

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

February 15, 2015



Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

-1 Corinthians 10:31

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>MON.,</b>	<b>Feb. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>President's Day</b>
9:00	A.M.	Emily Fabiano r/o Ellen
<b>TUES.,</b>	<b>Feb. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b>
12:00	P.M.	Noel P. & Mary Orane r/o Daughter & Family
<b>WED.,</b>	<b>Feb. 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
7:00	A.M.	Anthony Costabile r/o Wife & Children
10:00	A.M.	Service of the Word
12:00	P.M.	Deceased Members of OLMV
5:00	P.M.	Service of the Word
7:00	P.M.	Diana Carmona r/o OLMV Parish
<b>THURS.,</b>	<b>Feb. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</b>
12:00	P.M.	Egle Marie Miller r/o Lon Balunis
<b>FRI.,</b>	<b>Feb. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday after Ash Wednesday</b>
7:00	A.M.	Judy Reynolds r/o Donna Delicato
<b>SAT.,</b>	<b>Feb. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</b>
8:00	A.M.	Merle Forbes r/o Tom Sommero
5:00	P.M.	John McKinney r/o Don & Christine O'Rorke
<b>SUN.,</b>	<b>Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>
8:00	A.M.	Paul Crivello r/o Wife Pat Crivello
10:00	A.M.	Lorenzo Troia r/o Wife & Family
11:30	A.M.	Catherine Canavan r/o Kevin & Alicia Donovan
1:30	P.M.	Comunidad Hispana

**REMINDER**

Mass schedule change for Monday, February 16  
 Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M. only.

The Parish Office will be closed tomorrow February 16 in honor of President's Day.

**LENTEN NOVENA**— Monday, February 16, 7:00 P.M. in the church.

**LENTEN REGULATIONS:**

The faithful in the Diocese of Metuchen are reminded that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence and that Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. Catholics between the age of 18 and 59 are reminded that the obligation to fast means that a person should limit himself/herself to one full meal and two smaller meals so that one can experience hunger, at least in a small way. Catholics who have reached the age of 14 should abstain for eating meat on days of abstinence. The obligations of fasting and abstaining are serious and should not be ignored without good cause. When there is a valid reason not to abstain on a given Friday in Lent, we are asked to perform some other suitable penitential act or to abstain on a different day. Please take time to read Bishop Bootkoski's letter for Lent, 2015 and also the Lenten instructions that can be found on the church bulletin boards and at the church entranceways.

**WEDDING BANNERS**

III Victor Gonzalez & Karen Sanchez  
 I Andrew Rossbach & Laura Zagari

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- Taize Service: March 1
- Knights of Columbus Pasta Night: March 7
- Lenten Penance Service: March 10
- Cultural Diversity Ministry Bake Sale: March 14—15
- Lenten Mass of Anointing of the Sick: March 21
- Baby Shower Collection: March 21—22

**THE YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR TAX PURPOSES CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE PARISH OFFICE DURING THE WEEK.**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK...**In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list in the sacristy, especially Gertrude O'Reilly. Prayers are requested for the recently deceased: Nicholas V. Alimecco & Mary Wade.



"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:31. Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps develop the attitude of "I am grateful for the gifts God gave me" instead of "I want more". For most people gratitude leads to generosity.

<b>February 7—8.....</b>	<b>\$9,328.00</b>
Hispanic Mass.....	\$337.00
Major Renovations.....	\$1,650.00
OLMV Sisters of Petra House additional.....	\$234.00
Catholic Education Collection additional.....	\$37.00
Weekly Parish Expenses.....	\$19,246.00



**ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>) SERVICES**

Mass with distribution of ashes  
7:00 A.M. 12:00 Noon and Bilingual Mass at 7:00 P.M.

Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes  
10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
Friday at 7:00 P.M.

**LENTEN INSTRUCTION**

The days of fast and abstinence are  
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence  
The Easter Fast begins at the Lord's Supper on  
Holy Thursday until the Easter Vigil on  
Holy Saturday



**FASTING-** to limit yourself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger applies to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.

**ABSTINENCE-** to abstain from meat and all meat products applies to all Catholics 14 and over.

*When we go forward into the community wearing the ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead, we announce to the world that we are "of Christ," that we are ready to enter into the penitential season of Lent and that, through the actions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we prepare to welcome Lord at Easter.*  
-Father Pat.



**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BAKE SALE:**

The OLMV Cultural Diversity Ministry will sponsor our Annual International Night this year on Saturday, May 30, 2015. In anticipation of this special yearly parish event, the Ministry will sponsor its annual "Saint Patrick's Day Bake Sale" after all Masses on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15. The members of the Cultural Diversity Ministry thank you in advance for supporting this event that raises funds in support of International Night.

**CROCHETTIERS AND KNITTERS**

For those of you who are new, The Project Linus, we are a national non-profit organization and we offer comfort and security to children going through a crisis through the gift of handmade blankets. Blankets are needed for all age groups from infant to adolescents. The blankets are distributed to hospitals in the area and given to police for children involved in accidents.



We have expanded the Linus project to include baby blankets to our new-born children on the occasion of their baptism into our church. We are looking for pastel colored knitted or crocheted blankets. Blankets can be dropped off in the parish office.



**My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today we are invited to reflect on Jesus' cure of a leper, and to do so in the context of our Old Testament reading. In our first reading today, the Lord addressed the difficult problem of leprosy. Anyone thought to have the disease must be brought to Aaron or one of the priests. If the person is found to be leprous, the person will be declared "unclean" and will be made to depart from the camp.

Even today we become squeamish around people who have open sores or who are particularly disfigured. While such people are not usually ostracized, casual acquaintances and strangers usually want to keep them at a "safe" distance.

The leper Jesus encountered was living apart from the community. He came before Jesus and humbly requested to be cured. Jesus did not turn away; rather, he cured the person. As he has so often done, Jesus has made the person whole, and enabled him to reintegrate into the community.

Today's scripture passages contain a powerful lesson for us as we get ready to enter our Lenten preparation in only a few days.

Just as lepers, once they began to show open sores, would be declared unclean, so are we also "unclean before the Lord" when we have souls that are filled with sin and hearts that are filled with evil. We don't need anyone to pronounce our unworthiness to be in the presence of God because we know in the silence of our hearts and souls those areas where we have been unfaithful to the Lord.

Just as the leper in today's Gospel passage humbly asked the Lord to "make him whole" in his body, so we must also kneel humbly before the Lord and ask him to make us – each of us – whole in our hearts and souls. We need to ask the Lord to forgive our sins; and we also need to prepare to enter into "new life" with the Lord by engaging the penitential actions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we approach the special season of Lent, we need to think about our relationship with the Lord and we need to begin to prepare to strengthen this relationship.

The season of Lent is that special season when we are invited as followers of Jesus Christ to examine our spiritual selves and to address those areas where we haven't been attentive to living our faith.

This coming Wednesday our Church celebrates Ash Wednesday. And it is a celebration. We as Catholic people step forward and recognize that we have often "fallen short" in our relationship with Jesus and with our brothers and sisters in the world. We step forward and receive the sign of the suffering Lord; that is, the ashes that are placed on our foreheads in the form of a cross. We wear the ashes proudly as a symbol of our faith and as a statement that we recognize that we have sinned and now want to return to the Lord.

Now is the time to prepare for the Season of Lenten by thinking of how we will "return to the Lord" during the coming weeks. May we, each of us, by our prayer, our fasting and our almsgiving humbly walk with the Lord as we ask him to "make us whole!"

**In peace and prayer,  
Father Pat**

