

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

Next Sun: Third Sunday of Lent - Year A

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-6
John 4:5-42



THROUGH YOUR HELP, PERSONS IN NEED ARE BEING SERVED TODAY - Today people who are hungry will be fed. Persons who are homeless will be housed. Persons who are sick will receive compassionate care. You made that possible when you contributed to the Cardinal's Campaign last year. Please consider a generous gift to this year's campaign. Next weekend, we will be offering you a chance to make your pledge or your gift during Mass. Thank you for your support!

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE & AFTERNOON OF PRAYER – Saturday – March 14th

12 p.m. – Lenten Reconciliation Service with the opportunity for individual confession.

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Lenten Afternoon of Prayer with Robert Karle of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and Patricia McDonough of the Jesuit Collaborative. With an introduction to the method of prayer developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, Robert and Patricia will offer you an opportunity to deepen your Lenten experience and recognize the ways in which Christ invites you into a more profound relationship with him. Please come and bring your friends as well!

LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - All Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors should contact Delmeter Carey at 347-446-0740 or 718-524-6586 to tell her of your availability to serve during Holy Week (March 29th through April 5th). Eucharistic Ministers available to bring communion to the homebound, or those in health care facilities, should also contact Delmeter. Finally, we ask that all ministers report to the sacristy no later than 5 minutes before Mass if they are scheduled to serve that day. If you do not report, we will invite another person to serve in your place. Thank you!

SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL! - **Saturday – March 7th** – John J. Bruno Children's Luncheon – 12 p.m. Li Greci's Staaten – Join us as we honor a distinguished group of persons who have made a difference in the lives of children. This year's honorees include: Dr. Mark Sherman, Jacob Carey, Annette Esposito, Sergey Guberman, Terry Gribbin, Mel and Susan Hansen, Eveyln & Mike Kormanik, Grace Murphy, Ilene Pappert, Zonease Porter and Charita Sanders. Tickets are \$75 per adult and \$30 per child. Please call: 718-981-5131. Thank you!

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL+ST. BENEDICTA REUNION- Saturday, March 14th, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Graduating classes from 1964 to 1990 are invited to join in this fun event featuring a hot buffet, a desert station, DJ, photobooth, raffle baskets, 50/50 and some hidden surprises. Advanced payment of \$50 required. Theresa Gribbin 1028 Feather Bed Lane, Edison, N.J. 08820. This is a BYOB event. Assorted soda and water will be provided.

2015 MEN'S CONFERENCE - The Archdiocese of New York Men's Commission and Fordham University Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education are co-sponsoring the First Annual Men's Conference on Saturday, March 21, 2015 on the Bronx Campus of Fordham. With over 500 men expected to attend, this day-long event will provide a unique opportunity for men throughout the Archdiocese to recommit themselves to their spiritual lives. The speakers will include His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York; Damon Owens, a renowned public speaker and strong proponent of the Catholic faith; and Joe Klecko, former all-star New York Jets defensive lineman. Admission is \$45 and includes breakfast, lunch, and a t-shirt. To register, visit www.nymensconference.com or call Kim Quatela at 646-794-3198.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Community Service Society Retired and Senior Volunteer Program – This program offers a broad array of volunteer opportunities for persons 55 years of age and older. The program matches people who want to help with a volunteer assignment that best suits their skills and interests. The time commitment can be as little as once a month to several days a week depending on how much time you can share. Please call 718-494-3222.

REPORT POTENTIAL FINANCIAL WRONGDOING - The Archdiocese of New York takes the stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of, or reason to suspect, misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or via the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>.

Weekly Offering: February 22: \$2084. Budget: \$2100. Ash Wednesday: \$1568. Thank you for your generosity!

