "Junior" Arnold
	12:05 PM	- Joseph Wesel. 7 th Anniversary
WED	7:45 AM	- Terry Arnold
	12:05 PM	- Nathan Heiss
	6:30 PM	- Harry Way
THU	7:45 AM	- Liz Strahler
	12:05 PM	- Marilyn Morgan
FRI	7:45 AM	- Bill Rice
	12:05 PM	- John Bovaird
SAT	9:00 AM	- Souls in Purgatory
	5:30 PM	- Cletus L. Crock
SUN	8:00 AM	- Luada Wesel
	10:00 AM	- Mike Brockmeier, 53 rd Anniversary
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Jacob Thomas Flaherty and Truett Fynn Life.

PRE-CANA:

A Pre-Cana Session is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023, here at the Basilica. If you are planning to be married any time this year, you should register for this session by calling the parish office, 740-373-3643. All currently registered couples were mailed a letter of instructions and an agenda for this session. If you previously registered and did not receive this information, please let us know. Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

LENTEN HOLY HOUR, dedicated to the Love of Family will be held every Thursday at 6:00 PM during Lent at the Basilica. The Holy Hour will consist of prayers for our families, the Rosary, and Adoration of our Lord, Jesus Christ. All are welcome to attend.

VISITORS WELCOME! We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

PARISH OFFICES are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Religious Education at Saint Mary's School.
THU	8:30 AM	-	Cleaning the Basilica.
	6:00 PM	-	Lenten Holy Hour. See announcement.
FRI	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	5:00 PM	-	7:00 PM – Fish Fry at the Parish Center.
	7:00 PM	-	Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 12,904.00

Amount needed each weekend for
the Basilica Budget: \$ 14,225.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

The first weekend of each month there is a second collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, March 4th and 5th.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website:
<http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the web page. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button to see more information or to sign up.

BASILICA FOUNDATION:

A fund has been established by the Marietta Community Foundation for the maintenance and repairs of our Basilica. This fund is separate from the monthly maintenance collection. Our goal is to have at least One Million Dollars in the fund before using it.

2024 MASS BOOK

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open for scheduling Masses, Weddings, Meetings and Flower Requests. Given the size of our parish, many of our parishioners were not able to have even one weekend Mass in 2022. Therefore **we must limit requests to 4 weekend Masses per family.**

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

SAVE THE DATES! Friday night Lenten fish fries will be held every Friday night through March 31st in the Parish Center of the School. Dine in, carry out and drive thru options are available. Dinner (baked or fried) \$13.00, Senior dinners are \$11.00, College students, \$11.00, Children (10 & under) \$7.00.

St. Mary School will soon begin the registration process for the 2023-2024 academic year. In school and parish registration will open February 27th – March 10th and open registration will begin March 13th. Tours of the school are available for all grade levels, Preschool 3 – 8th grade by calling the school office at 740-374-8181 or emailing Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org to arrange an appointment.

Kindergarten screening for the 2023-2024 Academic year is scheduled for March 1st. Appointments may be made by calling the school office at 740-374-8181.

St. Mary Catholic Home & School Organization is once again doing the Sarris Candies Fundraiser for the spring season. Ordering is open NOW and will remain active until April 2. When you order, the shipment will be immediate. There is a \$5.00 shipping charge for each address. Combine those local orders to save!
<https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/Group.aspx?id=10-3985>

Our Group Number is 10-3985. Our group name is St. Mary Home & School. Student name is not necessary to place an order. Thank you.

DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE

You may have received a letter from Bishop Monforton asking you to consider your contribution to this year's Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. Pledge Sunday will take place on March 12th. We are called to take an active part in the life and mission of the Church.

Through your participation in the DPSC, you share in this work. Your gift to the DPSC helps to educate seminarians (your future priests), care for retired priests, offer administrative support for Catholic Schools, train catechists, fund youth ministry activities, provide a voice for news, evangelization and Church teaching (especially through the Steubenville Register), promote the sanctity of life, assist those most in need through Catholic Charities, and so much more. Please keep this in mind as you graciously consider your contribution.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

We pray for all of those serving our country in the military. We especially remember those from our own parish and friends and relatives of parishioners. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Church has declared this to be the year of the Eucharist! This year's Vacation Bible School fits in perfectly with this theme. The Marvelous Mystery of the Mass! VBS planning has begun and will run July 10-14, 2023 at St. Mary School.

