

# Parish of St. Mary

## Worship Schedule

Lord's Day Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (Lee) 5:30 PM (Otis)

Sunday: 8 & 11 AM (Lee) & 9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

Weekday Mass: (Lee) - 7:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation (please see inside)

## Parish Offices

40 Academy Street / Lee, MA 01238

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-12pm or by appt

Telephone (413)243-0275

Fax: (413)243-1926

Faith Formation Office (413)243-1079, Ext. 8

Email: [icsmchurch@gmail.com](mailto:icsmchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmarylos.com](http://www.stmarylos.com)

Prayer Line (413)243-1523 (Vicki)

## Parish Pastoral Staff

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - *Pastor*

Fr. John Duy Anh Le - *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Jim McElroy - *Permanent Deacon*

Deacon Bob Digan - *Deacon Emeritus*

Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - *Office Manager*

Mrs. Katherine Murray - *Faith Formation Coordinator*

Mrs. Holly Cusack - *Bookkeeper*

Ms. Sandy Cummings - *Music Director (Lee)*

Ms. Susan Aery - *Music Director (Otis)*

Mr. Art DeVlyder - *Music Director (Stockbridge)*

Mrs. Colleen Free - *Youth Ministry*

Mr. Charles Houff - *Pastoral Council*

Mr. Richard Brittain - *Administration & Finance*

Mrs. Brenda Bianco - *Child Advocate*

Mr. Jeffrey Simmons - *Maintenance*

## Pastoral Council

Charles Houff  
Chairperson

Brenda Bianco

Joe Cox

Verna Houff

Richard Lacey

Carol Lombardo

Lynda Newton

Sheila Viale

Kate Murray

## Finance Council

Richard Brittain  
Chairperson

David Galisa

Fred Keator

Bob Kelly

Richard Lacey

John Masten

Cathie Sparks

Thom Swift

Fernanda Haywood

## *St. Mary's School*

Est. 1885

Celebrating 136 years of Catholic education!

115 Orchard Street — Lee, MA 01238

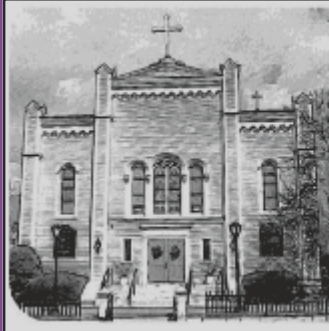
Telephone (413) 243-1079 | Fax 243-1022

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

Mrs. Jennifer Masten | *Principal*

Mrs. Linda Winters | *School Secretary*

Mrs. Gina Reiners | *School Board Chair*



St. Mary, Mother of the Church

140 Main Street

Lee



St. Mary of the Lakes

72 North Main Road

Otis



St. Joseph Church

11 Elm Street

Stockbridge

*One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.*



# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

# Parish of St Mary

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, research scientists and essential services workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died due to the pandemic, anyone who has passed away recently, for those we miss so much.

**Sr. Eleanor Dooley**  
**Deacon George Keator**  
**Shaun Hickey**  
**Edward Amo**

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven. AMEN.

If you would like to add a name of a deceased loved one, please call the rectory.

## Mass Intentions for This Week

Sat. 2/20 4:00 pm	† Henry and Joan Zukowski, by Don and Kristina Zukowski
<i>Otis</i> 5:30 pm	† Margie Schoonmaker, by Pat and Joe
Sun. 2/21 8:00 am	† Kyleen Burrell, by her uncle Tim
<i>Stockbridge</i> 9:30 am	† Ruth Young, by the Lacey's
11:00 am	† Katherine Hayes, by the family
Mon. 2/22 7:00 am	† Al Sinico, by Ed and Laurie Forfa
Tue. 2/23 7:00 am	† Marie Curtis, by Donald and Kristina Zukowski
Wed. 2/24 7:00 am	† Margaret Higgins, by Jim and Jane Leabey
	† Deceased members of the Nickerson Family, by Ron
Thur. 2/25 7:00 am	† Devin Lewis, by Bill and Becky Brunell
Fri. 2/26 7:00 am	† Susan Cosgrove, by her sister Laurie Forfa
Sat. 2/27 4:00 pm	† Thomas R. Garrity, by the Brown Family
<i>Otis</i> 5:30 pm	† Mary and Michael O'Brien, by Anne O'Brien
Sun. 2/28 8:00 am	† Primo Castellini, by his wife Mary Castellini
<i>Stockbridge</i> 9:30 am	† Carmine D'Errico, by the Lacey's
11:00 am	† Joseph Juhuyun Lee, by the Choi Family

Call the rectory (243-0275) to have Mass said for your intention.

