

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 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|-----|---|
| Sat | 5:30 PM - Mary Lazorik |
| Sun | 8:00 AM - Shirley Stollar Oliver |
| | 10:00 AM - Karen Kuba |
| | 12:00 PM - People of the Parish |
| Mon | 7:45 AM - Leora Arnold |
| | 12:05 PM - Andrew Surella |
| Tue | 7:45 AM - Regina Weinheimer |
| | 12:05 PM - Linda Paguirigan |
| Wed | 7:45 AM - Evelyn Biedenbach, 27 th Anniversary |
| | 12:05 PM - Mary Lou Binegar |
| | 6:00 PM - Charles & Marie Rose |
| Thu | 7:45 AM - In Thanksgiving - The Varghese Family |
| | 12:05 PM - Joe & Luella Finkel Family |
| Fri | 7:45 AM - Julia Ellen Roddy |
| | 12:05 PM - Nina Huffman |
| Sat | 9:00 AM - Keith Eugene McGregor |
| | 5:30 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Mike & Helen Thomas Family |
| Sun | 8:00 AM - Faustina B. Haas |
| | 10:00 AM - Paul & Rita Archer |
| | 12:00 PM - People of the Parish |

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@diostaub.org)

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)

K of C Grand Knight - Rusty Nesmith (304) 488-1167

Parish Council President - Luke Strahler (614) 309-8876

CWC President - Debbie Lazorik (740) 434-3769

Hibernians - Charles W. Farley (740) 706-1434

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

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10.

SPECIAL MEETING THIS AFTERNOON:

This Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM there will be a meeting in the Basilica Social Hall to discuss what it means to be a "Synodal Church in Mission" All are invited to participate. More information may be found in this bulletin.

SERVERS NEEDED

Servers are needed for the RCIA Rite of Election. It will take place next Sunday, February 25th at 1:30 PM.

REST IN PEACE:

John Walsh died Saturday, February 10th. His Funeral Mass will be Friday, March 8th at 10:00 AM. We offer our condolences to his family and will remember John in our prayers. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

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

| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|---|
| SUN | 8:45AM | - | 9:45 AM – CCD Classes in the Basilica Social Hall. |
| | 2:00 PM | - | Meeting to discuss “Synodal Church in Mission” See announcements. |
| | 6:00 PM | - | Cross+Fire Youth Group Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall. See announcement. |
| MON | 6:15 PM | - | Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement. |
| | 7:00 PM | - | RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall. |
| | 7:00 PM | - | St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room. |
| TUE | 7:30 PM | - | K of C Meeting. Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM |
| WED | 8:15 AM | - | 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs |
| FRI | 8:15 AM | - | 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs. |
| | 5:00 PM | - | 7:00 PM - Fish Fry in the Parish Center. |
| | 7:00 PM | - | Stations of the Cross and Benediction. |

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 13,423.00
Amount needed each weekend for
The Basilica Budget: 14,225.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

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 One Million Dollars in the fund before using it.

2025 MASS BOOK

The 2025 Mass Intention Book will be opened the last week of February for scheduling Masses, Weddings, Meetings and Flower Intentions. Given the size of our parish many parishioners were not able to have even one weekend Mass in 2023. Therefore, we must limit requests to 4 weekend Masses per family.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be in by Noon Wednesday in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. They must be in writing.

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Registration for the 2024 – 2025 Academic year is now open for Preschool 3 through 8th grade. Visit the school website at St. Mary Catholic School and click the admissions tab to begin the registration process, request information or re-enroll. There are scholarship opportunities available. The Ed Choice application can be found on the school website, and questions can be mailed to edchoice@stmaryscatholic.org.

Tours can be scheduled by calling the school office at 740-374-8181 or emailing Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org.

Kindergarten Screening is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. In-house students will be scheduled by the office, for new inquiries you can call the school office (740) 374-8181.

Lenten Fish Fry runs each Friday thru March 22 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We look forward to this delicious event and invite all to dine in, carry out or utilize the drive-thru option for Friday night dinners!

