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# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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MARCH 23, 2025



**First Reading** – Exodus 3:1-8A, 13-15

**Responsorial Psalm** – Psalm 103

**Second Reading** – 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

**Gospel** – Luke 13:1-9

This weekend's themes help us reflect on God's call, repentance and growth:

**God's Call to Moses:** In Exodus, God calls Moses from the burning bush. This shows that God reaches out to guide and lead his people.

**God's Promise of Freedom:** God promises to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, reminding us that God always works to free us from our sins and struggles.

**Warnings Against Idolatry:** In Corinthians, Paul warns against idol worship and turning away from God. This teaches us to stay faithful and avoid things that take us away from God.

**Importance of Repentance:** Jesus in Luke speaks about the need to repent. He warns that without repentance, we will perish, showing the importance of turning back to God.

**God's Patience:** The parable of the fig tree in Luke highlights God's patience. He gives us time to change and grow in faith, but we must respond.

**Fruitfulness in Faith:** The fig tree parable also teaches about bearing fruit. We are called to live fruitful lives, showing our faith through actions.

**God's Presence in Hard Times:** The readings remind us that God is with us in difficult times. Like he was with the Israelites, he supports and guides us.

**Community and Accountability:** Paul speaks to the Corinthians about learning from their ancestors' mistakes. This shows the importance of community and holding each other accountable in our faith.

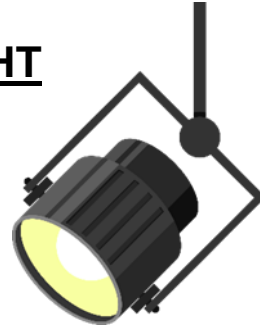
## MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m. Michael Emond, Angela LoPresti  
and Jeanne Giannoccaro

10 a.m.: Kristen Garry Gerace, Nicholas LaBruna  
and Carmen Weinberg

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

### CONSOLATION MINISTRY



The price of loving deeply is the pain of loss.

Five years ago, Julie Laurenzi lost her sister. After the funeral, a folder was dropped off for her brother-in-law from their Indiana parish. It was chockful of information about grief and the grieving process, as well as Scripture verses and writings with the intent of bringing comfort. Also included were guidelines about practical matters such as Social Security, pensions, legal documents and planning for the future, all of which can be daunting without the added layer of now coping with a life that has been forever changed.



The following year, after her husband died, Julie heard God's call to a new mission as she recalled the folder that her brother-in-law was given.

"We should do this at St. Paul's!"

She presented the idea to the Parish Council, which agreed, and thus, the Consolation Ministry was born.

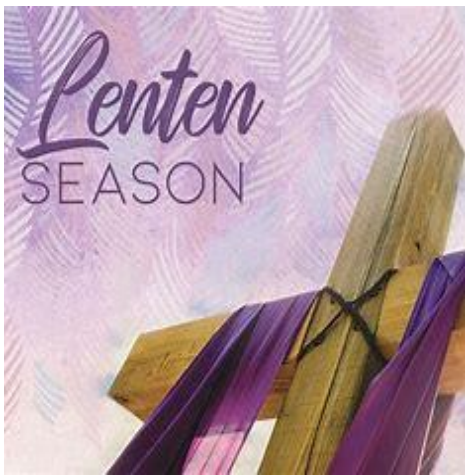
Julie, a retired licensed clinical social worker, reached out to parishioners she thought might be interested in participating and then offered training.

Ministry members attend wakes – signing the funeral home's guest book as representing St. Paul's Church – and funeral Masses as well. About a week later, Julie visits the bereaved with a somewhat customized packet of information that takes into account whether the loss was that of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or dear friend. Ministry members will continue to check in with the bereaved if they are open to future visits or calls. Although grief is universal, it is also a journey as unique as the individual experiencing it. Some people welcome additional contact from this ministry; for others, it is not necessary.

Three Consolation Ministry members have also completed training through the Archdiocese, which has resulted in the six-week Bereavement Program that has been offered at St. Paul's during the past two autumns. This ministry also supports St. Paul's annual Memorial Mass in November.

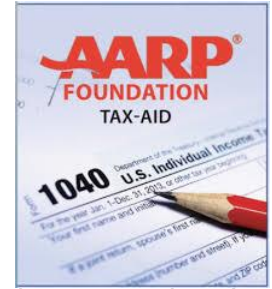
"I would welcome more help and provide the training," says Julie.

For more information, reach out to Julie at 518-225-1170 or email [Julie.laurenzi@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.laurenzi@gmail.com).



## 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.

## DURING LENT ...

- ❖ Why not consider joining your fellow parishioners after Mass on Sunday to **reflect and share your thoughts about the Gospel reading**. Please note that you can still attend even if you did not sign up beforehand, and you do not have to attend every Sunday to participate.
- ❖ **The Stations of the Cross** is a simple, yet powerful, way to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus. You will have that opportunity at 7 p.m. in the main church the Fridays of Lent, through April 11.
- ❖ The deadline to remember deceased loved ones with a contribution toward Easter flowers is **Monday April 7**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name. If you donate via WeShare, be sure to provide the office with the names to be included in the booklet.

## SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Beginning March 31, the **Scripture Discussion** group will once again discuss the Gospel of Mark using the Ignatius Study Bible. Zoom meetings take place from 10-11:15 a.m. on Mondays.

Former members and new members are welcome. Contact Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 or [gailvantassel@yahoo.com](mailto:gailvantassel@yahoo.com) to join and to get the book.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

March 10-16 \$ **5,982.90**

Envelopes: \$ 2,381.00 – Online: \$ 3,601.90

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 98

10 a.m. – 292

## 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 **\$24,670** has been received/pledged from **52** families as of March 18. This does not include donations made on Commitment Weekend. 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*

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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*"Nothing great is ever achieved  
without  
much enduring."*

*- St. Catherine of Siena*