Last year over 100 children attended! We are looking for volunteers to fill these positions. Faith leaders, crafts, skit leader, games, snacks, decoration and more. For more information please contact Deb Coty at dmcoty22@gmail.com or Erin Wojick at 740-350-8902.

CHURCHTOWN BREAKFAST

St. John CWC will have a Dine-In and Drive-Thru Breakfast this Sunday, February 26th from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM at the Churchtown K of C Hall. Cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children

CLEANING THE BASILICA

Volunteers will be cleaning the Basilica this Thursday morning at 8:30 AM. If you are able to help, please join us.

LENT AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Holy Season of Lent began last Wednesday.

Why not spend time with Jesus? Lent is only Six Weeks – it goes so fast. We have 2 daily Masses and Adoration on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15 AM until 7:00 PM. What a great time to deepen your relationship with Jesus. You can stay as long or as short as you like.

Jesus is in the Eucharist. He is present at Mass and at Adoration. Please pray that your time opens up to spend time with Him. **HE LOVES YOU and all He wants from you is your love.** We pray in Jesus name. Amen

CWC LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

A Lenten Day of spirituality for all women of the diocese will be held on **Saturday, March 25, 2023** at St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Clairsville, Ohio. The theme for the day is ***The Seven Sorrows of Mary.*** Make reservations through your CWC president or by contacting DeDe Kidder, DCCW Treasurer, P.O. Box 31, Toronto, OH 43964, **The fee of \$25 is payable in advance.** Registration begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 25.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Laundry Detergent is an essential item in every household. In Washington County there are over 7,000 people on food assistance and 300 homeless people. You cannot buy laundry detergent with a food card. If you are able to donate laundry detergent of any brand or size, please place it in the bins at the church entrances. Items also needed for the homeless are blankets, toiletries, and personal hygiene items. Sponsored by Catholic Women's Club Outreach Ministry.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

The Knights of Columbus in Churchtown will hold a Cornhole Tournament this Sunday, February 26th. Registration starts at 12:00 PM and play begins at 1:00 PM inside our gym. Entry fee is \$20/per team.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be in by Noon Wednesday. All announcements must be in writing. We are not able to accept bulletin announcements by phone. Thank you for your cooperation.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF March 4th & 5th

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
Sat: 5:30	Amy Brockett (CAPT) Irene Cain (HOST) Evelyn Potter (HOST) Cathy Harper (CHALICE) Debbie Lazorik (CHALICE)	Tony Huffman	Not Filled Mylee Lang Evan Huffman
Sun: 8:00	Patti Finkel CAPT) Marcia McCabe (HOST) John Douglass (HOST) Not Filled (CHALICE) Sharon Loken (CHALICE)	Jaclyn Schwieterman	David Baker Suzanne Baker Joyce Iaderosa Mike Iaderosa
10:00	Ken Schilling (CAPT) Debbie Karas (HOST) Sherry Payne (HOST) Mary Tokodi-Ruth (CHALICE) Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)	Khadine Ritter	Henry Corcoran Jonah Corcoran Nico Marasco Valentina Marasco Emilia Weltner
12:00	Not Filled (CAPT) Sandy Bickert (HOST) Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST) Joe Schmidt (CHALICE) Stan Vanlandingham (CHALICE)	Lisa Taylor	Kingston McMahon Jonathan Schmidt Gabriella Wojcik

Week of February 27	Christian Isaly Not Filled	Saturday, March 4:	Not Filled
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DAILY BREAD KITCHEN: The cost of food supplies have increased and we are now serving 250-300 meals per week, a 33% increase over pre-Covid numbers. Even with conscientious and frugal planning, the DBK finds itself in dire need of monetary assistance, so once again we ask your help in maintaining this effort. If you are able to donate any amount, please place an envelope in the Sunday collection baskets. Thank you and God bless you.



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Then, Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tested by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. Approaching, the devil said, "If you are the Son of God, make these stones become bread." He answered, saying, "It is written: 'Man does not live only on bread, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then, the devil took Him into the Holy City of Jerusalem, stood Him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will give charge to his angels over You,' and 'they will bear you on their hands lest You strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written: 'You will not test the Lord your God!'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the lands of the world and their glory. The devil said to Him, "I will give all these things to you, if You bow and worship me." Then, Jesus said to him, "Be gone from Me, Satan! For it has been written, 'You Will worship the Lord your God! Only Him will you serve!'" Then, the devil left Him and angels came and served Him.

