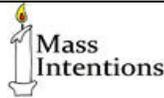


# Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant

## February 18, 2018



### Saturday, February 17

5:30 pm For Kenneth Strahan by Barron Family  
For Kimberly Lewis by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Huntz

### Sunday, February 18

8:00 am For Veronica Smolenski by Gruby Family  
For Theresa & Dominick Valentino by Valentino Family  
9:30 am For Bernie Cho by Fleming Family  
11:00 am For Mary Rice by Fania Family

### Monday, February 19

8:45 am For

### Tuesday, February 20

8:45 am For Linda Villani by Bob Uccardi

### Wednesday, February 21

8:45 am For

### Thursday, February 22

8:45 am For

### Saturday, February 24

5:30 pm For Donald Dobbings by McDermott Family

### Sunday, February 25

8:00 am For James Bono by Draghi Family  
For Dave Woeste by Woeste Family  
9:30 am For Dave Cleaver by Woelfel Family  
For Bernie Cho by Cho Family  
11:00 am For Marie Louise Chang by Kopreski Family

### REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**Altar Breads & Wine** – In loving memory of Patsy & Philip Marchese by Marchese family.

**Sanctuary Lamp** – In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry and Benardone families

**Mass Candles:** In loving memory of Joseph F. Casey III by Mitchell Family

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE February 24, 25, 2018

#### Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski  
Lector: Rhianna Smith  
Eucharistic Ministers: Holly Zimmerman, Nancy Lennon  
Altar Servers: Libby Masterson

#### Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski  
Lector: Jim Scott  
Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia  
Altar Servers: Help needed

#### 9:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski  
Lector: Kevin O'Shea  
Eucharistic Ministers: Eric & Sharon Woelfel  
Altar Servers: Maura O'Shea

#### 11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski  
Lector: Dina Carmelengo  
Eucharistic Ministers: Trish Mitchell  
Altar Servers: Ryan Arrambide

## First Sunday of Lent

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

#### Monday, February 19

Parish office closed in observance of President's Day  
8:45 am Mass  
No CEC classes  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross followed by confessions and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### Tuesday, February 20

8:45 am Mass  
No CEC classes

#### Wednesday, February 21

8:45 am Mass  
9:30 am Women's Bible Study  
No JYM classes

#### Thursday, February 22

8:45 am Mass

#### Friday, February 23

Parish Office Closed  
7:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal

#### Saturday, February 24

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:00 am Confirmation

#### Sunday, February 25

Masses, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am  
3:00-5:00 pm Columbiettes "Wonders of Chocolate" festival

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
February 11, 2018: \$3,281 Envelopes used: 68	February 12, 2017: \$3,392 Envelopes used: 63
Supermarket Gift Cards: February 11, 2018 Sales: \$1,600 Profit: \$80 YTD Profit: \$915.00 # of Families: 10	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

### FAITH DIRECT...

Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help your parish save money by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent! Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide St. Mark the Evangelist with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season! Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: **NJ484**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!  
God Bless You, Fr. Marcin

### FOOD PANTRY...

Please keep the food pantry in your prayers and on your shopping lists this February. They are in particular need of medicine cabinet items, peanut butter and jelly, and coffee/tea, but anything you can donate will be appreciated. Thank you.

FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

On Wednesday we began the season of Lent which is our preparation for the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection. It is a time in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. Jesus fasted in the desert, and overcame the devil's temptations. Jesus never sinned but in the desert he was tempted, and during these forty days of Lent we remember Jesus in the desert as we try to overcome temptation in our lives and to overcome sinfulness.

**Lent is a time to put our souls before a mirror and see ourselves as we really are. Lent is an invitation to allow our sin and darkness and wounds come to the surface so that we can deal with them and allow them to be healed by the grace of Jesus.** During these forty days of Lent, we do not hide from our sinfulness or prevent God speaking to us or healing us during this Lent. It is only when we admit something that we can deal with it. The first stage in overcoming anything is to admit the problem. If we remain in denial we miss out on the grace of God to heal us and renew us and make us whole. During Lent we say no to the devil's temptations to continue committing sin, and instead we trust in our heavenly Father like Jesus in the desert.

Since the early centuries the Church has suggested three things that we undertake during Lent - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is for this reason that the Gospel text for Ash Wednesday every year is Jesus' advice on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During Lent we want to pray more, fast and help the poor.

