



**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT**
March 5, 2023

Monday, March 6
12:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith

Tuesday, March 7
12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate

Wednesday, March 8
No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, March 9 – Soup Supper & Movie Night
5:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Remancus
& Perkett Families by Margaret Smith

Friday, March 10
12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Saturday, March 11
4:30pm (SE) - Special Intentions of the Family
by Cheryl Hutchins

Sunday, March 12
8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo
10:30am (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Ronald & Ethel Barnaby

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of March 6

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-12



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
St Philip of Jesus parish hall
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass
All are welcome
Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar
March 26 - Easter
April—Peace



Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 39
Envelopes: \$447.25; Plate: \$95.00
Fuel: \$50.00
Total: \$592.25
Ash Wednesday Collection: \$128.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 27
Envelopes: \$510.00; Plate: \$111.00
Total: \$621.00
Ash Wednesday Collection: \$26.50

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 44
Envelopes: \$770.00; Plate: \$181.00
Total: \$951.00

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Today's Gospel is the story of the Transfiguration. The apostles are given a glimpse of the Glory of God and Peter wants to build three tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Peter wants to stay in the mountaintop experience, but God gives him and the others what they need for a purpose. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and to the way of the cross and the apostles needed to be strengthened for the journey. We too receive mountaintop experiences, glimpses of God, perhaps in prayer, on retreat, in a well-timed word or passage of scripture that speaks to us. But we cannot stay on that mountaintop. We will have our own crosses to bear, our own struggles. But the light we received on the mountaintop, we carry with us, to encourage us to remain faithful and to trust that God will not let us fall. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH
LENTEN BOOK GROUP**

The Art of Living
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Continues every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass
Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.**

March 9 Philip Neri Part 1
March 16 Philip Neri Part 2
March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
March 30 Purgatory

**SANCTUARY CANDLE
March 5—March 11, 2023**

St. Elizabeth's Church

For the protection of preborn & vulnerable



by Mr & Mrs Harold Bean

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Fasting is the second pillar of Lent which can be difficult for everyone. Fasting takes a lot of effort and dedication as we offer up to Our Lord the food we're not eating. Think about this, if we follow the guidelines for adult fast during Lent, we'll always be aware that it's the Season of Lent. There's no way we can forget why we're fasting. Isn't this what we want? To have Jesus on our mind every day during Lent? Maybe if we're able to stick with the fast during Lent, we'll be blessed to have Jesus stay in our mind and hearts even after Lent is over. "Fasting is one of the most ancient actions linked to Lent. Fasting rules have changed through the ages, but throughout Church history fasting has been considered sacred. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God. Therefore, the goal of fasting is linked with prayer. The pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God, and prayer and fasting together brings us to what Lent is about - a deeper conversion." (Encyclopedia of Catholic Spirituality and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Something else to think about is, if we offer our fast for a special intention or petition such as World Peace, fasting let's God know how serious we are about our petition. What are we willing to give up for World Peace or an end to abortion or some other concern close to our heart? When we look at Fasting this way, I hope we will have a great motivation and strong will to practice without complaints and to improve our spiritual lives.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays: Elizabethtown @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions
Fridays: Westport @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Willsboro: After Noon Mass on **Mondays**
Westport: After Noon Mass on **Fridays**
Elizabethtown: Fridays at **6.30 pm**

REMINDERS

...Please continue to use the envelopes that are placed on the pews or at the back of the Church (especially those who use regular parish envelopes). Please don't forget to write your name and you should be getting your regular parish envelopes beginning next month and it should be in your mailbox by last week of this Month. Thank you.

...Please try not to limit attending just the weekend Masses alone but also as many weekday Masses possible during this Holy Season of Lent and other spiritual activities like the Holy Hours, Stations of the Cross etc. God Bless you for making the effort.



From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:
There's nothing complicated or exceptional about a table. While there are a variety of makes and models, a table is typically just four legs with a flat surface on top. Yet, extraordinary things can happen when we gather at a table.

