

ASSUMPTION CHURCH, MORRISTOWN, NJ

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:00 a.m. Geraldine Flynn
5:30 p.m. Claire M. Dunlap

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
8:30 a.m. Irene Lonergan
10:00 a.m. Rosina Milelli
12:15 p.m. J. Briody
5:30 p.m. Mary Jane Shears

MONDAY, MARCH 2

7:00 a.m. James, Elizabeth, and
Mary Bernadette Beston
12:05 p.m. Luther LaBarre

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7:00 a.m. Margaret Lynch Quigley
12:05 p.m. Emily Back

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

7:00 a.m. Florence Ditty
12:05 p.m. Angelito Ding

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

7:00 a.m. Rose Emmer
12:05 p.m. Rose Francavilla

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7:00 a.m. Margaret Holahan
12:05 p.m. Josephine & Louise Camelotto

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 a.m. Ronald and Elena Galdieri
5:30 p.m. Albert Kelly

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
8:30 a.m. Joseph Baron
10:00 a.m. Donald Hanan
12:15 p.m. Harry Sheehan
5:30 p.m. Adlyn Maurello

The Rosary is prayed every weekday 15 minutes before the 12:05 Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.

The Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is prayed every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.

Perpetual Adoration is observed seven days-a-week, 24 hours daily at St. Margaret of Scotland in Morristown.

First Reading – Genesis 9: 8-15

Today's Hebrew Scripture reading comes from the concluding verses of the Flood saga in the book of Genesis. Recalling the image of a warrior god with his bow and quiver of arrows, the God of Israel forever disavows the use of a destructive flood and hangs his bow in the sky in token of this promise.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 3: 18-22

In today's second reading, the author of the First Letter of Peter applies the saga of Noah and the Flood to the story of Jesus. The waters of the Flood are compared with the waters of baptism through which believers find their salvation.

Gospel – Mark 1: 12-15

In this reading from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus, after his own baptism endures a testing and then begins his ministry of announcing salvation.

First Sunday of Lent

We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the readings for next Sunday, March 8, **Second Sunday of Lent**

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 8: 31-34

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

As we begin our Lenten journey, participation in Stations of the Cross is a wonderful way to help deepen our awareness of his suffering and lead us to a better understanding of Christ's passion and death. Please join us each Friday evening during Lent at 5:30 p.m. in the church for this beautiful and moving liturgy. In addition to our regular Friday evening Stations, there will be two special Stations of the Cross for children at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6 and 27.



WELCOME HOME TO HEALING

We have scheduled a "Welcome Home" penitential program where we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Monday evening during Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This program will be in addition to our regular time for Confessions on Saturday afternoon from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Lent



PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF:

Annette Cattano, Pat and Bob Seely, Noelle Talarico, Lorraine McMahon, John Dingman, Judy Lynch, Romaine Rea, Agnes Hogan, Kathleen McCarthy Brennan, Tony Bersani, Mary Ascher, Irene Schreiber, Rita Ventre, Helen Bitondo, Gladys Mageau, Victoria Vega, Cindy Hogan, Becca Wishbow, Michael Garde, Joseph McGovern, Elsa McGlynn, Doris Lemieux, Patricia Barter-Varrichio, William Galligan, Doris Laurenti, Heidi Hertsgaard, Mary O'Connell, Janet Cloninger, Jerry Kwilos, Kathy Farrand, Robert Carduner, Sherry Rickely, Manuel and Delicia Calderon, Ariel Donnelly, Julie Ann Barlotta, Elaine Brady, Christy Lee Ascolese, Sabrina Sanchez, Miriam Frias, Jim Cavanaugh, Gabrielle Murtha, Bea Scagnelli, Jody Hartley, Doris Laurenti, Guy J. Palazzolo, Jane A. Mullins, Tony Cannilla, Andy Scrone, Landa Martin, Mary Breen, Shirley Konicke, Elizabeth Gibson, Theresa O'Connell, Maria Svaglinac, Christopher Scully, Siena Broesler, Malcolm Sutherland Foggio, Charles Lieb McCloskey, Marie Valvano, Rita Luby, Conrad Geraghty, Kathy Woodhull, Charlotte Rez, Sue Cloninger, John Maurello, Linda Rosenberg, and Tom Johnson, Sr.

