



Mass Intentions

Feb.10 Saturday - Saint Scholastica

5:00 Francesco, Maria & Giovanna Parrotta
Giuseppe & Serafina Parrotta

Feb.11 SUNDAY-SIXTH Sunday of Ordinary Time

10:00 Antonietta Lombardi – by Lina, Serra &
Rose Carlucci
Benedetto DiRienzo – by moglie Angeliina
Iole Biamonte – by genitori Joe & Maria Orsini
Costanza Martuccio – by husband Joe & family
Francesca Notarianni – by Notarianni family

11:30 Pietro LoParco – by LoParco family
Alfredo & Pilar Aquino – by Alita & Ralph,
Eric & Sarah Elefante & family
Natalina Splendiani – by son Giorgio DiRuscio

Feb. 12 Monday - N O M A S S

Feb. 13 Tuesday - Saint Giles Mary of St. Joseph

8:00 Antonietta Lombardi – by friends & family

Feb. 14 Wednesday - A S H W E D N E S D A Y

8:00 For All the Deceased of our Parish
(Distribution of Ashes)

7:00pm For All the Deceased of our Parish
(Distribution of Ashes)

Feb. 15 Thursday - St. Claude de la Colombiere

8:00 Marcelo Muñoz – by grandson Vicente Escobar

Feb. 16 Friday - St. Gilbert of Sempringham

8:30 Stations of the Cross – Via Crucis

9:30 Nicola & Angelina Damiano –
by Tino & Julia Damiano
Angelina Bertone – by Angelina DiRienzo

7:00pm Stations of the Cross – Via Crucis

Feb.17 Saturday-Seven Founders of the Servite Order

5:00 For the Needs of All Parishioners
For All the Deceased of the Parish

Feb.18 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00 Felice & Filomena Terriaca - by Angelina Cameli
Giovanni/Giuseppina Custode – by Mary Mauriello
Anna,Rocco,Benny DiRienzo-by Maria DiRienzo
Raffaele, Luisa, Antonio Di Noia-by Palma Stante
Girolamo & Anna Pansino – by Carmela Pellegrino

11:30 Dr. Carie LaRosa – by LaRosa & Salvatore families
Myrtle/Earl Gilbertson – by Angela I. Salvatore
Immacolata/Gerardo Salvatore – by
Angela I. Salvatore
Filomena/Fortunato Stracuzzi – by
Angela I. Salvatore
Giuseppina Parise – by Parise family

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The afflicted and the exasperated live apart crying out loud and pleading for help, "If you wish, you can heal me!" They are experiencing not only physical separation, but a profound social and spiritual isolation. By healing the leper, Jesus teaches us to break the barriers and, with compassion, reach out to the marginalized.

MESSAGGIO DEL VANGELO

Gli afflitti e gli esasperati vivono esasperati gridando ad alto voce e implorando aiuto: "Se lo desideri, puoi guarirmi!" Stanno sperimentando non solo la separazione fisica, ma un profondo isolamento sociale e spirituale. Guarendo il lebbroso. Gesù ci insegna a rompere le barriere e, con compassione, ad andare incontro agli emarginati.

Lent 2024 - One Necessary Thing

Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. (Luke 10:41-42)

A beloved and devoted disciple of Jesus, Martha earned her fame in scripture in the most unlikely way. She simply wanted help serving dinner. And she wanted Jesus to support her most reasonable request. That prompted a loving reprimand from the Lord, who told Martha she was "worried about many things." Jesus reminded her, "There is need of only one thing."

That's a good reminder for us, too, especially during Lent when its added spiritual disciplines may seem burdensome. Instead, Lent calls us to put aside the many things that occupy our days and focus instead on the one necessary thing - our relationship to Jesus.

This Lent, let us find in Scripture an antidote to the anxieties of daily life and a path to a deeper encounter with the Lord of all our days.

By promoting a vigorous embrace of **prayer**, **fasting** and **almsgiving** (*attention to the needy*), please God, we may all come to a deeper sense of our need for God and the offer of reconciling love He so generously holds out to us in and through Christ.

Lenten Reflections - Ash Wednesday

You are invited "Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12)

The Lenten journey begins with two small, but amazing, words: "Even now." God does not merely say, "Return to me ..." as in 'Even now, after being away for years Even now, after everything you have said and done Even now, though you have given up hope.'

This is an invitation without reservation, as in 'Even now after fill-in-your-own-story-here.

There is no point in waiting to reply to God's invitation. If not now, when? God wants you back, above all if you are among those who are convinced that no one, especially God, could love such a person. He wants you back, even now.

Today, at this very moment, God extends a tender invitation. Answer him. Pause and gather together all those secret sins that weigh so heavily on your shoulders. Then bundle them into your own "even now" like this -

"Lord I want to return to you, even now."

