

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 3, 2024

Monday, March 4

11:00am (SPJ) - Holy Hour with Confessions
12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed from the Willsboro / Essex parish

Tuesday, March 5

11:00am SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions* 12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family by the Estate

Wednesday, March 6

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, March 7

12:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith Friday, March 8 11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour with Confessions

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

Saturday, March 9

3:30pm (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions* 4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, March 10

8:30am (SPN) - Philip T Forbes by Helen MacDougal

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers by John O'Hara

(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 4

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: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-6 Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

THOUGHTS ON EVENGELIZATION Readings Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17 1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

Many began to believe because of the signs. Jesus cleansed the Temple of all that would distract from the worship of God. The Temple was to be a house of praver, not of commerce. We too are temples. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are to be in communion with Jesus, to have our hearts set on him. How often, when we kneel to pray, or try to silence our hearts to speak with Jesus, all our distractions, to-do lists, come to mind. We think of all the other things we could be doing, things that to others might seem more productive than prayer. So often we give into the temptation to walk away from our prayer to more active pursuits. Let us ask the Lord to clean our hearts and minds from all that would distract us from spending time with him, things that pull us away from the Kingdom of God. Let us approach Jesus in honest prayer, even offering him our distractions and share what is deep in our hearts, that we may come to know his great love for us.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 31 Envelopes: \$582.25; Plate: \$61.00 Fuel: \$25.00; Easter Flowers: \$65.00 Total: \$733.25 The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$5.00

> Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 36 Envelopes: \$1,835.00; Plate: \$30.00 Easter Flowers: \$25.00 Total: \$1,890.00

<u>St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 37</u> Envelopes: \$430.00; Plate: \$133.00 Fuel: \$10.00; Easter Flowers: \$60.00 Total: \$633.00 The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$75.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY 3/03 Class #21 Do I have what it takes? (Building Virtue—Your Spiritual Workout)
3/10 Class #22 Why wait? (God's Plan for Love and Sex)

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

The combined parishes are planning to begin a class to prepare students for First Communion. Please contact Fr Justin or Sarah Bosley at text 518-637-5735 or call 518-962-8996.

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024 SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM 3. I Hurt because I Love.

- 3.1 Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:6-9)
- 3.2 Foot Washing (John 13:1-5, 12-15)
- 3.3 Last Supper (I Corinthians 11:23-26)
- 3.4 Agony in the Garden (Luke 22: 41-45)
- 3.5 Arrest (Mark 14: 43-50)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggest that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. The third group follows the logic of that call of Christ: In following him and choosing to open our hearts in love we will without fail experience suffering. Love opens our hearts to desire the good of the other, even as it opens us to receive the pains that the other receives. We experience Christ death as the outcome of His love for us. We will be doing the first 5 exercises from this third group this Saturday as mentioned above. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something that strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon. Thank you.

Things to Ponder.....

Good acts should be addictive!!!!!!

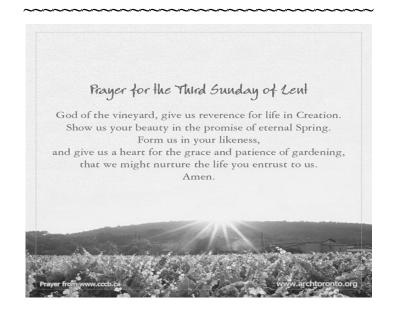
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Saint Perpetua (March 7th) was a twenty-twoyear-old married noblewoman at the time of her arrest. She was also a mother, having recently given birth to a son whom she was still nurs-

ing. Her father was a pagan, but her mother and a brother were baptized Christians. A second brother was preparing for baptism alongside Perpetua, and a third brother had already died as a pagan. Perpetua had been touched by Christ and decided to become a Christian, but she was arrested before her baptism. Her pagan father came to her in prison and pleaded with her to renounce the Christian faith and refuse baptism to save her life so she could raise her son. But she remained unchallenged in her love for Christ. A few days later, Perpetua was secretly baptized in prison. Saint Felicity, a slave, was also a young woman and pregnant at the time of her arrest. One eyewitness stated, "Felicity had feared that she might not be allowed to suffer with the rest, because pregnant women were not sent into the arena. However, she gave birth in the prison to a daughter whom one of their fellow Christians at once adopted. Perpetua and Felicity were both new young mothers at the time of their martyrdom. They loved their newborn babies with tender love. But they also loved their God Whom they had both recently come to know. They were forced to choose. Either reject Christ and be there to raise their babies or remain Christian and leave their babies. With heroic courage and faith, they remained true to both. They remained faithful to Christ, dying as martyrs, and they fulfilled their greatest motherly duty by giving heroic witnesses of faith to their babies. We can only hope that as their children grew and were told the stories of their mothers' love of God, those children were inspired and sought to imitate their mothers' Christian faith. May their example strengthen us in our journey of faith.

