

6TH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

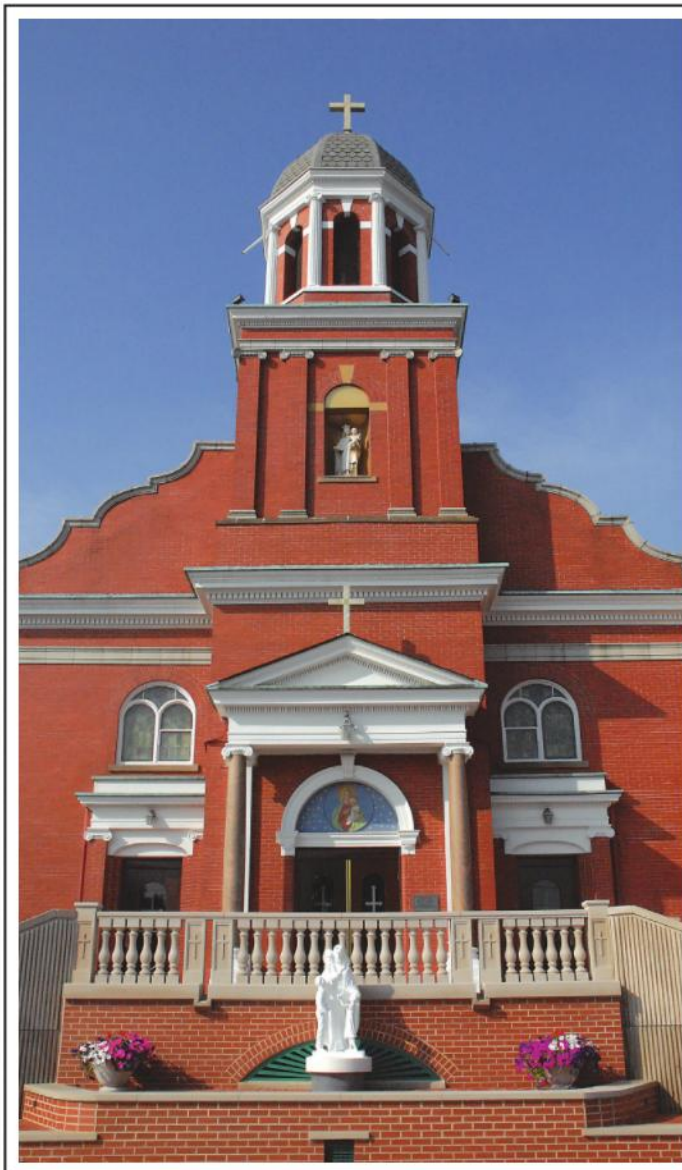


Teaching About Anger. * "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill...' whoever kills the body shall be liable to judgment. * But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be liable to judgment. * Whoever says 'Raca,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You shall be liable to judgment.' There is no gift to the father and the Son, but what you will have anything your gift

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



- Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103
Church Phones: Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144
Religious Education743-3508
Church Hall743-7740
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114
Fax743-1035
Church Secretaries:.....743-4144
OfficeExt. 100
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141
Mrs. Cathy ZackExt. 100
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Permanent Deacons:.....743-4144
Mr. Anthony Palasca, JrExt. 142
Mr. Mark Izzo 330-533-1857
Director of Music:.....743-4144
Mr. Craig Ziobert..... (330) 770-6504
Director of Religious Education:
Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122
olmcMelissa@gmail.com
Church Caterer:..... 743-7740
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131
or 759-4010 (H)
Parish Council Chairperson: 743-4144
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143
Business Manager/Accountant:
Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100
Sunday Masses:
Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday..... 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass: Daily at 12:00 noon
Baptisms: Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
or by personal request.
Weddings: Please schedule marriage at least 6 months
in advance.
E-mail: olmc343@aol.com
Website: www.ladymtcarmel.com

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., Feb. 15:
12:00 p.m. Deceased Families of Cardiero/Hartwig by Mary Ann & Tony Cardiero
5:00 p.m. Sam G. DiBacco (A) by Ron and Edie

Sun., Feb. 16:
9:00 a.m. Bebe Marsco by Dorina Canacci
11:00 a.m. Matilda Pecchio (B) by Family

Mon. Feb. 17:
12:00 noon Mr. & Mrs. Charles (A) Spagnola by Anita Spagnola

Tues., Feb. 18:
12:00 noon Elvira Russo by Jean Zuraw & Family

Weds., Feb. 19:
12:00 noon Salvo Nolfi by Lida & Josie

Thurs. Feb. 20:
12:00 noon Peter Chila by Pat Gibbons

Friday, Feb. 21:
12:00 noon Colin Miller (Living) by Mother-in-law, Mary Ann Ricciuti

