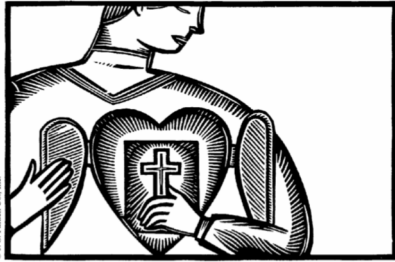


FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2015



I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and shall be my people.
-Jeremiah 31:33

MASS INTENTIONS

MON.,	Mar 23rd	Lenten Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Parishioners
TUES.,	Mar 24th	Lenten Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Maud Fox & Family r/o Walter Fox, Son
WED.,	Mar 25th	The Annunciation of the Lord
7:00	A.M.	Mary Malt Greiner r/o The Malt Family
THURS.,	Mar 26th	Lenten Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Loretta P. Rayhon r/o Natalie Guibleo
FRI.,	Mar 27th	Lenten Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Philomena Ciliberto r/o Son, Peter
SAT.,	Mar 28th	Lenten Weekday
8:00	A.M.	Souls of the 44 Philipino SAF Policeman r/o DeSagun-Pineda Families
5:00	P.M.	Mary Pakozde r/o Barbara & Frank Suchak
SUN.,	Mar 29th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00	A.M.	Adelia Timms r/o Rich & Linda Miller
10:00	A.M.	John McKinney r/o Monique Sasso
12:00	P.M.	Maria Salerno r/o Children & Grandchildren
1:30	P.M.	Por la paz en el mundo

Memorials

Week of March 15-21



Altar Candles

Robert Ludwig r/o The Ludwig Family

Altar Bread & Wine

Annamae L. Isele r/o Father Pat & Dorothy Zmigrodski and the Religious Education Department

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. Prayers are requested for the recently deceased: Peter Tyska and Joseph A. Mazze.

TODAY'S READING'S:

First Reading — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open you graves, have rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

Psalms — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130)

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11)

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45])



EASTER FLOWERS:

Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes are available in your packet and are also available around the church. Remembering a loved one with a donation for our Easter Flowers is a powerful prayer to the Lord and a beautiful way to honor the memory of our loved ones. Thank you to everyone who has already returned the Easter Flower envelope. Envelopes will be placed on the Tabernacle Altar and loved ones will be remembered in prayer at Masses during the Easter season.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF MARCH 28-29

5:00 pm—	James Lawrence Erin Rooney Vincent Miller
8:00 am—	Kevin Meier Joe Meier
10:00 am—	Eliza DeGuzman James Lawrence T. Sviderskis-Carroll A. Sviderskis-Carroll
11:30 am—	Natalie Zychlinski Gavin Fitzgerald Shannon Fitzgerald



"I will be their God and they shall be my people." — Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

March 14-15.....	\$9,848.00
Hispanic Mass.....	\$595.00
Major Renovations.....	\$727.00
Catholic Relief Additional.....	\$166.00
March 15 ACH Banking.....	\$2,012.50
Weekly Parish Expenses.....	\$19,246.00

SAVE THE DATE AND LEARN
ABOUT YOUR PARISH:

**OLMV PARISH MINISTRY
FAIR—2015...**

...offers all of us a joyful and exciting opportunity to share our gifts and talents, and to learn about the goals and activities of each ministry group in our parish. Be sure to participate by visiting the Parish Center Gym after Masses on **Saturday/Sunday, April 18th and 19th**. Our **PARISH MINISTRY FAIR** is a great way to share food and fellowship while learning how OLMV Parish lives out Christ's command:



THAT ALL BE ONE. We hope to see you there!

THOUGHTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF LENT:

- Attend Mass at least one time on a weekday during the next two weeks.
- Give up one dessert this week and donate the money saved to "Operation Rice Bowl."
- Confess your sins.
- Perform a kindness for a family member or neighbor.
- Instead of gossiping, say something nice about someone.
- Make a visit to church - pray a rosary - make the Stations of the Cross - just sit and share a quiet moment with God.
- Remember our Saint Joseph's basket.

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Because we expect larger crowds on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and because Mass usually takes a little longer on these days, Masses will be celebrated as follows:

PALM SUNDAY:

5:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00noon - Sunday Masses

EASTER SUNDAY:

8:00pm - Easter Vigil

8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00noon - Sunday Masses

**Opportunities for the
Sacrament of Penance during Lent
EACH SATURDAY: 3:30-4:15 P.M.
(NO CONFESSIONS ON APRIL 4TH)**

The Knights of Columbus Council 12700



Will be holding their 6th Annual Knight of Comedy on Friday, April 17th at the Parish Center. All tickets are \$25.00. They will go on sale March 7th after all masses and will also be available Monday thru Friday at the Parish office. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served at 7:30 pm with two comedians to follow at 8:00 pm. Vinnie Brand, owner and comedian of the "Stress Factory" will headline the show. There will be door prizes, and attendees are encouraged to BYOB. This has been one of our most popular events at OLMV and came close to selling out last year so get your tickets early. Reserved tables for parties of 8 or more will be honored. Please contact Steve for tickets and table reservations at 973-390-5532.

A NOTE FROM FATHER PAT **My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

"I have come to believe that you are the Christ." I think that these powerful words of testimony by Martha are at the very heart of how we are to

believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Jesus arrives at the home of his good and faithful friends and is met by Martha. She is Lazarus' sister and is in mourning because he has died. She is glad to see Jesus during this very sad time, but there is a part of her that doesn't understand why Jesus didn't come in time to cure her brother. Jesus was the source of hope for so many, and now that his good friends needed his presence, he arrived too late, and so Lazarus has died. Martha and Mary are in mourning.