Important family conversations and celebrations almost always include a meal with those we love. We share both nourishment and the gift of ourselves with one another around a table. There's nothing that can beat sharing stories with loved ones around the kitchen table. Beautiful and useful items are created at workshop tables, sewing tables or crafting tables. Decisions that impact others, sometimes millions of others, are made by individuals gathered at tables to conduct business or governmental affairs.

While all those moments and all those tables can be significant, they pale in comparison to our gathering around the Lord's table at Mass. This is no ordinary table, but the very altar upon which ordinary bread and wine become the Eucharist, the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We gather around that extraordinary, sacred table as the Church, as a family of faith, offering our very lives with the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus to our Father in heaven.

I invite the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to also "Gather at the Table" with the North Country Catholic this year. Our editor, Darcy Fargo, and editorial assistant, Christine Ward work hard in preparing the menu that is offered to our readers. The NCC shares stories of individuals, couples and families who love the Lord and do great things in His service here in the North Country. The newspaper shares information about events and happenings around the diocese and helps us learn about opportunities to further connect and grow in faith and love of the Lord. Through the North Country Catholic, I communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward together in this journey of faith, guided by the One we encounter at the Sacred Table, Jesus Christ.

This weekend, the annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our diocesan paper. If you are a current subscriber, thank you for renewing your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who do not currently subscribe to consider the importance today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

"Gather at the Table" with us by subscribing to the North Country Catholic. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley,
Bishop of Ogdensburg





**THIRD SUNDAY OF
LENT**
March 12, 2023

Monday, March 13

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, March 14

12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate

Wednesday, March 15

12:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith
Thursday, March 16—Soup Supper & Movie Night
5:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Remancus
& Perkett Families by Margaret Smith

Friday, March 17

12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Saturday, March 18

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, March 19

8:30am (SPN) - Lenny Rheaume by Linda Wolf
10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Sayward Family
by Carolyn, Jane & Nick

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of March 13

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

St Philip of Jesus parish hall
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass
All are welcome
Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar
March 26 - Easter
April—Peace

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 24
Envelopes: \$649.25; Plate: \$57.00
Total: \$706.25

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 27
Envelopes: \$235.00; Plate: \$46.00
Fuel: \$100.00
Total: \$381.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 41
Envelopes: \$1,340.00; Plate: \$48.00
Total: \$1,388.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

On March 18 and 19, we will take up a combined second collection. The collection supports Peter's Pence, which helps the Universal Church and the working of the Holy See, including Pope Francis' charitable efforts that benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society. The Catholic Relief Services Collection provides food to the hungry, supports displaced refugees, and brings Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please prayerfully consider your gift to next week's second collection. Further information is available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief and www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

**Readings: Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42**

In today's Gospel, we read about the woman at the well. Jesus knows her better than she knows herself, and yet he shows his love for her. Through his conversation with her, he lets her know that she matters, and despite all the things she has done, she is loved. Isn't this what everyone thirsts for? Have you met Jesus like the woman at the well? Do you know how much you are loved? If not, spend some quiet time this week in his presence and ask him. If you have encountered Jesus like the woman at the well, share your story with others, and tell them what he has done for you so that they too may come to know him. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH
LENTEN BOOK GROUP**

The Art of Living
by Edward Sri
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love

When: Continues every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass
Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT


Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.**

March 16 Philip Neri Part 2
March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
March 30 Purgatory