Parkersburg Catholic's Boiler Systems have gone down in both the Elementary and High School campuses. Temporary heating has been installed, and they are working toward permanent solutions for both schools. However, this situation is a tremendous financial undertaking, and the school would greatly appreciate the support of our community as they work to provide a permanent solution as soon as possible. Donations may be mailed to: 3201 Fairview Avenue, Parkersburg, WV

K of C NEWS

K of C Meetings are held at the K of C Hall, 312 Franklin Street, Marietta. They are held the first and third Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM before the third Tuesday meeting.

CHURCHTOWN CWC BREAKFAST

A Dine in or Drive-thru Breakfast will be held at the Churchtown K of C Hall on Sunday, February 25th from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. An adult meal consisting of eggs, bacon, home fries, biscuit/sausage gravy and a drink is \$10.00. A kids meal consisting of pancakes, bacon, eggs and a drink is \$5.00. There will be a bake sale sponsored by the Churchtown Busy Bunch 4 H Club. Mark your calendars now to attend. All are welcome.

DCCW LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

A Lenten Day of Spirituality for all women of the diocese will be held on Sat., March 16, 2024, at The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. The program includes these topics:

The Eucharistic Revival

The Eucharistic Rosary Congress

Make reservations through your CWC President or by contacting DeDe Kidder (DCCW Treasurer), P.O. Box 31, Toronto, Ohio 43964
Cell Phone: (740)632-3018

Email: dede.kidder@gmail.com. The fee of \$25.00 is payable in advance. Registration: 8:30 – 9:45 AM, Saturday, March 16th, 2024.

PRE-CANA

A Pre-Cana Session is scheduled here at the Basilica on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Couples planning to be married any time this year should register for this session by calling the parish office at 740-373-3643.

CATHOLIC WOMEN IN ACTION (CWC)

Catholic Women in Action (CWC) will meet Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall. Based on our February meeting discussion, Lora Offenberger will present an updated communication plan for our membership. Spring is a busy time at St. Mary's Basilica; get updated on opportunities to be involved in the life of our parish. Enjoy a glass of wine/beer or your favorite beverage along with a light appetizer and snacks. Bring a friend and meet other women of the parish. Questions or to be put on the email list, contact Debbie Lazorik, text/call 740-434-3769 or lazorikd@marietta.edu.

TERI ANN'S INVITES YOU!

Join us in welcoming Melissa Wood Coachman/ Full of Grace Divine Designs, Monday, February 19th from 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM at Teri Ann's, 290 Front Street, Marietta, Melissa will be showcasing her beautiful collection of hand crafted artisan jewelry centered around the images of antique and vintage medallions and crosses & crucifixes. **The Basilica Roof Project will receive 20% of all sales.**

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like a complete record of your church contributions for 2023, please call the parish office and we will mail them to you. If you wish to pick up your statement, please call at least two days ahead. Please Note: your contribution record includes donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It does not include donations made to the D/PSC. This information will be mailed directly from the Diocese.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, Library or using the Basilica Kitchen. **All meetings and events MUST be put in the Master Book in the Parish Office.**

2024 BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

Children and grandchildren of the Basilica are invited to join us for a pancake breakfast and egg hunt with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23rd. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM followed by an egg hunt.

We are also requesting donations of small pre-wrapped candies that fit into eggs. Please leave in the baskets at the Basilica entrances by Sunday, March 17th. Interested in sponsoring or donating towards the event? Please call or text Lora Offenberger at 740-374-2126.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB

February's book is: **On the Other Side of Fear-How I Found Peace**, by Hallie Lord.

Next meeting: February 28th at 6:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. Join us for a glass of wine, light appetizers and lively discussion. All are welcome. If you have any ideas for books, they will be added to our book list. Contact Debbie Lazorik at 740-434-3769 or email lazorikd@marietta.edu.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 24 and 25

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

**Sat:
5:30**

Missy Deskins (CAPT)
Karen Schramm (HOST)
Stan Vanlandingham (HOST)
Not Filled CHALICE)
Mary Ruth Tokodi(CHALICE)

Tony Huffman

Drew Heiss
Gavin Kunz
Connor Richard

**Sun:
8:00**

Theresa Huck (CAPT) (swap req.)
Carol Antill (HOST)
Marcia McCabe (HOST)
Babs Douglass (CHALICE)
John Douglass (CHALICE)