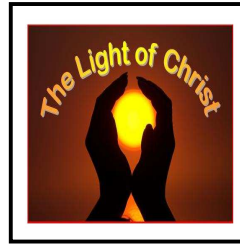
You are invited to call the Parish Office with the names of any loved ones who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

Please notify us when our prayers for recovery have been answered, so we may remove the person from the list.

PRAY FOR OUR RCIA CATECHUMEN

This weekend, at the 8:30 Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Sending for our Catechumen, Laura Grossberger. Laura will sign the Book of the Elect indicating her intention to respond to God's election.

This is the occasion for our parish community to express its approval of Laura and offer our support to her as we send her to the Diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election that takes place this Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral in Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will formally admit her and all Catechumens from the Paterson Diocese to the period of purification and enlightenment. It is not about the Catechumens choosing the Sacraments of Initiation. Rather, as in the great scriptural tradition of election, it is about God's choice of the Catechumens to embrace the mission of Jesus, the mission of the reign of God. In the name of all the People of God, the Bishop calls them by name and invites them to proceed to the Easter Sacraments of Initiation. From this moment on, those chosen to be initiated are called the Elect. With prayers of support from the entire congregation, the Elect now begin the last and most intensive weeks of their journey to Baptism.



Sometimes the Light of Christ simply brings warmth to those who need it most.

We thank you for your overwhelming support for the Community Educational Center Alumni's Coat Drive which ended last weekend. Because of your generous donation of gently-used coats, many people who are in shelters and halfway houses in Essex County will be a little warmer this winter. Thank you.



MASS INTENTION BOOK FOR 2010

The book for Mass Intentions for the year 2010 will be opening on Tuesday, March 10 after the noon Mass. If you will be requesting more than three Masses, please call the Parish Office at 973-539-2141 to make an appointment.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION 2009

All Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation

Thursday, May 21 – The Ascension of the Lord

Tuesday, December 8 – Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 25 – Nativity of the Lord

Please note: The Feasts of the Assumption and All Saints' Day in 2009 fall on or close to a Sunday, and so are not considered Holy Days of Obligation this year.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THESE, O LORD



Frances Ambrose

Wife of Cliff

Lena Palmieri

Mother of Louise Sullivan

Ann Kloos

Mother of Joan Salko



FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will be held Friday, March 6 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. You are invited to come and adore, to pray and meditate, and to find spiritual well being. The sign-up sheet for Adoration times will be by the doors of the rectory side of the church.

March 1, 2009

**THE BISHOP AND PASTOR THANK YOU
FOR THE BISHOP'S APPEAL**

The Assumption parishioners who supported this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal were very generous considering the economic uncertainty. A total of \$77,108 was pledged by 381 families – \$8,753 over our goal of \$68,355 and an increase of seven percent in family participation. I am asking God to Bless you all now and always for your special effort to help all the people that the appeal supports.

– *Father Martin*

Dear Friends in Christ;

I take this opportunity to thank all those parishioners throughout the Diocese of Paterson who contributed to the 2008 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Every gift received brings life to vital ministries in Morris, Passaic and Sussex County.

I want to especially acknowledge those who contributed to the Bishop's Annual Appeal for the first time in 2008. You stepped up during an especially difficult financial time and recognized the importance of keeping strong the pastoral work of our Diocese. In fact, despite the economy, we were blessed with an increase of over 1,000 more people participating in the Appeal in 2008 compared to the previous year. What a statement of belief!