Sat., Feb. 22:
12:00 p.m. Marie (Mary) C. Julian by granddaughter, Marie
5:00 p.m. Marlene Beene by Husband, John

Sun., Feb. 23:
9:00 a.m. Mary Guirrieri by Cynthia Ciriaco
11:00 a.m. Geraldine Sherwood by Deacon Mark & Susan Izzo

WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS (February 22/23)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., Gary Capone, Geno Capone
9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Medovich, Kirk Kruezweiser, Ramona DiSchiavo
11:00 a.m. Steven Pipala, Leanna Pipala, Deacon Mark Izzo, Daniel Cipriano

Lectors

5:00 p.m. Laura Capone
9:00 a.m. James DeToro, Youth
11:00 a.m. Vince Pilolli

Altar Servers

5:00 p.m. Anthony Micco, Alex Micco
9:00 a.m. Gianna Mediati, Marco Pilolli, Santino Rivera-Ocasio
11:00 a.m. Luke Pipala, Zachary Pipala, John Paul Pipala



Sunday, February 9 (288 envelopes) \$7,939.00
St. Anthony Shrine/Novena \$ 220.00



ASH WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 26, 2020

7:00 a.m.—Mass and Distribution of Ashes
12:00 noon—Mass and Distribution of Ashes
7:00 p.m.—Mass and Distribution of Ashes

"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."



AN INVITATION

Yes, I will spend ONE HOUR WEEKLY with *Jesus*, present in **THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.**

Please check the time you prefer:



___ MORNING (6:00 a.m. to noon)
___ AFTERNOON (12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
___ EVENING (6:00 p.m. to Midnight)
___ NIGHT (midnight to 6:00 a.m.)

NAME _____
PHONE _____
Yes, I would like to *promote* this most important prayer Apostolate

Cut & drop in collection basket or mail to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica.

Call Maria Panozzo at 330-372-5141 or Jean at 330-758-3335 to schedule your time to be with Jesus. Come! Spend one hour per week with Jesus in Adoration, Praise and Thanksgiving for his many graces.

Hours needed:

Sat. 8:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Mon. 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Tues. 9 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Sun. 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 3 a.m. – 4 a.m. & 4 a.m. – 5 a.m.
Thurs. 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri. 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. 9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

The families of the following parishioners have requested that we remember them in prayer: Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Genevieve Angelides, Peter Angelides, Sandy Battaglia, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Eugene Calcagni, Isabelle Corradi, Jeanni Pesa, Carmen, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Bethany Maytas, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Joanne Desko, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Ilona Gerson, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, Baby Henry, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Louise Faustino, Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Francine Kraiosky, John Kuzman, Jr., Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Eileen Mattiussi, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Barbara Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Rose Ruggieri, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Ben Russo, Millie Santangelo, Patty Schuley, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Helen Trimboli, Betty & Dennis VanSuch, Greg VanSuch, Rita Varacali, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Anna Mae Williams, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamarly, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, help of the sick, pray for us!—Please let us know when person is well.**

Prayer Petitions

It is in spirit of love, care, and support for one another that we invite you to place your prayer petitions into the Petition Box. The box and blank petition slips are available to you in the vestibule before each weekend Mass. The petitions are remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful and are brought forward during the Offertory Procession and placed at the foot of the Cross. At the conclusion of the Sunday Masses, the petitions are brought to the Little Flower Eucharistic Chapel where, throughout the week, members of the Apostolate for Perpetual Adoration unite their prayers with yours in the presence to our Eucharistic Lord. Let us unite our prayers with one another as we follow St. Paul's instruction to "pray without ceasing" and support one another through mutual prayer, solidarity, and love.

REGISTRATION: Members of the parish must be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mount Carmel envelopes, this means you are not registered. Call the rectory at 330-743-4144, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. And we will send you a registration form. **Families who have members of our church staying with them who are shut-ins or who are in nursing homes should include them as members of their household. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory as soon as possible. Thank you.**



The Week Ahead

Thursday, February 20:
10:00 a.m. Legion of Mary/St. JP II Ctr.
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Mtg./SJH

Saturday, February 22:
1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m. Divine Will/STJP II Ctr.