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



REMINDERS:

...Next weekend there will be a Combined Second Collection for the Fuel expenses of our parishes, Holy Father's Pence Collection and Collection for the Catholic Charities. Please use the designated envelopes (back of the Church for those who don't get parish envelope sets) of your choice for the contribution you wish to make. Thank you.

...If you wish to register for the weekend parish envelopes, please leave your name and address on the register sheet placed at the entry ways of the Church and please help yourself with a packet. Please write your name on the envelope before dropping them in our regular weekend collection. Thank you.

...STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Followed by <u>Noon</u> <u>Mass</u> on Tuesdays in E-Town, Thursdays in Willsboro, and Fridays in Westport.

...HOLY HOUR with Confessions: Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

THE HOLY ROSARY—Part II

Secondly, the Rosary under the pillow is a constant reminder of the vital importance of prayer in our daily lives. Upon waking every morning and feeling the gentle touch of the rosary between our fingers, we are instantly invited to dedicate a precious moment to dialogue with the Divine. This practice encourages us to cultivate a life of continuous prayer, strengthening our spiritual connection and nurturing our soul with divine grace. Furthermore, the rosary under the pillow is a powerful symbol of our trust in the loving intercession of the Virgin Mary. By placing the rosary there, we entrust ourselves to her maternal protection during sleep, seeking her guidance and assistance in times of need. It's as if we're making a silent pact with Mary, acknowledging her constant presence in our lives and her willingness to assist us in all circumstances. The **Third** reason for placing the rosary under the pillow is the spiritual comfort that this practice provides. Knowing that we have the rosary by our side during the night brings us a sense of security and tranquility. It is as if we're embraced by Mary's maternal love, enveloped in a mantle of peace that protects us from the fears and anxieties that often assail us during the night. (To be continued...)



CHRISM MASS All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism

for use in all the churches of our Diocese. This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, **March 21, 2024, at 11 a.m.** at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <u>https://www.rcdony.org/</u> <u>livemass</u>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.



FOURTH SUNDAY **OF LENT**

March 10, 2024

Monday, March 11

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, March 12

11:00am SE) - Holy Hour with Confessions 12:00pm (SE) - Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski by the Estate

Wednesday, March 13

- 11:00am (SPJ) Holy Hour with Confessions 12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed
- from the Willsboro / Essex parish

Thursday, March 14

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Remancus & Perkett Families by Margaret Smith

Friday, March 15

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour with Confessions 12:00pm (SPN) - Special Intention of Muriel LaRose by Bob & Carol LaRose

Saturday, March 16

3:30pm (SE) - Holy Hour with Confessions

4:30pm (SE) - Joseph L. Huttig by Mary Anne Allen Sunday, March 17 8:30am (SPN) - Louise Von Borckdorff

by Helen MacDougal

10:30am (SPJ) - Pro Populo

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

Readings for the Week of March 11

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Jn 4:43-54 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 5:31-37 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn7:1-2, 10, 25-30 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9-12/Jn 7:40-53 Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-15 Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

THOUGHTS ON EVENGELIZATION <u>Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21</u>

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. Isn't it amazing how much God loves us! He desires our salvation He desires that we may have eternal life. Sometimes we forget how much he loves us, but sometimes we also forget that this love requires a response. St. Augustine said that God created us without us, but he will not save us without us. We are free to accept or reject his salvation. Let us respond in love by loving him in return and loving others as he has first loved us.

Things to Ponder.....

The public loves someone who smiles!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 29 Envelopes: \$522.25; Plate: \$103.00 Easter Flowers: \$80.00 Total: \$705.25 **Catholic Relief Services: \$15.00**

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 33 Envelopes: \$261.00; Plate: \$30.00 Fuel: \$60.00; Easter Flowers: \$10.00 Total: \$361.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 38 Envelopes: \$840.00; Plate: \$94.00 Fuel: \$60.00; Easter Flowers: \$80.00 Total: \$1,074.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY 3/10 Class #22 Why wait? (God's Plan for Love and Sex) 3/17 Class # 23 How do I build the kingdom? (Saving Yes to the Mission of Christ and His Church)