Just a friendly reminder that Mass intentions do not carryover year to year. The 2022 Mass Book is now open. If you have a 2021 or 2022 date you would like to book a Mass for, please call the rectory. Thank you!

## The Candles this Week

Sanctuary:

Grotto Lamp:

Oration Lamps: Maggie O'Sullivan

Candles may be reserved by calling the rectory at 243-0275

## Ministers on the Altar

EMs and Readers, please review the new procedures for COVID re-opening. Thanks to all who serve! You make our worship together possible, in a special way thanks to all our Ushers and Ministers of Hospitality.

NEXT Saturday. 2/27

**3:00 pm Confessions:** Fr. Duy

**4:00 pm (Lee):** Fr. Duy

**Lector:** Don Zukowski

E.M.: Barb Scolforo, Donna Abbott    A.S.: The Murrays

**5:30 pm (Otis):** Fr. Brian

**Lector:** Mark Makuk

E.M.: Carol Lombardo

Sun. 2/28

**8:00 am (Lee):** Fr. Duy

**Lector:** Verna Houff

E.M.: Charles Houff, Ann O'Brien

**9:30 am (Stockbridge):** Fr. Brian

**Lector:** Paula Valenti

**11:00 am (Lee):** Fr. Duy

**Lector:** Marlene Morris

E.M.: Julie Choi, Suzanne Scarpa

## Weekly Parishioner Contributions

02/10/21 - 02/16/21

At Masses: Lee \$ Not Available

Otis \$ Not Available

Stockbridge \$ Not Available

Mailed/Dropped Off: \$3,378

Online Giving: \$531



## Readings for the Week of February 21, 2021

**First Sunday of Lent:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

**Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23/Mt 16:13-1

**Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34/Mt 6:7-1

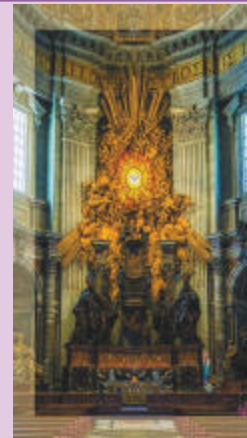
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51/Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138/Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130/Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119/Mt 5:43-48

**Second Sunday of Lent:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



THE  
**CHAIR**  
of  
**ST. PETER**  
THE  
**APOSTLE**

**From the Pastor**

Happy Lent!

One of my classmates from seminary who is a pastor in England shared a recent reflection of his. I put it in this bulletin on page 5. If you don't know who Captain Tom is, google him ... an amazing person of goodness and perseverance.

I joke all the time that the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal should be called the perennial appeal. I think we might say that about Lent. It seems like we have been in a perennial lent since CORONA hit last year. I share Fr. Nigel's sentiment about "the Church encourages us to renew our hope in the resurrection and not to be discouraged by the state of the world."

So I gave a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal (\$10 for every year I have been ordained) and I take on the season of Lent not to beat myself up but to renew the hope, the joy, the love of the Lord. May God be praised!

There is so much from which to take encouragement here at the Parish. I see our dedicated ushers and readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and I am lifted up. One of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist is also an employee at Laurel Lake Nursing Home, since it is shut down to our normal Monthly Mass and Monthly Rosary, she has been bringing Eucharist and the Sunday Bulletin to the Catholic residents there. Her stories of the efforts of the staff and the faith of the residents have been a light shining in the darkness throughout this past year.

I think of our school. Nearly a hundred days of face to face learning! And they are not turned in on themselves. Most recently they made bags of Valentines that I was able to give to another parishioner who organizes a Valentines Project ... oh the goodness of reaching out to those in need with a simple message of hope and love!