Sunday, February 23:
9:00 a.m. Light of Faith and Family
Coffee & Donuts following all Sunday Masses/SJH

ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: February 16-22:

In memory of PETE CHILA by Mike and Norma Baca

BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHTS: February 16-22

In memory of ROSEMARY KLUTH by Family

SANCTUARY LIGHT: February 16-22

In memory of SAM, JOSEPHINE & DAN DENIRO
by Granddaughter, Bonnie & Cindy

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL LIGHT: February 16-22

In memory of FRANCES ESPOSITO (B) by Family

INFANT JESUS LIGHT: February 16-22

In memory of VIRGINIA & RED PALLANTE by Anita & Nickie Marsco

ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, February 16:

In memory of CLARA D. DUCAY

by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.

ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, February 17:

In memory of REV. FR. GEORGE FRANKO

by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.



We welcome into the Catholic Family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica, **VINCENZO RINALDO CARRABBIA**, son of Joseph Carrabbia & Brooke Seckler Carrabbia, who was born again of water and the Holy spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for repose of souls, William A. Santangelo, Sr., age 91, David Weikart, age 68, Peter Chila, age 77, George Kalopas, age 85, Carmela Guy, age, 84. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen



You are cordially invited for coffee and donuts following all Sunday Masses in the St. Joseph Hall next Sunday, February 23, 2020.



Birthdays for the week of Feb. 16-22

Kathleen Carella, Ronald DiBacco, Caitlin Diorio, Ann Monroe, Dinilda Ricchiuti, Leslie Rivello, Rita Vicarel, Samuel Accordino, Anthony Canterino, Donna Knox, Domini Vecchiarelli, Scott Brush, Roseann Gurlea, Danyl Klanica, Julianna Micale-Kunselman, Anthony Micco, Daniella Patrone, Amy Quaranto, Michael Tucci, Dr. Domenico Aliberti, BreAnne Baldarelli, Lynne Sinchak, Christopher Barbato, Elyse Gessler, Anthony Palombo, Marie Ragozine, Dino Cencia, Patricia Foster, Colin Miller, Eva Scarsella, Alex Zarlenga, Mary Carducci, Christine Cipriano, Lucia D'Amico, Mira Martin, Kathy Misel, John Palermo.

God calls us to faithfully live out the commandments in our lives, In doing so, we have his grace and favor. Could you be tapped by God to help others understand the beauty of the commandments by proclaiming them as a deacon, sister, brother or a priest? Call Fr. Christopher Luoni 330-744-8451, or by email at cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

Dear Msgr. Cariglio,

On behalf of all the religious sisters, brothers, and priests nationwide, I thank you and your parishioners for your repeated generosity in support of our elderly and frail members.

After thirty-one years this collection still continues to reveal the great generosity of all your parishioners and the legacy of Christian love our senior religious left to the Church. May our abundantly generous God bless you and your parish family.

In Christ,

Sister Joyce Candidi, OSHJ
Director of the Office of Vowed Religious

Ursuline High School will host two registration nights for incoming Freshman (currently enrolled in a Catholic elementary School) on Thursday, February 27th beginning at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14th beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Library Learning Center (2nd floor, "old" building). Students must bring their completed application. The Ursuline Administration will give an informative presentation on the registration process. Students will then individually schedule with an Administrator. No appointments are necessary. Please visit www.ursuline.com/calendar and select February 27 or March 14 to reserve your spot for registration. If a Catholic School student is unable to attend on either of these dates, please contact Maggie Matune, Assistant Principal, at 330-744-4563 or mmatune@youngstowndiocese.org. Students enrolled in public schools or other private schools should submit their completed application to the Ursuline Main Office. Applications will be reviewed by the Administration. Families will be called to schedule a follow-up appointment at Ursuline following the application review. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

\$25.00 GIFT

Mr. Chelsey N. Santucci

\$20.00 GIFT

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\$15.00 GIFT

Mr. and Mrs. Pat M. Trell

\$10.00 GIFT

In memory of JOSEPH & ELIZABETH CAVALLARO
by Son, RJ

In memory of BEBE & TONY YORK by Bones & Nickie

In memory of FUMI & MARSCO FAMILIES

by Anita & Nickie Marsco

In loving memory of PHILOMENA BONACE

by Daughter, Sandi

Mrs. Joseph Caruso

Ms. Joanne M. Diana

Mrs. Jennie Dundee

Mrs. Rose Marie Matasic

Ms. Josephine and Lida Nolfi

Sharon Quaranto

Mrs. Diane M. Sheets

Mrs. Eugene Tarica

The YSU Newman Center is having its third annual Spring Fundraiser, Party, Wine and Dine and Newman 60's & 70's Reunion on **Friday, April 24th, 2020** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Social Hall, 343 Via Mt. Carmel, Youngstown, Ohio. The event will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. \$60 per person. Ticket price includes dinner by Fusillo's Catering, Wine Bar, Homemade Dessert Table, 60's & 70's Music & Trivial. Gift Basket Raffle and More. **To purchase tickets, visit www.ysunewmanca.org or call 330-747-9202.**

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear—it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.