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024 SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM

3. I Hurt because I Love.

- 3.6 Trial (Mark 15; 1-15)
- 3.7 Resolve (Isaiah 50: 5-8) 3.8 Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27-30)
- 3.9 Way of the Cross (Luke 23: 27-31)
- 3.10 Crucifixion (Luke 23:32, 39-43, 46)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggests that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without deciding for some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. The third group follows the logic of that call of Christ: In following him and choosing to open our hearts in love we will without fail experience suffering. Love opens our hearts to desire the good of the other, even as it opens us to receive the pains that the other receives. We experience Christ's death as the outcome of His love for us. We will be doing the last 5 exercises from this third group this Saturday as mentioned above. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian Workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon.

THREE PILLARS OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Three key pillars characterize the Lenten season: praver, fasting, and almsgiving (charity). The USCCB tells us that during Lent, "we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice selfcontrol through fasting." While most Catholics are familiar with "no meat on Fridays" during Lent, fasting and abstinence are important components throughout Lent. This may look like giving up things like gossip, your favorite coffee order, or forgoing music in the car & replacing it with prayer. Almsgiving reminds us of Jesus's call to serve and connects us in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. And lastly: prayer. Hallow has a wonderful set of prayer resources for every step of your Lenten journey.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



In the early Church and, to a lesser extent still today, there were two kinds of Fasts. There was the "total fast" that preceded all major feasts or sacramental events. The ancient name for this fast was "*statio*" meaning to stand watch, on guard, or in vigil. The second fast was a

fast of abstinence from certain foods, e.g., meats or fats. This was more an act of self-discipline and selfcontrol. How did fasting become such an important aspect of the Lenten season and a means of preparing for the Eucharist and of learning virtue through selfdiscipline? Christian fasting is revealed in an interdependence between two events in the Bible: the "breaking of the fast" by Adam and Eve; and the "keeping of the fast" by Christ at the beginning of his ministry". When Jesus had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry." Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else—when we face the ultimate question: "On what does my life depend on?" In response to Satan's temptation to change the stone into bread, Christ said, "Man does NOT live by bread alone..." This statement liberates us from total dependence on food, on the matter, and on the world. Thus, for the Christian, fasting is the only means by which he or she recovers his/her true spiritual nature. For fasting to be effective, then, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. And because of that, because it is truly a place of the spirit, true fasting may well lead to temptation, weakness, doubt, and irritation. But the very discovery of the Christian life as a "fight" and "effort" to Holiness is an essential aspect of fasting. May we have these insights whenever we Fast.

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

24th March: PALM SUNDAY

(Regular weekend Schedule with Blessings of the Palms and Passion Readings)

28th March: HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm (Willsboro): Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 9 pm.

29th MARCH: GOOD FRIDAY

12:00pm (E-Town): Solemn Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm (Westport): Passion Narrative with Veneration of the Cross

6:00 pm (Willsboro): Solemn Stations of the Cross **30th MARCH: EASTER VIGIL**

8:00 pm (E-Town): Solemn Holy Eucharist with "Exultet"

31st MARCH: EASTER SUNDAY (Regular Sunday Schedule)



REMINDERS:

... I request all of you to consider offering Mass Intentions for your loved ones, both the living and the deceased. This is a great and practical way of letting them (living) know of your prayerful support and for the eternal peace of those deceased. Mass Intention envelopes could be found at the entryways of each Church. Please fill them up with a \$10 offering for each intention and drop them in our regular weekend collection or mail them to the office. If you wish to have more than one Mass celebrated for the same intention just specify the number in the same envelope rather than using more envelopes.

... Votive Candles: Each of our churches has votive candles in place for all of you to light them for your particular intentions. Please make use of them with a small offering.

...Willsboro: Please note that Holy Hour and Mass on Monday have been moved to Wednesday this week.

...STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Followed by Noon Mass on Tuesdays in E-Town, Thursdays in Willsboro, and Fridays in Westport.

