

SAINT CASSIAN PARISH

187 Bellevue Avenue Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 • (973) 744-2850 • stcassianchurch.org



First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:30PM

Sunday: 7:30AM; 9:30AM; 11:30AM

Weekdays: Tuesday through Saturday: 8:15AM

Holydays: 8:15AM and as announced

Office Information:

Served by:

Rev. Steven D'Andrea, Parish Administrator
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kulig, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Roberto Demetillo
Stephen Powers, Director of Music
Keri Misurell, Director of Faith Formation
Maria Llanes, St. Cassian School Principal

Parish Phone Numbers

Parish Office(973) 744-2850
Fax..... (973) 744-6187
Email.....parishoffice@stcassianchurch.org
Websitewww.stcassianchurch.org
Religious Education Office.....(973) 744-2850
Music Office(973) 744-7864
St. Cassian School.....(973) 746-1636
Fax.....(973) 746-3271
Email.....info@stcassianschool.org
Website.....www.stcassianschool.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00am—3:30 pm

Office Closed Monday and Tuesday

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly RCIA) Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation? Call the parish office for details.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated one Sunday each month except during Advent, Lent and the summer months. In order to baptize your child at St. Cassian, the family must be registered parishioners. Parents, and godparents if available, must attend a preparation class (7:00 PM) prior to the date of baptism (1:00PM). Once registered, contact the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to make arrangements for the date of baptism. See schedule within Scan here to download Parish Registration Form



Arrangements to celebrate the **Sacrament of Marriage** must be made at least one year before the desired date. Do not make firm plans for the reception prior to speaking with a priest. Call the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to speak with a priest.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and courage. It is not necessary to wait until the point of death for anointing. Contact a priest through the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday between 4:15PM-5:00PM in the church or at another time convenient to the priest and penitent.



Mass Intentions for the Week of February 18

For those who are ill:

Noel Jordan	Cassie Lopolus
John Anderson	Marcia Mann
Alesia Maria Andras	Leigh Major
Michael Andrews	Sr. Idoia Martinez
Ray Aumack	John McCarthy
Mary Blatz	Patricia Melo
Leo Botwin	Mary McGuire
Frank Briamont	Frank Mongioi
Gustavo Caceres & family	Guisepe Mongioi
JoAnne Callahan	Maria Mongioi
Grace Zafonte Callum	Thomas Nelson
Dominek Capela	Dr. David Pallotta
Frank Caprio	Mildred Pasino
Marilyn Castellano	Rosemary Raleigh
Rose Ciafullo	Ronald Rego
Joe Cultrara	Dr. Lorraine Reyes
Agnes D'Aria	Jaxson Rivera
James Gannon	Rhonda Sen
Mae Garcia	Elizabeth Smith
Virgilio Geulen	Olaf Stechow
Dan Greiner	Dennis Swanson
Steve Grube	Lindsay Trembulak
Jennifer Gullace	Amelia Zoino
Joyce Hakimian	
David Hogan	

THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MEMORY OF
BERNIE VIERHEILIG

THE ALTAR BREAD IS OFFERED IN MEMORY OF BERNIE VIERHEILIG

For those who have died: Charles Karcanes, Jerry Ranges

Please remember these names in your daily prayers.

ROSARY INTENTIONS...

<i>Monday</i>	For safety and freedom for the people of Ukraine
<i>Tuesday</i>	All military and protective services especially in areas of violence; protect them, grant peace to their loved ones
<i>Wednesday</i>	Respect for sanctity of life from conception to natural death
<i>Thursday</i>	Unity among churches and nations
<i>Friday</i>	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life; all parishioners living and deceased

Baptism Schedule

April 2024	Baptism	April 14th
	Class	April 9th

Sunday February 18th First Sunday in Lent	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30 AM	Bernadette Petit Dorothy Bacha Margaret Testa People of the Parish
Tuesday - Saturday morning Masses are celebrated at 8:15AM; Monday morning Mass is private		
Monday Feb. 19th Lenten Weekday Presidents' Day		Mary Pouegmirou
Tuesday Feb. 20th Lenten Weekday		Laura Soto
Wednesday Feb. 21st St. Peter Damian		Philip Gerald Orleskie
Thursday Feb. 22nd Chair of St. Peter the Apostle		Floyd & Betty Schneider
Friday Feb. 23rd St. Polycarp		Bernie Vierheilig
Saturday Feb. 24th Lenten Weekday		Kathleen T. Walsh
Sunday Feb. 25th Second Sunday of Lent	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	John & Dolores Kelly People of the Parish Gloria E. Schmey Ernest & Rose Caruso Badaracco

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MON.	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mt 25:31-46
TUES.	Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 Mt 6:7-15
WED.	Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32
THUR.	1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 Mt 16:13-19
FRI.	Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 Mt 5:20-26
SAT.	Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48
SUN.	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

May 2024	Baptism	May 12 th
	Class	May 7 th
June 2024	Baptism	June 9 th
	Class	June 4 th

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

Dear Parishioners ,

Wherever the Superbowl is played, it is a great opportunity for business. People travel, they spend money on hotels and restaurants and bars. There is a lot of money to be made. But not everyone makes out well when the Super Bowl comes to their town.