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Almsgiving: Jesus said we must give to the poor. "...Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these least of brethren, you did it to me." And though the Church has much to say about prayer and has clear guidelines on fasting the Church mostly leaves almsgiving up to the individual. For this reason, it's important for us to spend a little more time thinking about **the 3rd Pillar of Lent**. No one can escape the poverty that surrounds us. We need to give to God — whom we meet in our neighbor — until these problems go away. Whatever we give, whether it's a tenth or a twentieth or half, is symbolic of the greater giving that defines the Christian life. As God gave himself entirely to us, so we give ourselves entirely to Him. In the Eucharist, He holds nothing back. He gives us His body, blood, soul, and divinity — everything He has. That's the giving we need to imitate. Charity begins at home, where we daily make the choice to give our time, our attention, our affirming smile, and give generously. But charity must not stop there, because for Catholics "home" is universal, and our family is as big as the world. We need to dig deep and give much where much is needed. But, whenever possible, our charity should also involve personal acts, not just automatic withdrawals from our bank account. St. John Paul asked us to see, and be seen by, "the human face of poverty." Sometimes all we can give is a smile, but sometimes that is the greatest sacrifice, the greatest prayer, and indeed the most generous and most sacrificial alms. God Bless us.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays: Elizabethtown @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions

Fridays: Westport @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Willsboro: After Noon Mass on **Mondays**
Westport: After Noon Mass on **Fridays**
Elizabethtown: Fridays at **6.30 pm**

U.S. SISTERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



All of us are consumers. Do you know the slave footprint that exists in the chain of work that it takes to create many of the products and food we consume? See **Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** for more info.

HOLY CROSS PARISH

Lenten Fish Fry, Plattsburgh

Parish Center - 4917 South Catherine Street, Plattsburgh
Friday - 3/17, 3/24, 3/31 --- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Contact - Office at 518-563-0730



MARKS OF THE CHURCH.....

Do we really pay attention to the Creed that we recite every weekend after the priest's homily. Or do we even try to recite it or wander away to our own imaginations and thoughts. We need to know that what we proclaim in those sacred words are our faith and foundation on which we build our spiritual lives. Therefore, it's very important that we recite each word not just from our lips but through our hearts. The Nicene Creed was written centuries ago to help Christians remember the important beliefs of the faith. In Nicene Creed we identify the four marks of the Church which I would like you to focus today among many. The four marks of the Church are not characteristics that the Church creates or develops or learns. They are qualities that Jesus Christ shares with his Church through the Holy Spirit. The 4 marks of the Church are that it is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

The Church Is One

Just as God is one in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so also is the Church one. The founder of the Church is Jesus Christ, who brought us back to God and made us into the family of God. The Church is one in the Holy Spirit, who dwells in those who believe.

The Church Is Holy

The Church is holy because the Church lives in union with Jesus Christ, the source of holiness. Through the Holy Spirit the Church leads others to holiness. The holiness of the Church is seen in the love that the members of the Church have toward one another and the many sacrifices they make for the sake of the world.

The Church Is Catholic

Catholic means "universal." The Church is universal in two ways. First, the Church is catholic because all baptized people are part of the Church, and the Church possesses the means of salvation. Second, the mission of the Church is universal because the Church has been sent to proclaim Christ to the entire human race.

The Church Is Apostolic

The Church traces its tradition directly from the apostles; therefore, the Church is considered apostolic. With the Holy Spirit the Church preserves and continues the teaching of the apostles. The pope and bishops are the successors of the apostles.

LENTEN TAIZE PRAYER

Gather around the Cross this Lent! Plattsburgh

Date: Tuesday, March 28
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: St. John's Church, Plattsburgh

Gather around the cross for prayer this Lent!

Taizé Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church. Allow the prayerful repetitions to permeate your spirit as you enter into the song and the silence.

For more info contact: Office@HolyCrosspbg.org





**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**
March 19, 2023

Monday, March 20—Feast of St. Joseph
12:00pm (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

Tuesday, March 21
12:00pm (SE) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Wednesday, March 22
No Schedule Mass

Thursday, March 23—Soup Supper & Movie Night
5:00pm (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

Friday, March 24
12:00pm (SPN) - Amady H & Mary Casavoy Montville
Families by Nancy Montville

Saturday, March 25
4:30pm (SE) - Albert E Miller Jr by Audrey & Al Miller

Sunday, March 26
8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo
10:30am (SPJ) - Mrs. William Allard by Bill Allard

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of March 20

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
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April 23—Peace

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Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 26
Envelopes: \$923.25; Plate: \$95.00
Fuel: \$100.00
Total: \$1,118.25

