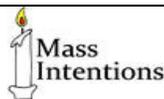


# Blessed are they who hope in the Lord

February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Saturday, February 16**

5:30 pm For Lorianne Liskiewicz by Kelly Fleidner, David Book

**Sunday, February 17**

9:00 am For Gaetano Ficarra by Schwint Family

11:00 am For Eileen Schiano

**Monday, February 18**

8:45 am For

**Tuesday, February 19**

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen by Parishioners of St. Mark's

**Wednesday, February 20**

8:45 am For

**Thursday, February 21**

8:45 am For

**Saturday, February 23**

5:30 pm For Dave Woeste by Woeste Family

**Sunday, February 24**

9:00 am For Kimberly Lewis by Daniel & Annemarie Huntz

11:00 am For Donald Dobbings by McDermott Family

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS  
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

**Sanctuary Lamp:** In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family

**Altar Breads & Wine:**

**Mass Candles:**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, February 23**

**5:30 pm**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Need Help

Eucharistic Ministers: Mike & Nancy Lennon

Altar Servers: Help Needed

**Sunday, February 24**

**9:00 am**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Need Help

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia

Altar Servers: Help Needed

**Sunday, 11:00 am**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Dina Carmelingo

Eucharistic Ministers: Eric Woefel

Altar Servers: Help Needed

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

**Monday, February 18**

8:45 am Mass

Parish office closed in observance of Presidents Day

**Tuesday, February 19**

8:45 am Mass

No CEC

7:00 pm Boy Scout Eagle Review

**Wednesday, February 20**

8:45 am Mass

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, February 21**

8:45 am Mass

**Friday, February 22**

Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, February 23**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Ticket Sales Columbiettes Mardi Gras Celebration

**Sunday, February 24**

9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass

Ticket Sales Columbiettes Mardi Gras Celebration

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

| Current Year                                     | Last Year 2018                                  |
|--|---|
| Figures not available                            | Figures not available                           |
| Supermarket Gift Cards:<br>Figures not available | St. Mark's Faith Direct<br>Church Code is NJ484 |

**FAITH DIRECT...**

Have you already slipped on the New Year's resolutions? Don't worry; giving with Faith Direct is an easy resolution to keep! By enrolling in online giving you will simplify your monthly budget and provide St. Marks with consistent, reliable support. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code **NJ484** or text the word ENROLL to (Text to Give ) Phone Number. Thank you for your support. Fr. Marcin



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 and jelly, pasta/sauce, and coffee/tea, but anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Thank You.

## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Today in the Church calendar we observe VI Sunday in Ordinary Time. We get together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate the Lord's Day and receive Jesus in the Holy Communion.

*Blessed are you who are poor...*

*Blessed are you who are now hungry...*

*Blessed are you who are now weeping...*

*Blessed are you when people hate you...*

In our Gospel today Jesus did not say that poverty, or hunger, or sadness or hatred is a blessing. Instead Jesus said that people are blessed when they are poor, hungry, weeping and hated. When we rely on God then we are who we are meant to be, humans in relationship with God our creator. So the poverty, hunger, weeping, hatred, or whatever our cross is can be an instrument to draw us closer to God. Whatever cross we have in our lives is there for a purpose, to keep us close to God. In that sense our cross is also our blessing and what Jesus said in today's Gospel is true.

When we are rich, filled now, laugh now and are well spoken of we may be tempted to forget about God. We may be tempted to treat the gifts of God as gods. If we lose ourselves in the blessings and riches of this world instead of losing ourselves in God of the blessings and riches it is indeed a "woe" to use the words of Jesus today. What looks like a blessing in the eyes of the world can from the spiritual point of view turn out to be a woe and the words of Jesus are proved true.

Our hope is not for this life only, but for what Christ offers us. The true riches are spiritual riches, not the riches this world has to offer. True riches come from Christ who makes us spiritually rich.