The homeless are usually the victims. When the Superbowl was played in California 2 years ago, there was a big problem. What do you do with the 40,000 homeless people who live around the stadium? They said, "What will people think, all these homeless people living in filth – in boxes and tents and all these people coming to see the game." They gave the homeless 72 hours' notice. Get out and they weren't kidding. Everything they had was bulldozed – the sidewalks were all hosed down. All nice and clean for the folks to come to town.

Imagine, you are so unimportant that they can just erase you. Everything you have is gone— Your castle - even if it's a cardboard box is still your castle. 1,500 people died in this homeless camp – and they live in filth. What little you had is taken from you - Here is your gift card for the weekend. Just go away. They gave gift cards out to encourage the people to leave. They told them next week – don't worry - you can come back and rebuild your cardboard house again.

Every year, they have annual Puppy Bowl. Who doesn't like puppies. But unfortunately, there will be more emphasis on finding homes for puppies & senior dogs than there will be on finding homes for homeless people. The town Council encouraged people to take a homeless person into their homes for the weekend. How sad – you are almost less than human – with no value to society – that you can't even be seen.

As Christians our duty is to be seen. We don't make our own light; we are reflection the light of Christ. We are not called to be secret Disciples of Christ; we are meant for others to see us. We need to discover the lost radiance of our Christian faith. In a troubled world, if we as Christians are going to be the salt of the earth, then we need to live lives that reflect our gratitude for what God has given us and for the blessings we have.

Jesus said: "The poor you will always have." A true but unfortunate prediction that has come true for many. But what Jesus also knew was that in every generation, there would be people who would be grateful for what they had and would be willing to share with others. They would show and prove that as Catholics we are the most generous people, especially to the poor.

We all want to help others and the Annual Appeal allows us to do just that-help those who are most in need.

We may not be given the opportunity to help other people, but each day, the Archdiocese of Newark provides many services to hundreds of people in many locations who are in need. A gift to the Annual Appeal allows us as a Parish family to make a collective contribution to the poor and needy. The poor cannot repay you for your generosity, but God will. We have to eat - every day. Food pantries feed hundreds of people every day.

Without this help they would go hungry. We all want a nice place to sleep. At least a shelter gets people off the street. Each day hundreds of people rely on shelters to have a place to stay and get out of the cold. Think about how cold it can get at times. Without these shelters, many people would freeze to death from sleeping outside.

(continued next page)

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

(Cont'd)

For time to time, we will have a beautiful day for the beginning of February. If you are homeless, a warm day in the winter months is a gift – a break from the harshness of life. Imagine being on the street and having to worry about what bathroom you're going to use. At least a shelter can give a man or a woman or a family some dignity and a safe place to stay until they get back on their feet.

Everything we have here in our beautiful parish comes from the generosity of people who didn't make excuses. Many of you would not hesitate to help someone who had nothing to eat. The Archdiocese of Newark helps hundreds of people who have no one to turn to. The Annual Appeal also allows the Archdiocese to implement learning programs for disabled and autistic children, support seminaries and retired priests and religious and helps parishes and schools.

My friends, we are all beggars. We all want something. But none of us had to beg for food or a place to sleep. Children should never beg for food or clothes or blankets. The Rabbi's used to have a saying: I have good news... we have the money for the new roof.... The bad news is – it's still in your wallet. So, the trick is how do I get it out of your wallet and into an envelope. I don't need any tricks.

In the past, the parishioners of Saint Cassian have very generously responded to this very noble way to show your support for those most in need. So, if you can, I am asking you to help us make this year's Annual Appeal a success. If you have contributed, you may have received a letter in the mail. If you have never contributed and you would like to this year, you can take one of the envelopes in the pews or in the back of church. May God reward you for sharing your blessings with the poor and needy. You can easily judge the character of a man or a woman by how they treat those who can do nothing for them in return.

Fr. Steve



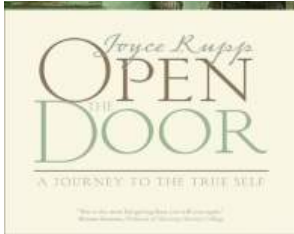
Presidents' Day Feb.19 Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2024 will occur on February 19. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.