Italian Language Class for beginners will be held on Thursdays, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica in Youngstown**. Registration & first day of class is Thursday, February 27, 2020. Cost: \$60 pp. Classes end in May. For more information call: Lio Comichista 330-545-1525



CRAIG'S CORNER
A Note
from our Music Director

One of the reasons Judas betrayed Jesus the night of the Last Supper was because Judas sided with the chief priests, who were so fed up with what Christ was preaching and that Jesus was not the worldly powerful leader that Judas expected him to be. Jesus preached about the poor and lowly, he preached about things against what the chief priests and those who had come before him in the Jewish law had been preaching before Christ. Judas wanted to be part of these influential people – not be alienated from them. Jesus even mentions this weekend as He continues from where we left off in Matthew’s gospel last weekend, saying, “unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” The word “kingdom” and “throne” are important to who Christ is – but they are not the worldly kingdom and throne. Jesus tells us this weekend what we need to do to attain the kingdom that *really* matters – the kingdom of God.

The music this weekend revolves around not the earthly presence of God, but rather God’s kingdom of eternity. In our opening hymn, taken from Psalm 90, “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” we hear the sentiment of Sirach’s text in the first reading today – that God’s wisdom and power are so immense, that He knows everything. Before the hills stood, God was there; a thousand years are just like an evening in God’s time: God is timeless and His kingdom stands forever – our eternal home. This is the kingdom Jesus is preaching of. Our offertory hymn, “Blest are They,” reviews what Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount with: the Beatitudes. If we want to enter this eternal kingdom of God, we must, unlike Judas, look after the poor, the lowly ones, those who suffer hate. These are the ones who are blessed in the kingdom of God. And as we sing for our recessional, Jesus Christ is the sovereign king. It is His kingdom where we find salvation – not a kingdom here on earth.

As we look forward to the Lenten season, we recall that during the most penitential season of the year, our Masses are void of the word “alleluia.” Over the next two weeks, our music will also highlight the word before we “bury” it for the forty days to follow. As we sing “Ti Ringrazio, O Mio Signore” this weekend, we keep this in mind and go forth as we continue to pray and sing God’s praises in this Liturgical Year.

Instrumental Music Selections for February 15-16: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prelude: St. Anne Fugue in E-Flat Major, BWV 552 – Johann Sebastian Bach

Postlude: Ich Glaub an Gott – Edwin Fissinger

INTERCESSION FOR VOCATIONS:

That all those called to follow Jesus in the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life will allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen them daily in their vocation,

We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

Prayer Intentions for February.

Listen to the Migrants’ Cries. We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



Stations of the Cross

11:30 a.m. Every Wednesday of Lent

7:00 p.m. Every Friday of Lent

Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting means eating a lesser amount of food. Catholics 18 and not 60 years of age must fast. The days on which we must fast are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Days of abstinence are days on which we do not eat any meal at all. Dairy products, fish and seafood are allowed. All Catholics over the age of 14 must abstain. The days of obligatory abstinence are Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, both the laws of fasting and abstinence apply and no meat may be eaten.

CATHOLIC MEN’S FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE “CMF

Conference 2020 – Making Your Vision Clear” Dr. Ray Guarendi will be the keynote speaker at the 8th annual Catholic Men’s Fellowship Conference. Come together with men from the diocese for a day of fellowship, spiritual awakening and new direction on Saturday, March 21, 2020; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with Bishop Murry presiding at the 4:00 p.m. closing mass. For more information go to www.CMFDOY.org



REMEMBER US LAST:

When you are preparing your will and estate plan remember those closest to you...spouse, family members and loved ones. Then remember Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica with a residual gift that defines your Legacy of Faith as a member of our parish community. Please call 330-744-8451, ext. 325 for information.

Sponsor of the week:

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The LIGHT of FAITH and FAMILY

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Lectors & Gift bearers for the 9am Mass:

9th—12th grade

Topic Conversion **Speaker** Father Veltri

**Families,
Father Veltri has asked to bring your laminated **Virtue** packet from last year please bring on the 23rd. Families who are new this year please ask for one on the 23rd.