Poverty, hunger, weeping and hatred are not blessings but states of need and dependence that make us rely on God. Poverty, hunger, weeping, hatred or whatever our own particular cross is, can be an instrument to draw us closer to God. Whatever cross we have in our lives is there for a purpose, to keep us close to God.

# Happiness

The world today says happiness includes lots of money, foreign holidays, a big house, and a whole host of other things many of which are sinful. We could almost say that our world today is addicted to greed and sin. People are being tricked into thinking that possessing and having will bring happiness. People are being fed lies and believe it. And all lies come from the devil. The devil is luring people with great promises and expectations of happiness but they are empty promises and lies.

**St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself O Lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."**

God has made our human hearts and so we will be happy only when filled by God. Our being from its first moment is directed towards God, orientated towards God, and if we deny this or try to find God elsewhere we will not be happy or have the blessedness without JESUS CHRIST.

The only thing that will bring happiness is to love and be loved. The pure form of love we see in Jesus which sacrifices ourselves for the benefit of the other. One of the signs of a Christian is being joyful.

There is only one sadness in life, not to be a saint. A saint is someone who loves God very much and is convinced that God loves him/her. How do we achieve the happiness of the saints? There is one way to achieve that happiness. If you want that experience, focus on the crucifix. Jesus would have come from heaven to die just for you. There is no one who loves you and has loved you like Jesus. Spend time with Jesus looking up at him on the cross contemplating his love for you. Find your happiness in Jesus, and then you will be really

happy and blessed. If you do not have the joy of a Christian ask yourself is it because you have given yourself to some of the false promises and illusions and deceptions of the world which are pulling you down. If you have, ask God for the grace to abandon them and give yourself to God so that you can be happy.

*ST. MARK --- OUR PATRON --- PRAY FOR US...*

*GOD BLESS YOU,*

*FR. MARCIN*

## FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

St. Clement of Rome - February 19

Lived in the 1st century A.D. Died 100 A.D. He is believed to have been the fourth bishop of Rome and served during the last decade of the first century. Around 96, he sent a letter from the Church of Rome to the Church of Corinth, a major city in northeastern Greece and the site of St. Paul's evangelization. This letter, known as Clement's First Epistle to the Corinthians, is most likely directed against immoral practices of prostitution connected with the Temple of Aphrodite. In the letter, Clement expresses his dissatisfaction with events taking place in the Corinthian Church and asks the people to repent for their un-Christian ways. The letter is important because it indicates that the author was acting as the head of the Christian Church and that it was centered in Rome. Clement was allegedly put to death under Emperor Domitian.

## FROM FR. JAVIER...

## TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

#### The Sacrament of the Eucharist

#### The fruits of Holy Communion

My dear brothers and sisters The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren:

*"You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognize your brother,... You dishonor this table when you do not judge worthy of sharing your food someone judged worthy to take part in this meal.... God freed you from all your sins and invited you here, but you have not become more merciful."*

The Eucharist and the unity of Christians. Before the greatness of this mystery St. Augustine exclaims, *"O sacrament of devotion! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!"* The more painful the experience of the divisions in the Church which break the common participation in the table of the Lord, the more urgent are our prayers to the Lord that the time of complete unity among all who believe in him may return.

The Eastern churches that are not in full communion with the Catholic Church celebrate the Eucharist with great love. *"These Churches, although separated from us, yet possess true sacraments, above all - by apostolic succession - the priesthood and the Eucharist, whereby they are still joined to us in closest intimacy."* A certain communion in sacris, and so in the Eucharist, *"given suitable circumstances and the approval of Church authority, is not merely possible but is encouraged."*

God bless you

### **PROTECT VIABLE BABIES POST CARD CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES THIS WEEKEND...**

Last weekend, our parish participated in the postcard campaign to ask or NJ State Representatives to support the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act which would protect babies in the womb at 20 weeks and beyond. The campaign was a big success! There is one more thing you can do to help protect the babies in the womb: Call you one State Senator and two Assembly Members and ask them to support the "Pin Capable" Act (A-1686-S-537). You can find their phone numbers by visiting <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp>, finding your town and the associated NJ District and then selecting the associated District Number. Thank you for participating in the important life-saving project!

