

# *The Parish of* **St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph**

## **Parish Staff**

### *Parish Life Director*

Deacon Greg Mansfield..... Ext. 213

### *Sacramental Minister*

Rev. Thomas Konopka... 518-449-2232

### *Trustees*

Stephen Buono  
Richard Harbeck

### *Parish Secretary*

Ben Patten.....Ext. 210

### *Parish Receptionist*

Judith A. Marquardt.....Ext. 210

### *Director of Music*

Edee Silva..... Ext. 218

### *Community Parish Faith Formation,*

Contact at 449-2232 @ St. Mary's  
Maureen Billa.....Ext. 12

### *Holy Sepulchre Cemetery*

#### *Superintendent*

Don Terry..... Ext. 219  
Emergencies Call 518-229-4441

### *Building and Grounds*

Brian Reynolds.....Ext. 213

**53 Herrick Street (Parish Office)**

**P.O. Box 256 (Mailing Address)**

**Rensselaer, NY 12144-0256**

**Phone: (518) 465-0482**

**Fax: (518) 449-7088**

**Office Hours: 9:30am to 2:00pm**  
**Monday thru Thursday**

[www.churchofstjohnstjoseph.org](http://www.churchofstjohnstjoseph.org)

**Email: [sjesjparish@aol.com](mailto:sjesjparish@aol.com) or**

**follow us on facebook.**

### *Eucharist:*

**SJESJ** - Saturday 4:00pm and Sunday 9:30am  
Tuesday and Thursday 12:10 pm (Our Lady's Chapel);  
Holy Days 12:10pm in Church or as posted.

**Church of St. Mary** – Sunday Masses at 8:00am & 11:00am  
LCC Mass for entire area – Sunday at 7:00pm, Weekdays on  
Wednesday and Friday at 7:00am in the Chapel, Holy Days at  
6:45am & 5:30pm.

### *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

**SJESJ** - Saturday 3:30-3:45pm and communally during  
Advent and Lent or by request. At **St Mary's** on non-holiday  
Thursdays at 5:30pm.

### *Baptism*

Celebrated weekly, except during Lent and August. Contact  
the parish office for the Sacramental Prep Schedule.

### *Marriage*

Contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

### *Anointing of the Sick*

Offered upon request.

### *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*

Offered to all seeking full initiation into the Catholic  
community. Please contact the Parish Office.

### *Pastoral Care*

Members of our parish community and staff regularly visit  
area hospitals, nursing homes, and our senior citizen  
residences. Please call the Parish Office if you or a family  
member are hospitalized.

### *Mission*

#### *Statement*

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph, as the Roman  
Catholic Faith Community of Rensselaer, embraces young and old  
as children of God. United by the bonds of faith, family, and  
friendships, we are rooted in the love and teachings of Jesus.  
Inspired and motivated by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to  
continue spiritual growth and service to all.

We welcome you to share activities in the sacramental, prayer, and social life of the parish using your gift of time, talent, and treasure with your family in faith. Please speak to Deacon Greg Mansfield, or call us for more information about our sacramental programs or ministries.

## The First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	2/17/18	4:00 PM	Anna Pugliese, <i>by the Pugliese Family</i> ; Carolyn Kelly, <i>by Rita &amp; Michael Zenzen</i> .
Sunday	2/18/18	9:30 AM	Edward Kappes, <i>by Joan Gochee</i> ; Eugene Louis Guidetti, <i>by Joseph Mosca</i> ; JoAnn Schepisi, <i>by Pasqualina Crescenzi &amp; Family</i> ; Vincenzo Lucia Fiacco, <i>by America Cardazzi</i> .
Tuesday	2/20/18	12:10 PM	Fr. Robert Buckley, <i>by Estate</i>
Thursday	2/22/18	12:10 PM	Vince & Kate Boyle, <i>by Estate</i>
Saturday	2/24/18	4:00 PM	Mary F. Catalfamo, <i>by Kathy Catalfamo &amp; Family</i>
Sunday	2/25/18	9:30 AM	Michael & Flora Morrisey, <i>by Estate</i> ; Norma Finlan, <i>by the Family</i> ; Olga Burns, <i>by niece Joan Gochee</i> ; Edward Kappes, <i>by Jean O'Donnell</i> ; Ann Janenka, <i>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, by Frederick &amp; JoAnne Zalucki</i>

### **HONORED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

**Bread and Wine:** Elbert E. Cooley, by daughter, Joan.  
**Sanctuary Light:** Elbert E. Cooley, by daughter, Joan.

### **PRAYERS REQUESTED**

***"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice."*** Fran Barrington, Nicholas Cristo, Joan Dwyer, Daniel Gallucci, Bob Gawel, Noelle Barresi-Jones, Dylan Pollack, Wayne Simmons, Marge Waterbury, and Christine Wilson. ***We pray for our men and women serving in our armed forces, both here and abroad, especially for Andrew Barresi and Corey Russo.*** Let us also pray for our Priest Aspirants, all the men who are in Formation with the Diocese of Albany.