Lent is a time for more prayer. We live busy lives and there is much emphasis on enjoying life but a life without prayer is a life without the joy of the presence of God. God is our loving Father who greatly desires us to allow him close to us, so we pray more this Lent to experience more of the joy of knowing God our Father.

Fasting is a penance the Church encourages us to undertake during Lent. From the spiritual point of view, fasting symbolizes our dependence on God. It expresses the fact that we really are trying to put God first in our life. The Bible tells us that fasting from food must go together with fasting from violence and fasting from oppressing people. In other words, when we fast from food it is to be accompanied by a loving and forgiving attitude towards others. If we have a problem forgiving someone, we can share it with the Lord and ask his help and grace so that we may forgive.

For almsgiving or helping the poor, the Church makes it easy for us by giving us the opportunity to contribute to Catholic aid agencies, (Rice Bowl operation is something that we all can do. \$1 a day for 40 days of lent helps provide: 1 month of food for a family, 2 years of seed for a farmer, 1 emergency kit for refugees – My Lenten gifts change lives. Fill your CRS Rice Bowl with dollars and coins, or give online at [crsricebowl.org/give](http://crsricebowl.org/give). Helping the poor during Lent brings the words of Jesus to mind, "Whatever you did to one of the least of these you did to me."

**The word "Lent" is an old English word which means "springtime." May this Lent really be a new springtime in the lives of each of us.** Through prayer, through fasting from food accompanied by forgiving others and not bearing grudges, and through donating from our surplus to help the poor, may we, like Jesus in the desert for forty days, overcome temptation and thus be well prepared to celebrate Easter.

**"Lent is a new beginning, the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ who lives in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor."** – *Pope Francis*

*OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PRAY FOR US...*

*ST. MARK PRAY FOR US...*

#### **DURING LENT IN OUR CHURCH**

- Join us for traditional Lenten Devotion **AT OLM CHURCH** every Friday morning at 10am (after 9:30 mass) and in the evening at 7:30 pm – STATIONS OF THE CROSS!!!

And **AT ST. MARK'S** every **Monday night at 7pm.**

Try to come once at least, bring your family, children, and friends and walk with Jesus on his last journey.

- Lenten reflection with Fr. Marcin – every Tuesday night (7-8) **OLM Parish Center.**

- Sacrament of Penance and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Monday night (7-8:30).

#### **Pope Francis encourages us to go to confession!!! – Do not be afraid to go to confession this Lent!!!**

"Everyone say to himself: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, (will be) there, and Jesus is better than the priests - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession."

Don't be afraid of confession. When someone is in line for confession he feels all these things - even shame - but then, when he finishes confessing, he leaves (feeling) free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, and happy.

When I go to confession, it's for healing: healing the soul, healing the heart because of something that I did to make it unwell. The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, every time we go to confession, God embraces us."- **POPE FRANCIS, FEB. 14, 2014**

#### **LET US LISTEN TO OUR POPE AND GO TO CONFESSION THIS LENT!!!**

Have a blessed Lent,  
Fr. Marcin

#### **FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...**

**Blessed Josefa Naval Girbes – February 24**

Lay Apostle (1820 – 1893)

Josefa was born in a town near Valencia in Spain. Though she never sought to enter a religious order, at eighteen she took a vow of perpetual virginity and devoted herself to the service of God and her neighbors. At the suggestion of her parish priest, she opened an embroidery workshop in her home, where young women could learn a trade, while also engaging in prayer and Bible study.

Her quiet faith and undramatic ministry left no great record on the world. Yet she made a great impression on her neighbors, especially when she risked her life to care for the sick during an outbreak of cholera. She died on February 24, 1893, and was buried, according to her wishes, in the habit of a Third Order Carmelite. Fifty years after her death, devotion to her memory was sufficient to inspire the diocese of Valencia to promote her cause for canonization. She was finally beatified in 1988. In his homily, Pope John Paul II recognized her as an example of the apostolate of the laity, citing the words of Vatican II: "Sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of

Christ ... they carry out their own part in the mission of the whole Christian people with respect to the Church and the world."