Nancy Funk

Brandon Boley
Jerry Huck
Ron Wesel (swap req.)
Kenny Offenberger

10:00

Gerald Cooke (CAPT)
Jennifer Schenkel (CAPT)
Cathy Harper (HOST)
Ken Masselli (CHALICE)
Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)

Tim Williams

Owen Krason
Juliana Williams
Nico Marasco
Grant Palmer

12:00

Not Filled (CAPT)
Sandy Bickert (HOST)
Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST)
Dennis Nau (CHALICE)
Irene Cain (CHALICE)

Lisa Taylor

Evan Huffman
Grant Huffman
Not Filled

2024 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN: You may have received a letter from Bishop Bradley asking you to consider your contribution to this year's Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. Your gifts to the DPSC bring to life all of our diocesan ministries and services that go beyond what any parish can provide on their own, including seminarian formation, care for retired priests, administrative support for Catholic Schools; Catholic news and evangelization (especially through the Steubenville Register); promotion of the sanctity of life; training for catechists; youth ministry activities; assistance for those most in need through Catholic Charities and much more. As we continue to discern the future direction of our diocese, it is imperative that we continue to fund the essential ministries and services of our diocese. Our goal for 2024 is **\$122,274.48**. This is an increase of **\$6,635.27** over last year! St. Mary's has always surpassed our goal in the D/PSC. Please be generous in this 2024 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign.

BAG & BASKET BINGO: A Bag & Basket Bingo will be held at St. Bernard Social Hall on Sunday, February 25, 2024. Doors open at 1:00 PM; games begin at 2:00 PM. There will be 20 games for \$20.00. Tickets will be sold at the door only. There will be a 50/50 drawing, concession stand, and a raffle. For questions call: 740-960-9944. Proceeds benefit Mary's House. Mary's House serves expectant mothers as they learn to care for themselves and their newborn child.

CROSS+FIRE YOUTH GROUP: Join us for DTS this Sunday evening from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. We'll be playing a neat game after our saint talk called "Around the World with the Saints". **Cross Fire Youth Group** is looking to expand their team leaders. If you have a passion for inspiring our youth then join us for our meeting this Sunday, February 18th, from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM in the social Hall.

26th ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF PEOPLE OF THE PASSION. It will be held Sunday, March 3rd at 7:30 PM at St. Bernard Church, Beverly, OH. *Every year, you will recognize yourself in one of the people, from Christ's Passion.*

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 19th – Presidents Day.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

After John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, Jesus entered the desert to be tempted by the devil. He lived in the desert among wild animals. "He was tempted (for) forty days in the desert by Satan."

In Mark's short account of the Temptation, he bridged the ministry of John to the ministry of Jesus. The bridge consisted of a test and a proclamation. Jesus was tested for the Kingdom. And he was found worthy to proclaim the Kingdom.

When the spirit realm heard the words "This is my beloved Son," Jesus' contemporaries held, those spirits opposed to God would try to discredit him. After the heavenly announcement, it was time for spiritual battle. God's Spirit drove the Son into the desert so the war could begin. In the mind of Judaism, the desert was the place to find oneself before God and others. The people of God found an identity in the desert. The desert was not a place of escape, but a place of discovery. The desert dweller found him or herself facing "their own demons."

Jesus faced not only Satan, but a hostile environment with wild beasts. This scene stood as stark contrast to the Garden of Eden in Genesis. There, Adam and Eve lived in a lush garden surrounded by obedient animals. Jesus stepped into the Evil One's arena to do battle and justify the title given him by his Father. In Mark's account, Jesus did not face Satan alone. God the Father was present through the service of his angels.

Over past Sundays, we have studied Jesus through the eyes of Mark. One detail became abundantly clear: Jesus possessed power over evil in people (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:21-28) and over evil in nature (Fifth through Seventh Sundays: Mark 1:29-39, 1:40-45, and 2:1-12). In Mark's mind he could not have such power unless Jesus vanquished his foe already. With the test in the desert and the proclamation of the Good News, Jesus proved his victory. Soon the people would echo his victory: "With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him!" (Mark 1:28 RSV)

The story of Jesus in the desert tempted by the devil is a survival story. Our story this Lenten season is that we can survive in the desert season if we continue to look to Jesus. We have the ability to conquer the wild beasts of our desert: beasts like pride, anger, lust, greed and laziness: untamed animals like fear, worry, discouragement and bitterness: unruly monsters like moody, negative, critical complaining attitudes and acts.