### **CONSERNS-U WEEKLY NEEDS**

***This week pantry needs include:*** Hearty soups ( no tomato), canned meals, boxed Scalloped Potatoes and toiletries (shampoo and toothpaste). Thank you! Colleen.

### **PICK UP YOUR LENTEN RICE BOWLS!**

Available at the back of church. Just toss in spare change at the end of the day, or give the price of a cup of coffee to help feed the hungry in the world and here in our own community! Part of our Lenten almsgiving. Thank you!

### **TAX STATEMENTS**

If you need a tax statement for Church donations for 2017, contact Ben or Judy in the office at 518-465-0482 we will mail it to you.

### **DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR BLACK, NATIVE AMERICAN & LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS**

We ask your continued support in the Diocesan Collection this weekend, **February 17/18** for Black, Native American and Latin American Missions. Your gifts fund catechesis and evangelization programs throughout the US and the Church of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Mission office provide grants for projects in these areas including programs in the Diocese of Albany. Thank you for your continued support.

### **"SOUPER BOWL" OF CARING**

Our "Souper Bowl" collection was very successful thanks in part to our youth of the Parish who stood at the doorways at the back of church and held the soup pots for the collection. We would like to thank **Myles and Raymond Mahar and Matthew Ryan, who were also assisted by Emma Ryan and Mrs. Julie Bashant** at the Saturday vigil Mass. On Sunday, our thanks go out to **Troy and Nate Burek, along with Connor Danz** who collected for the 9:30am Mass. They collected \$494.00 which will be donated to **CONSERNS-U**. Thank you for your help and to all our Parishioners who donated!

### **HER POTENTIAL IS OUR PASSION!**

Learn about the **Academy of the Holy Names** at our Gr. 6-12 Open House. Tuesday, March 6th at 6:00pm. To register, contact Ann Rento [arento@ahns.org](mailto:arento@ahns.org) or 518-438-7895 x202, or online at [ahns.org](http://ahns.org). 1075 New Scotland Road, Albany.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a candidate for a career opportunity representing their Insurance Program. In order to qualify, candidate need not be a current member, but must be eligible for future membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more info, contact Bill Schneider, General Agent at 914-420-6838, or email: [william.schneider@kofc.org](mailto:william.schneider@kofc.org). Some information available in Parish Office see Ben or Judy.

### **In The Parish This Week**

Sun. 2/18	7:00PM LCC Mass @ CSM <b>End Family Promise Week</b>
Mon. 2/19	<b>Presidents Day, Holiday, Office Closed</b> 7:00PM Knights of Columbus- East St.
Wed. 2/21	10:00AM Choir Practice Rm 100, McManus 5:30PM Supper, 6:30PM Scripture Series PH
Sat. 2/24	1:00PM Literacy Sewing McManus Center
Sun. 2/25	1:00PM Rensselaer N.A. Meet Rm 100

Meditations for the First Week of Lent

# WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD

*Before Jesus began his ministry, the Spirit “drove him out into the desert.” After forty days he emerged to announce that the kingdom of God was at hand and to encourage the people to “repent, and believe in the gospel.” As we begin the season of Lent, we, too, enter into our own desert.*



## Repent and Believe

Mark 1:12–15

Today's Gospel contains two important aspects to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We are told that he went out into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by Satan and ministered to by angels. Next Mark says that,

after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus announced that the “time of fulfilment” was at hand and began his preaching and teaching.

What lesson lies here for us? While Lent is a time of service to others, it must also be a time of preparation and renewal of self. We cannot give what we do not have. Just as Jesus had to spend time in the desert, so we, too, need to take time this season to allow God to show us where we need to change and give us the courage and conviction to act on those changes. This give and take is part of the flow of life and one of the great lessons of Lent.

### Lenten Prayer

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” — Genesis 3:19

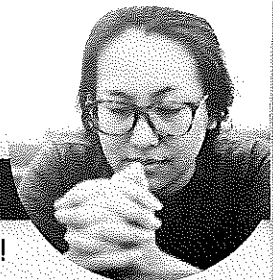
*Lord, help us see today  
and all of its stresses  
in the light of your eternal love.*

### Catechism CONNECTION

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 540

### FOR REFLECTION

- › What will I do this Lent as an outward sign of my repentance?
- › How might I deepen my relationship with God this holy season?
- › How do I overcome temptation?