While many charitable organizations have seen a decrease in the number of people investing in their mission, our Diocese has been blessed with the largest increase in seven years. Without such support, we could have witnessed a dramatic decrease in the funds available for our seminarians and senior priests, our schools, and our Catholic Charities agencies.

You are a treasure to the Church of Paterson and to the tens of thousand of people we serve each year. May God bless you always.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
+ *Arthur J. Serratelli*
Bishop of Paterson.



**FROM THE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS AS HE
HUNG DYING ON THE CROSS**

Jesus' first words: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

This unbelievable statement of Jesus dying on the Cross, leaves us with nothing but questions. However you look at it, that is the effect of the story of Christ's crucifixion. It raises to an acute degree, all the questions about unmerited suffering, injustice and responsibility, which are stirred up whenever we are confronted by the unwarranted smack of evil.

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was not more outrageous than all other crimes against justice, truth or innocence. It simply summed them up. And because of the character of this victim and what he made of his death, he is the representative for all time, of the conflict between hatred and love, between ultimate evil and everlasting goodness.

As so often, the conflict seems very uneven. Goodness, gentleness and faith stand unarmed and at risk, amid the opposing forces. If there is any answer in this event it does not lie on the surface; it comes out of the darkness of seeming defeat.

There is something else coming from the murky side of pain that tries to seep out of the darkness when evil overreaches itself, namely, retribution and retaliation, an intense desire to get even.

But in this instance the heavy, irrevocable tread of retribution, is transformed by a miraculous cry rising from the Cross of Jesus Christ, no less insistent: Forgive them! Forgive them!

Evil is forever banished, and the score is rendered meaningless, as graciousness heals even the most insidious of wounds. Forgive them!

The faint, unceasing voice of understanding-love, contends against the voice of judgment: God in humanity pleading with God in divinity. Forgive them!

Forgiveness doesn't make light of evil. It knows the swelling sense of outrage, the shock and shame of injury. But, instead of retribution, throwing it back or nursing the grievance, forgiveness transforms it and turns the event of utmost evil into the occasion of utmost good.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Love Fr. Dennis

First Sunday of Lent

ENTERING LENT

For the sake of a good conscience...

Each year Lent affords us an overview of the events leading up to the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus. The gospel today deals with the fact that Jesus is led into the desert and is tempted there. Mark's version is the shortest. The First Letter of Peter is most likely written by an elder (5:1 Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ...) after Peter's death. The faithful to whom the elder is speaking are suffering because of their faith. *"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous."* 3:18 On this earth and in this life we are not freed from suffering and pain, nor are we destroyed by it.

The writer goes on. He links Baptism to the patience of God, Noah and the ark. *"And Baptism, which this (the ark, flood) prefigured, now saves you...as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* 3:21

The liturgies and practices of Lent offer us unique opportunities to purify our lives and our consciences. *"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."* Our intense focus on the necessary but still secondary concerns of our lives can eat up our attention such that we live only our worries and find no time for quiet, reflection and prayer.

There are increased opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, liturgy that keeps us focused on our own growth in Christ. We do not have to go off into the desert, but we can create some sacred space at home, work or at church. God calls us back once again in the great blessing of this season.

– Sr. Patricia Marks

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

GOSPEL QUESTIONS: "Repent and believe" involves a process of refocusing. We need to let go of our fears and, like Jesus, be ready to stand for who we are in the face of temptation.

Adults: What can I do this Lent to deepen my trust in God as my only source of strength and peace? Is there anything hindering my spiritual growth?

Children: What can I do at home or school this Lent to be more like Jesus?

A Family Perspective: The angels helped Jesus in the desert. Invite each family member to think about this question: Who has God given to you to help you when you have difficult decisions to make?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's word this week.

In the home: Read the Gospel passage of the temptations. Invite your family to share when and how they have felt tempted to do something they knew was wrong.

In the workplace or in school: Be aware that others may try to tempt you to do what you do not want to do. Do not let peer pressure determine your behavior.

