



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

March Newsletter 2022

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Ash Wednesday

March 2

Five Services with Ashes ~

6:45 AM Liturgy of the Word

9:00 AM Mass

4:00 PM Liturgy of the Word

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Word

7:00 PM Mass

**A NEW Q-TIP WILL BE USED TO APPLY ASHES FOR EACH PERSON. PLEASE WEAR A MASK.
REMEMBER, ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.**

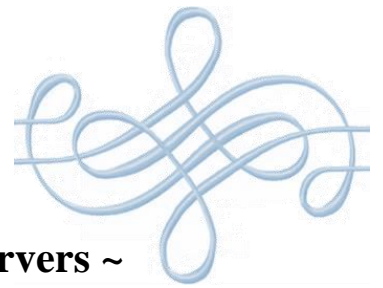
Why do we wear ashes on this day? Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament – death and repentance. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7). For example, Abraham told God, “I am but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. We use ashes on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own mortality. We are all born here, but none of us is staying here. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come. This is not a cause for fear, but for urgency to embrace the Gospel with new vigor. We only have so much time to accept Jesus’ offer of salvation, and follow Him on the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificial love.

Ashes are also a symbol of repentance for past sins. When the prophet Daniel shamefacedly clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, they were a sign of his people’s contrition for their rebellion, wickedness and treachery (Daniel 9:3). When Jonah warned the Ninevites that God planned to destroy their city because of their corruption and depravity, the people covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their intention to turn from their evil ways (Jonah 3:6,10). Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future.

In His own words, Jesus “came to call sinners.” We, too, are sinners. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. **Our ashes say that we want to come back to Jesus.**

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

March, 2022 ~ Volume 48, Number 3



St. Mary's Parish
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Holliston, MA 01746

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New Senior Altar Servers ~

A blizzard the day before did not prevent sixteen St. Mary's Altar Servers from making the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 30. Having undergone more advanced training, they were ready to be promoted to Senior Altar Server. In this role they renewed their commitment to the Altar Server Ministry through High School, took on responsibility for mentoring the younger servers, and are on call for the great liturgical feasts. Congratulations to Danny Baribeau, Michael Butler, Louis Connoni, Stephen Corrou, Hugh Fitzgerald, Thomas Liro, John Liro, Marie Meisner, Gianna Meisner, Anthony Nunes, Kate Queeney (missing from photo), Maeve Radcliffe, Jared Sangil, Ethan Savage, Liam Savage, and Andrew Schiller. Well done!



New Senior Altar Server Crosses ready to be blessed.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Good People of St. Mary's,

A few years ago, I was blessed to spend a week in Bruges, Belgium. It is a magnificent place, filled with medieval architecture, lush gardens, and bounded by scenic canals with small stone bridges. Every corner you turn seems to present a "postcard picture."

A fascinating fact about Bruges is that for hundreds of years this beautiful place was nearly forgotten by the world. From the 12th to 15th centuries, Bruges was a major world port and trading center. After 1500, however, its channel and port silted up, leading to the city's decline. The population dropped drastically, from 200,000 to 50,000 residents. It was only in the last century or so, that the world "rediscovered" this perfectly preserved medieval city, and that it became a major tourist destination.



For some Catholics, I think, the Church is like their Bruges. They vaguely know that it is there, perhaps it was once of some importance to them. But they do not visit it, and the beauty and riches it contains go un-enjoyed by them. The good news is that those riches are still there, waiting to be discovered. Which brings us to Lent, the Catholic season of renewal and reawakening about to begin.

If your Catholic faith has fallen in importance in your life, I invite you to rediscover its beauty this Lent. Embrace the glory and gift which is the Mass, so that Jesus may reach you through Word and Sacrament. Perhaps take part this Lent in our "Faith in Light" series, or spend an hour with our Eucharistic Lord in Adoration during the 40 Hours, or any Thursday night.

Bruges fell into decline when its channel harbor silted up. Similarly, our lives can get clogged up with busyness, worry, anger, jealousies, worldliness, and sin in so many forms. This Lent, dredge open the channel to your soul by making a good Confession, allowing God to clear away all the things that have kept His grace from flowing freely into your life. A soul made open by Confession, is a soul that Jesus can enter to work new and wondrous things.