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 27
Envelopes: \$115.00; Plate: \$86.00
Fuel: \$10.00
Total: \$211.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 36
Envelopes: \$1,305.00; Plate: \$62.00
Fuel: \$45.00; Donation: \$25.00
Total: \$1,437.00

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Today's combined second collection supports the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Francis. We also support the Catholic Relief Services Collection which aids six Catholic agencies which provide relief and support for struggling communities. Their missions also include working for peace and reconciliation among the marginalized here and around the world. As Pope Francis has told us, "A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just." Please be generous. More details are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief and www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH
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March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
March 30 Purgatory

REMINDERS:

A word of gratitude to Mike Doyle who had to resign being a pastoral council member of **St. Elizabeth's Parish** for personal reasons. As I wish him all the best, I wholeheartedly welcome and Thank **Kim Matthews** who will replace him as our new Member.

A word of welcome also to **Emily Philips** who accepted to be an additional new Pastoral Council member at St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro. I also appreciate her for taking an extra care and attention to St. Joseph's Church in Essex.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Rejoice. In many ways it might seem a strange and foreign theme for a Lenten Sunday, almost inappropriate to the spirit of Lent. Lent is about mourning and fasting for sin and failure; why, then, are we reminded and even commanded to rejoice this day?

Because we have reached a sort of midpoint in the Lenten season. Easter Sunday is exactly three weeks away. Today we recognize the light at the end of the tunnel, and we respond accordingly, with joy and gladness. We are in the midst of darkness and death, but life and light are not far off; rebirth is near; dawn is approaching! We are reminded to rejoice this day because there is a sure hope in the midst of our suffering. Lent is about repentance, but hope is essential to true repentance. Without hope, repentance is futile and meaningless, lacking any direction or end. **Laetare Sunday** is about the hope that fuels repentance, looking ahead to Easter and resurrection and life in order to inspire, nourish, and replenish us for the remainder of our Lenten journey. Let us ask Our Lord to fill us with hope, courage, and strength as we wander through the wilderness towards the promised land which he has delivered to us. It is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays: Elizabethtown @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions
Fridays: Westport @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Willsboro: After Noon Mass on **Mondays**
Westport: After Noon Mass on **Fridays**
Elizabethtown: Fridays at **6.30 pm**

THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIE
March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
Animated PG Rated 2019
1 hr 48 minutes

In this inspiring feature-length allegory, travel with a pilgrim as he embarks on an epic journey. John Bunyan's classic 1678 novel is faithfully adapted to modern-day using CGI animation. The story begins with a man named Christian. Overwhelmed with the struggles of life in his home City of Destruction, he carries his burden on his back as he sets off to reach the peace and security of the distant Celestial City. Christian's journey is difficult. He faces distractions, challenges, and perils at every turn of the way. But finds victory, with helpful guides, as he stays on the narrow path.



**SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (March 20th)**



Joseph was born in the small town of Bethlehem but moved to Nazareth with Mary and Jesus after returning from Egypt in order to keep Jesus safe from Archelaus, the ruler of Judea. Though there are a number of apocryphal writings about him from the first several centuries, nothing is known about him for certain except what is contained in the Gospels. But the Gospels tell us all we need to know about this holy, obedient, and just man, who was given authority over the Son of God and continues to exercise a holy authority over the entire Church. Saint Joseph was obedient to the Father in Heaven, and that obedience deepened his union with Mary his spouse, making their marriage the ideal family for the Son of God. Saint Joseph's obedience is clearly seen in his response to four dreams by which an angel instructs Joseph how best to guard and protect the Son of God. Joseph acts immediately, in obedience, to the angel's instructions.