Treasures From Our Tradition - Within the tradition of the Christian church, there are differing ways of observing a Lenten fast. For Eastern Catholics and Orthodox, the discipline is close to our understanding of "abstinence." Certain foods are eliminated from the diet entirely. The rules are basically monastic rules, and the customs of a monastery table are embraced in the home. This year, "Meatfare Sunday" is February 26, and it is the last time that meat is admitted to the diet until Easter. The following Sunday, known as "Cheesefare Sunday", takes cheese and all dairy products from the table. It is also known as forgiveness Sunday because a true fast is about crowning life with love, holding back harsh words, and cutting off anger. The Eastern churches fast even from celebrating the Eucharist from Monday through Friday. We don't count Sundays as fast days, but Eastern Christians fast through the weekends. People are expected to come as close to the ideal as possible, and the Lenten services keep reminding them not to take pride in their fasting, since the devil himself never eats! What's left on the menu? Grains, vegetables, eggs (maybe), and fish. Imagine the joys of the Easter table after such a fast! Copyright© S Paluch Co.



Second Sunday of Lent ~ March 1, 2015

If God is for us, who can be against us? -Romans 8:31b



Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday February 21

8:00am-~Living~ Special Intentions Matthew

5:00pm-~Living~ Special Intentions Joseph Fortunato



Mass Intentions

Offered By: Mom

By: Delmeter & Louis Carey & Family

Sunday March 1

8:30am- † Nancy Pommerenk ~27th Anniv in Heaven~

Offered By: Family

By: Ellen & Steve Socci

10:00am- † Dorothy Spicer

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday March 2

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Matilda Fiorello

By: niece, Joann Scamardella

Tuesday March 3

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Isabel Maria Quiñones

Offered By: daughter, Martha

Wednesday March 4

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Thomas Pennino ~Birthday~

Offered By: Family

Thursday March 5

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Marie Micillo

Offered By: daughter, Theresa

Friday March 6

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm- † Mary Ellen Brandon

Offered By: Angelo Sabella

Saturday March 7

8:00am- †

Offered By: Mom

5:00pm-~Living~ Special Intentions Nancy Mikos

By: Delmeter&Louis Carey & Fam.

Sunday March 8

8:30am- † Joseph Russo

Offered By: Peter O'Callaghan

10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski

By: Victoria & Wilfredo Garay

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle



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Lectors & E.M. ~ Schedule for MARCH 2015~

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Lectors: Linda Graves & Angelo Sabella (carry Gospel Book) Substitute: Bill Hinton

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Hinton, Angelo Sabella & Linford Smith

Substitute: Bill Hinton

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Lectors: Jonathan Codipilly & Delmeter Carey (carry Gospel Book)

Substitute: Linda Torres

Eucharistic Ministers: Delmeter Carey, Diane Carbonaro & MaryAnn Ugbo

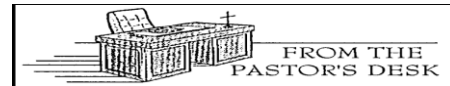
Substitute: Samuel Torres

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Victoria Garay (carry Gospel Book) Substitute.: Alexis Crowdell

Eucharistic Ministers: Valerie Cappucci, Lydia Mora & Dianne Murphy

Substitute: Thelma Washington



“Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?” This powerful declaration of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans should be a source of great consolation to us in Lent.

God is for us. God loves us, cares for us and is committed to us. This love for us, this care for us, and this commitment to us is without conditions. It does not depend on whether we feel worthy of this love, of this care, of this commitment. It does not depend on our goodness. God is simply for us – God is committed to us. And this ‘us’ includes each and every one of us! God is for each one of us. God loves you, cares for you, and is committed to you. Think of that! In the most difficult times of your life, you have the assurance, the promise that God is with you. Even when you have sinned gravely, God loves you, God cares for you and God is committed to you.

There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the second part of the promise of St. Paul. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Each of you know far better than I that life, at times, can be incredibly difficult. There can be times of serious illness. There can be times of unemployment. There can be times when your children are using drugs or alcohol. There can be times when a child becomes pregnant. These are all times when we can find ourselves questioning the love of God for us, the care of God for us and the commitment of God to us. In these times, we have to call to mind how God has been present in our lives in the past so that we have no reason to doubt that God is present to us now in this moment of crisis. God’s presence may not be as tangible and powerful as we desire, but we can trust that God is with us and that God does love us, God does care for us and that God remains committed to us.

In this Lenten season, one grace that we can seek is the grace to have a profound belief and trust that God is, indeed, for us and that through this belief and trust we can persevere in faith even when the trials of our lives test our faith.

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.