## OUR FAITH

# Forty Days in the Desert

Why did Jesus spend forty days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number forty has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent forty days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments (Ex 34:28). An Israelite patrol spent forty days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron (Nm 13:25). And the entire Israelite people spent forty years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the promised land (Nm 14:34). Jesus likewise spent forty days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.

## Fasting and Abstinence



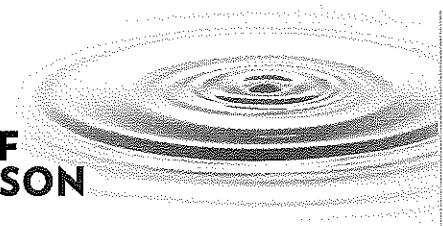
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both abstinence and fasting.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat).
- Ash Wednesday is forty-six days before Easter, but Lent is considered forty days long, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

# Family Calvary Stones

The days of Lent have traditionally been used as a spiritual pilgrimage, during which we symbolically travel with Jesus to his death on the cross. To help emphasize the idea of Lent as a journey, collect forty small stones, one for each day of the season. (These are sometimes available at craft stores.) Each night at dinner, pray for one person and write his or her name with a marker on one of the pebbles. Collect the stones in a small bowl, and during Holy Week use them to make a “mound” of prayer that holds up a crucifix.

## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

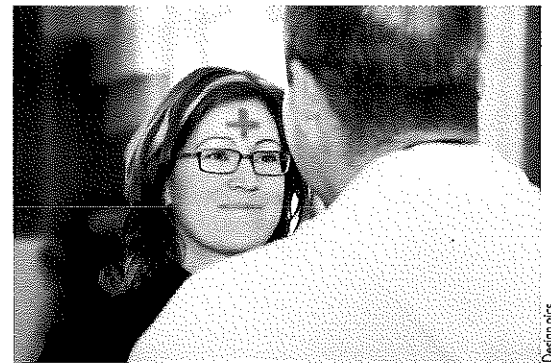


## Lent

The word “Lent” has a specific religious connotation today, but originally it was used to mean “spring.”

## The Color Purple

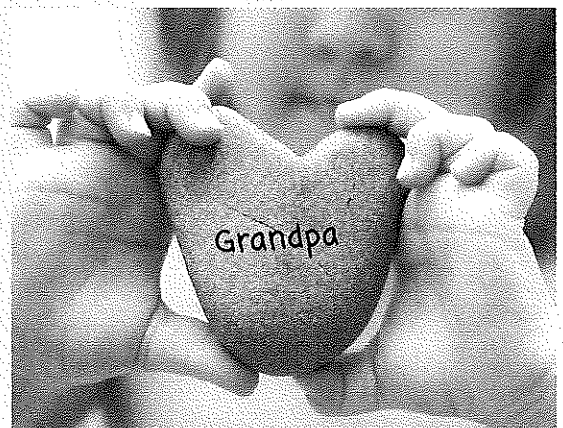
The deep purple color that fills the Church during Lent symbolizes Christ’s suffering and death but, because purple is also the color of royalty, it foreshadows Christ’s kingship and resurrection.



Design pics

## Ash Wednesday

On this first day of Lent, we receive ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead and are reminded to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” In receiving ashes, we embrace Jesus’ journey: the cross of suffering and the promise of resurrection. We are marked as believers, as sinners, and as people in need of Christ’s forgiveness and salvation.



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# DON'T GIVE UP

# FOR LENT

Lent comes every year. It's meant to be a time when we invite God to help us become the-best-version-of-ourselves. But for many of us, Lent isn't a transformative experience. It's just a time when we give up chocolate or something else we enjoy, then go back to it at Easter.

This Lent, do something different. Join our parish for BEST LENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that is designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Each day, you'll receive an email with . . .



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**ARE YOU READY TO HAVE YOUR BEST LENT EVER?**

SIGN UP AT

**[DynamicCatholic.com/40Days](http://DynamicCatholic.com/40Days)**

 **Dynamic Catholic**

# February 18, 2018

## **DEACON'S DESK:** "Every moment of resistance to temptation is a victory." ~ **Frederick William Faber** ~

I would imagine that most if not all our New Year's resolutions are by now, just a distant memory. Our intentions to exercise more, or any at all, to lose weight, or stop smoking, as well intentioned as they are, succumb to the temptation to take the more familiar and easy path we are all accustomed to. It only shows how hard it is to keep the resolve of our resolutions.

