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# SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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FEBRUARY 23, 2025



## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

**Second Reading:** Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20

**Gospel Reading:** John 17:20-26

**Focus:** *Jesus teaches us to see others as God sees them.*

Though our enemies may mistreat us, Jesus teaches us not to respond in judgment. Rather, we are to be loving and forgiving, just as our Father is kind and merciful. We must see others as God sees them, in the same way that David is able to see his enemy Saul as God's anointed, and Jesus is able to see sinners as worthy of goodness and love.

### **Liturgy of the Word:**

In the first reading, David spares the life of his enemy Saul because Saul is God's anointed. In the second reading, Paul speaks of the first man, Adam, from earth and the last Adam, from heaven. He says, "Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one." In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples to love their enemies and be merciful as God is merciful, for they will be treated the same in return.



## MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Stephen Maher, Annemarie Willard,  
Deacon John and Joseph Vespo

10 a.m.: Deacon John, Joyce Garrett  
and Frank Roe

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*"Life is a journey.  
When we stop, things don't go right."  
- Pope Francis*

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## WHAT AM I DOING FOR LENT?



Lent is approaching very quickly, and you may already be contemplating this year's Lenten practice.

But here's a different option: Why not consider joining your fellow parishioners after Mass each Sunday of Lent to reflect and share your

thoughts on that day's Gospel reading?

Sign-up sheets are available at the doors. Please note you do not have to attend every Sunday to participate.

## LEARN THE LESSON OF LAZARUS

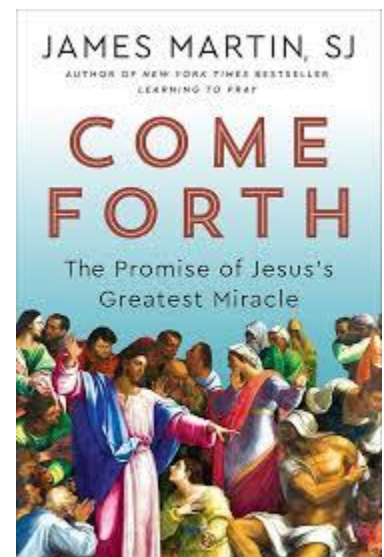
Another possible Lenten practice is to participate in the Book Club. The selection for this Lent is Fr. James Martin's book, "COME FORTH: The Promise of Jesus's Greatest Miracle."

It is not only a meditation on one of the most intriguing events of the New Testament, but also a profound reflection on Jesus' lessons on

love, family, sadness, frustration, fear, anger, freedom and joy.

Martin helps us experience the transformative story of Lazarus. We need only trust that God can use it to free us to experience new life, like Lazarus.

Discussion begins at 10 a.m. **Thursday, March 6**, via Zoom and runs until 11:15 a.m. For further information and for the Zoom link, contact the office or Deacon Carl at carlloc@yahoo.com.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

**February 10-16: \$ 4,636.85**

Envelopes: \$ 860.00 – Online: \$ 3,776.85

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 29 (Snow)

10 a.m. – 38 (Snow)



## Food Pantry Needs

### TIME TO STOCK THE SHELVES

Next Sunday, the first Sunday of the month, is also known as **Food Pantry Sunday**, a way to heighten awareness about all those facing food insecurity in our community.

But regardless of the day or week, your contributions of unexpired and nonperishable pantry staples are always welcome. Even though we partner with the Regional Food Bank and your cash donations are used to purchase items (on sale!) as needed, it seems that no sooner are the shelves filled than they're empty again.

And no wonder: Thanks solely to your donations, we have been able to provide food for between 100 and 130 people monthly from about three dozen families – and that number could climb even higher! Some families are single seniors; others are extended families of 10 or more. Regardless, they're all struggling. One older woman said just last week, "Sometimes I have to choose between picking up my prescriptions or buying food."

### HEED THE CALL OF CABBAGE

On **Saturday, March 8**, our **corned-beef-and-cabbage** tradition returns after the 5 o'clock Mass.

You might even find a Pot of Gold (a/k/a mac and cheese) on the buffet – and with a little bit of Irish luck, Irish bangers, too! And who knows what else the team of leprechauns might serve?

Adults will be able to have a gargle – that's Irish slang for beer or wine – and there will be soda, too.

Tickets, \$15 or \$35 for an immediate family, will be sold after the Masses and are also available through the office.



### BLANKET MINISTRY BAKE SALE

Be sure to bring your sweet tooth to church the **next weekend** as it is time once again for the semiannual **Bake Sale** to benefit the Prayer Blanket Ministry.

Twice a year, the core members of this ministry gather with Confirmation candidates to make no-sew fleece blankets for those in need of comfort – and the next session is approaching. The sale of home-baked goods takes place shortly beforehand so the proceeds, along with any other donations, are available for some smart shopping. Your invaluable support continues to fund this ministry.

### "NO GREATER LOVE"



**THE PASSION OF CHRIST IN DRAMA, SONG AND DANCE**  
Presented by the Xavier Company  
at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 23  
Our Lady of the Assumption Church  
17 High Street, Bloomingburg  
845-733-1477  
Freewill donations accepted

### ASH WEDNESDAY NEARS

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, **March 5**. Mass with the distribution of ashes will take place at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Please let the office know if you are able to serve as a greeter.

### CARDINAL'S 2025 APPEAL

There are so many reasons why the Appeal is important. Your support helps countless people and sustains ministries throughout our parishes.

Our parish goal is **\$50,600**, the same as in 2024, of which **\$11,920** has already been received/pledged from **23** families as of February 18. Our Commitment Weekend is March 15-16 this year. Please prayerfully consider your gift, which you can also make online at [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org).

Thank you for your generosity.



*the* **CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout the Archdiocese of New York*