The Vatican II document, *Dei Verbum* states, "The obedience of faith must be given to God as he reveals himself. By this obedience of faith man freely commits himself entirely to God, making 'the full submission of his intellect and will to God who reveals,' and willingly assenting to the revelation given by him". Thus, since Saint Joseph's obedience was absolute, then that obedience fully united him to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her obedience, and to the Father in Heaven. His obedience to the Father also enables him to become a powerful instrument of the Father's authority on earth, exercised through him. On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. This unique title reflects the same truth that Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the entire Church. Since she was the mother of the Son of God, and we, the Church, are members of the Body of Christ, then she is our Mother. And since Joseph was the foster father of the Son of God, His guardian and protector, over whom he was given authority, and from Whom he received obedience, then we, too, can trust in Joseph's guardianship over us. We must have confidence in submitting to his spiritual authority in our lives, for we are members of the Body of Christ. Saint Joseph by his absolute obedience to the Father's will and his unity in marriage to the Mother of God makes him our father, just as he was the father of Jesus. As a loving father, he will direct us with the authority of God the Father, will protect us in times of trouble as he did for Jesus and Mary, and must always be seen as one uniquely chosen to be the father of the family to which we belong.

ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP

Many thanks to all who are involved in the thrift shop operations! St. Elizabeth's Church has received a donation of \$1,253.49 which represents 1/4 of their proceeds from February. God's blessings on all!





**FIFTH SUNDAY OF
LENT
March 26, 2023**

Monday, March 27

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family
by John & Sue Carver

Tuesday, March 28

12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate

Wednesday, March 29

No Schedule Mass

Thursday, March 30 – Soup Supper & Movie Night

5:00pm (SPJ) - Special Intention for Fong Wang by Larry
and Jocelyn Blanchard

Friday, March 31

12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Saturday, April 1

4:30pm (SE) - Special Intentions of the Family
by Cheryl Hutchins

Sunday, April 2

8:30am (SPN) - Bishop Emeritas Matthew Harvey Clark
of Rochester, NY by Nancy Montville
10:30am (SPJ) - Pro Populo

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of March 27

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ex 37:21-28/Jer 31:1-13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66



**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
TODAY—March 26—Easter**

St Philip of Jesus parish hall
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass
All are welcome

Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar
April 23—Peace

**HOLY CROSS PARISH
Lenten Fish Fry, Plattsburgh**

Parish Center - 4917 South Catherine Street, Plattsburgh
Friday - 3/31 --- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Contact - Office at 518-563-0730

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 29
Envelopes: \$650.25; Plate: \$78.00
Fuel: \$30.00
Total: \$758.25

Catholic Relief Services/Peter's Pence Collection: \$144.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 22
Envelopes: \$3,696.30; Plate: \$315.00
Total: \$4,011.30

Catholic Relief Services/Peter's Pence Collection: \$96.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 37
Envelopes: \$625.00; Plate: \$273.00
Total: \$898.00

Easter Flowers: \$10.00

Catholic Relief Services/Peter's Pence Collection: \$110.00

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

Thank you for supporting last weekend's combined Peter's Pence and Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your contributions help the poor and marginalized around the world and enable the charitable works of Pope Francis. If you missed the collection, drop your gift in the collection basket any time. More details are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief and www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH
LENTEN BOOK GROUP**

The Art of Living
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Continues every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass
Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.**

March 30 Purgatory
Michal Kindrat ("Love and Mercy: Faustina")
Documentary PG-13 Rated
1 hr 45 minutes

Who knows what lies beyond the grave? Gathering evidence from both the science surrounding near death experiences and the mystical revelations of saints like St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), St. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), and St. Padre Pio (1887-1968), director Michal Kondrat ("Love and Mercy: Faustina") shares with the modern world solid evidence for ancient faith. Mixing expert testimony with dramatizations, Kondrat draws the viewer into a much larger world than the simply physical, exploring the reality of Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. This powerful, accessible film invites us to become aware of the survival of the soul, the presence of our departed loved ones, and how often they need our prayers.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



