
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARCH 2, 2025



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Sirach 27:4–7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 54–58

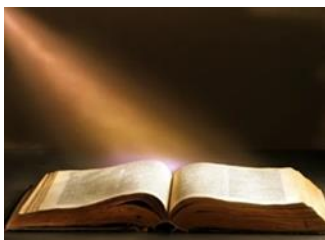
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:39–45

Focus: *The sting of death has been banished by the victory of Christ.*

In the second reading, we heard that death is no longer something to be feared, for it has been swallowed up by the victory of Christ. “*Where, O death, is your sting?*” Jesus’ life, death and resurrection have transformed death into the road to eternal life. Therefore, in this life, we must labor with the steadfast hope of attaining heaven, certain that if we strive to serve the Lord, our work is not in vain.

Liturgy of the Word:

Today’s first reading warns of the power of speech to reveal one’s faults. In the second reading, Paul explains that Jesus has defeated sin, the cause of death. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to stop judging others and says that every tree is known by its own fruit.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: The Faleni Family, Mary Olsen and Dolores Townley

10 a.m.: fJessica Lancellotti, Dolores Townley and Deacon John

ASH WEDNESDAY IS THIS WEEK

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

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

During the season of Lent, the Church urges the faithful to reflect a spirit of penance in their daily lives through performing acts of fasting and abstinence.



- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and ends on the evening of Holy Thursday, April 17.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. This is a serious matter within church law.
- Fasting means only one full meal a day may be taken. Two smaller meals may be eaten to maintain physical strength, but together they should not equal another full meal in quantity. Snacking between meals is not permitted. Catholics ages 18-59 are obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Abstinence forbids the eating of meat or poultry. Those who have reached the age of 14 and older are obligated to abstain on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Those who are not specifically obliged to abstain from eating meat are urged to join in the discipline of abstaining to the extent that they are able.
- All Fridays of the year are designated as days of penance during which we are encouraged to practice self-denial out of gratitude for the suffering and death Jesus accepted for us.

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.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Bob and Kathy Faiano upon the recent death of his sister, Noreen Bevacqua. Please keep them in your prayers.

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. this **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 carloc@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

 There will be a Scriptural Rosary and **Prayer Service for Ukraine** at 3:30 p.m. this **Sunday, March 2**, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, sponsored by the Titus Brandsma Council of the Knights of Columbus. Everyone is welcome.

 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! Adults will be able to have a gargle – that's Irish slang for beer or wine – as well as soda.

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

 "No Greater Love," the **Passion of Christ in Drama, Song and Dance**, will be presented by the Xavier Company at 4 p.m. **Sunday, March 23**, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 17 High Street, Bloomingburg. Freewill donations are appreciated. For information, call 845-733-1477.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

February 17-23: \$ 7,751.17

Envelopes: \$ 3,252.00 – Online: \$ 4,499.17

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 82

10 a.m. – 183

IF STOPPED BY ICE...

Perhaps you work with someone for whom the threat of deportation is very real. Maybe you have connections with a community that is uncertain of how to respond to these uncertain times.

There are flyers available in the office, written in English and Spanish, titled "Know Your Rights in an Encounter with ICE." They have been provided to us by Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of New York.

For questions regarding immigration, call Catholic Charities at 845-562-4736 Ext. 1972. To arrange for group presentations on "Know Your Rights" or immigration services offered by Catholic Charities, call 845-294-5124 Ext. 1005.



AARP'S TAX-AIDE

Free tax-preparation assistance is available through the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program. For an appointment, call 2-1-1 (the United Way's Help Line) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Be prepared to spend some time on hold.

After making an appointment, the next step is to obtain a pre-appointment packet. A parishioner who volunteers with the program has made some available through the church office to save you a trip into Middletown. Call the office to arrange to get yours.

The forms in the packet need to be completed prior to the appointment, and filers need to come to the appointment with all required tax documents in a printed (not digital) format. Filers are then required to be present while the return is being prepared.



MORE LIGHT AHEAD!

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, **March 9**, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you turn in next Saturday night. Otherwise, you'll be an hour late for Mass

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 **\$12,100** has already been received/pledged from **24** families as of February 25. **Our Commitment Weekend is March 15-16 this year.** Please prayerfully consider your gift, which you can also make online at www.cardinalsappeal.org.

Thank you for your generosity.



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*