### **JOIN OUR HEATH VILLAGE MINISTRY...**

For over 30 years, St. Mark's has been ministering communion services and Masses to our Catholic Heath Village residents. We have extended this ministry to OLM as our needs continue to expand, especially with the building of a new Heath retirement community across the street from the existing one. Our ministers often experience incredible joy from serving the Heath residents who are so grateful when we bring them the liturgy and the Eucharist. We so often hear their heartfelt thanks especially at this time in their lives when it's not so easy to make it to church. You do not have to be a current Eucharistic Minister (EM) to join - Fr. Marcin will take care of your brief training. The commitment is just a couple of hours each month. The EMs who serve today often say they get more out of this ministry than do the residents! We hope you will reflect on this request and find it in your heart to join us. Please contact Rick Gebbia at [rgebbia@comcast.net](mailto:rgebbia@comcast.net) or (908) 489-0462 if you are interested.

### **WINE TASTING DINNER...**

Join us for the tastiest value-priced red and white wine varietals/blends in the world in addition to appetizers, a buffet dinner (which some say is fit for the finest kings and queens of Europe) plus coffee and dessert! Friday, March 1, 2019 7:00 to 10:00pm St. Marks Church. Seating is limited to 100 - Sign up now! Cost: \$40 per person at the door. **HURRY!** Sign up by February 24, *pay* by February 24 and... treat yourself to a \$10 advance discount so that you pay only \$30 per person! Place checks payable to St Marks in the box in the gathering space.

### **AMAZON SMILES-YOU SHOP AMAZON DONATES...**

Buy your gifts and essentials at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) year round! You shop. Amazon donates. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) Type in "St. Mark the Evangelist Church Long Valley, NJ" under "Select a Charity". 0.5% of your purchase goes to St. Mark's at no cost to you!

### **WEBSITE HELP...**

St. Mark's is looking for someone to maintain our website. Do you have website experience? Could you spend a few hours a month making updates to keep our website fresh and updated? Let us know as we could use the help with our website. If interested, please call the parish office 850-0652.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS...**

#### **NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY**

The Knights of Columbus will be having an eyeglass recycling container in the gathering space beginning February 1 through February 28. Please donate your used eyeglasses which will be given to the needy and will be sincerely appreciated.

### **MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION...**

It's time to eat lots of delicious food, to enjoy Jazz music entertainment before Lent begins. Come out to St. Mark's on Sunday, March 3rd from 3-5 pm to celebrate the beginning of Lent. Tickets will be sold in the gathering space the weekend of February 23/24 for \$12 a ticket. Please call Patty at 908-3426305 for further information. This event is sponsored by the LV Columbiettes to provide for various local organizations. Thank you

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Part Time Employment - 2 positions**

Cafeteria/Recess Aides needed in K-8 school in Stanhope (only 10 miles from St. Mark's).

2.5 hours per day; 5 days per week \$12 per hour

Hours are 10:45 AM - 1:15 PM Perfect for stay-at-home parent with school-aged children and/or recent retirees

Duties include monitor lunchroom and outdoor recess; assist younger students with lunch orders.

If interested, email letter of interest and resume to Cathy Yonki: [cyonki@stanhopeschools.org](mailto:cyonki@stanhopeschools.org). Any questions, call 973-347-0008 x4102



Tony Atkins, Mary McArdle, Rocky Labato, Anna McFarland, Girard Nolte, Jr., George and Ann Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Mary Travisano

We are updating our sick list. If you know someone who is in need of prayers, please email Mary at [mary.stm@comcast.net](mailto:mary.stm@comcast.net) or call parish office