*"A woman simple and docile to the Spirit, she reached the pinnacle in her long life of Christian perfection, dedicated to the service of others."* - Pope John Paul II

#### FROM FR. JAVIER...

#### TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

##### The Sixth Commandment

**You shall not commit adultery. "You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart".**

My dear brothers and sisters, the catechism of the Catholic Church says: *"Adultery refers to marital infidelity. When two partners, of whom at least one is married to another party, have sexual relations - even transient ones - they commit adultery. Christ condemns even adultery of mere desire. The sixth commandment and the New Testament forbid adultery absolutely. The prophets denounce the gravity of adultery; they see it as an image of the sin of idolatry".*

Also adultery is an injustice. He who commits adultery fails in his commitment. He does injury to the sign of the covenant which the marriage bond is, transgresses the rights of the other spouse, and undermines the institution of marriage by breaking the contract on which it is based. He compromises the good of human generation and the welfare of children who need their parents' stable union.

The Lord Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be indissoluble. He abrogates the accommodations that had slipped into the old Law.

Between the baptized, *"a ratified and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than death."*

The separation of spouses while maintaining the marriage bond can be legitimate in certain cases provided for by canon law.

If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of inheritance, it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense.

God bless you.

#### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST. MARK'S

##### SAVE THE DATES...

- March 4 – Annual Pot Luck Lunch sign-up sheet in gathering space
- April 6 – Winetasting
- April 29 – St. Mark's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass and Luncheon. Bishop Arthur Serratelli will be our celebrant at the 11:00 am mass.
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#### NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY...

The Knights of Columbus will be having an eyeglass recycling container in St. Mark's gathering space until February 28, 2018. Please donate your used eyeglasses which will be given to the needy and be sincerely appreciated.

#### WONDERS OF CHOCOLATE...

The Long Valley Columbiettes will be hosting a chocolate festival on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's from 3-5pm. Delicious chocolate desserts, coffee & tea will be included along with cake auctions and specialty baskets for bid. Tickets are \$12 which will be sold at the door and this weekend. For information please call 908-342-6305. Proceeds benefit charities supported by the LV Columbiettes.

#### GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD...

Girl Scout Junior Troop 95641 is working towards earning their Bronze Award. They are collecting donations to create a treasure box for children who are waiting to be seen in the Hackettstown Hospital Emergency Room. They are asking for your help by donating NEW stuffed animals, toys, books, puzzles, small toy cars, coloring books, art supplies or anything you think would make their wait more bearable. A collection box will be in the gathering space. Thank you for your kind consideration and support!

#### ENGRAVED BRICK FUNDRAISER...

On April 29<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating St. Mark's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are excited to welcome our parishners and families as Bishop Serratelli joins our priests both past and present to celebrate our anniversary mass. As you may have noticed time and weather have taken a toll on the brick pavers, leaving them broken and in distress. In an effort to renovate our walkway in time for our celebration, the Fundraising Committee will be selling Engraved Memorial Bricks to be incorporated in a new walkway. Please see the display in the gathering space. Orders and payment are due by March 10<sup>th</sup>. Orders with payment can be left in the Parish Office. Questions? Contact [STM30@comcast.net](mailto:STM30@comcast.net).

#### LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION: "To Jesus Through Lent"...

Fr. Jude Salus is presenting an inspirational Lenten message in a 90 minute talk at St. Jude Parish, Budd Lake, on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The day starts with 9am mass, followed by a full hot & cold breakfast and then the presentation from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Cost is \$15. Tickets can be obtained by mail. Send \$15 check payable to St. Jude Parish to St. Jude Church, 17 Mt. Olive Rd. Budd Lake, NJ 07828 Attn: Lenten Day of Reflection. Please include your name, phone number and email address. Questions? Call Mike Sabella 973-945-2822.

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Randi Alloway, Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Kenneth Bernisky, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Emily Condit, Natalia Danilczuk, Krish Dharra, Catherine DiPasquale, Elizabeth, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, Tracey F, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Jerry Green, Barbara Gotterdam, Louie Gutierrez, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Maria Dougherty Jante, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Joey, Claudia Kallmeyer, Jim Karpinski, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Margaret Leon, Maryann Litori, Wayne Marks, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene, Madelyn S. Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Meghan McDonough, Harold & Mary McKay, Edward Michonski, Sr., Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Marilyn O'Connor, Josh Olsen, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Piloni, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Jeff Schpiner, Rev. Frank Rodimer, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, Cindy, Sullivan, William Thompson, Mary Travisano, Debbie Trepkau, Rev. Zbigniew Tyburski, Anne Walsh, Robert Ron Werner, Marie Zimbile