Families continue to work with your Gospelweeklies. Resources and teaching guides are located on the following

website: www.pflaumweeklies.com tab parents and catechist.



Future dates:

March 1st March 22nd

April 3rd Communal Penance Service with the Narrative Stations.

April 5th begins Holy Week

April 10th Good Friday with the Burial Station



St. Valentine

beheaded 269a.d.

The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist. Pope St. Gregory the Great

Last weekend was a special time for 6 of our young people of the parish. They experienced God's love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Continue to pray for them and their families as they prepare to receive the **Body and Blood of Christ** May 10, 2020

Narrative Stations April 3, 2020



7th & 8th grade students of OLMC~STA, public and Catholic Schools students are invited to participate in the Narrative Stations. Come and be a part of a moving event, that reminds us through the Stations of the Cross, all of what Christ has endured for us.

Practice:

February 23rd and March 1st during

The Light of Faith and Family.

March 8th & 15th:

In classroom from 10:15am—11:45am

March 29th

Final practice 10:15am –11:45am classroom.

Lunch 12—12:30pm.

Practice in church 12:30pm—2:30pm

April 3rd: 4:30pm—6:00pm.

Parish Communal Penance Service

Friday, April 3rd

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica

Ash Wednesday is February 26, 2020

You have 9/10 days to decide, "What do I **need** vs what do I **want** to survive? What can I do without that will help me understand that God really provides so that I live each day? How does He nourish me?"

Fat Tuesday is traditionally the day before Ash Wednesday. People will eat and share all the items that will give up for Lent. As a family now is the time to begin to reflect and decide what can you give up and do without so that you will understand all that Christ gives to me?

Plan your Fat Tuesday now.

Contact Information for Faith Formation

330-743-3508 www.olmcsta.com FAX: 330-743-1035
(Out of the office on Monday)

Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I

OLMCTherese@gmail.com ext 121

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso

OLMCMelissa@gmail.com ext 122

Youth Ministry Team:

Nick Capone & Bobby Mangiarelli

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20
Ps 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

Monday February 17

James 1:1-11
Ps 119:67,68,71,72,75,76
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday February 18

James 1:12-18
Ps 94:12-15, 18-19
Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday February 19

James 1:19-27
Ps 15:2-4ab,5
Mark 8:22-26

Thursday February 20

James 2:1-9
Ps 34:2-7
Mark 8:27-33

Friday February 21

James 2:14-24,26
Ps 112:1-6
Mark 8:34 – 9:1

Saturday February 22 Chair of St. Peter

1 Peter 5:1-4
Ps 23:1-6
Matthew 16:13-19

The Jewish religious authorities of Jesus' day were often literalists in their interpretation of the Law of God. Jesus, however, gave a deeper meaning to the Law. He placed his focus on the *goal* of the Law: Love.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus explains that we fail to fulfill the Law when our so-called obedience isn't motivated by love.

Jesus completely fulfilled the true meaning of the Law. In doing so, he took upon himself our disobedience and died for us in the most generous gift of love.

As his followers, we also are to be generous with love. Obeying all the commandments – truly obeying them – requires loving God with our whole heart, all the time, and loving others as ourselves.

Jesus explains how to transform literal interpretations of

God's laws into the Law of Love. In each example, he shows that we are to choose the most loving approach to every problem, no matter how difficult.

His first topic is anger: Sinful anger is judgmental and we are judged by this sin. Jesus provides the remedy: Go and do whatever is necessary to be reconciled. This, he points out, is even more important than worshipping God. How genuine can our worship be if anger has replaced love in our hearts, since God is love?



Another example is lust, which is a counterfeit of love because it treats others as objects. And divorce from a valid marriage is a failure to love as Christ loves, who taught that love makes sacrifices and endures hard-

ships. Remarriage, he says, furthers the sin because it's unloving to the spouse of the original union.

Jesus extends this teaching to every area of life. Breaking an oath is unloving. Lying and never intending to keep the commitment is unloving. In fact, the entire Sermon on the Mount, of which this Gospel reading is a part, explains how to love.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Were you ever treated unlovingly because of another person's legalism? How did that experience hide the true nature of Jesus?
2. What habits do you have that are unloving toward yourself? How do they affect others?
3. Recall a time when someone treated you unfairly but you responded with an act of love. How difficult was it to give that love? What were the results?
4. Name common ways that Christians fail to obey God. What did Jesus do to make up for those failures? For example, how do you suppose Jesus treats unborn babies who've been aborted or miscarried?

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