Please Join Us for a Lenten Book Club

We will read and discuss ***Beautiful Eucharist* by Matthew Kelly**, a collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. *Beautiful Eucharist* is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world. We will meet in **Larkin Hall on Wednesdays @ 7 pm on February 21st and 28th, March 6th, 13th, and 20th**. To register and to pick up a copy of the book, please call or stop by the Parish Office.

Please Join Us for a Lenten Meditation Series



Evening sessions are part of a six-week series -- registration is required and there is a suggested offering of \$20 to cover the cost of the book that will be given to each participant. To register, please call the parish office or visit the parish website "Events" section.
Tuesdays – Six week series, one hour sessions -- @ 7 pm - 8 pm: 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19
Tuesdays– Drop in, thirty-minute sessions -- @ 3:30 - 4 pm: 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 *****
Thursdays – Drop in, thirty-minute sessions @ 9:15 - 9:45 am: 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21
All sessions will be held in Church. Dress comfortably. ***** Revised Dates

The Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross depict 14 events in the Passion of Jesus Christ, beginning with Jesus being condemned to death and ending with His body being laid in a tomb. The pious practice of praying the Stations of the Cross originated in medieval Europe when pilgrims were unable to visit the Holy Land, so instead “visited” these Holy places through prayer.

St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order, authored Stations of the Cross that popularized the devotion throughout the world. In the 16th century, this pathway was officially entitled the “Via Dolorosa” (Sorrowful Way) or simply Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross. This devotion has evolved over time. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother visited daily the scenes of our Lord’s passion. Today, you’ll find Stations of the Cross in almost every Catholic Church, particularly prayed on Lenten Fridays, but available throughout the year for meditation and reflection.

A very common prayer that is prayed with the Stations of the Cross came from St. Francis himself:
“We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You; because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”

Why are the sites called Stations of the Cross?

The word station comes from the Latin word that means to stand. We are walking from Christ’s trial to His crucifixion at Calvary and we stop and stand at certain sites (stations) that commemorate various events that took place along the way. As you come to each station, you stop, pray, read the scriptures, pray the prayers, and contemplate the situation before moving on. As you walk from one station to the next, your walking becomes a devotional act, because you are walking with Jesus as He walks to Calvary.

Are All of the Stations of the Cross based On Scripture?

Many of the Stations of the Cross are directly based from Scripture, but some of them aren’t. In fact, there are 10 that have correlating Scripture, and 4 that don’t. I was surprised to learn that out of the 4 that aren’t found in the Bible, 3 of them are the falls! The remaining Station of the Cross that is not taken directly from Scripture is when St. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. The 4 Stations of the Cross that are not mentioned in the Bible are known to Catholics through tradition.



St. Cassian Stations of the Cross

We have 2 sets of Stations of the Cross in our parish. One set is outside and the other is inside. Robert Buza, a St. Cassian School graduate, made the outside set as part of his Eagle Scout project. He

worked with Fr. Mark on the design. You can see the set in the Msgr. Doran patio area.



A common feature inside Roman Catholic churches is the hanging of the Stations on the walls of a church near the pews. Can you find our inside set of Stations?

Interestingly enough, when the Stations of the Cross are erected in churches or on Church grounds, they are only required to consist of 14 wooden crosses; pictures or sculptures are not necessary to accompany the wooden crosses, though they are usually included in order to foster prayer and devotion.

Our Parish Schedule for the Stations of the Cross

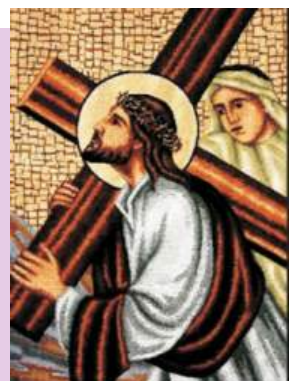
Every Friday after the 8:15 AM Mass

Feb. 23rd– 7 pm “Through the Eyes of Mary” read by parishioners

Mar. 1st—7pm read by the Knights of Columbus *****

Mar. 19th—1 pm and 7pm “The Living Stations of the Cross” by the St. Cassian School children

*** Revision





5 Things You Should Know About the Sign of the Cross



The Sign of the Cross is an ancient prayer rich in meaning. Each time we make the Sign of the Cross, we renew our profession of faith; express our belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and acknowledge the divine work of creation, salvation, and sanctification. We invoke the Holy Trinity. So, while we might consider it a small gesture, it is actually a big deal.

