

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 9, 2025



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The first fruits of the soil are offered to God who brought us to this place of abundance.

Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

God's mantle of protection falls on those who remain close to the divine way.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Our profession of faith must be externally expressed and internally directing.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus experiences most profoundly the power of hunger and the greater power of God.

Focus: *Fasting is meant to increase our love for God and neighbor.*

Fasting, when practiced in humility and out of love for God, does more than strengthen our self-discipline. By deliberately depriving ourselves of legitimate goods, we train ourselves in gratitude for the gifts God has given us, become more attuned to others' needs and increase our capacity to carry out works of mercy. Only fasting that widens our hearts in this way is pleasing to God.

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, the Lord enjoins his people not to quarrel and carry out their own pursuits when they fast and then expect him to listen to their prayers. Rather, their fasting should be marked by acts of mercy; this is what will bring them God's favor. In the Gospel, John's disciples ask Jesus why his disciples do not fast.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Joseph Cardinal, Michael Emond and Brenda Cipriani

10 a.m.: Rosalina & Domingo Rodriguez and Arthur Treiling



OPTIONS FOR A FRUITFUL LENT

- As a Lenten practice this year, 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.
- It's not too late to catch up with **the Lenten Book Club**, which started last Thursday. The selection 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 - the transformative story of Lazarus - but also a profound reflection on Jesus' lessons on love, family, sadness, frustration, fear, anger, freedom and joy. Zoom discussions take place from 10-11:15 a.m. Thursdays. Contact the office of Deacon Carl at carlloc@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.
- **The Stations of the Cross** is a simple, yet powerful, way to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus and encounter him like never before. You will have that opportunity at 7 p.m. in the main church all six Fridays of Lent, March 9 through April 11.
- "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.
- **Reconciliation Monday** is April 14.

2025 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Anna Viktoria Robbiano Scholarship essay contest is being sponsored by her husband through the Monsignor James S. Conlan Knights of Columbus Council 5329. Two \$5,000 scholarships are being offered to honor a woman who championed the importance of making her community a better place. Whether at work at MetLife or a volunteer at St. Theresa's Nursing Home, she would always strive to take that extra step to make a difference.

Accordingly, the essay application of 250 words or less should not only explain your community's needs, but how you plan, as your journey unfolds, to ensure targeted and impactful ways to give back by addressing those needs. Remember, as our faith teaches, we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Applicants must:

- ❖ Have received their Confirmation and continue to be a practicing Catholic. The parish name must be provided.
- ❖ Reside in the Pine Bush School District. (includes those enrolled in other schools).
- ❖ Be a graduating senior who will be either attending a college, a trade school or entering the military in the fall.

Essays must be emailed by March 31 to kofc5329@hvc.rr.com. Don't forget to include your name and contact information.

IN THE LOOP

✔ Last weekend's Bake Sale to benefit the **Prayer Blanket Ministry** brought in **\$1,455!** Your generosity continues to cover the cost of supplies – and in so doing, enables this outreach to continue to bring comfort to those in need.

It's estimated that since its inception about eight years ago, approximately 600 blankets have made their way from coast to coast to parishioners, their family members and friends.

✔ The next **Parish Council** meeting is 7 p.m. this Tuesday, **March 11**. All parishioners are welcome to hear what goes on. Contact the office for the Zoom link. If you have something to discuss, it needs to be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting. Minutes are published on the website after approval.

Remember, Parish Council members, whose photos are in the case next to the bulletin board between Deacon John Hall and the church, are available to address your questions or concerns.

✔ 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.

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.



LENTEN
LEVITY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection
February 24 – March 2: \$ **6,021.51**
Envelopes: \$ 3,127.00 – Online: \$ 2,894.51

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 96
10 a.m. – 198

