



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A): Adults inquiring about the Catholic Faith and Sacraments, please call the rectory. 628-1113

BAPTISM: One Sunday each month at 1:00 PM. Prior parents interview with priest or Deacon and class are required. (Call the rectory.)

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION: Saturday: 4:00 to 4:45 PM and by appointment.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements must be made in person with priest at least six (6) months in advance and prior to reception arrangements. Completion of Pre-Cana programs mandatory.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Last Sunday of the month after 12:30 Mass for those with serious illness. In an emergency, please call the rectory.

DEVOTIONS: Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Perpetual Help: Monday after 8:30 AM Mass and at 8:00 PM.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday 1 to 5PM

WEB SITE: www.stgerts.com — E-mail stgerts@AOL.com

PARISH MEMBERSHIP Every family in the parish should be registered Please call the parish office for registration, or when changing address or moving to another parish.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2012

It is I, I, who wipe out for my own sake,
your offenses; / your sins I remember no more.

-- *Isaiah 43:25*

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Isaiah announced the word of the Lord: "[S]ee, I am doing something new!" (Isaiah 43:19). And what was this new thing? A promise for a people who "did not call upon me" and "grew weary of me" (43:22); a promise of forgiveness. "It is I, I, who wipe out . . . your offenses; / your sins I remember no more" (43:25).

Paul told the Corinthians--and tells us--that Jesus is God's "yes," and that all God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Does that include God's promise to forgive sins? Mark gives the answer when he relates how some people lowered a paralytic through a hole in the roof, seeking a cure.

As far as we can tell, no one requested forgiving the man's sins. But that's what Jesus did, exactly as Isaiah had announced. Then, lest anyone doubt his authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus said, "[P]ick up your mat, and go home" (Mark 2:11). The man "rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away" (2:12).

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MASS BOOK 2013

The Mass book for 2013 is now open
We will be accepting
mass requests for that year
Please note that the mass offering
will now be \$20 per mass.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today, in the streets of Rio and New Orleans and in the canals of Venice, Carnival reaches its height. We stand on the brink of Lenten discipline and order, of sacrifice and prayer, and like a diver for pearls, we take a deep breath of life's abundance before immersing ourselves. Literally "Good-bye to the Flesh," these once were days for clearing out the barnyard and having one last good roast before turning to fish, to eggs and cheese and porridges. In some places, masks and disguises are worn as a reminder that all falsehood must be stripped away in Lent and our true identity as the baptized must prosper. In others, the green, purple, and gold beads tossed in playful salute have their origins not only in the gifts of the magi, but also entwine the liturgical colors of Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter.

The message, sadly missed by many, is: embrace the Lenten journey, and find your life transformed. Dedicate the next few days to savoring life's wonders, to the abundance of tables laden with great food and surrounded by the laughter of dear friends. Then, as you step forward to receive ashes on your brow, you will have already acquired a yearning for the renewing splash of Easter's waters.

--James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

ST. VINCENT dePAUL SOCIETY MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 1
LOWER CHURCH
TIME: 7:30PM



Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY **February 19**
 7:30 AM Raffale Frumiento +
 9:30AM Alfred Alacca +
 11:30AM Joseph, Francesca & Dominick
 Carbone & Joseph & Ida Barnao +

MONDAY **February 20**
 8:30AM Lydia Batista +

TUESDAY **February 21**
 8:30AM Richard & Kathleen Johnson Family
 living & deceased

ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY **February 22**
 8:30AM Edith Coskiano +
 4:00PM Prayer Service
 7:30PM Manuela Sabin +

THURSDAY **February 23**
 8:30AM Dominick Carbone +

FRIDAY **February 24**
 8:30AM Palmaro, Sobrino, Sabin Families +
 Helen Roche +

SATURDAY **February 25**
 8:30AM Kenneth McBride +
 Vincent Furnari +
 Elizabeth Proulx +

5:00PM Vigil Mass for Parishioners

SUNDAY **February 26**
 7:30 AM George Baum +
 9:30AM Edward Minicozzi, Sr. +
 11:30AM Anthony Petraglia +



WINE & COMMUNION HOSTS
 THIS WEEK
 In Memory of
 Nicholas Pucciariello
 By
 Family

**Saturday & Sunday Religious Education
 Class Masses**

Sunday, Feb. 19, — 9:30AM, 3rd Grade
Saturday, March 10, — 5:00PM, 7th Grade
Sunday, March 18, — 9:30AM, 4th Grade
Saturday, March 24, 5:00PM, 6th Grade

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -- Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! (Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25)

Psalm -- Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you (Psalm 41).

