

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2015



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If God is for us, who can be against us?

-Romans 8:31

MASS INTENTIONS

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| MON., 7:00 | March 2nd A.M. | Lenten Weekday Robert Cocco r/o Rich & Linda Miller |
| TUES., 12:00 | March 3rd P.M. | Lenten Weekday Special Intention r/o Margaret Scott |
| WED., 7:00 | March 4th A.M. | Lenten Weekday Vincenzo Pileggi r/o The Pileggi Family |
| THURS., 12:00 | March 5th P.M. | Lenten Weekday Armando & Maria Rossi r/o Enzo & Susan Ragucci |
| FRI., 7:00 | March 6th A.M. | Lenten Weekday Parishioners |
| SAT., 8:00 5:00 | March 7th A.M. P.M. | Lenten Weekday OLMV Purgatorial Society Mass Mary & Joe Lucas r/o Daughter, Sharon |
| SUN., 8:00 10:00 11:30 1:30 | March 8th A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. | Third Sunday of Lent Marie, John & Thomas Finnerty r/o Jim & Mary Jane Edmund O'Brien r/o Lucille O'Brien, Wife & Children Bernard Salvatore r/o Salvatore Family Por la salud de Sheila Becerra |

MEDITATION GARDEN MEMORIAL BRICKS:

The next order of Memorial Bricks for our Meditation Garden and Remembrance Walkway will be processed on **Friday, March 6.** Memorial Bricks are a special way to honor and remember our loved ones or to memorialize a special occasion. Order forms are available around the church entranceways or at the parish office.

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.

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

TODAY'S READING'S:

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18)

Psalm — I will ask before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116)

Second Reading — If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b-34)

Gospel — Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white (Mark 9:2-10)

WEDDING BANNERS

III 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
Sisters of St Joseph Mass & Celebration: March 19
Lenten Mass of Anointing of the Sick: March 21
Baby Shower Collection: March 21—22
Knight of Comedy: April 17
Retreat at Shrine of St. Joseph - April 23

Fish, Inc. Food Collection. Thank you! Response to our monthly food collection was heartwarming! God bless you for your kindness and generosity to the needy in our area.

Next Food Collection – March 21-22.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF March 7—8

5:00 pm— Kevin Meier
Joe Meier
8:00 am— Isabel Matinez
Jonathon Massarelli
10:00 am— GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
11:30 am— Natalie Zychlinski
Sheridan Hoyt



"Here I am!" he answered. — Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. Can we just as easily answer, "Here I am, Lord," when we go home, when a neighbor needs our help, when a fellow parishioner asks us to join a committee, or when a letter asks for our financial help? These are often exactly the places where Jesus calls us to be.

February 21—22.....\$6,860.00
Hispanic Mass.....\$273.00
Major Renovations.....\$570.00
Ash Wednesday.....\$3,817.00
Development of People.....\$1,691.00
Weekly Parish Expenses.....\$19,246.00



As we continue our Lenten journey
Let us Pray! Fast! Give Alms!

WEEKDAY MASSES
during Lent will be celebrated at
7:00 A.M. (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)
12:00 noon (Tuesday & Thursday)

LENTEN NOVENA
will continue Mondays at 7:00 P.M. through March 30th

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
First Friday- 7:00 A.M.-12:00 noon
Third Friday- 7:00 A.M.-12:00 noon

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday at 7:00 P.M.
Living Stations Friday, April 3 at 7:00 P.M.

Opportunities for the
Sacrament of Penance during Lent
each Saturday: 3:30-4:15 P.M.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 P.M.

FOUNDATION of THE SISTERS of ST. JOSEPH

With three sisters, Mother St. John Fournier left St. Louis in 1847 to administer St. John's Orphanage for Boys in Philadelphia. Within four years, the Sisters of St. Joseph served in the orphanage and home for widows as well as opening a hospital and school. Their generosity in responding to each new call for assistance prompted the Bishop to describe them as "ready for any good work." Because of the inspiration of these early sisters and the labors of the thousands who followed them, our Catholic Congregation of Sisters continues to respond to "any good work" serving people largely in the Middle Atlantic states and in many other areas from Alaska to Peru. (Read about our Mission next week)

*Join the Sisters for a special Mass in honor of St Joseph on
March 19 at 7:00 P.M.*

Pasta Dinner to Support OLMV Boy Scouts:

Come have dinner with family and friends and support your local Boy Scouts. All proceeds benefit Middlesex Troop 148. **Saturday Night, March 7, 6:00 in the Church Hall.** Boys in fifth grade thru eighth grade eat free if they are interested in joining scouting and fill out an application. Adults: \$10, other children: \$6, 3 and under: free.



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



Our Lady of Mount Virgin will honor the Girl Scouts in our parish on **Sunday, March 8 at the 10:00am Mass.** All parishioners are invited to join in celebrating our Girl Scouts and in supporting them as they endeavor to become part of the next generation's leaders in society and in the church.



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today Jesus invites Peter, James and John to join him as he goes up the mountain to pray. While there Jesus encounters Elijah and Moses, and his clothes become "dazzling white." We refer to this miracle of both divine and human intimacy as the "Transfiguration."

Clearly, Jesus has entered into a "divine" moment, and he allows his special disciples to share in the event. Jesus speaks with Elijah and Moses who represent the Prophets and the Law of the Old Testament. With this encounter, Jesus who is the "Word," participates in completion of everything that has come before---all that has been revealed by God in the Law and through the Prophets. We understand, as do those special apostles, that Jesus is the completion of God's revelation to the human family. In the Old Testament we anticipate the coming of the Messiah. In the New Testament we celebrate the arrival of the Messiah into the human condition.

