



*"The sign of the cross we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is not there only one day a year. It is the cross that is burned on our foreheads by the fire of the Holy Spirit to mark us as God's own lambs in Baptism. We show it once a year to remind ourselves that we belong to God. We remind ourselves that we die, daily to sin. We remind ourselves that Jesus' resurrection is our future. We will return to dust, but God is not finished with us. We renew the Baptismal covenant of God in this season of repentance, renewal and rejoicing. We all will be cleansed in the Vigil's Baptismal Flood." - L. Bouman*



### *Meet Him At Table ~ Every Friday*

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** Every Friday at 6 PM in the Lower Church Hall. Bring the whole family and friends to enjoy a homemade meal, prayer and friendship every Friday during Lent (except March 16 due to the Requiem Mass that night), from 6 to 7 PM. Come meet other families in the parish as we seek the Lord anew. Start a new tradition or continue with an old one by helping to prepare a soup, salad or delicious cheesy pasta. Don't

like to cook? Bring a savory bread or just help out with setting up or breaking down. It's easy to volunteer, just visit: <https://tinyurl.com/StMary2018SoupSupper> and sign up, or you may email [mlorandos@verizon.net](mailto:mlorandos@verizon.net).

### *Meet Him In The Evenings ~ Every Tuesday*

Come enjoy Lenten Evening Prayer, 7 PM in the Church, (15-20 minutes). This is the daily prayer of the Catholic Church consisting of psalms, hymns, and intercessions. Come find peace at day's end. Feb. 20, & 27, March 6, 13, 20 & 27.

### *Meet Him For Forty Hours ~*

#### *Sun., March 4 - Tues., March 6*

**40 Hours Devotion:** In celebrating this devotion, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar at St. Mary's for forty continuous hours. The church will be open throughout and people may stop in at any time to visit with the Lord in prayer. The Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, three special dimensions surround this devotion:

- the protection from evil and temptation;
- reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory;
- and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities.

#### **Sunday, March 4**

- 11:30 AM Opening Mass
- 6:00 PM Sung Choral Vespers
- 7-7:30 PM Organ Music
- 8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

#### **Monday, March 5**

- 9:00 AM Morning Mass (Hall)
- Noon Holy Rosary
- 6:00 PM Evening Prayer
- 7-7:30 PM Organ Music
- 8:00 PM Scripture Reflection

#### **Tuesday, March 6**

- 9:00 AM Closing Mass with Benediction



### *Meet Him In Art ~ March 3 & 4*

100 Christian families in Bethlehem support themselves by the carving of olive wood. The religious objects so carved have a unique beauty and quality. The Al-Sahouri family will have their olive wood carvings available for purchase after all Masses March 3 & 4. Your purchase helps preserve the presence of Christians in the land of Our Savior's birth. Olive wood items from the Holy Land may be viewed and purchased in the Parish Center Lobby. (Olive wood praying Hands).



## *Meet Him In Confession ~ Monday, March 12*

Eight Priests will be available for Confession at a special Penance Service, Monday, March 12 at 6:30 PM. Additionally, Confessions will be heard every Saturday from Noon -12:45 PM, excepting Holy Saturday on which sacraments are not celebrated before the Great Easter Vigil that night. In this beautiful Sacrament we experience the fullness of God's mercy, healing and peace.

## *Meet Him In The Miserere ~ Sunday, March 18*

**Praying Psalm 51, the "Miserere."** On Sunday, March 18, at 6:30 PM in the church, our Pastor Fr. Mark Coiro will offer a reflection on Psalm 51. Known as the "Miserere," this Psalm is prayed every Friday morning as part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. Attributed to King David, it is one of the most eloquent expressions of human repentance and the awesome, healing mercy of God. Join us as we dig deeper into the history and meaning of this Psalm, reflecting together on the forgiveness of God available to all who long for His pardon. If ever you have had trouble believing that you can be forgiven, then this night is for you ...



## *Meet Him In Music*

**Sung Choral Vespers:** Sunday, March 4

from 6-6:30 PM. Vespers, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is meant to give thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Sung by our talented Youth Choir, Vespers includes the singing of psalms, intercessions and prayers. Come experience the beauty of sung prayer.

**Taizé Service:** Friday, March 9, Taizé Service, 7:30-8:30 PM. Join us for an hour of musical prayer following the tradition of the Taizé community. This service incorporates the singing of easy and memorable refrains, which are repeated to create an atmosphere of prayer and contemplative meditation. Modeled after the practice of the Taizé community in France, the purpose of this repetitive singing is to help us contemplate a single aspect of God.

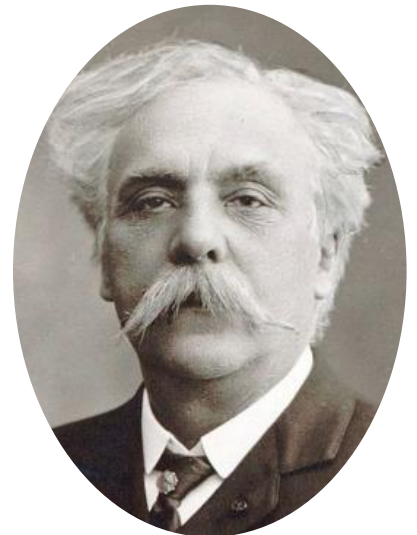
**Faure Requiem Mass:** Friday, March 16, 7:00 PM.

Friday, Requiem by Gabriel Fauré

St. Mary's Adult Choir

Brandon Santini, Organ

This Lent, with Brandon Santini on organ, St. Mary's Adult Choir will perform the Requiem Mass by Gabriel Fauré. The Requiem by the French composer Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) is perhaps one of the best known musical settings of the Requiem Mass, and the best-known work by the composer. The term "Requiem" designates a musical setting of the Catholic Mass of the Dead: "Requiem" in this sense is used as an abbreviation for the words that comprise the opening of the Introit for the Mass of the Dead, "Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine," which means: "Grant them eternal rest, O Lord." Composed in seven movements, Fauré's Requiem provides a musical setting for every one of the sung portions of the ordinary of the Latin mass (Introit and Kyrie, Offertory, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) and, in addition, for two texts which are exclusive to the Mass of the Dead: Libera me, and In Paradisum. Fauré composed this work between 1887-1888 and premiered it at the church of the Madeleine in Paris in 1888 for a Funeral Mass. It was not until 1931, however, that the work was first performed in the United States, quickly gaining popularity after its North-American premiere.



Just as it was first performed in France, we will perform this work in the context of the celebration of Mass, accompanied by the beautiful St. Mary's organ. The Mass and music are in honor of our beloved friend Patrick D. McDonald (1944-2017), who was an active parishioner at St. Mary's Church for 43 years. Patrick, an avid lover of music and choral singer, wished that the Fauré Requiem could be performed for his Funeral Mass, which took place in August 14, 2017. Unable to fulfill his request at that time, we decided to remember him by performing the work in the context of a full Mass on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, March 16, 2018. All are invited to this moment of sacred music and prayer.