This Lent, try something to grow in faith that you have never done before, or maybe not for a very long time, giving God a new access to your life. Our faith is such a treasure, a source of truth and joy for those who long for the Lord.

A Blessed Lent to you and yours,

Rev. Mark J. Coiro

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St. Mary's rejoices to receive these new families. May we be Christ to them and find Christ in them.

The Baddour-Sousounis Family ~ Konstantinos, Joelle & Jayden

The Conca Family ~ Jacob, Elizabeth, Emma, Chloe & Finley

The Fantasia Family ~ Michael, Krista & Michael

The Livingston Family ~ Robert, Kristin & Lillian

The Marchese Family ~ Andrew, Megan, Evelyn & Vivian

The Banner Family ~ Colin, Marcie, Jason, Caroline & Noah



Meet Him In Ashes ~ Wednesday, March 2



6:45 AM	Liturgy	4:00 PM	Liturgy
9:00 AM	Mass	5:30 PM	Liturgy
		7:00 PM	Mass

Ashes distributed at all five celebrations.
Please wear a mask (final day of mandate).

Meet Him For An Hour ~ Sunday, March 6

Lenten Holy Hour from 2:00-3:00 PM in St. Mary's Church. Deacon Ron Dowding will Expose the Blessed Sacrament for one hour of Eucharistic Adoration. During this time of prayer, he will offer the reflection, "Lent – A Time for Growth!"

Meet Him In Stained Glass ~

The first five Mondays of Lent, from 7-8 PM by ZOOM. Join our Pastor, Fr. Mark Coiro, and our Parish Librarian, Mrs. Betty Febo, for a five-part series exploring the historical and spiritual significance of the ten original saint-stained glass windows that grace our beautiful St. Mary's Church. We will learn about the families who donated these windows and pray for those in whose memory they were gifted. Then we will learn about the saints depicted in the windows, and how their lives and teachings can help us grow in faith and love. Each evening will conclude with prayer.

March 7 – St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist
(Margaret Bray and John Bray)

March 14 – St. Cecelia and Mary Queen of Heaven
(John/Joanna Clancy and Helen Clancy)

March 21 – Christ the King and St. Patrick
(Helen Howard and the Supple Brothers)

March 28 – St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist
(Our first three pastors and Edward O'Connell)

April 4 – St. Luke and St. Augustine (Patrick Gahan and Angelique Maeder)

Sign Up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-faith>

The day of each Session you will be emailed a ZOOM link, photos of the Stained Glass for that night, and prayer materials.





Meet Him In Adoration And A Good Confession ~

In addition to the usual Saturday Noon to 12:45 PM Confession time, during Lent St. Mary's Thursday night Eucharistic Holy Hours will also have the opportunity for Confession, 7-8 PM in the church. Each Lenten Holy Hour includes an intention for which we ask you kindly to pray during your time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:



- March 3: Pray for parents who have lost children.
- March 10: Pray for unity and healing for our nation.
- March 17: Pray for those experiencing addiction, and their loves ones.
- March 24: Pray for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.
- March 31: Pray for married couples in difficulty.
- April 7: Pray for those fighting cancer.

The Reconciliation Room in the Church is equipped with a HEPA composite air filter. For pandemic safety, Confessions are currently behind the screen, which has been sealed with plastic on both sides.



Meet Him Around The Table, Friday Lenten Simple Suppers ~

Join us for a great meal, prayer and deepening your community connection to your St. Mary's family! Fridays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6 PM, and April 1 at 5:30 PM (the St. Paul Boys Choir performs at 7 PM), then back to a 6 PM start on April 8.

Our Lenten Suppers will take place in Fr. Haley Hall and will include a range of food options while observing Friday's abstinence from meat - as well as child friendly food. We are well aware not everyone eats soup!