1. The sign of the Cross is a sacramental.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church recommends the practice of sanctifying our daily life with sacramentals, chief of which is the Sign of the Cross. Many Catholics don't know that the Sign of the Cross *is* a sacramental! When we make the Sign of the Cross before we begin an activity, we elevate whatever it is we are doing. It becomes an opportunity for drawing nearer to God.

2. The Sign of the Cross should be made intentionally, never casually.

In the Good Catholic series *Spiritual Warfare*, Chaplain Colonel Fr. Matt Pawlikowski (RET) spoke about the power and importance of making the Sign of the Cross in our daily prayer life and how it is both a prayer and a witness. Father Matt is a friend of Father Marc and has prayed with us on several occasions. Several years ago he spoke about Father Kapaun, a Servant of God, a chaplain from the Korean War during our parish Lenten series.



“ The ritual of making the sign of the cross—if we aren't careful—can become quick and sloppy. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, in private or in public, we need to be attentive to what it is we are doing... Whether we are at Mass or in a restaurant it should be large and deliberate. Large because it is a witness to our faith and deliberate because it keeps our mind engaged on what we are doing. ” Fr. Matthew Pawlikowski, *Spiritual Warfare*

3. The Sign of the Cross is rooted in ancient tradition.

It is clear from circumstances and from early Church fathers that the holy gesture of making the Sign of the Cross had its roots as a prayer in apostolic times. Initially the Sign of the Cross was made with the thumb, usually on the forehead but sometimes on the lips and chest. This small Sign of the Cross was commonly used by the end of the 4th century and is still used today at every Mass and in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Anointing of the Sick. It is also used for marking the forehead with ashes on Ash Wednesday. By the 6th century, people were using the first two fingers, held together to make a large sign of the Cross touching the forehead, chest, and shoulders.

4. The Sign of the Cross is a blessing. A priest will make the Sign of the Cross when blessing someone, or a group of people, such as a the congregation during Mass or other liturgical celebrations.

5. The Sign of the Cross is a weapon against the devil. Knowing this, it is appropriate to make the Sign of the Cross whenever we are feeling spiritually attacked. The devil hates this sign, so we wield a spiritual power when we use it. Many of us can recall old movies in which people would cross themselves when in the presence of death, upon receiving bad news, or when afraid.

Source: <https://www.goodcatholic.com/five-things-you-should-know-about-the-sign-of-the-cross/>

The words in the Sign of the Cross prayer are:

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”.

The motions you make during the Sign of the Cross prayer are:

While you say this prayer, you make a cross on your body starting with your RIGHT hand on your forehead for the word “Father”, in the middle of your chest for the word “Son” on your left shoulder for the word “Holy”, and on your right shoulder for the word “spirit”. You end with saying “Amen.”, and placing your hands together in the middle, like traditional praying hands.

So the motion is forehead, chest, left shoulder, and right shoulder.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Hospitality

Volunteers are still needed
 No need to commit to every Sunday.
 Contact Mary Cavagnaro at (973) 744-2850 or mary@stcassianchurch.org for more info and available dates.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

A campaign of prayer and fasting



Feb. 14 through Mar. 24, 2024

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

396 Bloomfield Ave. • Montclair, NJ 07042

in the public thoroughfare across the street from a high-volume abortion facility (Pilgrim Medical Center)

Sign-up on-line: 40DaysforLife.com/Montclair
 or contact Lisa Hart at: LisaHartPT@yahoo.com
 or by cell: 973-769-4422

or complete the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to:  P.O. Box 1800 Montclair, NJ 07042
lifeneteducation.org

PLEASE HELP HOWEVER YOU CAN!

We will be collecting canned good and sugar and any of the usual items we collect on the weekend of Feb. 24/25 and Mar. 2/3.



Thank you for your continued generosity.



EMs Lectors and Altar Servers
 Kindly respond promptly to weekly assignment email reminders. Thank You.



Reconciliation

Tuesday

Mar. 12 6 –8 pm

Mar. 19 6-8 pm

Every Saturday 4:15—5 PM

Gift of Treasure 1/27-1/28

SIGNS OF STEWARDSHIP

<i>Minimum weekly needed</i>	\$16,250
<i>Regular Weekly Collection</i>	\$4,695
<i>Faith Direct Average</i>	\$6,765
<i>Weekly Total</i>	\$11,460

Home Visits

If you are unable to come to church or if you know a relative or friend who finds it difficult to come to church, let us know. We have many dedicated and caring Eucharistic Ministers who would be happy to bring Communion to you or to your loved ones who are homebound. Fr. Steve would be more than happy to make a visit to someone's home if they wish to go to confession, receive communion or receive the anointing of the sick. Call the Parish Office if you would like someone to visit you at home.