I pop into the Faith Formation Zooms and I cannot but filled with joy at the dedication of so many of our youths who get up on a Sunday Morning to learn about their faith. You give me hope and fill me with joy.

Someone recently asked how they could get the joy of the Lord. I honestly think we all have it. It's God's gift to anyone. We need to remove the things that block it from welling up within us. That may be the most important part of Lent ... remove the sin and discouragement and yuck to let God's joy well up to fill us and brim over to a weary world.

Happy Lent. May God bless you all!

Pax, Fr. b.

**LENTEN REGULATIONS**

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed. On days of fast, two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
2. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
3. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at fourteen (14) years of age.
4. The obligation to fast begins at eighteen (18) years of age and ends at fifty-nine (59) years of age.
5. Although the faithful may excuse themselves for a just cause from these laws of fast and abstinence, there is an obligation to substitute another penance and no Catholic should lightly excuse himself/herself from this obligation in the Lenten season.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee | STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge  
SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee

**We are live-streaming the Weekend Masses from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page (*St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge*).**

**We also have Sunday 11 am Mass broadcast on C.T.S.B. (CTSBtv.org | Spectrum 1301)**

*The obligation to attend Mass continues to be lifted. We encourage anyone who is sick, symptomatic or concerned about their health to refrain from coming to church.*

*You can keep updated on the diocesan (diospringfield.org) parish (stmarylos.com) and school websites (stmaryslee.org) as well on Facebook (St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge) & MyParish App.*

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<b>Sun. 2/21</b>	9:15 am	Faith Formation Class (zoom)
	2:00 pm	RCIA St. Michael's Cathedral
<b>Mon. 2/22</b>	7:00 am	Mass followed by Adoration until Noon
	6:00 pm	Parish Council
<b>Tue. 2/23</b>	7:00 am	Mass followed by Adoration until Noon
<b>Wed. 2/24</b>	7:00 am	Mass followed by Adoration until Noon
<b>Thu. 2/25</b>	7:00 am	Mass followed by Adoration until Noon
<b>Fri. 2/26</b>	7:00 am	Mass followed by Adoration until Noon
	12:00 Noon	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
<b>Sat. 2/27</b>		
<b>Sun. 2/28</b>	9:15 am	Faith Formation Class (zoom)

**Upcoming:** 3/2 Read across America Day (Dr. Seuss' birthday); 3/6 Book Club begins (*The Bell and The Cross*); 3/11 First Communion Retreat Night; 3/19 Confirmation Retreat Night; 3/19 Holy Hour for Vocations (*Feast of St. Joseph*); 3/20 Diocesan Virtual Youth Conference; 3/28 Palm Sunday, Holy Week Begins; 4/4 EASTER!

Have you checked out our parish website? On it you can find tons of information about the ministries and efforts of our parish as well as valuable links to great Catholic resources and so much more.

**[www.stmarylos.com](http://www.stmarylos.com)**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**  
We have Stations of the Cross throughout Lent on each Friday as we conclude Adoration at Noon. Everyone is welcome to join in this grace-filled devotion.

**2021 Annual Catholic Appeal** "Sowing the Seeds,"

this year's theme for the Annual Catholic Appeal, calls on each of us to spread the love of God, the gospel, and our faith. Through our contributions, together we shelter the homeless, respect life from conception to death, feed the hungry, comfort those who mourn, and educate others in our faith. May our seeds of faith fall on fertile ground—especially for those most in need.



You can make your contribution to Annual Catholic Appeal: online at [www.diospringfield.org/aca](http://www.diospringfield.org/aca). Or by calling: 413-452-0650. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

## February 21st, First Sunday of Lent

We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Rectory Office Hours** are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon. Please wear a mask.

**Registration:** Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (found at the entrances of the church or on our website) or stop by the rectory.