As we meditate on today's Gospel, we must consider Peter's response to Jesus: "It is good that we are here." It is profoundly good that we, those who believe in Jesus two thousand years later, are present today. It is profoundly good that we will come forward to share in the presence of Jesus Christ in Eucharist. Each time we receive in the Sacred Species, in Holy Communion, we share in the same Transfiguration which so moved Peter, James and John two thousand years ago. We share in the "divine moment" with Jesus! Like the disciples before us, we are also called to enter into a transformation as we experience the presence of Jesus in our lives. Encountering Jesus particularly in Holy Eucharist is so necessary for our true formation during this holy time of Lent.

During the season of Lent, we prepare to encounter Jesus among us in Resurrection. We are reminded today that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation to become his disciple. We must be prepared to enter into our own "Transfiguration" moment. We must be prepared to strip away our fear and doubt, our selfishness and greed, so that we can fully participate in the transformative love of the Lord. Our Lenten practices must assist us in our effort to say "NO!" to sin and "Yes!" to righteousness. Only by honestly entering into the righteousness of the risen Lord can we hope to become his true disciples.

Now is the time for our transformation. We enter into this penitential season of Lent, and we recognize our sinfulness. Hopefully with a firm purpose, we open our hearts to the Lord as we humbly ask for forgiveness for all the sins and offences of our past lives.

As we continue to journey through Lent together, may we each perform acts of charity, pray daily and respond generously to the needs of the poor. May we encounter Jesus in our friends and neighbors each day, and may we recognize the love of God in each of them! And in this way, may we be "Transfigured" in the Lord!

Father Pat



THE DEANERY SCHOOL: HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY

Holy Savior Academy, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield. Come tour the pre-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school and ask about plans for the upcoming school year, including our Academic Power Hour and the year-round pre-kindergarten program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Visit with our faculty and staff as well as with school parents and students. For more information, call 908-822-5890 or visit www.holysavioracademy.com.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS FOR 2015—2016 NOW AVAILABLE

Applications for financial aid through the Diocese of Metuchen Tuition Assistance Program for the 2015—2016 school year are now available at all diocesan elementary and secondary schools. Completed applications must be mailed to Private School Aid Service, postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2015. To obtain an application form, please contact the Principal or the main office of the school where the student is registering. A printable version of the form, both English and Spanish, is also available on the diocesan website at (<http://Tinyurl.com/DOM-TuitionAssistance>).

Holy Savior Deanery School will host a **Cocktail Night at Flanagan's Restaurant** in South Plainfield on **Thursday, March 12 (7:00 – 9:00pm)**. This is a fundraising activity to support the advancement of "Robotics in Technology" education through the use of "Lego" kits that will enhance the study of engineering, science, technology and teamwork! Please contact Debbie Boyle at 908-803-1573 or BDMMP209@aol.com for additional information. Please find more information also on flyers that can be found on the church bulletin boards.



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*.

Our Parish Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society

is joining with other Conferences in the Diocese of Metuchen to provide First Communion dresses and suits to those families who cannot afford to purchase them. If you have a gently used dress or suit that you would like to donate, please contact the parish office or bring your donation by **March 15**.

Monetary donations are also acceptable. Thank you!



**OLMV ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
"HELP LINE"
732-356-2149 option 6**

**All calls for assistance are confidential
VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM:**

**donate a running or non-running vehicle to help the less fortunate.
To do so please call the help line at 732-356-2149 option 6**

2014 Bishop's Annual Appeal *Life-Changing Faith*

How do we, as Catholics know if our voting habits align with Church teachings and the Gospel message? And how can we come to better understand why we believe what we say we believe? For busy Catholics who want clear, concise and focused answers, the Diocese of Metuchen's public policy newsletter, *Faith in Action*, is the answer.

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to make this quarterly online publication available to all.



First Penance:

Confirmation Practice:

Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:00PM in the church

Confirmation Mass:

Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 5:00PM in the church

First Communion:

**Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 9:30AM and 11:30AM
in the church**

LISTENING SESSION ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY LIFE:

In anticipation of the 2015 Synod of Bishops to be held in October, Pope Francis has asked for a "broad consultation" on addressing contemporary family life issues as well as the Church's role in the lived experience of family life. The Diocese of Metuchen will host a "**Listening Session**" on the "Lived Experience of Family Life" on **Wednesday, March 4 in the Pastoral Center from 1:30 – 4:00pm, and also from 7:00 – 9:30pm**. Its purpose is to identify possible solutions to the various pastoral challenges of the family that were noted in the 2014 extraordinary synod.

Listening sessions will be held for clergy and for laity. In order to prepare sufficient materials, we ask that you register on line at <http://diometuchen.org/bishop/survey-for-the-synod-on-families>. Volunteers are needed to act as table moderators and scribes. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Susan Kovach (skovach@diometuchen.org).

10th Annual FISH Hospitality Silent Auction and Benefit Concert

Sunday, *March 8th, 2015*

At Christ United Methodist Church

485 Hoes Lane

Piscataway, NJ 08854

Doors open at 8:00 am, bidding available all day;

Concert at 3:00 pm

Bid awards at 4:30 pm

Light Refreshments served

Tickets: \$15