...HOLY HOUR with Confessions: Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

THE HOLY ROSARY—Part III

Lastly, the Rosary under the pillow is a constant reminder of the transformative power of faith and devotion. Each time we encounter the Rosary upon waking or falling asleep, we are invited to renew our commitment to God and surrender to His will with confidence and humility. It's a simple yet profoundly meaningful practice that connects us with the divine amidst the vicissitudes of everyday life, strengthening our faith and gently guiding us along the path of devotion and holiness. Imagine yourself at the end of a long and exhausting day, with your mind still immersed in a myriad of thoughts and worries that seem to echo incessantly in your head. Every event of the day, every interaction, and every challenge faced seems to intertwine in an intricate web, making it difficult for the mind to find peace and serenity. You ardently long for a moment of rest, for a refuge where you can finally disconnect from the demands of the world and recharge your energies for the next day. However, even in the quietude of the night when the world around you plunges into silence and darkness, your mind continues to wander through the labyrinths of the day's events. Worries persist, thoughts multiply, and you find yourself unable to find the much-desired rescue you long for. It's as if the tranquility of the night is interrupted by the incessant murmuring of the mind, preventing you from finding the inner peace you so desperately seek. (To be continued)

CELEBRATE TRADITIONS. CHANGE THE WORLD Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2024, shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious. This week we pray for all religious congregations of sisters who continue to serve the needs of the people in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, in this country and beyond. Let us continue to pray for God's people throughout the world but especially for those suffering from the wages of war, violence, hunger, homelessness. May God continue to bless the Sisters who continue to bring the message of His love and compassion to the world.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024

Monday, March 18

11:00am (SPJ) - Holy Hour with Confessions 12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Smith Family by Margaret Smith

Tuesday, March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11:00am SE) - Holy Hour with Confessions
12:00pm (SE) - All Religious Congregations of Catholic Sisters by Nancy Montville

Wednesday, March 20

12:00pm (SPJ) - Anthony Politi by Peg Sheehan **Thursday, March 21**

No Scheduled Mass

Friday, March 22

11:00am (SPN) - *Holy Hour with Confessions* 12:00pm (SPN) - Amady H & Mary Casavoy Montville

Families by Nancy Montvillr

Saturday, March 23

3:30pm (SE) - Holy Hour with Confessions

4:30pm (SE) - Special Intention for Elizabeth Santorella by Theresa Spear

Sunday, March 24

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Richard Sheehan by Peg Sheehan

(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 18

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11 Tuesday: 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 <u>or</u> Lk 2:41-51a 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: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10-13/Jn 11:45-56 Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 <u>or</u> Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47

THOUGHTS ON EVENGELIZATION Readings: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

We are nearing the end of the Lenten season and at the edge of the Passion of Jesus. His hour is upon us. Jesus is about to take up his cross. As his disciples, we are called to follow him. We too are to take up our cross and offer our lives with him. We too are called to bear fruit like the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to yield a rich harvest. Yet so often we resist the crosses in our lives, whether out of selfishness or fear. Yet if we wish to follow Christ, we must not turn away from the crosses in our lives. We must love the way he loved us. This week, let us take time to look at a crucifix, to recognize what Jesus has done for us, for each of us, so that we may be where he is, and come to see him face to face.



Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 34 Envelopes: \$412.25; Plate: \$39.00 Fuel: \$180.00; Easter Flowers: \$20.00 Total: \$651.25 Catholic Relief Services: \$118.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 16

Envelopes: \$389.00; Plate: \$6.00 Fuel: \$55.00; Easter Flowers: \$95.00 Total: \$545.00 Catholic Relief Services: \$97.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 44

Envelopes: \$1,175.00; Plate: \$20.00 Fuel: \$195.00; Donation: \$25.00 Total: \$1,415.00 Catholic Relief Services: \$189.00 Good Friday/Holy Land: \$50.00; Easter: \$100.00

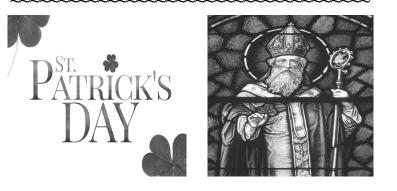
CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY 3/17 Class # 23 How do I build the kingdom? (Saying Yes to the Mission of Christ and His Church) 3/24 Class #24 Where do I go from here? (The Journey Continues)

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024 SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM 4. I Will Live in Hope

- 4.1 An empty Tomb (Mk 16: 1-8)
- 4.2 Recognizing Jesus (John 20: 11-16)
- 4.3 Do Not be Afraid (Mt 28: 1-10)
- 4.4 Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-32)
- 4.5 Visiting the Disciples (Jn 20: 19-23)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggests that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. The fourth group calls to mind the fact that love is the aim of all our spiritual exercises, that in the end, God calls us not to suffering as an end in itself, but as a path through which we travel to deeper joy. We rejoice with Christ in His resurrection and remember that in conquering death He has released us from the fear that our love might be in vain. We will be doing the first 5 exercises from this fourth group this Saturday as mentioned above. Though you have not been coming previously, you are still welcome to join us. Thank you.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