**Baptisms** take place at the request of the family. In preparation, parents are asked to complete one class. Contact the rectory for additional information

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Will take place in the Main Church Mon. - Fri. 7 AM - 12 Noon  
*The Oratory is closed until further notice*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation & The Anointing of the Sick** is offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:30 **outside at the grotto of St. Mary's, Lee.** These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

**Sick or Homebound:** Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. You've come to church for all those years, now let us bring church to you.

**Marriage:** Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation. The preparation can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

**Holy Orders:** If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian or Fr. Duy at the rectory or the diocesan Vocations Directors, Fr. John Reardon and Fr. David Darcy: 413-739-0456, ext. 4

email: [vocations@diospringfield.org](mailto:vocations@diospringfield.org)

### Scripture Meditation - February 21st, 2021

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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**PRO LIFE REFLECTION:** ~ From the Gospel of Ash Wednesday, Mathew 6 ~  
**"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them.."**

Pro Life works often attracts notice from those opposed, genuine pro life works often happen in the quiet moments



But we meet again this weekend for Faith Formation classes via Zoom as we conclude School Vacation Week.

What a great group of students and teachers we have! May God bless you for your flexibility, fidelity and fervor.

Please continue to pray for all parish students and for our Sacramental preparation classes who are growing in their faith every day. As always, if you have any questions, please email me at [stmarylecccd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarylecccd@gmail.com).

Joyfully in Christ, Katie Murray

**February 21; March 7, 21 & 28; - Zoom Class for K-11th, 9:15 am**

**March 11 - First Communion Parent/Student Retreat 6:00-7:30 pm**

**March 18 - Confirmation Parent/Student Retreat 6:00-7:30 pm**

**April 18 Special Zoom Class for 1st Communion & Confirmation, 9:15 am**

**April 25 Special Zoom Class for 1st Communion, 9:15 am**

**May 1 - FIRST COMMUNION | May 2 - CONFIRMATION**



## One Parish Serving through Three Churches, Two Cemeteries and Our School

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK THROUGHOUT THE MASS:** Unless you have an exemption and cannot wear a mask, please be sure to **wear a mask to Mass**. We all need to be respectful of each other and recognize that while most will be wearing masks, there are folks who have a qualified exemption not to wear one. If you have concerns regarding being seated near someone without a mask, please don't judge, just ask an usher to reseat you. We also hope people will **use the bathroom and wash up before you get to the church**. We will continue to **seat people three rows apart and try to separate "COVID bubbles" within the pews by at least 6 feet**. There is **no holy water in the fonts, no sign of peace and communion is now allowed both on the tongue or hands**. These are unusual procedures that we continue to get used to, but they are acts of charity and solidarity with each other as we navigate this time of pandemic. Thank you for your patience.



**ADORATION:** Takes place each day, Monday through Friday, following the 7 am Mass until Noon (**except for funerals or severe weather**). We are using the main church of St. Mary Mother of the Church in Lee until we get to a situation when we can safely re-open the Oratory. Join us for a few moments of quiet or stay for a whole hour. God's grace is present in a powerful way.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** We take a break from class this weekend. Next Sunday (2/21) we will celebrate the Rite of Sending at the 11 am Mass and then we go to Springfield to meet the bishop with-in the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion. Lent will be a special time of formation preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church at Easter! Please pray for them.



**WE ARE CALLED:** Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the entrances of the church beginning this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

**PARISH BOOK CLUB:** Explore the wealth of Catholic literature! Join us for the reading of G.K. Chesterton's "The Ball and the Cross" a surrealistic tale serialized in 1905 in which a theological debate between a monk and a professor becomes an allegorical battle involving airships and deadly duels. We hope to meet in person at St. Mary's School Library as well as have a Zoom option on Saturdays at 8:00 am for 1 hour starting on March 6. Please email Bob Freeman ([bobfreemanplus@gmail.com](mailto:bobfreemanplus@gmail.com)) to get on the Zoom invite list. If you need help purchasing the book, please contact Fr. Brian at the rectory.

### Captain Tom and the Ripple Effects of Goodness

We recently celebrated *Candlemas*, or the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (2nd February). When Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem - to fulfil the Law by consecrating their first-born son to God - the old man Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed that he would see the Messiah before he died, took the child Jesus in his arms, and said, "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace... because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see" (Luke 1:29-31).