If you are enrolled in Faith Direct, but are still receiving the weekly collection envelopes, kindly call the office and we'll arrange for them to be stopped. Please keep the office informed of any address changes. Thank You



The color of the priest's vestments are now PURPLE.



The Montclair Knights of Columbus Council is offering its organization's Spiritual Planner, **Vivat Jesus**, free of charge to parishioners. **Vivat Jesus** is a pocket sized planner and prayer book that includes monthly calendars for 2024, space to write out your prayer plan each month, and suggested devotions and practices based on the liturgical calendar. To order please email your request to christopher747@gmail.com with your name, mailing address and telephone number.



World Marriage Celebration



After the blessing of rings and couples at the 5:30 pm mass on February 10th, twenty-two couples celebrated their marriage at a special dinner catered by the Brownstone and held in Larkin Hall, which was transformed into a romantic restaurant atmosphere.



Parishioners Cecilia and Michael Streit served as the emcees and warmly welcomed the guests. Father Steve provided a special blessing. Eighth grade and adult volunteers served our couples and ensured they had all that they needed to enjoy themselves. It was inspiring to see this dedicated team of young



people work hard to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Throughout the event, couples enjoyed a variety of wedding songs and other music provided by fan-favorite DJ Omar Oscar Fernandez and his lovely wife, Jenny. A slide show of guests' wedding photos added another element of fun and friendship to the evening – allowing guests to walk down memory lane and to “guess the couple” in the photo.



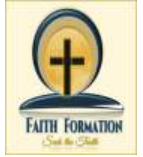
After dinner, couples enjoyed a variety of marriage-related games that tested participants' knowledge of their partners “as well as their sense of humor. Game show host Michael Streit and his “Vanna White” aka Cecilia, rivaled the best Hollywood has to offer.

This event is a testament to our parish's deep bonds of friendship and its commitment to marriage, family, and community. May God continue to bless all of the married couples of our parish for many years to come!



The Saints

Did You Know?



St. Peter Damian—Feb. 21

Maybe because he was orphaned and had been treated shabbily by one of his brothers, Peter Damian was very good to the poor. Peter escaped poverty and the neglect of his own brother when his other brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, took him under his wing. His brother sent him to good schools and Peter became a professor.

Already in those days, Peter was very strict with himself. Soon, he decided to leave his teaching and give himself completely to prayer with the Benedictines of the reform of Saint Romuald at Fonte Avellana. The abbot commanded that when he died Peter should succeed him. Pope Stephen IX made Peter the cardinal-bishop of Ostia. He asked often to be allowed to retire as cardinal-bishop of Ostia, and finally

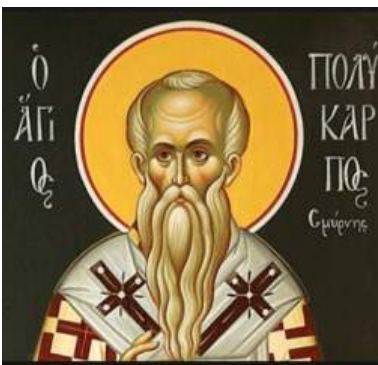
Pope Alexander II consented. Peter was happy to become once again just a monk, but he was still called to serve as a papal legate. When returning from such an assignment in Ravenna, he was overcome by a fever. With the monks gathered around him saying the Divine Office, he died on February 22, 1072. In 1828, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.



The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle—Feb.22

The feast of the Chair of St. Peter has nothing to do with a piece of furniture.

The “chair” symbolizes the authority of St Peter and his successors who have served the Church of Jesus Christ as the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). As a matter of fact, in Rome’s St. Peter’s Basilica, there is a chair, enshrined in the sumptuous Altar of the Chair of St. Peter by the great architect Bernini, but it is a symbol representing the 2,000-year-old papacy and unity the Pope continues to bring to Catholics around the world. Without such unity the Church would splinter into numerous sects and divisions.



St. Polycarp—Feb. 23

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp’s leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint’s body burned. The “Acts” of Polycarp’s martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr’s death. He died in 155.


“You may be sure that of all the moments of your life, the time you spend before the Divine Sacrament will be that which will give you more strength during life and more consolation at the hour of your death and during eternity”

St. Alphonsus Liguori


NEWS Around the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese of Newark's
AFRICAN AMERICAN, AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN APOSTOLATE
Invites You to the Annual Archdiocesan


BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS





Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 • 2:30 PM
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street, Newark, NJ

 *Celebrant: Rev. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ*
Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

2024 Black History Month Theme: *African Americans and the Arts*
Spanning the many impacts Black Americans have had on
visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more.