In our community: Be an advocate for something that needs to change in our community. Know that God is with you.

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: By being thankful for what we have, no matter how much or how little, we affirm to ourselves and others that God is providing for us. Instead of turning on the TV to be bombarded by more things to be afraid of, list all the things you are grateful for. Do you have enough to eat right now? Do you have a roof over your head right now? Do you have clothes on your back right now? Then give thanks. As Jesus says: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day" (Mt 6:34).

YOUNG ADULT PENANCE SERVICE

Morris Catholic Young Adults (MCYA) would like to invite you to a Young Adult Penance Service. This is an event for young adults, married or single in their 20s and 30s.

The service will be held at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel in Cedar Knolls, beginning at 5:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity for reflection, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and confession followed by a social gathering.

For more information, please contact Katie@morriscatholicya.org or visit www.morriscatholicya.org.

March 1, 2009



**IN CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF
SAINT PAUL**

MORE NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL

**SECOND LETTER TO THE
CORINTHIANS**

It is believed that Saint Paul spent the longest time with this community, about 18 months. The letters he wrote during this time were revealing about himself and his deepest values. Their tone was firm yet compassionate, intimate, challenging, authoritative, and admonishing; but they always contained a warm and caring approach to each community, especially Corinth, the one he knew and loved so well.

Saint Paul's human character is very evident in his Second Letter to this community. He defends himself against charges of egoism, stresses the value of suffering and is insistent about the importance of alms giving by the community. In defense of his ministry, Saint Paul presents himself as the ambassador of the new covenant which comes through the gift of the Holy Spirit who touches our hearts. The new covenant reveals the Glory of God, and Paul calls the community to be reconciled with God through the Resurrection of Christ. Paul stresses the value of suffering as a transformative way of moving us from evil to an attestation of faith by means of God's healing mercy. In this letter, Saint Paul provides a significant discourse on the principles governing alms giving to those in need "for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)



**ASSUMPTION VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL
Presents**

**SonRock Kids Camp
August 10-14, 2009**

9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Open to children entering into Pre-K through 3rd Grade in September 2009 Registration begins on April 26 and 27. Adult and teen volunteers needed! To volunteer please contact Gale Grennan at VBS@assumptionparish.org or 973-984-7774

VBS ROCKS!!

ATTENTION ASSUMPTION VOLUNTEERS

Mark you calendars for Saturday, March 28!! Fr. Martin and Father Dennis will be honoring our volunteers by inviting them to an organ concert presented by John Peragallo. Following the concert a reception will be held in the Community Room where all can meet and greet!!! Look for more information in the near future!!

WEDDING MUSIC WORKSHOP

All couples who are being married here at Assumption, are invited to attend a Wedding Music Workshop on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. Please set aside this date. If you have not yet planned or completed your wedding music selections with our Music Director, Claudia Nardi, then this is your opportunity to hear a variety of vocal and instrumental selections for Wedding Ceremonies and Nuptial Masses. This will be an entertaining as well as informative workshop for the bride-to-be, her family and friends (grooms too). Please RSVP to Claudia at 973-539-2141, extension 19.



 **Operation
Rice Bowl**

OPERATION RICE BOWL

In Jesus' temptation in Mark's Gospel we read about Jesus being tempted by the devil for forty days. Lent provides us with time to reflect on the temptations we face and remember we rely on God for all things. Through our participation in Operation Rice Bowl, we put our faith into action; our prayers and alms help people in need around the world. As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey, let us remember in prayer that the ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions. May our fasting keep us mindful of the workers who provide food for their families. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief Services.