Satan tested Jesus not only with food, mighty deeds, and power. Satan tempted the Lord with three popular views of the Messiah: care-giver, wonder-worker, and source of power. In the first scenario, Satan challenged Jesus with his baptismal title (And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.") If Jesus was truly God's Son, Satan declared, then he could provide food for himself and all the people. He could become the Savior of material needs, like the State under communism. But, Jesus responded with Scripture (Deuteronomy 8:3). Salvation can not be found in materials goods - it can only be found in a faith relationship with God.

Then, the devil seemed to say, "prove your Father is worthy of trust. Throw yourself down from the highest point of the Temple. If you are truly God's Son, your Father should save you" Satan not only challenged Jesus' title, he tested the trust relationship the title implied. The way Jesus placed that trust would show others the way to the Father. Satan wanted a great sign of wonder that would lead people only to Jesus. Amazed, the people would praise the Wonder-Worker. Then, Jesus' pride would swell and the Father would be trapped doing the Son's bidding. In the end, Satan would have conquered the power of the Father through his Son.

Jesus saw through this. God cannot be tempted, otherwise he would not be God! Finally, Satan tempted Jesus on the top of a mountain, a symbol of close contact with God. The devil had the audacity to tempt Jesus in the presence of his Father not by pointing up (to God) but by pointing down (to the world). Even within the so close a proximity to God, Satan tried to usurp His place. "Worship me," the devil seemed to say, "and be the source of all worldly power. Be my son, not His." Again, Jesus rejected Satan's advance through Scripture. In the end, Satan could not use physical cravings, pride, or lust for power to turn Jesus from his Father and his mission.

Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in our Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs on Wednesday and Friday of this week. Adoration takes place on these two days from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. every week. Adoration provides an opportunity to reconnect with God on a personal level. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us.

PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come for a pilgrimage or visit. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

Mar. - 5, - Rite of Election (Bishop)
Mar. - 12, - 8:00 am. First Scrutiny
Mar. - 19, - 10:00 am. Second Scrutiny
Mar. - 26, - 12:00 pm. Third Scrutiny
Mar. - 29, - 7:00 pm. Lenten Penance Service
Apr. - 4, - 7:00 pm. Diocesan Chrism Mass
May - 7, - 2:00 pm. First Communion Mass
May - 21, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation Mass

DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

On Tuesday, we remember the 11th anniversary of the death of Msgr. George Yontz. On Friday we remember the 23rd. anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard Maciejewski. These two priests served our Diocese to the best of their ability. May They both now rest forever in the Kingdom of our Father.

Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated on Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated in our Basilica on Monday evening. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica, all visitors, and each one of us. Since 1866 the Redemptorists have spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the icon and title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR TWO PARISHES WHO ARE ILL.

MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, February 27,

7:45 am. - Mass
9:15 am. - School Confessions (2,3,4,5)
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm. - RCIA

Tuesday, February 28,

7:45 am. - Mass
9:15 am. - School Confessions (2,3,4,5)
12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, March 1,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:30 pm. - Mass
7:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

Thursday, March 2,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, March 3,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist
10:00 am. - Mass at Glenwood
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist
7:00 pm. - Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm. - Confessions

Saturday, March 4,

9:00 am. - Mass
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. - Mass

Sunday, March 5,

8:00am. - Mass
9:00 am. - Stations - St. Henry
9:30 am. - Mass – St. Henry
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 pm. - Mass

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday, February 27, Saint Gregory of Narek (Abbot & Doctor of the Church)

Gregory was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, abbot and theologian. He is venerated in the Armenian and Catholic Churches, and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015.

Friday, March 3, Saint Katharine Drexel, (Virgin)

Katharine was a Philadelphia heiress, and founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed sacrament. She established 49 foundations, including Xavier University in New Orleans.

Saturday, March 4, Saint Casimir

Casimir was a Polish Prince – known as “brother and defender of the poor”. He led an austere life. He died in 1484.

THE REIC OF THE CROSS

As we move into the holy season of lent, we focus on the Cross of Jesus. In our basilica, there is a relic of the Cross, given to me by Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa – the first Cardinal of Africa. In a letter to me, he indicated that the relic was to be exposed in any church I pastured. The Cardinal received two relics of the Cross for Africa, and presented one of them to me. That relic resides at the foot of the crucifixion scene in the basilica.