In our Gospel, Jesus faced much more than keeping a New Year's resolution. How is he to proclaim the Gospel of reconciliation and salvation? Certainly, the devil is not about to let this happen without having something to say about it. It is out in the desert he must confront the ugly face of temptation by the devil. We do not know the nature of that conversation, Luke's Gospel tells us it was how Jesus was to bring that good news to us. No matter, resisting temptation to give up was Jesus' first victory over Satan. It was for us the sign that Jesus knows of our struggles, has experienced them himself, and walks with us when we find ourselves out in the desert.

As we enter the first week of Lent, we have our own set of resolutions we need to realize to make fit our spiritual being. In confidence we can make this journey guided by the strength of the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus. Lent is a journey of small steps, let each moment be a victory over temptations that distract us from the our goal, the temptations that prevent us from being the best God wishes us to be.

In peace,

*Deacon Greg*

### **CIRCLES OF MERCY TAX OFFERINGS**

Safe, secure tax filing at "MyFreeTaxes.com" web link on Circles of Mercy home page at [www.circlesofmercy.org](http://www.circlesofmercy.org). Free "Vita Tax Prep" services from January 22 until March 24, call 518-462-0899.

### **LENTEN RECONCILIATION -- 2018**

March 7 - 12:10pm - Wednesday - St. John/St. Joseph's  
 March 9 - 1:00pm - Friday - Holy Spirit School  
 March 14 - 7:00pm - Wednesday - St. Henry's  
 March 15 - 7:00pm - Thursday - St. Mary's- Nassau  
 March 19 - 7:00pm - Monday - St. Mary's- Clinton Hgts.  
 March 21 - 7:00pm - Wednesday - Sacred Heart -  
 Castleton-on-Hudson  
 March 22 - 7:00pm - Thursday - Immaculate Conception  
 New Lebanon

### **"THE WAY OF THE CROSS"**

A powerful and unique Lenten prayer experience presented at St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville, on **Tues, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm** by the Immaculate Heart Central High School Mystery Players. They bring the Stations of the Cross to a modern level. They have performed throughout NYS, Conn., Mass., New Jersey, Maryland, N. Carolina, Penn., Virginia, and Canada. Not recommended for small children.

### **Serving Next Weekend 2/24 - 2/25**

**If unable to serve, please find a replacement.**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4 PM Mass</b>
Tabernacle Host	Mary Ann West
Tabernacle Cup	Rita Zenzen
Center Host	John White
Joseph's Host	Susan Shook
Joseph's Cup	Deacon Greg
Lector I	Diane Allen
Lector II	Cynthia Buono
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 AM Mass</b>
Tabernacle Host	Agata Verrelli
Tabernacle Cup	Deacon Greg
Center Host	Mary Reilly
St. Joseph's Host	Bill Mahar
Joseph's Cup	Kathleen Morris
Lector I	Judy Wainman
Lector II	Jerry Wainman

### **LENTEN FISH FRIES**

Offered by the **Knights of Columbus** for lunch and dinner each Friday during Lent. Phone orders for pickup 518-694-0702, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Fish Fry Meal \$9.00 includes fish fry, and 2 sides (mac salad, cole slaw, or french fries). Chicken tender meal \$8.00. Kids menu \$5.00 for chicken tenders with fries.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

All Stations of the Cross are held at **Holy Spirit Church** during Lent this year. Each Friday our local Churches take turns sponsoring the Stations. All at 7pm.

**February 23** - Sacred Heart  
**March 2** - St. John/St. Joseph  
**March 9** - Holy Spirit  
**March 16** - St. Mary of Clinton Heights  
**March 23** - St. John/St. Joseph

### **STEWARDSHIP - Thank You for your generosity!**

**+ Please consider including us in your will. +**

<b>Week Ending February 11, 2018</b>	
Amount Received from Collection	\$3,137.00
Amount Received from E-Giving	\$555.00
Total Received Last Weekend	\$3,692.00
Budgeted Weekly Need	\$4,327.00
Last Week's Difference Over (Under) Budget	(\$635.00)
<b>Year-to-Date Fiscal Year</b>	
Received Year-to-Date	\$140,992.03
Budgeted Year-To-Date	\$142,791.00
Year-to-Date Difference: Over (Under) Budget	(\$1,798.97)

**Weekly Goal (To meet our current needs): \$7,528.00**

**Average Weekly Collection to Date: \$4,272.49**

**Reminder: Our fiscal year is July 1 - June 30.**

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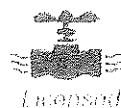
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