

First Sunday of Lent
Saturday, February 29
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
 +Zonkowski Family

Sunday, March 1
8:30 a.m. +Stanley Pich
10:00 a.m. +Owen & +Hannah Hollywood
5:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Monday, March 2
7:30 a.m. +Memorial Society

Tuesday, March 3
7:30 a.m. +Eleanor Bara

Wednesday, March 4
St. Casimir, C

6:15 p.m. * David Annunziato

Thursday, March 5
7:30 a.m. +Concepcion Cruz Santos

Friday, March 6
SS. Perpetua and Felicitas, MM

7:30 a.m. +E. Allen Schultz

7:00 p.m. * +Rev. Harold Hirsch

Saturday, March 7
St. Thomas Aquinas, CD.

12:00 Noon* +Msgr. Szymanski
 +Anthony S. Pastore

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
 +Fernando Clemente & Grandparents

Sunday, March 8
Second Sunday of Lent
8:30 a.m. People of the Parish
10:00 a.m. +Miriam C. Vega
5:00 p.m. +Avelina & +Allan, Taljon Hernandez
 *Extraordinary Form

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March
Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Stations of the Cross every Friday 6:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi Children's Evangelization Ministry together with the excellent bakers of our parish will be baking and selling Irish Soda Bread for St. Patrick's Day. Order form in today's bulletin.



Stewardship – Time, Talent & Treasure

February 23, 2020 –\$5,317.00

Mail Donations \$1,030.00

Parish Assessment \$2,079.00

Please remember Corpus Christi Parish in your will and estate planning.

Please keep us updated on your loved ones.

Roger Gregor, Janice Gowen, Phyllis Mason, Florence Unverzagt, Maria C Silva, Jean Obst, Luke Mayell, Bernadette Haase, Suzanne Boyce, Emerson Harper, Joan Petersen, Susan Wiecek Shecter, Carol Ostrowski, Patricia Ronan, Noel Gowran, Isabel Rendon, Helen Kovacs, Judi Zyskowski, Samuel Saloom, Jr, Debbie Canuso-Danley, Debra Doyle, Kathleen McGreevy, Michael Majewski, Christopher Haase, John Gregor, Karen Kleinschmidt, Debra Doyle, Josephine Dehlinger, Kristin Rein, Peggy Reynolds, Gloria Gregor-Hughes, Basilda Barbosa Fernandes, Joyce Hanula, Nancy Rouke, Rebecca Rannazzisi, Louis Kadubic, Renee Giliberti

FAST & ABSTINENCE- Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence (no meat). For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

First Sunday of Lent -March 1, 2020

"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." ... MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

St. Mary of Ostrabrama, 30 Jackson Street, South River – Healing Mass Monday March 2, 2020 11:00 a.m.

Stations begin with the Rosary at 10:15 am, followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are invited

St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dinner Dance- Sunday March 15, 2020 6-10:30 p. m- Adults \$20.00 Children \$5.00 Table for 6, \$100. Tickets on sale after masses and parish office.

First Friday, March 6, 2020



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

3pm to 6:45 pm followed by Benediction -
Confession 6-6:30 Low Mass 7:00 p.m.

*O Eternal Father, I come to you through the
Heart of Jesus, my Way, my Truth, my Life.*

*Through this divine Heart I adore you for
those who do not adore you, I love you for those who do
not love you, I acknowledge you for those who in willful
blindness and contempt refuse this recognition of your
goodness. By this divine Heart I desire to make
satisfaction for the neglect of all mankind. In spirit I go
through the world in search of every soul redeemed by
the Precious Blood of Jesus, in order to make
reparation for all through his Sacred Heart. I embrace
them all in order to present them to you. O Eternal
Father, through him, and by him I ask for their
conversion. Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne*

My Dying Wish: Don't Canonize Me at the Funeral

Continued from last week.....

What is Purgatory? The Catechism (no. 1030) explains it thus: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation: but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." It goes on to say that Purgatory's purpose is the "final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC1031). Every soul in Purgatory will be admitted to Heaven eventually. -- with the help of us Catholics here on Earth, which is why the Church has always stressed "the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture" and calls for "almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" (CCC 1032). Is praying for the dead still a priority in modern Catholicism? Do we Catholics as a group even believe very strongly, or at all, in Purgatory anymore? The answer to both questions seems to be "not really" given the frequent habit of "canonizing those who have died at their own funeral Masses, with the aforementioned "he is in Heaven now" declarations and the constant "better place" references. Do we think it's just too unpleasant for many of us to imagine that our relatives, friends, and loved ones are suffering in Purgatory? We shouldn't think that way; instead, we should look at the bright side Purgatory isn't a pleasant place, but it sure beats being in Hell -- which is not only far more unpleasant, but is unlike Purgatory, also eternal. And the suffering that exists in Purgatory has a purifying point to it, one from which God draws goodness and beauty. Not to mention our salvation. One priest, in a funeral homily, analogized Purgatory to

mining for precious metals. Only with a furnace can gold or diamonds be separated from the useless ore in which they're found so that they can be made perfect and pure. Without the furnace, the metals couldn't be made precious; likewise, without Purgatory, it can be reasonably argued that few of our souls could be admitted to Heaven, where Scripture tells us nothing unclean is allowed (Revelation 21:27). Think about it: if we die with no mortal sins on our souls, and even if we've made the best confession possible right before death, how many of us would be so free from the effects of or attachments to sin that our souls would meet (Revelation 21:27's requirements? It's reasonable to believe that not many of us would qualify. Even the non-Catholic 18th century literary luminary Samuel Johnson, "arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history," saw this: asked about the Catholic belief in Purgatory, Johnson said, "It is a very harmless doctrine. They (Catholics) are of opinion that the generality of mankind are neither so obstinately wicked as to deserve everlasting punishment, nor so good as to merit being admitted into the society of blessed spirits; and therefore that God is graciously pleased to allow of a middle state, where they may be purified by certain degrees of suffering." So there it is -- Purgatory, not Heaven, is what we should be thinking about first when someone we know passes away, even a close family member or friend, because there's every good chance that his soul will be in need of purification there. Just as we should not implode an old building until we know absolutely that no one is inside, we should err on the side of caution when we are not sure that someone who has died is in Heaven. Souls in Heaven don't need our prayers, but those in Purgatory do, and that's where we must presume a departed soul is again, absent a clear-cut case of martyrdom for the Faith or miracles due to the person's intercession. So when I die, please pray for me -- don't canonize me. Do I hope to go straight to Heaven after my time on Earth runs out? Of course I do, but unless they know for sure that I have, I hope people don't bet on it. That's why I offer each of the individual prayers in my rosary for one soul in Purgatory. I ask that others pay it forward after I die -- or in this case, maybe I should say pay it backward -- by assuming the very real possibility of my being in Purgatory, and thus praying for my soul's release into the eternal glory of God's Presence.

Monday, March 2, 2020 Memorial Society -- To enroll a loved one in the Memorial Society, contact the parish office for information. Enrollment is for one full year the first Monday of every month. Donation \$50.00

LUCKY CALENDAR DRAWING THIS TUESDAY,
MARCH 3RD AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE PARISH OFFICE.