*Please Consider Remembering
Assumption In Your Will*

First Sunday of Lent

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

We began our Lenten observance with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 25th this year. It has always been an important custom of our tradition to fast



Here is the schedule of Fast and Abstinence days during Lent. Every Friday is a day of **Abstinence**, which means **we do not eat any meat**. This is done to acknowledge that Christ died for us on a Friday. Every Baptized Catholic over the age of 14 years is to **Abstain** from meat on all Fridays of Lent. The two days of **Fast and Abstinence** in Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Mark your calendars, this year those dates are February 25th and April 10th. On these days of **Fast**, we not only **Abstain** from meat, but we also **Fast**, that is: **we eat only one full meal**. You may have two other light snacks or meals, but they are not to equal another full meal. All adult Baptized Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 must **Fast** and **Abstain** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL PRESENTS UPDATE ON VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF CLERGY SEX ABUSE

Has Anything Changed Since the Pope's Visit?

A Report from the Field

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Monday, March 2

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Harter Road, Morristown

All are invited to attend this informative program. For information, please contact info@votfnj.org or www.votfnj.org.

Financial Blessings

The collection for February 22 totaled \$13,607. Last year's collection totaled \$18,796. The collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe totaled \$2,547. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Mass Attendance for February 21 & 22

5:30 p.m.	331
7:00 a.m.	96
8:30 a.m.	213
10:00 a.m.	465
12:15 p.m.	326
5:30 p.m.	450
TOTAL	1,881

MAKING ENDS MEET IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES

In these tough economic times, many people need to seek out help just to get by. The cost of eggs, bread and milk seem to rise every day and gasoline is through the roof.

The Food Stamp Program is there to help you and your family buy the nutritious foods you need. It's a program that is often misunderstood. Do you know the facts?

If you're struggling to feed yourself or your family, if you're wondering how your paycheck will last this month, or if you're cutting back on nutrition to save money, please look into the Food Stamp Program and find out if you're eligible.

Interested persons can find out if they are eligible not only for food stamps but for 27 other government assistance programs, e.g. health care, housing, utility bill assistance and more.

Visit NJ Helps at <http://www.njhelps.org> or call 1-800-687-9512.

MYTHS AND FACTS OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Myth: Food Stamps are welfare.

Fact: The Food Stamp Program is not welfare, it is a nutrition assistance program that helps low-income people buy food.

Myth: Only unemployed people can get food stamps.

Fact: Most people who work at low-wage jobs can get food stamp benefits and there are many working people who use food stamps.

Myth: You can't get food stamps if you have a savings account.

Fact: You can still receive food stamp benefits even if you have small savings accounts.

Myth: Other people will know I use food stamps.

Fact: There are no longer any "stamps" with food stamps. Eligible people receive an electronic card that looks like a bankcard. Other people will not know you use food stamp benefits.

Myth: Food stamps are only for families.

Fact: Food stamp benefits are for anyone who applies and qualifies.

March 1, 2009



Poems from the Pew, From a Child's View



*Pairs of all living creatures that breathe came to Noah and entered the ark,
The animals going in were male and female of every living thing.
Genesis 7: 15-16*

A Parade

There were cheetahs and chinchillas,
gorillas and gazelles,
hippopotami and horses,
marmosets and marmaselles.

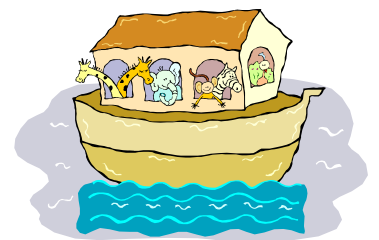
There were pelicans and pandas,
jellyfish and two-toed sloths,
alligators. . . penguins. . . pythons,
red crown cranes and gypsy moths.

There were wallabies and zebras,
geckos. . . tigers. . . mottled owls,
frogs and toads, along with spiders,
and all kinds of water fowl.

Every creature you'd imagine,
(and some you never could)
two by two made their migration,
to board a ship of wood.

A parade of God's true wonder,
a sight surely to behold,
all sought shelter for salvation,
from the storm that God foretold.

And then one simple family,
who, upon their Master's call,
came with faith both pure and true
and trusted God with all.



- Liz Wilkey
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