This Tuesday we celebrate **St. Joseph**, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What is it that made Saint Joseph so great? He wasn't immaculately conceived as our Blessed Mother was. He was not divine like Jesus. But he was the head of the Holy Family, its guardian, and its provider. He became the legal father of the Savior of the World

and the spouse of the mother of God. But Joseph is not great only because he was given such incredible privileges. First and foremost, he was great because of the choices he made in life. Gospels refers to him as a "righteous man" and as a man who "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Thus, his greatness is primarily due to his moral righteousness and obedience to the will of God. Joseph's obedience is especially seen in the fact that he obeyed the voice of God given to him in the four dreams recorded in Scripture. When these dreams are read in succession, it is clear that Saint Joseph was attentive to the voice of God. We all have dreams, but Joseph's dreams are different. They were clear communications from God, and they required a willing recipient. Joseph was open to the voice of God and listened in faith as that willing recipient. Joseph also responded with complete submission and full determination. The commands Joseph received were not insignificant. His obedience required that he and his family travel great distances, reside in strange lands, and do so all in faith. It's also clear that Joseph took his vocation seriously by showing his unwavering commitment to his role as the guardian of his legal Son, Jesus, and his wife, Mary. His life was spent providing for them, protecting them, and offering them a father's heart. Saint John Paul II called him the "Guardian of the Redeemer." May he intercede for us in our faith journey and inspire us to lead a virtuous life.

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 24th March: PALM SUNDAY

(Regular weekend Schedule with Blessings of the Palms and Passion Readings)

28th March: HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm (Willsboro): Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 9 pm.

29th MARCH: GOOD FRIDAY

12:00pm (E-Town): Solemn Stations of the Cross **3:00 pm (Westport):** Passion Narrative with Veneration of the Cross

6:00 pm (Willsboro): Solemn Stations of the Cross 30th MARCH: EASTER VIGIL

8:00 pm (E-Town): Solemn Holy Eucharist with "Exultet"

31st MARCH: EASTER SUNDAY (Regular Sunday Schedule)



REMINDERS:

...Cardinal Burke is calling all Catholics in the US to take part in a 9-month Novena starting March 12 and ending on the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th. We will be petitioning our BVM for her protection and intercession in changing the direction of the world. Has the world ever been more sinful or in more chaos? We've just reached the milestone of 1 billion abortions worldwide. We need to pray for souls to turn back to Jesus and His Way. After our lady appeared to Juan Diego millions converted from their pagan ways, which included sacrificing millions of innocents. To get more information or join this spiritual fight, go to novena.cardinalburke.com.

...STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Followed by <u>Noon</u> <u>Mass</u> on Tuesdays in E-Town, Thursdays in Willsboro, and Fridays in Westport.

...HOLY HOUR with Confessions: Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

THE HOLY ROSARY—Part IV

It is in those moments of internal turbulence that the presence of the Rosary under the pillow reveals itself as a beacon of light in the darkness of the night. As you gently slide the rosary under your pillow, you are not only performing a physical gesture, but you are also establishing a deep connection with the tradition and Marian devotion that transcends the bounds of time and space. It's as if, by placing the Rosary there, you are opening the doors of your heart to the loving presence of the Virgin Mary, inviting her to accompany your sleep and envelope you with her mantle of maternal love and divine protection. Each bead of the rosary, delicately intertwined in your hands, becomes a link that connects you to Mary's love and presence, gently guiding you along the paths of peace and serenity. And so, as you surrender to the embrace of sleep, you know that you are not alone. You know that even in the darkest hours of the night, the maternal presence of Mary is by your side, guarding and protecting you with her infinite love. And it is in this knowledge, in this comforting certainty, that you find the much-awaited rest, allowing yourself to finally surrender to the arms of sleep and be carried away by the sweet melody of dreams. This simple yet significant practice is a testimony to the profound trust and devotion of the individual towards Mary's intercession and her loving presence in our lives. (To be continued)



All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred

Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese. This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <u>https://www.rcdony.org/livemass</u>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.





PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord

March 24, 2024

Monday, March 25 12:00pm (SPJ) - Carrie Foley by Peg Sheehan Tuesday, March 26 11:00am SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions* 12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family by the Estate

Wednesday, March 27

No Scheduled Mass





Thursday, March 28 – Holy Thursday 7:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith Friday, March 29 – Good Friday 3:00pm (SPN) - Passion Narrative with Veneration of the Cross Saturday, March 30 – Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil

8:00pm (SE) - Philip Forbes

by the Mildred Paquette Family

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Paradis & St. Jean Families by Margaret Smith

(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 25

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26:14-25 Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ps 116:12-13, 15-18 1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15 Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42 Saturday: Gn 1:1—2:2/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-6, 17-18 Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7 Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 <u>or</u> 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 <u>or</u> Mk 16:1-7



Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 29 Envelopes: \$522.25; Plate: \$47.00 Fuel: \$55.00; Easter Flowers: \$30.00 Total: \$654.25

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 37 Envelopes: \$1,500.00; Plate: \$86.00 Fuel: \$25.00 Total: \$1,611.00

<u>St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 52</u> Envelopes: \$835.00; Plate: \$461.00 Fuel: \$50.00; Easter Flowers \$20.00 Total: \$1,366.00 Catholic Relief Services: \$5.00 Good Friday/Holy Land: \$10.00 Respect Life: \$10.00 The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$5.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS TODAY 3/24 Class #24 Where do I go from here? (The Journey Continues)

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024 SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM

4. I Will Live in Hope

4.6 Doubting Thomas (John 20: 24-29) 4.7 Come Eat Breakfast. (John 21: 3-14) 4.8 Faith and Works (James 2: 14-17) 4.9 Vine and Branches (John 15: 1-8)

4.10 God is Love (1 Jn 4:16-21)

The fourth group of exercises calls to mind the fact that love is the aim of all our spiritual exercises, that in the end, God calls us not to suffering as an end in itself, but as a path through which we travel to deeper joy. We rejoice with Christ in His resurrection and remember that in conquering death He has released us from the fear that our love might be in vain. We will be doing the last 5 exercises from this fourth group this Saturday as mentioned above. Thank you for joining us.

THOUGHTS ON EVENGELIZATION <u>Readings: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (37)/Is 50:4-7 Phil</u> 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

What a change in attitude in the crowd from the Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the crucifixion, from adulation of the crowd to Peter's denial. As disciples of the Lord, we are called to follow him. Jesus shows us the way to trust, becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. It is easy to follow when all is light and goodness and joy, but are we willing to stand with Mary and John at the foot of the cross, when darkness covers the land and we feel forsaken and alone? Remembering that Jesus died for vou and me, can we embrace his suffering and offer a small sacrifice for those who are alone and in darkness today? Can we visit a lonely neighbor, or reach out to someone in prison or in the hospital? Can we pray for those who suffer for their faith in Syria and Iraq or other parts of the world? Rather than cursing the darkness, can we light a small candle and bring light to our small corner of the world.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Holy Week is the most important week in the Church's year. It's a time when we closely meditate on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We remember his actions, reflect on

his messages, and recommit to living as his disciples in the world today. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches used on Palm Sunday symbolize peace and triumph. Sacred Triduum is the three days before Easter. The three days consist of Holy Thursday – on which Christ's Last Supper is commemorated; Good **Fridav** – on which the Crucifixion and Death of Christ are highlighted and during which the faithful fast; and Holy Saturday, which is marked by its silence during which we are invited to contemplate Christ in the tomb. The Holy Triduum ends, "concluding with Vespers on Easter Sunday..." As we enter into the holiest week of the year, each of us must see the journey of Christ this week as our calling in life. We must journey toward the glory of the Cross with our Lord. From a worldly perspective, the Cross does not make sense. But from the perspective of the Father in Heaven, the Cross is not only the source of the greatest glory of His Son, but it is also the path by which we share that glory. We must die with Him internally, sacrifice all for Him, choose to follow Him wholeheartedly and hold nothing back in our resolve to be victorious with Christ's **Resurrection**.

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

WHY DO WE VEIL THE CROSS AND STATUES IN THE CHURCH?

In the Roman Missal, we will find the instruction that says, "In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but statues/images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss, and they serve as a reminder to get ready! The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened, and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing. When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our death that we can see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26

REMINDERS:

...WORKSHOP: Next Saturday is the last day of our Ignatian Lenten Workout and it will be held at **11 am** in SE Parish Hall. There won't be a Holy Hour in preparation for the Easter vigil. Thank you so much to all who have participated faithfully.

...WILLSBORO: There won't be Holy Hour on Monday before Noon Mass since another Mass is scheduled in the Senior Housing at 10.30 am. Sorry for the inconvenience.