This lent, is the time for serious thinking - a time when Jesus joins us in the desert to pray and do penance with us - to love and forgive us - to wash and cleanse our hearts through the Sacrament of Penance. Jesus tamed the beasts of the desert including Satan. May Jesus handle the beasts of our desert before it this lent.

Carmelite nuns move from New York to Florida **in pursuit of 'silence and solitude'**



A religious community of 14 Discalced Carmelite nuns has moved from a busy street in Buffalo, New York, where their order has lived for more than a century, to the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, in pursuit of "silence and solitude."

The Discalced Carmelite nuns are a cloistered community dedicated to contemplation and prayer. The sisters take their example from St. Teresa of Avila, the foundress of the Discalced Carmelite order. The Buffalo monastery was less than a half mile away from a busy recreational park and is down the street from a busy intersection. The Monastery was originally established in Buffalo just over 100 years ago when the suburban neighborhood was a quiet area.

The sisters sleep on straw mattresses and engage in much prayer and penance, kneeling on a hard floor in a chapel without pews or chairs to support tired backs or to rest aging knees. The sisters are vegetarians and annually fast from the feast of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14 to Easter. Their fast consists of two light meals for breakfast and dinner with a full meal at midday. And they don't eat eggs or dairy products during Lent. There is silence — essential to the Carmelite life because it enables the sisters to communicate with God continually, without distraction.

Catechism Theme: Jesus' Temptation and the Proclamation of the Kingdom

Christ in the desert revealed the new Adam, the One who would vanquish the Tempter. Unlike Adam (and, later, the Israelites in the desert), Jesus did not fall to whims of selfish ambition. No, Jesus remained the faithful Son. And in his fidelity, he claimed victory over Satan. He also foreshadowed his obedient acceptance of the cross.

His fidelity was not only pointed toward his Father. When he answered "NO!" to Satan, he answered "YES!" for us. He would be a faithful servant to us. We who turn away from God find ourselves pursued and served by God in the person of Jesus. When we become his followers, his "NO!" becomes our rejection of evil. His "YES!" becomes our battle cry of hope for the Father.

With His victory over evil, Christ can now proclaim the coming of the Kingdom, for he can announce that which he possesses. When we are bonded to Him (and each other) we can taste the Kingdom. As He was lifted up in obedience on the cross, we are lifted up with him, so we can share in the relationship of the Father and the Son, the very essence of the Kingdom.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP A REVERENTIAL LOW TONE OF VOICE AFTER MASSES IN THE BASILICA. WHISPERING IS ACCEPTABLE, BUT NOT FULL VOICE!

MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

The Diocese of Steubenville is hosting its annual Men's Day of Renewal on Saturday, March 9 at St. Stephen Church in Caldwell, Ohio. Doors open for registration at 8:00 am. The day consists of a Holy Hour, two presentations, a penance service, lunch, and concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bradley at 2:30 p.m. The speaker this year is Dr. Alan Schreck, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Franciscan University, and the theme is: *Living in the Power of The Holy Spirit*. You can register online at <https://athenscatholic.org/steubenville-mens-day> or watch for a paper registration form

Deceased Priests of our Diocese

On Wednesday, we remember the 11th anniversary of the death of Msgr. George Yontz. On Saturday, we remember the 24th anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard Maciejewski. May these two priests rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.



PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS - MONDAY

Perpetual Help devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Since our basilica is dedicated to Mary, it is obvious that we offer devotions related to her. These devotions are a sign of our devotion to our Catholic Faith. Why not come to experience these devotions?

PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Wednesday and Friday of this week, Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at the Basilica, in the Chapel of the English Martyrs from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. We need to be grateful to the Lord for His presence among us in the Eucharist, and we need to spend time with Him in adoration. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life. In the Eucharist, the sanctifying action of God reach their high point. The Eucharist contains Christ Himself.

PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR TWO PARISHES WHO ARE ILL

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

Feb. - 25, - Rite of Election
Mar. - 9, - Marriage preparation program
Mar. - 16, - Diocesan Woman Day of Spirituality
Mar. - 19, - Tour – St. Joseph Church, Massillon, Ohio
Mar. - 26, - 2:00 pm. Diocesan Chrism Mass
Apr. - 23, - Pilgrimage - Johnstown, P.A.
Apr. - 28, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation with Bishop Bradley
May, - 8, - Pilgrimage – Assumption Church, Barnsville, Ohio
May, - 29, - Pilgrimage – St. Philip Church, Pittsburgh, P. A.
Aug. - 23, - U.S. Tours

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 21, Saint Peter Damian (Bishop)

Peter was a defender of the Gregorian reform. He was a monk and Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. He was a promoter of religious life.

Thursday, February 22, The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

Today's feast has its roots in the commemoration of dead relatives. The feast comes from the fourth century. A chair was left empty in the sanctuary for the deceased person.

Friday, February 23, Saint Polycarp (Bishop & Martyr)

Polycarp was a disciple of St. John and bishop of Smyrna. He was burned at the stake in 155 at the age of 86.

Reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris to be marked by - six months of celebration and praise

Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris has announced plans for a prolonged celebration of the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral, the iconic church in the French capital that was nearly destroyed by a blaze in 2019.

The archbishop released a new pastoral letter on February 2 called "The year 2024 in the Archdiocese of Paris" with a precise schedule of ceremonies surrounding the cathedral's planned reopening next December. The special events will begin on December 8, 2024 and run until June 8, 2025, the Solemnity of Pentecost. Everything gets underway about 15 days before the reopening, actually, when the cathedral's statue of Our Lady, which is currently at Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois, will be transported back to Notre-Dame de Paris in a "large procession"

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, February 19,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm. - RCIA

Tuesday, February 20,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Pre Cana Team Mtg.

Wednesday, February 21,

7:45 am. - Ash Wednesday Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass
1:30 pm. - Ash service at Marietta Memorial
6:00 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass – St. Henry

Thursday, February 22,

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

Friday, February 23,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24,

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

Sunday, February 25,

8:00 am. Mass
9:00 am. Stations at St. Henry's
9:30 am. - Mass – Saint Henry
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 am. - Mass



“In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul. By fasting it is possible both to be delivered from future evils and to enjoy the good things to come.”

Saint Basil the Great

**Live the Lent as if it were your first Lent, as if it were your only Lent,
as if it were your only Lent!**



SAINT MARY BASILICA

506 Fourth Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750



February 18, 2024

Dear Parishioners,

We have entered the Holy Penitential Season of Lent. This season of Lent recalls the forty years spent by the Israelites in the desert while on their way to the Promised Land. During that time, the Israelite people experienced what it meant to live in tents without a fixed home to live in. They were often tempted to return to Egypt, where at least there was a supply of bread even though it was the food of slaves. In the wilderness of the Sinai desert, God Himself provided water and food for His people. He protected them from every danger. For the Hebrews, the experience of being totally dependent on God became their path to freedom from slavery.

The Lenten season is meant to help each of us through a commitment to personal purification, to relive the same spiritual journey. The arrival of Lent is not something to dread, but rather, it is something to celebrate. It is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to do some "spiritual house-keeping and growth."

There are things about each of us that need to change; we know it deep down in our hearts and yet we resist God's grace which quietly invites each of us to growth. Even though we know that we are often in a spiritual rut, we become comfortable in our lifestyles. Jesus challenges us from the desert to let go of any way of thinking or acting which keeps us from full communication with God and one another.

Whatever Lenten penance you choose to undertake, the important thing is that each one of us learns to move out of our own narrow, comfortable worlds into a deeper union with Jesus Christ. The penance of Lent provides that opportunity. The penance of Lent is about a call to communion with God. Through these 40 days of Lent may each one of us rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ and to the service of one another by works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving!

The Gospel call to be close to Christ is an invitation to each one of us to examine our own lives through a Lenten journey of faith. Christ goes before us in this journey. My friends, let us fearlessly go up with Christ to Jerusalem and accept His invitation to conversion. I pray that this Lent will strengthen each of us so that in dying to ourselves, we will rise to newness of life with our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Attack on priest in Jerusalem brings intolerance of Christians back into focus



Violence against Christians in Jerusalem continues to make the news following an incident on Feb. 3 when Father Nikodemus Schnabel, the abbot of the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition, was attacked by two young Jewish nationalists.