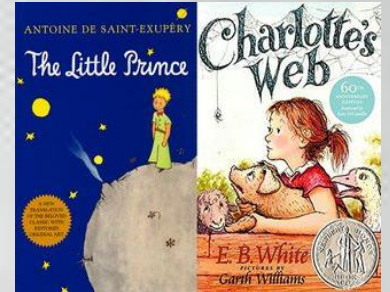
Click [HERE](#) to R.S.V.P. as this will help us get an idea of how much food / drink we will need each Friday evening. However, WALK INS are more than welcome! Families with young children are encouraged to come and not feel burdened about bringing a meal, please let your St. Mary's community lift you up. This also applies to any Individual/couple/ family feeling burdened where bringing a meal would prevent you from attending. We are all in different seasons of life, let your St. Mary's family be a safe landing spot for you this Lent! A free will offering basket will be available for Pantry Shelf and Family Assistance.

If you'd like to help, please email Tony and Natalie Pomarico at st.maryslentensuppers@gmail.com and a Google form will be sent to you to quickly fill out for a sign up of your choosing. Thank you!



Meet Him In Beit Sahour ~

At all Masses the weekend of March 19 & 20, we will be accepting donated items for our Sister Parish's School in Beit Sahour, Palestine. Please bring NEW English language books, educational DVD's, and colored pencil sets for the students there. Sadly, our Holy Land Pilgrimage has been postponed from March 2022 to March 2023, but we will ship these collected items for the children there.



Meet Him For Forty Hours ~

Sunday, March 27 - Tuesday, March 29

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 27

11:30 AM	Opening Mass
6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
7-7:30 PM	Organ Music
8:00 PM	Scripture Reflection

Monday, March 28

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 29

9:00 AM	Closing Mass with Benediction
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Anyone and everyone is welcome at any time without signing up. But we need a minimum of two people committed to each specific hour the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed for Adoration. Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA5AB29A3FC1-40hours1>.

Meet Him With The St. Paul's Boy Choir ~

Friday, April 1, 7-8 PM in St. Mary's Church. Bless your Lent with an evening of rapturous music by the internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of St. Paul's Choir School in Cambridge. Directed by James Kennerley, the Choir will perform selected works from the classical repertoire, including pieces by Mozart, Bach, Pergolesi, and John Rutter. The Concert is free and open to all. For more information about St. Paul's Choir School, please visit www.saintpaulschoirschool.us.

* The Lenten Friday Soup Supper will start early this night, at 5:30 PM, so that you can attend.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 March, 2022

Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Brodo

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be **Wednesday, March 16 in the church at 7:00 PM. The Rosary is open to all parishioners.** Current COVID-19 policies in effect. As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer."

WORCESTER DIOCESE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: Save the date! On April 2, at Assumption University, the twenty-first annual Worcester Catholic Men's Conference will be held. There will be six speakers. Lunch included. Tickets are on sale now at firstmensconf.org. Adults \$45, Students \$20. This conference is always a day of inspiration for all Catholic men seeking time to reflect on their faith, family and vocation. Members of our Council will be there!

K of C ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE: On Saturday, January 22, the Council sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mary's - the fifteenth time we have done so. The Blood Drive took place in Father Haley Hall, where Knights volunteered as greeters and hosts for recovering donors. The Red Cross collected forty-four units of blood from registered donors. Thanks to all donors and volunteers. The Council leader was Rodman Burgett.



DANGEROUSLY LOW BLOOD SUPPLY: The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Find a Blood Drive at this website and please donate if you can: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. Thank you!

SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE: From the previous month of February, "Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenged Knights to go to confession and attend at least one weekly Mass....offering it for the intention to fearlessly answer Christ's call to follow him." Quote from Columbia, February 2022.

NEW COUNCIL BROTHERS: The Council welcomed new Knights Erik Littlejohn and Charles Paradie at the February meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2022: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org/joinus. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.



Live Your Catholic Faith in the World

**St. Mary's WINGS Spring Season Begins
Wednesday, March 23, 10:00 – 11:15 AM**

The Spring Season enables women to discern how they are being called to live out their faith in the world today through powerful witness speaker presentations based on the seven tenants of Catholic Social Teaching.

Our weekly program includes an inspiring speaker presentation followed by small group discussion. Suggested seasonal dues are \$20 for those who are able, unless you have already paid for the entire year. WINGS may be on Zoom or in person. See the bulletin for details.



Women of all ages are encouraged to attend WINGS. **Email:**

stmaryswingssecretary@gmail.com to sign up or call Jennifer Schiller at 617-852-9632 or Diane Collins at 508-259-7795 with questions. If you have received our Fall/Winter Zoom links, you will automatically be sent the link for the Spring program.



