

FEBRUARY: MONTH OF THE PASSION

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY: LENTEN FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Antoinette McDowell, r.i.p., by Carol Clifford*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph: Sunday Vigil): *Marie Byrne by Nelly Lopez*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Sunday Vigil): *Ann McElvaney by Terry & David Clearwater*



SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *pro populo*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *James McEnery, r.i.p., by Felicia Lecce*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Sloan, r.i.p., by Mary & Bill McKenna*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Helen Fitzgerald by the Family*

MONDAY 29 FEBRUARY: LENTEN FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Richard Bywater, pro sal, by the Family*
6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Nicholas Bedenaventi, r.i.p., Nellie Lopez*

TUESDAY 1 MARCH: LENTEN FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Mary King & Family*

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH: LENTEN FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Dave O'Keefe, r.i.p., by Henry & Vickie Malanowski*
6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Mel Garcia, r.i.p., by Dr. & Mrs. Paul Latonero*



THURSDAY 3 MARCH: COMMEMORATION OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Gayle, r.i.p., by Marguerite & Angelo Sands*

FIRST FRIDAY 4 MARCH: COMMEMORATION OF SAINT CASIMIR

Day of Abstinence
World Day of Prayer

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Margaret & Ned Clifford, r.i.p., by Fran Clifford*
7:30PM (Saint Joseph): Stations of the Cross

FIRST SATURDAY 5 MARCH: LENTEN FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Bernard Cunningham by Ursula Slattery*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph: Sunday Vigil): *Louis Fenimore by Lee Fenimore*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Sunday Vigil): *Eugene Maracaccio by Missy Irwin*

NEXT SUNDAY 6 MARCH: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Bernedette & Mike Kline, r.i.p., by Jim & Mary Ann Kline*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *pro populo*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Special Intention by Eric Lundgren*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Rosemary Bowler by Paula & John O'Connell*



r.i.p. (requiescat in pace: rest in peace), *a.i.d.* (ad intentionem donoris: for the intention of the donor)
pro sal. (pro salutem: for health), *pro populo* (for the people)

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERING

Saint Thomas: \$7822.12 (Regular)
\$156.00 (Peter's Pence)
Saint Joseph: \$3015.00 (Regular)
\$25.00 (Peter's Pence)

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Saint Thomas: Parish Project Fund
Saint Joseph: Maintenance & Repairs

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:30PM on Fridays during Lent
at Saint Joseph's Church.



WEDNESDAY MASS

Throughout Lent, Mass will be celebrated at
6:30PM on Wednesdays at Saint Joseph's
Church in addition to the regular schedule.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

5pm-7pm every Friday during Lent (2/12 -3/18) in the St. Thomas' Gym Kitchen
Cost: \$10 each Flounder or Shrimp Dinner
\$15 for a combo containing both
For more information please email Council 7460 at KofC7460@gmail.com.

12 MONTHS OF CHRISTMAS DRAWING

February Winner: Bill McKenna
In honor of Saint Patrick, March's prize is Waterford crystal Kells Standing Cross. MRSP: \$185



PRAYER CHAIN

To place someone on the prayer chain please call Carolyn Mundy at 845-534-9277 or email workinmom59@gmail.com.

WEATHER NOTES

*During the winter months, inclement weather often necessitates the cancellation or rescheduling of parish and/or Religious Education events. Please check the following for closures: **100.7 (WHUD), 107.1 (the Peak), K104.7, and 92.9 (WBPM classic hits), 92.7/96.9 (WRRV), MIX97.7, 101.5 (WPDH), and 94.3/97.3 (The Wolf).**



TITHING RECEIPTS

Due to the significant changes in parish personnel, envelope companies, and the large backlog of unposted 2015 envelopes, the office is unable to print out complete tax receipts. If you are in need of your parish donation information for tax purposes, please consult your records and call the office to have a statement provided.

FOOD PANTRY

We are fully stocked with spaghetti!
Now we are in need of pasta sauce, cereal, grape jelly, and laundry detergent. Thank you for your generosity!



RESPECT LIFE

On March 13, 2016, Christopher Bell, Director & Co-Founder (along with Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR) of Good Counsel Homes and Hope for Homeless Pregnant Women, will speak at Temple Hill Tavern & Catering, 171 Temple Hill Rd., New Windsor. Please call Joe Coyle (845-561-7384) for more information and to make reservations. \$23/adult. \$10/child, 6-10. Children 5 and under free.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

11th ANNUAL CELEBRATION April 3rd. Saint Rocco's Church, Newark, NJ. (Parish trip!) Mass, Healing Service, Chaplet. Buses will leave Saint Joseph's School at 7:30AM and depart from Newark at 5:00PM. \$25/person. (Bring your own lunch.) A beautiful way to participate in the Year of Mercy. Please pick up a flyer in the church entries and call Mary Maddalena for more information: 534-3904.