Jesus questions Martha about the depth of her faith. Even in her distress, she doesn't waver in her belief of Jesus as the Messiah. She answers him, "I have come to believe that you are the Christ." Jesus assures her that her brother will come to life. She presumes that he is speaking about the resurrection of our bodies at the end of the world. Jesus assures her---those who are with them, and us---that something special is now to take place. Jesus has the caretakers open the tomb of a man who has been dead for three days. Jesus commands that he "Come Forth!" An incredible miracle of the authority and power of Jesus---in response to great faith---takes place. Lazarus comes forth from the tomb.

Today is the 5th Sunday of Lent and the Catechumens of our church experience the final Scrutinies, as they listen to this incredible Gospel passage. A great miracle takes place in response to great faith.

I think that we are invited today to consider our own faith response to the Lord. We all know that it is easy to profess faith in Jesus when everything is going along smoothly. It becomes so much more difficult to "stay the course" when we are beset by hardship. Unexpected loss of a loved one, unexpected and even unfair termination of employment, diagnosis of a terminal disease---these are just three examples of the difficult part of the human condition. Like Martha and Mary, when we experience the true hardships of life, we find it difficult to easily give ourselves over in trust to God. Human pain, hurt and anger interfere with our relationship with a loving God. And when we are in the throes of pain, hurt or anger it is often hard for us to see God as loving, compassionate and merciful. The strength and depth of our faith is really tested during the toughest of times.

Shortly after I was ordained to the holy priesthood I was approached by a woman who was in great pain and sadness at the unexpected loss of her son who was barely out of his teen years. It was the 5th Sunday of Lent and, like today, the Gospel was about Lazarus. I'll never forget her anguish as she asked me why Jesus could bring Lazarus back from the dead but didn't save her son. What answer can you give that will mend a broken heart? I didn't have that answer. I don't think anyone does. But I reflect on Martha's response to Jesus, even in her pain, "I have come to believe that you are the Christ."

Today's reading is an invitation to faith in Jesus---Jesus is, indeed, the Christ! Today is a reminder to each of us present here that Jesus doesn't promise us, if we are truly faithful, an easy life devoid of pain. What Jesus promises us if we are truly faithful to him is life eternal!

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.

Join the Youth Groups at OLMV:

Come and join the excitement as OLMV re-establishes Youth ministries and organizes Youth Groups once again!!!

Young people in grades 5 – 8 are invited to be part of our **Middle School Youth Program** and young parishioners in grades 9 – 12 are invited to become part of our **High School Youth Program**. We are planning a variety of activities for both groups, including open-gym nights, movie nights, field trips, service projects and spiritual events. Youth and their parents who are interested in finding out more about our Youth Ministry are invited to contact Kelly Rooney at krooney@olmv.net or 732-356-2149 x 1108. Parents and other adult members of our parish who might be interested in assisting with either group are invited also to contact Kelly.

A Youth Ministry table will be set up at our Parish Ministry Fair which will be held in the Parish Center after all the Masses on April 18 and 19, 2015. Please stop by to find out more information or to ask questions.

Have you lost a loved one? This is about joining our "Journey through Grief." Our mission is to find healing, comfort and peace. When a loved one dies our world changes. Our hearts are broken and the simplest things of life becomes an enormous challenge as we are faced with sadness, loneliness and, even anger.

The group will be meeting **THURSDAYS** at Petra House for 8 weeks.

Place: Petra House (610 Harris Ave, Middlesex)

Date: April 9 through May 28, 2015.

Time: 2:30 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

Contact: Monique 732-356-9001, Pat 732-356-8886 or Mary 732-331-6147. THERE IS NO FEE. Pre-registration required!

The newly formed Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities would like to invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross on Saturday, March 28th at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. Stations will begin at 3 pm with fellowship afterwards. Wheelchair access through the front entrance. Sign Interpreter will be present for deaf and hard of hearing people. All are welcome. No cost. Please RSVP at catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com or call 732-765-6432 to reserve a place.



**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**

If you have yet to make your gift, please do so today! Your gift should be based on your means and circumstances – a private decision between you and God. This past year, thousands of local Catholics received services through *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen*.

Without the support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, these programs would have to be reduced or in some cases eliminated. Please give as generously as your means allow.

Ministry to Veterans and Military Families:

Monday, March 23 at 7:00pm at the Parish Center there will be a presentation sponsored by the Veterans Administration on current and new benefits available to veterans and to military personnel and their families. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to have any and all questions about benefits answered. Place the date on your calendar. This presentation is open to **all** veterans and military personnel and their families.

On Sunday, May 17, 2015 at the 11:30am Mass, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Ministry to Veterans and Military Personnel will honor men and women of our community (parishioners and members of the wider community) who are currently serving in the Military, veterans who have served our country and family members and friends. A reception in the Church hall will follow Mass. We ask that members of the military and our veterans who will attend to bring a picture (in military uniform - no larger than 8.5 by 11) that can be placed by the altar as we honor the members of our community who are now or have proudly served our country. More to follow!!!

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENT: Retreat at the Shrine of St. Joseph, Sterling NJ, **Thursday, April 23, 9:30 am—3:00 pm (\$35.00)**. Includes hot lunch. We will car pool from OLMV. Open to all parishioners. For more information, call **Jane DeNardo 732-469-2468**.

THANK YOU to our generous parishioners who supported our monthly collection for FISH. We collected 56 bags of food. **Next Collection for FISH: April 18—19.**



CHRISM MASS

March 30th - 7:30 P.M. St Francis Cathedral

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the Priests of the Diocese. The Bishop blesses the Holy Oils each parish receives for the rites of the anointing. The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of the confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. At this Mass all Priests make a **renewal of commitment to Priestly Service**, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to ministry to God and His people; the Bishop and all priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join this ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass.