



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 MacDougall

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 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/Jn 7:1-2, 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 EVANGELIZATION

Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

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?

(Saying 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: **prayer, 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 self-control 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 self-control. 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 self-discipline? 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.