Information: 973.497.4304 or rahsaan.garlin@rcan.org

GET READY TO LEARN IT. LIVE IT.
LOVE IT. *EVEN MORE!*



40

LENTEN LESSONS ON THE MASS

PREMIUM EDITION
WITH REV. FRANCIS J. HOFFMAN
"FATHER ROCKY"

relevant
radio

FREE Video Series
[RelevantRadio.com/LENT](https://www.RelevantRadio.com/LENT)



CRS PROJECT RICE BOWL

For 80 years, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been providing expertise and compassion to the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. And it's because of you. You help fill the bellies of young children. You help prevent trafficking and provide welcome kits for survivors. You help mothers and babies around the world receive nutritional care and health exams.

Lent Pray40 Community Prayer



Our parish has partnered with Hallow to encourage all parishioners to surrender and trust in the Lord in a new, deeper way throughout Lent. Hallow is a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps us strengthen our relationship with God through a habit of daily prayer. This Lent, as a part of the Hallow Pray40 Challenge, we'll walk through the life-changing, spiritual classic *He Leadeth Me*, written by Fr. Walter J. Cizek, S.J. Fr. Walter, a Jesuit priest and missionary, was imprisoned for over twenty years in the Soviet Union, first in solitary confinement and then in a Siberian worker camp. Amidst some of the most brutal conditions imaginable, Fr. Walter underwent a profound spiritual journey. Inspired by Fr. Walter's writing, we'll spend time each day prayerfully seeking a refreshed humility and hope in Christ, who laid down His life for us, as we journey through Lent. Register today by scanning the QR code here or visiting [Hallow.com/pray40](https://www.Hallow.com/pray40) to get started.



Franz Werfel—author of *Song of Bernadette*



The man who wrote among the most moving books and movies on the life of a saint was a victim of Germany. Franz Werfel had been brought up Jewish in Prague. Werfel took a great interest in religious themes. Before World War II, he had been prominent enough to incur the wrath of the Nazis.

As with so many others in Central Europe, the solution was to escape Nazi control. Werfel and his wife, Alma, the Catholic widow of super-composer Gustav Mahler, sought refuge in the South of France. Unfortunately for these émigrés, the Third Reich's influence soon extended to their new home. Being married to a Catholic would not save Werfel. It was time to flee again.

As the couple headed towards neutral Portugal, they had to hide in the town of Lourdes. There, Werfel experienced such kindness in the midst of Nazi oppression, he vowed to write about the saint he had learned so much about while staying there. The people of Lourdes and the High Pyrenees were helping countless refugees at the time. The Daughters of Charity were especially well placed to live up to their name. The nuns' specialty was protecting Eastern European Jewish children by fooling the occupying forces into believing they were deaf mutes unable to speak French.

Franz and Alma eventually reached the USA. In 1942, Werfel's *The Song of Bernadette* was published in English. It became the best-selling book in America. It was extremely popular, spending more than a year on the New York Times Best Seller list and 13 weeks in first place. The novel is laid out in five sections of ten chapters each, in a deliberate nod to the Catholic Rosary.

Unusual for a novel, the entire first part, which describes the events on the day that Bernadette first saw the Virgin Mary, is told in the present tense, as if it were happening at the moment. The rest of the novel is in the past tense.

That year Life magazine celebrated Werfel's story by turning his words into a photo-essay before the movie had been filmed. The author wrote in the article:

"I found a haven in Lourdes. I vowed that if I escaped from my predicament, I would sing as best I could the song of Bernadette. I shall be eternally encouraged that the people of America have shown that in their time of trial they too are appreciating *The Song of Bernadette*."

As Lourdes and St. Bernadette had saved his life, he created an enduring and exquisite offering. The movie was as big a triumph as the book. The novel was adapted into the 1943 film *The Song of Bernadette*, starring Jennifer Jones.



A Jewish author and a Catholic story came together, and even the Protestant majority enjoyed its wholesomeness. In a divided America, which had only entered the war little more than a year before, the film proved to be a miracle of togetherness.