THE BASILICA OF
SAINT MARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION

506 4TH STREET • MARIETTA OH 45750 • 740-373-3643



Lent, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The holy season of Lent is upon us. This is the season of the Church Year which turns our attention to Jesus Crucified. Lent is the time for us to get our lives in order. It is a time for repentance – a turning from our sins and a turning toward our God. It is the time to look into the eyes of our Crucified Lord, Who is the very source of our lives. During Lent, we are invited to take a look at our lives – to weigh our relationship with Christ and our relationships with our families and friends. It is a time to acknowledge that we are not what we should be - that we are far from our Father in heaven. The whole process of renewal and repentance requires a willingness to die to self in order that we might rise as new changed persons. This death to self comes through prayer, fasting and penance.

During the days of Lent, the Church again and again directs us to detest sin and try to overcome our defects by prayer and penance. Prayer and penance done for past sins obtains for us spiritual health and renewed meaning in our lives.

Welcome Lent! Thank God for these days before us! Join in the spirit of the season by reflecting seriously on your lives. Take time for quiet meditation, reflection and prayer. Sacrifice some of your God-given time to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion, and attend Stations of the Cross here at the Parish. Observe the Lenten regulations faithfully and embark on a program of self-denial during this holy season of prayer and fasting. Through your efforts, you will become closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who set the example of Lent with His forty-day desert fast. If you take advantage of this season, you will experience God's love for you. Lent provides an opportunity for grace and conversion – a time to search our hearts and examine our relationship with Jesus Christ. I ask every family in the Parish to participate in the discipline of Lent, and to make sure that the children participate in the scheduled Masses and Stations of the Cross.

Through Lent 2023, may each of us come to know and experience the great love that Jesus has for us. May we come to know Jesus in His Passion, Death and Resurrection, and realize what He went through all of this for us. May we come to a deeper relationship with, and a more intense love of the Lord through the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. And finally, may we embrace the crosses of our own lives, and through them, come to the Resurrection. May God bless us all as we begin our Annual Lenten Retreat.

Sincerely.

Rev. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

Lenten Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own *sui iuris* Church.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

TEMPTATION TODAY

As Jesus endured the tempter in the desert and, ultimately, on the cross to show us the way to the Father. Jesus showed us the way to overcome temptation and the end result was the conquering of temptation. More important, Jesus showed us the reason He endured temptation and eventually death: to destroy evil for our sake. We might be tempted, but He has been tempted before; as He overcame the evil one, so can we with his help.

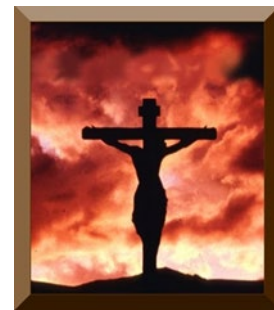
This Lent, we enter the desert with Jesus, not only knowing we will be tested, but also assured He has gone before us, and He has guaranteed the outcome

The same Satan who tempted Jesus, tempts us with hunger, pride, and a lust for power to turn away from God. He appeals to the ego, paints false mental images of a glorified self, and twists logic to gain his way. Evil uses evil means to gain an evil end. God challenges us to see evil as it truly is. With God's help, we can battle personal temptation. The true nature of our character, the means with which we are tempted, and the assistance God offers us the power, we can conquer all temptation.

Pope tells Jesuits in Africa he twice refused to become a bishop

Jesuits make a promise not to seek higher offices in the church. The Pope met with 82 Jesuits ministering in Congo. Francis told Jesuits working in Congo that he had taken seriously the promise he and all Jesuits make to not seek offices of authority and power in the church and, in fact, he twice declined becoming a bishop. Ultimately, he accepted his appointment as auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, because the nuncio presented him with a letter from the Jesuit superior general saying he could accept, "in a spirit of obedience."

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Fridays. This devotion stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from the supposed location of Pilate's house to Calvary. In the early 16th century, Ways of the Cross were established in Europe, and the tradition of 14 stations. The Franciscans long popularized the practice, and in the 18th century they bowed to Western Christian devotional feeling and provided 14 stations in Jerusalem. The traditional stations have been recently supplemented with the Via Lucis (the Way of Light), in which the meditations focus on the resurrected Christ.

Prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross is especially common during Lent and on Fridays throughout the year, in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday. The devotion is done individually or in a group and is particularly important in the Roman Catholic Church. Each station is commonly visited with some variation of the prayer "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world" and with a reading from a relevant passage of Scripture. Both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Alphonso Maria de' Liguori wrote devotional guides for the Stations of the Cross that remain popular.

We will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at the basilica every Friday evening at 7:00 pm, and at Saint Henry Church on Sunday mornings of Lent at 9:00 am. – prior to the 9:30 am. Mass.

Church Bulletin Humor

- 1.) Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- 2.) Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- 3.) At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- 4.) Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- 5.) Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds used to cripple children.

New York Archdiocese to close 12 Catholic schools

The Archdiocese of New York announced Wednesday that 12 of its schools will close at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, citing “detrimental” financial instability “due to shifting demographics and lower enrollment made worse by the pandemic.”

“It is never a good day when we announce closures to any of our beloved schools, but the goal is always to strengthen the remaining institutions and preserve Catholic education in New York for decades to come,” Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, said in a Feb. 15 press release. In addition to the school’s closures, four additional schools will merge into two. The archdiocese also announced that three schools will eliminate their sixth through eighth grades.

“We are doing everything we can to minimize the impact this will have on families and will provide both educational guidance and pastoral support to all those affected to ensure all children will be warmly welcomed into a nearby Catholic school. We are all in this together, and with hard work and God’s blessings, we will come out on the other side,” Cardinal Dolan said.

Virginia Senate Democrats kill bill to protect infants born alive after failed abortions

A Democrat-controlled Virginia Senate committee shot down a House-passed bill that would have required doctors to render medical care to an infant who is born alive after a botched abortion, which prevents the legislation from moving forward.

The legislation would have required any health care provider who performs or assists in an attempted abortion in which the infant is born alive to provide the “same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence” to preserve the life that they would to any other child born at the same gestational age. It would also require health care professionals to “ensure the immediate transfer of the infant ... to a hospital for further medical care.”

If a health care provider violated the law, he or she would have been guilty of a Class 4 felony, which would have carried a penalty of prison time between two and 10 years and a fine of up to \$100,000.

“The reason why we believe this is important is because we know we have documented cases of situations where a child is born alive, and in some cases, they have been left to die after the fact,” a senator said in defense of his proposal.

“Carry out God’s commandments in what you do every day. Embrace chastity. Hate no one. Do not be jealous or give in to feelings of envy. Do not take pleasure in disputes. Avoid pride, respect your elders and care for those younger than yourself. Pray for your enemies in the love of Christ. Before the day’s end be reconciled with anyone with whom you have a disagreement. Never despair of God’s mercy.”

—St. Benedict of Nursia

Pope Francis' message for Lent 2023: 'We need to listen to Jesus'

In his message for Lent 2023, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to listen to what Jesus wants to tell them through the Scriptures and through others.

Using the story of Jesus' Transfiguration as a launching point, Francis recalled "the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: 'Listen to him.'" "The first proposal, then, is very clear: We need to listen to Jesus," he said. "Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us."



"During this liturgical season," he continued, "the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend 'a high mountain' in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline — asceticism — as God's holy people."

"The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow 'him alone,'" he said. "Lent leads to Easter: the 'retreat' is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope, and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection."

Pope Francis said "While we hike up the mountain, we must keep our eyes on the path before us, but at the top, we are rewarded by the beautiful panorama that confronts us. At times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom."

Archdiocese of Miami offers to take in priests exiled from Nicaragua

The archbishop of Miami, Thomas Wenski, announced that his archdiocese will receive with open arms the priests and seminarians who were exiled by the dictatorship in Nicaragua, offering them longer-term housing. The prelate explained that although they will initially be taken in by Nicaraguan families living in the United States, they are invited to then stay at the St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami on a permanent basis. "I'm offering them the hospitality of the seminary as well as the opportunity to get acclimated, acculturated and see what the next steps would be after that," Wenski told Florida Catholic.

The archbishop said that the priests will be able to take "intensive English classes" while finalizing their immigration paperwork. He noted that, although he would like them all to stay in the archdiocese, he has "already heard from a few bishops who need Spanish-speaking priests who would be happy to help them out." The priests and seminarians arrived in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 9 after being exiled by Nicaraguan dictator Daniel Ortega, who accused them of treason and suspended their citizenship rights in perpetuity. They were part of the group of 222 political prisoners deported by the regime of Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo. Upon their arrival in the United States, the priests celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Hyattsville, Maryland.