St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 www.stmarysholliston.com

They were slightly outnumbered by the boys on Feb. 6, but that did not stop St. Mary's girls from claiming victory at the 15th Annual Middle School Youth Group "Battle of the Sexes!" It was a very close night as teens faced contests of Trivia, the Math Scramble, Cup Stacking, the Ping Pong Relay, and more. But then the girls took the "Great Hula Hoop Pass," allowing them to claim the coveted trophy and prizes. **The next MSYG Meeting is Sunday, March 13 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.**

There will be a presentation on this summer's Whitewater Rafting Trips, including a video. There will also be sign-ups for hosting the St. Paul's Boys Choir on Friday, April 1, and for the Friday, March 25 Late Night Cosmic Bowling Trip! All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are welcome. Bring a friend!

Girls Win!





Ninety-three St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group teens hit the slopes of Nashoba on Friday, Feb. 11 for this year's annual Snowtubing Trip. God was good, and we had warm temperatures with fast, icy runs – a very unusual combination! Teens hurtled down the runs solo or in pairs, with dinner eaten outdoors on picnic tables. Thank you to all who made this such a great night of fun and friendship! *“Have you visited the place where the snow is kept?” - Job 38:22*





2022 EPIC HIGH SCHOOL MISSISSIPPI MISSION TRIP

Sunday June 26 - Sunday July 2
Rebuilding Lives & Faith!



Join us for a week of service as we serve the Gulfport community while growing closer to Christ. Feed the homeless, Work in food pantries, Repair houses, Work with Children.

Open to all St. Mary's High School Teens.

PARENT & TEEN INFORMATION NIGHT:
Sunday, March 6, 7-8 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

Watch your mail for the Mission Trip Information Packet! Questions? Email Theresa Virzi at stmarysym1870@gmail.com



In 2021, we kicked off our EPIC High School Youth Group with loads of fun, games, prizes and friendships! In February of 2022 we had our first Chipotle meeting! This March, we will be having a **Battle of the Sexes**. You may remember this one from Middle School Youth Group but get ready to compete in high school! All High Schoolers are welcome, so bring your friends! **The Battle of the Sexes will take place on Sunday, March 27, 2022 from 7:15-8:45 PM.** Bring your game faces and get ready for a night of friendly competition and some awesome prizes. Also coming up: keep your eyes on the bulletin for social events for the Spring and check out the Mission Trip information above. We are looking forward to an EPIC amount of fun! For other updates and to stay in touch, follow [stmarysepic](#) on Instagram!



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * March, 2022

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.hollistonTroop14.com

If interested in joining Troop 14, contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for Boys 11-17 years old.

The Troop is back in full swing with weekly Monday Night Meetings from 7 - 8:30 PM in St. Mary's Lower Church Hall. Join us!

Upcoming Events:

- Indoor Rock Climbing in March



- Troop 14's Annual Pancake Breakfast fund-raising event, rescheduled to Sunday April 3, 2022, in Father Haley Hall.

JANUARY HIKE: What did you do on the morning of Saturday January 22, one of the coldest mornings of the year? With temperatures in the single digits, 18 Scouts and leaders layered up and met at 8:00 AM in Sherborn to hike the Bay Circuit Trail to Rocky Narrows Reservation. (Photo Below Left). The Scouts enjoyed the 5.7-mile local hike with various types of trails that included a portion along the partially frozen Charles River and great scenic vistas from Rocky Narrow's Overlook and King Phillip's Overlook. The reward at the end of the trail? Our Scoutmaster made hot chocolate with marshmallows.

SCOUT SUNDAY: Over 25 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Leaders from the Packs and Troops in Holliston attended the 11:30 AM Scout Sunday Mass at St. Mary's on February 6. Father Mark was the Celebrant and Deacon Ron preached the homily (both of whom are Troop 14 Committee Members). Deacon Ron's homily made a connection with the Scout Motto to the First Reading. As Scouts we learn to "Be Prepared" for anything that we may encounter, just as we should be prepared for anything that God may have planned for us. At the end of Mass, Father Mark offered a special blessing for all the Scouts and leaders.