Bernadette was, it seems, the first Catholic saint to be photographed. It makes sense that the director of *The Song of Bernadette* insisted on shooting the movie in black and white, bringing in more Oscars. Monochrome better reflects the era of the saint as well as making a point about light and dark, belief and doubt. In the words of the chief doubter at the end of Werfel's story, played by Vincent Price: "Pray for me, Bernadette." St. Bernadette is still healing wounds in 2024, and not only in Lourdes. Source: www.aleteia.org



Oscar Winner 1944 Best Actress, Best Cinematography,

Best Art Direction –Interior Design / Black & White, Best Music—Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy picture

March Enrichment Saturdays



Calling 6th-8th grade girls! Mother Seton is offering March Enrichment Saturdays on March 9, 16 & 23. Choices include volleyball, culinary arts, fashion design, engineering, multimedia art and creative writing

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Dear Parishioners and School Families,

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education now in existence for 50 years. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week, United in Faith and Community, truly resonates with who we are as a parish and a school. The week began on January 28th with a beautiful mass celebrated by Fr. Steve initiating the Catholic School's Week festivities, and the celebration continued at our school's open house. It was so wonderful seeing so many of our parish and school families come together for both the mass and the open house in celebration of our beautiful parish school! I am grateful for those that spent time with us that day and for all those that joined Fr. Steve and I in making this special day run smoothly and successfully. I am so proud of our student and parent ambassadors, who so cheerfully gave informative tours of our school, and I am thankful of the role our staff, the Home and School Association and Foundation Board of Trustees played in the success of the day.

During the weekdays that followed, our students and staff engaged in activities that were fun, educational, and highlighted our Catholic faith. Some of the Catholic Schools Week events included engaging in a school-wide service project called Socks of Love, with the focus on collecting socks and filling them with toiletries for the less fortunate. Other activities included the students creating Valentine Day cards and messages for our homebound parishioners, enjoying an in-house planetarium experience, participating in an 8th grade vs. faculty volleyball game, and celebrating a fun-filled School Spirit Day.

The month of February is also an exciting and fruitful month filled with wonderful learning opportunities. In addition to celebrating Black History Month through an array of lessons at every grade level, we have invited professional artist and educator Kevin Brooks to present a historical talk to our students. Some of you may recall Mr. Brooks working with our students on multiple projects through our Scholars and Artists In-Residence Program, including the original mural displayed in the entrance of the school. Mr. Brooks's upcoming presentation will focus on black history in general, his own family history dating back to slavery and on great black Americans. The students will also learn about the life of St. Martin Porres, the patron saint of racial harmony who is featured on the stained glass of our church. In addition, students will join in the auditorium to watch a film and to discuss the life of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a black religious sister born in 1869, who lived an impactful and inspirational life in Italy for 45 years after being a slave in Sudan.

Other February activities include celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes by recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, who we now know as Saint Bernadette Soubirous. Our school will join our parish community in learning about Our lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette, as well as in prayers of healing beginning Thursday, February 12th through February 20th. Our middle schoolers will pray a novena, learn about the apparitions and how St. Brenadette helped to bring our Blessed Mother's message to the world. Our younger students in pre-k through 5th grade will gather by the Grotto to learn, sing and pray. We are grateful to parishioner Agnes Dembia, Ms. Keri Misurell (Director of Faith Formation for our church), and Miss Amanda Bordogna (our religion coordinator) for their collaborative efforts in helping us celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Finally, I want to mention the exciting Elementary and Middle School STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Fairs, which are held this month. The fairs truly represent the interdisciplinary work that our students engage in on a regular basis and the high-level of learning that is always the hallmark of our school. Please see the photos and the description of our elementary fair, which took place on February 8th, on the next page.

All the activities mentioned above and so many others are possible through the collaboration of the parents of our students, our parishioners and our staff, who offer their talent and treasure to create wonderful experiences for our students. I pray that the Lord continues to bless our parish and school community as we continue to share the gifts of generosity, kindness and collaboration.

With much appreciation,
Mrs. Maria Llanes, Principal



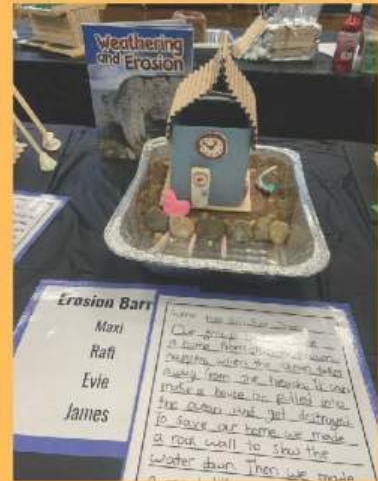
St. Cassian School

Elementary STREAM Fair 2024

(Science , Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)

Our school strives to provide its students opportunities that foster awareness of real-world experiences through lessons that nurture leadership and encourage students to think critically and creatively.

Through lessons in the school's STREAM Program, our students address challenges faced by our world and engage in an interdisciplinary unit of study. As a culminating activity, the students develop an engineering prototype to address a challenge and demonstrate their learning.