So, as we are on the last week before Holy Week begins, how do we **REALLY** prepare for it? Here are few suggestions for the next few days. **Slow down.** Create blank space in your life this week. Let this week be a reminder that nothing is more important than our relationship with our Creator. Leave room this week for God, for family, for prayer, for silence. Start preparing yourself—and your calendar—to experience the holy moments of this Season. **Focus.** What should we focus on this week? We should focus on what it will take to get us all the way to the cross on Good Friday by asking questions like, "How do we prepare ourselves to engage in God's suffering? How do we brace ourselves for the humbling experience of God engaging our suffering?" The power of Easter lies squarely in the events of Good Friday. If we don't make it all the way to the cross, we miss it. **Be aware.** When we read the Biblical accounts of Holy Week, we learn that the Jerusalem of the first Holy Week was a place of energy, of almost supernaturally tangible electricity. So be quiet. Be still. Start to feel the eternal—the infinite—break into our world like a supernatural electricity in the air. Don't let anything crowd out time to listen for—and begin to feel—God's presence. **Pray** (mindful of Christ's passion). Pray for forgiveness. Pray for God's mercy. Pray for justice and righteousness. Pray for courage. Pray for a new vision that allows us to see our world as God sees it. Pray for the coming of God's kingdom.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays: Elizabethtown @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions
Fridays: Westport @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Willsboro: After Noon Mass on **Mondays**
Westport: After Noon Mass on **Fridays**
Elizabethtown: Fridays at **6.30 pm**

REMINDERS:

...We begin the Holy Week next weekend with the celebration of Palm Sunday. You are welcome to pick up the palms either before or after Mass. Please also try your best to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Solemn celebrations leading to Easter.
...Willsboro: Confessions are heard in the Sacristy after 10:30 Mass until 12:30 pm this Sunday and the Next Sunday (April 2nd).



**MARCH 30, 2023
11:00 AM
St. Mary's Cathedral
Odgensburg**

5 THINGS ABOUT...

...UNDERSTANDING FORGIVENESS

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). These are among the last words that Jesus spoke. As he endures the greatest suffering imaginable, he prays for those who inflict his pain. It makes sense that one petition of the Lord's Prayer says, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is essential for being his disciple, and often it can be the hardest part of following him. Heaven is a no-grudge zone, so here are five ways to understand forgiveness among many:

- 1. His Gift.** All good things are from God. Forgiveness is not a psychological process; it is a spiritual one. Don't be too proud to beg for the gift to forgive someone. How does God forgive all? Because he understands all. Pray for the gift of wisdom.
- 2. Not Amnesia.** Remember that forgiving someone does not erase the sting of a painful memory. Forgiveness does not make a painful memory happy, but it provides a new context.
- 3. My Burden.** Your grudge is your burden, not someone else's. This is especially true if you have no contact with the person whom you need to forgive, particularly if the person is dead. Remember that carrying this burden means we are allowing someone else's sin to remain active in our lives. Address the evil spirit of that sin and banish it from your life. This is usually not a one-and-done exercise. Continue each time it sneaks up and tries to lure you away from him. The way of forgiveness is the way of freedom.
- 4. Rewrite the Story.** One of the reasons we can hold onto the burden of unforgiveness is that we have told the story in only one way. The narrative usually focuses on the bad that happened to me. In prayer, retell the story, emphasizing the graces that God poured into the situation—the strength, the courage, and the fortitude he gave you. You survived and maybe even grew wiser. This is the new memory. Pray to notice his virtue, not dwell on another's vice.
- 5. At the foot of the Cross.** At the foot of the Cross, we experience the transformative power of mercy. Jesus has taken *my* sins, *my* anger, *my* unforgiveness and nailed them to the Cross. He has taken even death itself, upon himself, *for me*. In the Resurrection, Jesus transforms my sins by his love for *me*. In the shadow of that Cross, as I look upon him who cries out for my forgiveness, how can I but not forgive those who have trespassed against me? May our hearts try the best to imitate the Sacred Heart of Jesus full of Love.

LENTEN TAIZE PRAYER

Gather around the Cross this Lent! Plattsburgh
Date: Tuesday, March 28 Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: St. John's Church, Plattsburgh
Gather around the cross for prayer this Lent!
Taizé Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church. Allow the prayerful repetitions to permeate your