I'm sure many people were touched by the fact that Captain Sir Tom Moore was called home to God on this very day. This old soldier, aged 100, who lived in Bedford England (and whose grandchildren have acquaintances in our parish here in London) touched literally millions of hearts - at home and abroad - by simply walking in his garden to raise funds for the NHS! Something about his dogged determination to keep going, despite his frailty, struck a chord with so many of us. His actions remind us: *there are many Captain Toms in our society!* How many people there are who quietly but persistently seek to do good, to help others, and to reflect God's goodness - we pray that, like Captain Tom, their efforts may have ripple effects beyond anything they can imagine!

On Ash Wednesday last year, my car suffered a flat tyre. I muttered, "It's going to be an interesting Lent!" Little did I know: not long afterwards came the first lockdown. For many of us, the past year has been like a long Lenten experience, but the Church encourages us to renew our hope in the resurrection and not to be discouraged by the state of the world. "The Lord is waiting to be gracious to you; happy are all who hope in him." (Isaiah 30:18). May this season of grace prepare our hearts to experience the joy of Easter with new confidence, for our Saviour never abandons his people.

Fr Nigel Wollen

**Question:** Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

**Answer:** Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection. The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us. Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

## From the Area and the Diocese

**STUFF THE PANTRY:** Please bring non-perishable food items, pet food and diapers to the Lee Food Pantry (45 Railroad St.) every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11 am - 1 pm. All donations will be safely added directly to the Lee Food Pantry. Sponsored by Kiwanis International Club of Lee and the Lions Club of Lee. Thanks!

**Services at the National Shrine:** It looks like the Marians have come through their bout with COVID-19. We continue to pray for those still feeling the effects but they have reopened for Confessions from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, and the 2:00 pm Mass and the Chaplet following Mass will resume on Eden Hill. The Shrine Church remains closed to the public. The Gift Shop remains closed to visitors but you can purchase items through their online store (divinemercury.org)

**VACINE:** With the approaching general public stage of the COVID 19 vaccine distribution the diocese has created a special page on [www.diospringfield.org](http://www.diospringfield.org) with FAQ and other critical information including ethical questions. here is also a link to upcoming Trinity Health webinars on the vaccine. The direct link is <http://diospringfield.org/10710-2/>

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** offers virtual Marriage Encounters from all over the country. For information or to register call Frank and Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit [www.wmectw.org](http://www.wmectw.org).

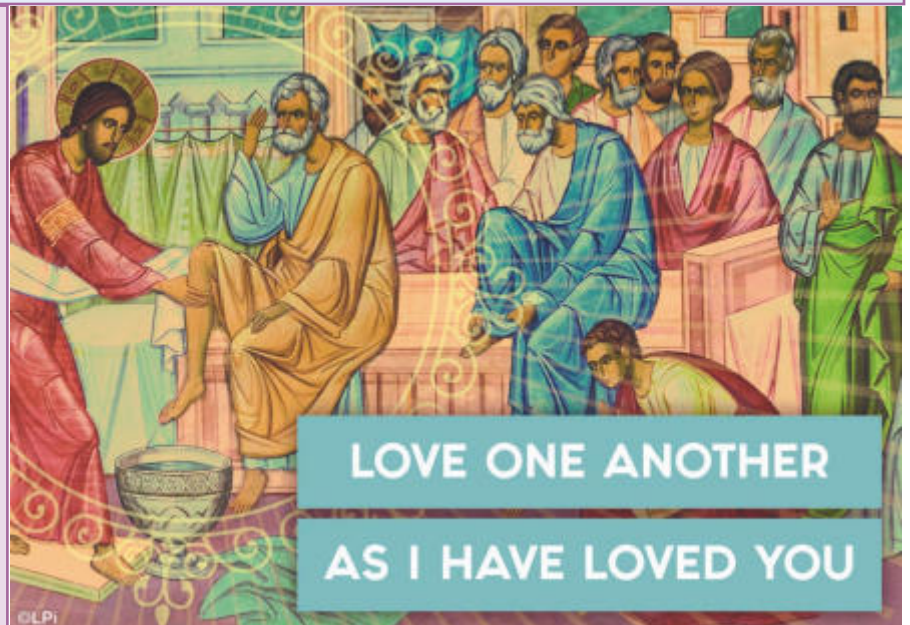
**VIRTUAL LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION—February 20th:** Father Warren Savage and Mary Keator will be the facilitators for a free virtual Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon via the DeCicé Hall Zoom Meeting Room. The theme of the day of reflection is "Reclaiming and Renewing Our Covenant Relationship with God, Creation, and Neighbor." Advance registration is required. For more information, contact Sister Chris Clark, DHM, at [decice.hall@gmail.com](mailto:decice.hall@gmail.com) or (413)687-1858.