The incident occurred near the Zion Gate on the border between the Armenian and Jewish quarters. A minor and an individual approximately 20 years old spat on the priest and verbally attacked him, shouting insults against Jesus. “Normally, I am used to the fact that people spit on me — this is a very daily experience, especially at Mount Zion where the Dormition Abbey is located,” Schnabel said a few days after the incident. The abbey is located in a Jewish neighborhood with a significant presence of religious schools and ultra-Orthodox Jews, who do not tolerate the presence of Christians.

The monks of the Dormition are often under attack. In late December, the inscription “Christian missionaries are worse than Hamas” appeared on the wall of the Orthodox cemetery in front of the abbey. Frequently, during the night, the monastery is targeted with stones. The Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition in Jerusalem stands on Mount Zion and has been a part of Jerusalem’s skyline for more than a century.

These attacks occur in other hot spots in the city such as the Armenian quarter and the Via Dolorosa, where the streets of Jewish and Christian neighborhoods intersect. The incidents happen more often than the public and the media know because it is not always possible to document them, and many clergy, religious people — but also foreigners and Christian faithful are not as likely to report them.

The phenomenon of the harassment of Christians in the Holy Land is not something new. The Rossing Center has recently launched a monitoring program for these incidents, noting an increase in cases in the last couple of years. There are dozens of confirmed cases with evidence supporting them. The episodes range from harassment such as insults and spitting to outright acts of violence toward Church property, the desecration of cemeteries, and physical threats.

The attackers are usually men, mainly teenagers to late 20s. All of them come from a religious background: either from the ultra-Orthodox world or from an ultra-nationalist and religious movement, which is a more extreme version of the traditional national religious society.

In recent months, the phenomenon of assaults against Christians has ramped up. “We need to go through an educational process in order to change the mentality. If the majority of people publicly condemn these actions, gradually an atmosphere of delegitimization can be created. Perhaps individuals will think twice before spitting or making offensive remarks. It is essential to promote the idea in the country that these are unacceptable behaviors,” the priest said.

2024 Lenten Message to the Faithful of the Diocese of Steubenville

The 40-day Season of Lent is upon us, and as is the case every year, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives. On Ash Wednesday, when we hear the words “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return,” we are reminded that we are mortal human beings whose lives in this world are finite. When we hear the words “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” we are encouraged once more to change what needs to be changed about how we are living our lives. In addition, we are encouraged to take the opportunity of these six weeks to grow in love for God and neighbor through the three-fold spiritual practices of prayer, almsgiving (acts of charity), and fasting. As Pope Francis reminds us in his 2024 Lenten Message: & quote; Prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying & quote; What we want to empty ourselves of is sin and selfishness; what we want to open ourselves to is to live virtuous, compassionate and merciful lives.

We are all keenly aware that our world is in crisis from many different ways of looking at our current reality. There is a sense of divisiveness among world nations; as Pope Francis has said: & quote; we are experiencing a third world war being fought piecemeal."e; We find that same sense of divisiveness, often accompanied by violence, in the political, social, and familial realms of our lives. While there may be many causes for this lack of unity and animosity of spirit, one undeniable cause is the impact of sin, and a lack of Faith in God. Some people are predicting dire consequences facing the future of humanity. However, the Season of Lent gives us all an opportunity to take what some see as a time of death and destruction, and turn it into a season of Hope and new Life: in God our Father Who loves all of humanity, in Jesus Who has come to save the world from the ultimate power of sin and death, and in the Holy Spirit Who guides us in the ways that will lead us to Eternal Life.

I urge everyone in our beloved Local Church of the Diocese of Steubenville to enter into this Season of Lent with the intention of remembering that while the mortality of our bodies means that our lives in this world are limited, the immortality of our souls means that we will live forever. Let us be determined to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Penance (making good Confessions on a regular basis), and to spend quality time in prayer, almsgiving (acts of charity) and fasting, so that we can turn away from sin, embrace a life of Virtue, and live our lives in ways that will result in bringing greater unity to our relationships, and that will give glory to God in how we live our lives here and now, and when our lives in this world are completed. Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Paul J. Bradley
Apostolic Administrator