Second Reading -- God has given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment (2 Corinthians 1:18-22).

Gospel -- They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this" (Mark 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 -- 6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
 Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22;
 Mk 1:12-15

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: Presidents' Day
 Tuesday: St. Peter Damian; Mardi Gras;
 Shrove Tuesday
 Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence;
 Almsgiving; Washington's Birthday
 Thursday: St. Polycarp
 Friday: Abstinence



MONDAY
FEBRUARY 20
PRESIDENT'S DAY
PARISH OFFICE
CLOSED

**NO EXPOSITION OF
 BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**PRESCHOOL
 &
 RELIGIOUS ED CLOSED**

Please pray for our sick

Eugene Bambrick
Edward Burgie
Carmella Castigliola
Christine DiMarco
Michael DiMarco
Joseph Doherty
Bette Dougherty
Charles Dylewski
Joe Giralamo
Lynn Gormley

Alex Kiczek, SFO
Donald McGuiness
Louis Pappas
Jessie Petrafessa
Richard Qureni
Steven Varjian
Kenneth Veselak
Lynn Valentine

Please Pray for our Deceased

*Please Pray for all in
Armed Forces*

Hosp. Medic. Matthew D. Perez
2nd Lt. Glenn Harvey
Lt. Travis J. Buffa ...Lt. Melissa Buffa
Sp. Trevor Tebaldi



Air Nat. G. John Angerame, Jr., Sp. Chase Tucker
Corp. Jason Roland, DC2 Michael Carbone, Jr.
Lt. Col. Sean Patak, USMC SFC. Sean Schenck,
Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Keating Airman Bryan Mollitor,
M Sgt. Donald J. Tucker Pfc. Duncan Moskowitz,
Major James Nicholson, Lt. Terrance Thorgramson
Lt. Col. Paul J. LoBue SSgt. Sacha K. Mattia,
SSgt. James P. Mattia, Lt. Col. Nicholas Mattia
The Four LoRusso Brothers SA Kristina Peietrofere
Lt. Sean Riordan Lt. Chad Lennon, USMC
LCPL Matthew Ketcham, USMC Lt. Wesley John Pritchett

All three classes this week were preparing for Valentine's Day. The two year old class made flowers, while the three year old class made heart shaped "stain glass".



The fours were hard at work making cards and presents for their parents. They played a Valentine parachute game in the gym and did a hearts math activity.

The preschool's annual bake sale is coming up soon on March 3rd and 4th, and our annual movie night will be on March 31st. More details on these events will follow.

**NEXT SUNDAY — FEBRUARY 26
SACRAMENT OF
ANNOINTING OF THE SICK
AFTER 11:30AM MASS**

**A SPECIAL INVITATION
FOR OUR
KINDERGARTEN
CHILDREN**



**COME
JOIN US**

**You are invited to come to
Church on**

**Friday, March 9
At 4:00PM.**

**This fun afternoon is
especially for you, our kindergar-
ten children!**

**Come and spend time with other
boys and girls from our parish.**

**We will sing and pray and work on
a special activity together.
Come and be part of the fun!**

**Looking forward to
seeing you there!**

Mrs. Walsh

***Parents if you are interested in having your child
participate in this Kindergarten activity, please call
the Religious Ed office
At 628-2432 or email at stgertslwalsh@aol.com**



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Sunday, February 12, \$4,748

*Thank you for your support,
and for using your envelopes*

Reflection

Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today's Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God's forgiveness?

Living Stewardship

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their gift for forgiveness with others by seeking (and receiving) special graces through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is almost here!

General Intercessions for Mass

That as forgiving stewards we may embrace the peace of Christ by letting go of the past hurts and grudges.
we pray to the Lord...

MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED

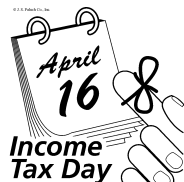
In addition to Masses for our beloved departed souls we have available, at the parish office, donation cards for the weekly wine and hosts which may be presented to the family of those remembered.

For details, please call the Parish Office.



INCOME TAX DAY IS COMING

Please call the Parish Office if you wish to receive a letter stating the amount of your financial gift to St. Gertrude's Parish for the year 2011.