**Cemetery Software Upgrade:** After discussions with multiple software companies, we are very happy to report that we have contracted Grave Discover to be the provider of our online cemetery software. Very old paper cemetery maps are being converted into PDFs so that engineers can work with them to create an overlay of the cemetery that will be viewable by grave on Google Earth. In addition, once the software is tailored to our specific needs, we will begin the painstaking process of data entry. We ask for your patience as moving all records online will take a great deal of time. A very special thanks to our very generous donors who have helped to make this all a reality!

**REST IN PEACE Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC** A native of Adams, Massachusetts, more than 55 years a professed religious and 50 years a priest, Fr. Seraphim was a member of the St. Stanislaus Kostka Province of the Congregation of Marians of The Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. He was Rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and Director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, both located in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. For more than 20 years he was Vice-Postulator for North America for the Canonization Cause of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of Jesus (The Divine Mercy) and "...God's gift to our time" (Pope John Paul II, canonization homily). He was a witness to the first miracle attributed to Saint M. Faustina's intercession that opened the way for her Beatification in 1993, as well as the coordinator of the efforts that served to verify that miracle and a second one which made possible the adding of the Religious Sister to the list of Saints on April 30th 2000.

**CONGRATULATIONS Msgr. Jeremiah J. McGrath.** Monsignor was a Marian Father who became a diocesan priest. During the transition he helped here at St. Mary's and throughout the diocese before moving to Texas. He eventually became Vicar General and Rector of Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, Texas. Monsignor Jerry is retiring this spring. Congratulations good and faithful servant.



## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Join us Friday, March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph for a holy hour of prayer and adoration from 7:00-8:00 pm up at St. Joseph's in Pittsfield. Come to pray. Come to discern whether God is calling you. Bring someone who you think might have a vocation. In the silence let God speak to you.

February 21st 2021



St. Mary's School  
... where every child shines!

**OVEN READY TAKE OUT MEALS  
TO SUPPORT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**

Next meal: pick up Friday 2/26/21 (2:30 - 4:30 pm)  
Order by noon on Tuesday 2/23/21 - \$10 per person

**Menu**

Clam Chowder with Crackers  
Pinwheel Wrap (Choice of Tuna or Egg Salad)  
Dessert

**St Patrick's Dinner!**

to be picked up on Wednesday 3/17/21 (2:30 - 4:30 pm)  
Order by Noon on Friday 3/12/21 - \$12.00 per person

**Menu**

Rye Bread  
Corned Beef with  
Cabbage, Carrots, and Potatoes  
Irish Soda Bread



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Payments: checks (payable to SMS), exact cash, or credit card.

Thank you for supporting this SMS fundraiser!



100th Day of School Barring any more snow days, on February 25th, we will have been in school for **100 in-person learning days!** What a great cause for a major celebration! The Thursday after vacation we will have a fun-filled day of friendly competitions from STEM, to art work to classroom door decorating and more!

**THANKS TO ALL** in the Parish Community who support the school with prayers, volunteering and financial support. You are important to the mission of the school. May God bless you!

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY:** Children in our school created and colored Valentines Cards as part of a project to help give 594 bountiful gift bags to residents of shelters for people fleeing domestic abuse and trafficking. Thank you for all the love you put into the world! Since 2012 the Valentine Community has celebrated St. Valentine's Day by making gifts for survivors of domestic abuse and trafficking living in emergency housing. This truly is a stone soup kind of project!

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