COURT OF HONOR: On Monday, February 7, Troop 14 held its Winter Court of Honor in St. Mary's Church. The Troop's Fund-Raising efforts and activities were reviewed. Troop 14 Scouts earned a total of eight merit badges since October, with seven Scouts advancing in rank. They included Matthew Pierce & Will Sobchak earning Scout; Scott Baribeau & Jeffery Hebert earning Tenderfoot; Rhodes Van de Wege Batt earning 2nd Class; and Jack Baribeau and Ben Goyette earning Star.

TROOP 14'S NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT: Congratulations goes out to Eddie Bombardieri who completed all the requirements and passed his Eagle Board of Review on January 27, achieving Scouting's highest rank. (Photo Below Right). This was a major accomplishment for Eddie and for Troop 14. Eddie's Eagle Project was to develop two picnic areas on the Holliston Rail Trail (one south of Arch Street and one near Lil' Folk Farm). The Project included building picnic tables for each location. Well done Eddie!



Marching to the Beat of Hearts

Reflecting on the Pilgrimage to Washington, DC, January 20-22nd

On January 20, George & Susan Martell and I joined the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office for this year's Pilgrimage for Life. Every year since 1973 the Catholic Church has sponsored pilgrimages to Washington, DC, to stand for the cause of life - from conception to natural death. Attended by parishes across the United States, these yearly pilgrimages host a variety of events including daily Masses, Reconciliation services, witness talks, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praise & worship rallies. But the main purpose of the pilgrimage is to give voice to the lives of over sixty million American children who have perished since the passing of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. This year, despite the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims attended the march. Over five hundred of those pilgrims were from our own Archdiocese. The theme for this year's pilgrimage came from a quote from Saint John Paul II "If you want true freedom and lasting peace then America, defend life!"

Leading our group were Colleen Donohoe; Associate Superintendent of Catholic Identity, Fr. Michael Zimmerman; Assistant Director of the Office of Vocations, Fr. Matthew Norwood from Hingham, Fr. Alwin Chinnappan from Arlington, and Fr. Matthew Conley from Scituate (both Fr. Conley and Fr. Chinnappan served at St. Mary's as seminarians). The group was joined by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Mother Olga and her Daughters of Mary of Nazareth in Quincy. More than two hundred students, staff and chaperones from area schools were in our company, including 26 from the Montrose School in nearby Medfield.



Images courtesy of George Martell Photography

Friday morning before the march, six thousand pilgrims assembled at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for a special Mass with Cardinal Sean. The cardinal noted that ours is "the arduous task of changing hearts and minds; to try to bring healing" and that we are given the responsibility "to build a society where every life is important." After the Mass the pilgrims from our contingent listened to inspiring witness talks by Fr. Matthew Conley and Mother Olga and Sister Veritas (the Sisters of Life), which gave clear definition to the purpose of our pilgrimage:

We March for Life

Mother Olga described the details of caring for two individuals whose lives would have been overlooked in their passing. The first was a homeless veteran in Iraq whom she had been caring for on the street. After the man had been discovered several days after his death, Mother insisted on cleaning and burying him, even though his body was deteriorating and rancid. While others around her were repulsed by the experience, Mother said she could smell only the odor of incense, which reaffirmed the sanctity of the person she was caring for. The second individual Mother spoke about was a child of seventeen weeks who had miscarried in its mother's womb. Because the mother of the child had to be rushed off to surgery immediately after the birth, Mother held and rocked the stillborn infant for 12 hours in the hospital room. Mother Olga recognized the dignity of these two individuals as children of God, despite the difficulties their situations presented to her, demonstrating how true love embraces humanity in both life and death.

We March for God

Mother Olga spoke about having accompanied a young woman through her pregnancy who had been a victim of rape. The victim, traumatized by her experience, had planned to offer her child up for adoption; but upon seeing the face of her child at birth, she couldn't part with him. Four years later, Mother said, both mother and child are together and thriving. Sister Veritas recalled a conversation she had with an obstetrician who accompanied a 15 year old couple through their unplanned pregnancy. This complicated pregnancy involved conjoined twins who shared one heart between them in the womb. Knowing that the two children could not survive for long, a number of medical professionals came to observe the birth. While the clinical audience looked on with curiosity, the young father took the two newborns into his arms and tenderly said, "Don't be afraid, daddy's here." Mother Olga and Sister Veritas illustrated how God's presence is seen in the faces of the innocent, regardless of circumstance; and how we come to Adore God by offering our love and attention to every human being.