ROSARY GUILD



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!

The Rosary Guild is holding it's 13th ANNUAL ATTIC TREASURES AND CHILDREN'S WHITE ELEPHANT SALE on APRIL 21 AND APRIL 22 in the Parish Center.



We will accept your donations EXCEPT furniture, computers and adult clothing.

We will also have a table for new items — surely you have received gifts that you cannot use.

We need children's clothing, toys, books, etc.

All proceeds go to the Ida Barnao Pre-School Scholarship.

For further information please feel free to call either Catherine Carbone, 628-1441, Mary Ryan, 628-1270 or Barbara Savinetti, 676-5227 Barbara Serio, 628-2115

The Rosary Guild is looking for new members and to re-engage with many of our members who we haven't see for some time.

The Guild wants to undertake some new, exciting projects, but it needs lots of help as well as fresh ideas and perspectives.

Your participation would mean a lot and go a long way in furthering the spirit of community.

Attend our next meeting on **Thursday, March 1st, at 7:30PM** in the Parish Center and be part of a positive experience!

Second Time

Shawn Shamulzai,
Riverhead, NY

Lena M. Cutrone, St. Gertrude's, Bayville, NY





LENT BEGINS!!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

is

ASH WEDNESDAY

ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED

at

8:30AM MASS

4:00PM PRAYER SERVICE

and

7:30PM MASS



Stations of the Cross Fridays in Lent

7:30 pm Church

February 24

March 2

March 9: led by Religious Ed

March 16: led by Religious Ed

March 23:

March 30:

LENTEN ADULT
FAITH FORMATION

Acts of the Apostles
Part 2



The excitement of Pentecost enlivened the hearts of early believers in their struggles to establish communities

of faith — struggles surprisingly like those we experience today!

As part of our study, you will meet Peter & Paul, two of the early church's most significant leaders.

All welcome — bring a friend!

Friday Mornings:

February 24, March 2, 9, 16, & 23.

Time: 9:30 to 11:00AM

Parish Center, Room 1

For more information or questions
contact: Nancy Head 628-8467

Lenten Observations

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

In Catholic liturgical and spiritual tradition, Lent is a “preparation for the celebration of Easter.



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For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery.”

(Roman Calendar, 27) This is accomplished through the liturgy itself, and by penitential practices such as fasting, almsgiving and intensive prayer. These are designed to foster conversion, reconciliation, purification, and healing with God, oneself and the community, especially for those preparing to celebrate the Easter Sacraments.

Abstinence from Meat

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting

All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.

Dispensations from Abstinence and Fasting

Catholics are not to consider themselves lightly excused from the obligation to fast and/or abstain. However, Catholics who have a good reason not to abstain or fast are not bound by the law.

Although not required, they are encouraged to substitute another penitential practice, prayer, or work of charity.

The obligation to do penance and to observe the appointed penitential seasons is a serious one. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse.

A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.

The priests who serve in the Diocese of Rockville Centre possess the faculty to dispense in individual cases.



TRIDUUM CHOIR 2012
Come sing with us!

**We're forming a special choir
to sing for the
Sacred Triduum.
We'll be singing On
Holy Thursday, Good Friday
and
at the Easter Vigil.**

**If you would like to sing for all
or just part of the Triduum,
you're most welcome to join us.**

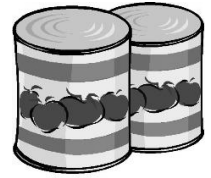
Rehearsal dates are:

**2/28, 3/6, 3/15,
3/20, 3/29, 4/2.**

**All rehearsals will be held in the Church
from 7:30PM-9:00PM. For more information,
please contact Carol Goetz at 628-1113.**



"Changing Our Hearts for God"



FAMILY MASS FOOD DRIVE

As a Lenten Family Mass activity, we will be hosting a Food Drive at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The children are invited to bring in a non-perishable food item each Sunday during Lent. We will have a special procession during the Mass to collect the donations. Thank you for your support.



Some needed items are:

Rice, Snacks, Canned Fruit, Coffee, Tea, Cookies, Crackers, Pasta, Tuna Fish, Cereal, Spaghetti Beans, Juice, Sauce, Cereal, Parmalat Milk, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Baby Wipes, Peanut Butter, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Canned Soup, Soap, Canned Vegetables