2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL

Our parish goal is: \$114,500.00

EASTER GIVING TREE

Catholic Charities of Orange County has asked for our help with Easter baskets and practical needs for the families they serve. Please take an ornament off the "tree" (one in each church) and help provide some Easter treats. Each egg has either "Easter Basket" or a necessary item written on it. Please feel free to take as many eggs as you like! The need is great! Items may be dropped off at the parish office, left in the food pantry at Saint Thomas, or by the altar at Saint Joseph by March 16th. Gifts will be delivered the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Please wrap basket/item and attach the Easter Egg ornament to the package so it can be distributed appropriately. Thank you!



REAL CANDLES!

The generosity of two of our parish families has made possible the installation by the statues of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart of candle stands that burn **real candles**. The candles burn cleanly, and collect residue wax that will be recycled. Each burns from one to two hours. We ask an offering of \$1.00 for each candle. Lighters and wooden sticks to light candles are available in the bins next to the stands.

CDA, COURT RITA, #264

Ladies, please join us at our March 7th meeting. Room 7 in the Parish Center at 7:00PM. Our motto is "**UNITY AND CHARITY**" and we'd like to hear your suggestions and ideas about how to help those in need locally, nationally and internationally. We look forward to meeting you and sharing conversation, friendship, and refreshments! Contact Brigid Flynn at 534-2116 for further information.



ELECTRONIC PARISH PAY GIVING PROGRAM

An easy way to contribute regularly to the parish is to do it on-line using the Parish Pay program. You can use the "Special Pay" category to cover the monthly Parish Project/Maintenance & Repair collection or you can just use the second collection envelopes that you receive in your packet to cover that and other collections mandated by the Archdiocese during the year. One of the benefits of this program is that your offering continues while you are on vacation, out of town for any reason, you miss Mass due to illness, etc. To sign up go to www.parihsipay.com.

PARISH TRIP TO THE IMPERIAL CITIES OF PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, AND VIENNA

Good news! The discounted rate for the Imperial Cities has been extended until March 28th.

Only \$510 deposit and insurance is needed at the time of registration-insurance covers cancellation for any reason! If you book your trip before that date, you can save \$250 per person! Visit the beautiful cities of Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Experience the culture and foods of these Central European cities during this 11 day adventure. (Mass will be offered every day for those who wish to attend.) Brochures are available in the church or call Mary Ellen Tiernan for more information at [845-661-8586](tel:845-661-8586) or email her at metiernan@comcast.net.



GROWTH & INSPIRATION FOR ADULTS

Online Lenten opportunity: "**Walking Toward Eternity: Daring to Walk the Walk**", teaches how to pray with scripture and cultivate 7 key virtues in your life to deepen your relationship with God - life changing! Go to www.evangelization.com and search for the study under St. Thomas of Canterbury or our zip code.

Optimal Health Gathering on Saturday, March 5th from 10am-12pm in the adult study room in the old St. Thomas School building.

For more information, contact Theresa Trella at [845-667-1772](tel:845-667-1772) or hummingbird828@gmail.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS

Fr Simon and Deacon Len are putting together a list of our homebound parishioners to strengthen our ministry to them.

If you are a Minister of Communion bringing Holy Communion to someone who can't get to Mass, please let us know who you visit! Call the rectory at [845-534-2570](tel:845-534-2570) or email us at office@stt-stj.com.



HOW'S YOUR LENT?

By now, each of us should have decided upon the shape of our Lenten "program." After a well-spent season of Lent, we should expect reasonably something of a transformation. The season of Lent lasts long enough for us to make a habit out of practices of reverence and faith that can last a lifetime. Unlike our customary New Year's resolutions, made on one day after a busy month of overspending and overindulging, a good Lent requires foresight and commitment.

In "olden days," the three Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, named Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima (for the *seventeen*, the *sixtieth*, and the *fiftieth* day before Easter) served as a kind of prelude to help the Church prepare for Lent and Passiontide (Holy Week). According to Dr. Pius Parsch, the Gospels read on these Sundays set out for us an invitation, a task, and a goal. The invitation: God's vineyard. The task: the work of the divine Sower to cultivate the fields of his Church and the soul to produce a harvest thirty, sixty or a hundred-fold. The goal: the light of faith at Easter. Since these weeks prior to Lent & Easter were meant originally to prepare the catechumens (*the unbaptized seeking Baptism*) for their incorporation into the Body of Christ through Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, they were never treated casually: the decision to accept the invitation from God was a serious commitment. Just so, these weeks in the Church's later history took on the character of reminding and encouraging the Faithful that the approaching weeks were an important season of grace. How ironic that this practice of a pre-Lent was abandoned in 1969 when it might have been helpful, at a time when ignorance of the faith and poor catechesis became epidemic.

Whatever the changes made in the liturgy and the liturgical year since, the lesson of Lent's possibilities and its seriousness still presents for us an invitation, a task, and a goal. The invitation: ever greater communion with God through the mysteries we celebrate. The task: to turn away from sin and anything that prevents us from an encounter with the invisibly present. The goal: a more saintly and therefore, blessed life, and the promise that we will be better for it!

~ Father Doughty