THE HOLY ROSARY—Part V

Rosary under the pillow is a constant reminder that even in the dark hours of the night we are never alone, for the Virgin Mary is always by our side, watching over us and guiding us with our maternal hand. By welcoming the Rosary into your nightly rest, you invite the blessings and graces that emanate from this powerful prayer tool to dwell in your heart and your home. It's as if each beat of the Rosary were a seed of blessing planted in your soul, growing, and blooming throughout the night, nourishing it with divine grace and strengthening it to face the challenges of the approaching new day. In addition to being a source of spiritual protection, the rosary under the pillow is a tangible reminder of the vital importance of praver in our daily lives. Upon waking every morning, feeling the Rosary there within reach, we are instantly prompted to dedicate a moment of our precious time to communion with God and the intercession of the Virgin Mary. These beads, intertwined in their mysterious spirals, represent more than mere repetitions of words. Some links connect us directly to the divine, guiding us through the depths of mystery and enveloping us in the infinite tenderness of God's love. As we contemplate each mystery of the Rosary, we are invited to dive deeper into the essence of our existence and reflect on the mysteries of faith. Each Hail Mary, we Pray is like a gentle song of praise, lifting our hearts to the heavens and uniting us in communion with divine holiness and glory. It's a transcendental experience that transports us beyond the limitations of the physical world and places us in direct contact with eternity. (To be continued)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

28th March: HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm (Willsboro): Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 9 pm.

29th MARCH: GOOD FRIDAY

12:00pm (E-Town): Solemn Stations of the Cross **3:00 pm (Westport):** Passion Narrative with Veneration of the Cross

6:00 pm (Willsboro): Solemn Stations of the Cross 30th MARCH: EASTER VIGIL

8:00 pm (E-Town): Solemn Holy Eucharist with "Exultet"

31st MARCH: EASTER SUNDAY (Regular Sunday Schedule)







EASTER SUNDAY

of the Resurrection of the Lord

March 31, 2024

Monday, April 1 No Scheduled Mass Tuesday, April 2 No Scheduled Mass Wednesday, April 3

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, April 4

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

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

Friday, April 5

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour12:00pm (SPN) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed from the Westport parish

Saturday, April 6

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, April 7

8:30am (SPN) - Herbert & Mary Dowdle Clark Families by Nancy Montville

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 April 1

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Mt 28:8-15 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/Jn 20:11-18 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Lk 24:13-35 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5-9/Lk 24:35-48 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27/Jn 21:1-14 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-21/Mk 16:9-15 Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-23 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

THOUGHTS ON EVENGELIZATION Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

Alleluia! He is Risen! We have heard the story so many times that we may just take it for granted. Can we place ourselves in the shoes of Mary Magdalene, Saint Peter, or St. John? Can we imagine the panic, worry and wonder ... what must have gone through their minds and hearts? And yet, look at St. John. He ran ahead of Peter but waited for Peter to enter first. Then John went in and he "saw and believed." He saw the burial cloths left behind, no longer needed. The Lord is Risen! Let us daily remind ourselves that the Lord is risen indeed, is with us, and gives our life meaning and purpose. He is our light in the darkness. Let us share the joy. Alleluia!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 17 Envelopes: \$526.25; Plate: \$70.00 Fuel: \$65.00; Easter Flowers: \$10.00 Total: \$671.25 Good Friday/Holy Land: \$25.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 37 Envelopes: \$214.00; Plate: \$75.00 Fuel: \$5.00 Total: \$294.00 Good Friday/Holy Land: \$16.00 Easter: \$40.00

<u>St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 49</u> Envelopes: \$730.00; Plate: \$103.00 Fuel: \$35.00; Easter Flowers \$40.00 Total: \$908.00 Easter: \$25.00

THE HOLY ROSARY—Part VI

In summary, placing the rosary under the pillow is more than just a religious practice. It is an act of trust and surrender, an expression of devotion and love that transcends the boundaries of time and space. It's a way for us to connect with the divine amidst the vicissitudes of everyday life, finding comfort and solace in Mary's maternal love and God's infinite grace. Make this simple yet powerful practice a source of blessings and consolation in your life, gently guiding you along the path of faith and devotion today and always. May the Rosary, as it rests beneath your pillow, be not just a physical object, but a living symbol of the Divine Presence in your life, constantly reminding you of the unconditional love that surrounds you and the divine protection that guards you. And as you wake up every morning and feel the rosary between your fingers, may you be renewed in your faith and strengthen your devotion, ready to face the challenges of the day with courage and confidence, knowing that you are not alone, but embraced by God's eternal love and Mary's maternal tenderness. To conclude this video, I want to invite you to reflect on the power and beauty of this simple practice of placing the rosary under the pillow. Let us remember that even in life's most challenging moments, we have a safe refuge in God's love and Mary's loving intercession. May the Rosary be not just an object, but a powerful tool to connect us with the divine and strengthen us spiritually. May as you wake up every morning and feel the rosary between your fingers, you are reminded of the unconditional love that surrounds you and the divine protection that guards you. May this simple yet meaningful practice be a source of peace, comfort, and blessings in your life, gently guiding you along the path of faith and devotion. May our Blessed Mother pray for us.

ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP

St. Elizabeth's Church has received the contribution from the thrift shop representing one fourth of their February profits... \$1,352.60. It continues to be so amazing at the work they do! As always, our sincere thanks for all their good works! Please consider helping by donating time, shopping or

donating items for sale. Again, thank you!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." We were created out of love. An amazing love that filled us with light, love, and life. However, humanity sinned. In disobedience, humanity knowingly separated themselves from their Heavenly Father's love causing eve-

ryone to fall into darkness and bringing about our death. But in his tender love and mercy, God sent his Son to save us, to die for us, to forgive us, to heal us, to love us the way no one else could love us. Jesus, taking on our human condition, brings light to our darkness and life to our deadness. He makes us a new creation in the Father's love. This is the true cause for our joy and the reason for our gladness that this day was made for us. We rejoice for we have been reunited to the love of the Father, through the saving work of his Son, in the grace and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. By sharing in the Passion and Death of our Lord, we share in his Resurrection. We rise with him in the newness of life. Through Jesus, we have become beloved children of God, a new creation, children of the light, children of eternal happiness and peace. Our challenge now is to stay close to Jesus, so the darkness does not creep back into our lives. We do this by continuing to walk with Christ and making fasting, prayer, and almsgiving part of our daily routine, part of our daily life. We should walk with our Risen Lord every day and allow him to be the food that feeds and sustains us, the nourishment for our journey back home. Nourished by Christ through these gifts, we can respond as the Disciples did when they saw the empty tomb: they believed, they shared, they loved as Christ loved them. So let us rejoice and be glad, for we have been enlightened by Christ. Let us continue to keep the Passion of Christ alive in our hearts and remember all that the Father has done to resurrect us to eternal life simply because he loves us. Wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed Easter.

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

REMINDERS:

...A word of CONGRATULATIONS to Bill Conway, Desiree, and Clarke from the Willsboro parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter vigil and entered into full Communion with the Catholic Church. Bill and Clarke received their first Holy Communion as well. A word of gratitude to Sarah Bosley for preparing them for the Sacraments. May God Bless them all.

...Please note that there WON'T be weekday Masses on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

...Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be a Holy Hour following the 10:30 am Mass in Willsboro with the Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 12:30 pm concluding with Benediction. All are welcome to join in prayer.





From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

"I am the resurrection and the life, the one who believes in me, though he or she die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Yes, the Lord has risen! Satan did all he could to break down the love, courage, and fidelity of our Savior. Evil unleashed its arsenal of hatred, injustice, humiliation, and pain. Evil fought a bloody fight, but the Son of God rose victorious. That means absolutely everything for you and me!

The resurrection is the sacred stamp that validates everything Jesus did and said: His claim to be God's Son; His insistence of authority to forgive sin; His universal call to abandon self-centeredness for love of God and neighbor as the path to true happiness and everlasting peace; and His promise to send the Holy Spirit for guidance to His Mystical Body, our Church.

Jesus was not one more person who finished last, one more dreamer whose dreams were squelched by the harsh reality of life on this earth. Jesus Christ has risen! Jesus' victory over evil and lies; over injustice and suffering is total and irreversible. In the face of over twenty centuries filled with a steady stream of saints, no reasonable person can deny it.

Let there be no mistake. Evil still wanders about. However, we remain ever vigilant and grateful for the gifts of the Spirit on our earthly journeys. We share this Good News and express our resurrection joy, even amid today's trials and tribulation. Christ's victory over sin and death causes us to always be hope-filled pilgrims of faith because we are Christ-led and Christ-fed.

Alleluia!! Blessed Easter to you and your loved ones! Alleluia!!

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

SURVIVING DIVORCE: Plattsburgh area

The Family Life Office will be offering the Surviving Divorce program again at the Newman Center in Plattsburgh on Thursday evenings from April 4th to June 20th. Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. The program helps participants find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. To register, go to <u>www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce</u>. For more info, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