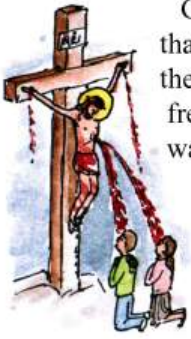


Our pre-k 4 students, for example, engaged in a unit of study about sea turtles. They explored the life cycle of sea turtles, their habitats, their body parts, the foods they eat, what threatens their survival and how they are a beautiful part of God's creation. After various experiences through literature, videos, class discussions and hands-on activities, the students took on the role of conservationists and engineers in designing prototypes of fences to protect hatchlings. This unit of study, along with the ones completed in the other elementary grades, truly exercises our students' creativity, problem solving skills and elevates their thinking to very high levels.

Special thanks to Mrs. Deidre Odierna, our STREAM Facilitator, and our wonderful pre-k through fourth grade teachers.

God Washes Away our Sins

In the time of Noah, the people had forgotten about God. They only cared about themselves. They didn't care if they sinned against God or against each other. Only Noah and his family still remembered God and tried to do what was right.



God let a flood destroy all the people other than Noah's family. He wanted to wipe out the sins of the world and give people a fresh start at living in peace with Him. He washed the sins away with the great flood.

But the people still sinned, just like we do even after we have been baptized. So Jesus did something that would have the power to take away all the sins that

are ever committed. He died on the cross, letting His blood wash away our sins. Now all we have to do is be sorry and turn to God and accept the forgiveness that He is waiting to give us in Confession.



Answers: Front page: Noah's ark
Inside: He was tempted by the devil.



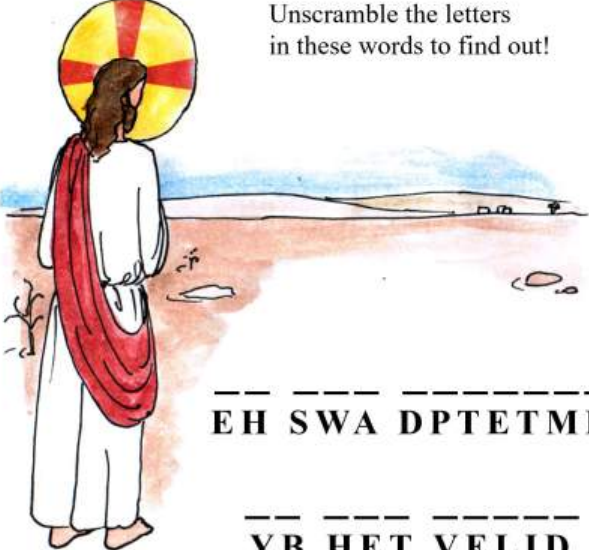
What was the story mentioned in today's first reading that talks about God washing away the sins of the world and making a covenant with His people?

Connect the dots to find out what the story was about!

JESUS IN THE DESERT

Today's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus was fasting in the desert for forty days. He was preparing Himself for His special work.

We know that Jesus was a real person. He was like us except that He never sinned. There was something that happened when He was in the desert that shows us that He had to decide between right and wrong just like we do. What was it?



Unscramble the letters in these words to find out!

EH SWA DPTETME

YB HET VELID

Saints Francisco and Jacinta February 20

<p>FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO WERE THE YOUNGEST OF SEVEN CHILDREN OF A CATHOLIC FAMILY IN A SMALL VILLAGE IN PORTUGAL.</p>	<p>WHILE WATCHING THE SHEEP WITH THEIR COUSIN LUCIA, THEY WOULD PLAY GAMES AND SAY THEIR PRAYERS.</p>	
<p>BUT ONE DAY AN ANGEL APPEARED AND TAUGHT THEM A SPECIAL PRAYER.</p> <p>“O my God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love thee!”</p>	<p>Pray for the poor sinners!</p> <p>SOON OUR LADY APPEARED TO THEM AND ASKED THEM TO PRAY AND SACRIFICE.</p>	<p>SHE SHOWED THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE DID NOT REPENT OF THEIR SINS AND WENT TO HELL.</p>
<p>LUCIA, FRANCISCO AND JACINTA BEGAN TO PRAY AND OFFER MANY SACRIFICES FOR THE POOR SINNERS.</p>	<p>God, I offer You all my pain...</p> <p>AT AGE 10, FRANCISCO FELL ILL. HE OFFERED HIS SICKNESS AND HIS LIFE FOR SINNERS. IN TWO YEARS JACINTA ALSO FELL SICK AND GAVE HER LIFE FOR SINNERS.</p>	



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Father Steve we wish you the best of luck and all of God's blessings as you begin your new ministry at St. Cassian's Parish

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