**MESSAGE of his HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
XXXII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – February 11th 2024**

“It is not good that man should be alone”.

Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships

“It is not good that man should be alone” (cf. Gen 2:18)

From the beginning, God, who is love, created us for communion and endowed us with an innate capacity to enter into relationship with others. Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received. We were created to be together, not alone. Precisely because this project of communion is so deeply rooted in the human heart, we see the experience of abandonment and solitude as something frightening, painful and even inhuman. This is all the more the case at times of vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity, caused often by the onset of a serious illness.

In this regard, I think of all those who found themselves terribly alone during the Covid-19 pandemic: the patients who could not receive visitors, but also the many nurses, physicians and support personnel overwhelmed by work and enclosed in isolation wards. Naturally, we cannot fail to recall all those persons who had to face the hour of their death alone, assisted by healthcare personnel, but far from their own families.

I share too in the pain, suffering and isolation felt by those who, because of war and its tragic consequences, are left without support and assistance. War is the most terrible of social diseases, and it takes its greatest toll on those who are most vulnerable.

To those who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves...

We do well to listen once more to the words of the Bible: “it is not good for man to be alone!” God spoke those words at the beginning of creation and thus revealed to us the profound meaning of his project for humanity, but at the same time, the mortal wound of sin, which creeps in by generating suspicions, fractures, divisions and consequently isolation....

Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers - with creation and with themselves....

The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2024 **FRANCIS**

THIS IS COFFEE SUNDAY WEEKEND

This weekend is COFFEE SUNDAY, offered by Felice and Giovanna Parrotta in memory of Francesco, Maria & Giovanna Parrotta and Giuseppe & Serafina Parrotta. You are all invited to join us in the Hall for Coffee and refreshments.

LADIES’ AUXILIARY

VALENTINE BAKE SALE – February 10th & 11th

This weekend also, the Ladies’ Auxiliary is hosting a small Valentine’s Bake Sale. Please join us in the Parish Hall after each mass for a time of fellowship and comradery in support of our parish.

Quaresima 2024 Mercoledì delle Ceneri

Il Digiuno che Salva

«Lasciatevi riconciliare con Dio! ... Ecco ora il momento favorevole, ecco ora il giorno della salvezza» (2 Cor 5:20) «Convertitevi e credete al Vangelo!» (Mc 1,15)
Con questi due imperativi la comunità cristiana convocata per accogliere l’azione misericordiosa di Dio e ritornare a Lui. Il rito di imposizione delle ceneri può essere considerato una specie di un gesto di ingresso nello stato di penitenti. Nei testi della liturgia la penitenza si esplicita nella pratica del *digiuno*.

FROM THE OFFICE of the BISHOP – Lent 2024

“In the heart of the Church, I will be Love”

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Traditionally, Valentine’s Day falls on February 14 each year. It expresses the emotions and feelings of love through romance and gift giving; it is a secular celebration of love.

This year, Ash Wednesday and Valentine’ Day share the same day. Many will not know this fact, others will ignore it, and some may be upset because they have to fast and abstain from meat on this day.

Rather than seeing these two events in opposition, we can consider them to be complimentary if we consider that they both focus on love. Valentine’s Day deals with the emotional aspect or sentiments of love while Lent focuses on its essence. One is temporal the other is spiritual.

Ash Wednesday and Lent teach us that the true nature of love is found in sacrifice and self-denial. We see this in the life and teaching of Jesus as found in Sacred Scripture.

In the Gospel for the Mass of Ash Wednesday, Jesus focuses on the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three are considered the pillars of Lent. Jesus teaches us that it is through our acts of self-sacrifice that we grow in love. We deny ourselves because we love.

On the First Sunday of Lent, we read in the Gospel of St. Mark that Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days where he was tempted by Satan. Our Lord was spiritually preparing Himself to ultimately give His life for our salvation. His entire public ministry was a journey to the cross. By His suffering and death, Jesus shows us that the greatest act of love is found in sacrifice (John 15:13).

In her autobiography, “A Story of a Soul”, St. Therese of Lisieux, tells us that it was only after a great deal of prayer and reflection that God revealed to her that she was called to be love. She states, “At last I have found my vocation. In the heart of the Church, I will be love!” Let us not forget that this is also our vocation. Every baptized Christian is called to love like Christ.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE
SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

**Angelina Cameli, Rita Cameli-Roma,
Angelina DiRienzo, Maria DiRienzo,
Carmen/Maria Fabiani, Marianna Formica,
Flora Kennedy, Ethel LaRosa,
Gildo Luvison, Luigi Maruca,
Giaconda Merante, Anna Orsini,
Vincenzina Pascuzzi, Emilia Romeo,
Teresa Scozzafava, Concetta Sirianni,
Maria Tavano, Maria Visca**