We March for Each Other

Fr. Matthew described an incident as a seminarian, where a rough-looking man from Dorchester ran toward him in a back alley. It turned out the man was not running to engage in battle, but to ask seminarian Matthew to pray with him for his father, who had just died in a car accident. The experience conveyed the importance of our personal witness to the dignity of every life, no matter the circumstances surrounding our encounters.

Mother Olga looked into the eyes of each of the pilgrims and spoke about their importance as individuals; how much God loves them personally, and why their witness is of such great importance. "When we march," she said, we are not just marching for a cause, "we march for life, we march for God, and we march for each other."

"Precisely in an age when the inviolable rights of the person are solemnly proclaimed and the value of life is publicly affirmed, the very right to life is being denied or trampled upon, especially at the more significant moments of existence: the moment of birth and the moment of death."

Evangelium Vitae - The Gospel of Life Pope John Paul II - 1995

ADULT FAITH RESOURCES

MARCH 2022

got faith?

SUNDAY READINGS: This month marks the beginning of the season of Lent and the four Sundays of March are all Sundays in the Lenten Season. The first two Sundays of Lent always feature Gospels that tell the stories of Jesus' temptation in the desert as well as His transfiguration. Interestingly, in Luke's version of the desert temptation that we will hear on March 6, Jesus quotes Psalm 91, other parts of which are used for the Responsorial Psalm on that day. This year, as we hear the parables of the fig tree and the prodigal son on weeks three and four, we are reminded of God's mercy and willingness to give us a second chance. Finally, if you are an Old Testament fan, the first reading on March 20 is from the book of Exodus and is one of the more recognizable scenes from the Hebrew Scriptures: the story of God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush. You can prepare for the Sunday readings at <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>.

"JUST" WONDERING: The Archdiocese is sponsoring a webinar on environmental justice on Saturday, March 12 from 11:00 to 12:30 PM; it is called *Heal Our Common Home and Respond to the Cry of the Poor*. Nationally known speakers as well as examples of actions underway at parishes will be presented. Resources and opportunities for collaboration will be discussed, too. You can register for this online webinar at <https://bit.ly/registerHOCH>.

LENTEN PRACTICES: Are you seeking ways to live out the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? Here are some websites that might give you some inspiration. Busted Halo is once again publishing its online Lenten Calendar and running its daily InstaLent social media challenge; go to <https://bustedhalo.com/> for the links. The Ignatian Spirituality website of Loyola Press asks the question "What are you doing for Lent?" and offers some suggestions. Here's the website: <https://bit.ly/ISfromLP>. Finally, how would you like to read about a cookbook to help with fasting during these 40 Days? Go to <https://bit.ly/WOFStewart> for *A Cookbook Review for a Joyful Lent* written by Word on Fire's Haley Stewart.

YOUNG ADULTS: "Young Catholic Professionals is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a mission to challenge, train and inspire young adults working in various professions to *Work in Witness for Christ*. YCP brings together young adults and seasoned business professionals in a variety of events to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire action" (from the website). The Boston Chapter of YCP was launched last Fall. See the website at <https://www.ycpboston.org/cpages/home> for more information.

SAINTS: Among the saints remembered this month are Sr. Katharine Drexel (March 3), and Joseph, the husband of Mary (March 19). We also celebrate the Solemnity of Annunciation of Our Lord on March 25. Check out the information about these important saints/feasts, and lots of others, at the Franciscan Media *Saint of the Day* website, <https://bit.ly/FMSaints>.

AMORIS LAETITIA YEAR: This January, a small group of parishioners read and discussed Pope Francis' Post-synodal Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Loving): On Love in the Family*. Some of the interesting, discussion-worthy passages included "families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity" (7); "children are not the property of a family but have their own lives to lead" (18); and "the Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes" (315). The exhortation reminded us that a marriage can be an icon of God's image for us (121), and that every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world (66). *Amoris Laetitia* is a very hope-filled document, one that tells us that "the experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church" (88).

—Leo Racine