

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday February 14, 2015

Vigil for Sunday

5:30pm Marie Carlo

Sunday February 15, 2015—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Lillian and Victor DiGiambattista

11:15am Fedele and Antoinette D'Erasmus

12:30pm Anthony Scaffidi

Monday February 16, 2015

7:30am John Musto, Sr.

9:00am Antonio Mazzella

Tuesday February 17, 2015

7:30am Perry Rizopoulos

9:00am Antonio and Elizabeth Tartaglia

Wednesday February 18, 2015—Ash Wednesday

7:30am Felicia Maglio

9:00am Nora Carney

10:00am Ashes within a Liturgy of the Word— SFX School

12:00Noon Ignazio Battaglia

4:00pm Ashes within a Liturgy of the Word

7:30pm Charles Gardini

Thursday February 19, 2015

7:30am Margaret Rita Dean

9:00am Salvatore Provenzano, Deceased and Living Family Members

Friday February 20, 2015

7:30am Mark Ryan

9:00am Intentions of Theresa and Maurice Reynolds "55th Wedding Anniversary"

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 21, 2015

7:30am Mark Ryan

9:00am Filippo Ferron

Vigil for Sunday

5:30pm Linda Ann Ciofi

Sunday February 22, 2015—First Sunday of Lent

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Thomas Dillulio

11:15am Candida Mazzella

12:30pm Mimma Puglia

2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF NY MEN'S CONFERENCE- Saturday, March 21 at

Fordham Univ. Rose Hill: Provides a unique opportunity for men to recommit themselves to their spiritual lives. Speakers will include: Damon Owens, a renown public speaker on the Catholic faith; Joe Klecko, former NY Jet, and his Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan. To register or for more information visit www.nymensconference.com or call Kim Quatela 646-794-3198.

Weekly Collection (Parish Pay included) :

February 8, 2015: \$5,904. Thank you for your generosity.

**ASH WEDNESDAY-Wednesday, February 18, 2015:**

Ashes distributed within the Mass: 7:30am, 9:00am, 12Noon and 7:30pm.

Ashes distributed within a Liturgy of the Word: 10:00am for SFX School Children and 4:00pm.

**Newly Baptized:** We welcome into our Parish Family**Sofia Marku and Daniel Mark Marku** daughter and son of Lulzim and Fabjola**SAVE THE DATES: St. Francis Xavier Parish Mission:****Lenten Parish Mission: We are happy to****welcome back Father Pat Angelucci,** former

President of Salesian High School and well known

to us as a dynamic preacher of God's Word. The Mission will be preached by Fr. Pat beginning with all the Masses on the weekend of March 7th and 8th and continuing through the week on the evenings of March 9th, 10th and 11th—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, at 7:00pm.

Holy Week Retreat: preached by Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week, March 30, 31 and April 1 at 7pm each evening. More information will follow.**Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent at 7:00pm,** February 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20 27 and April 3.**St. Francis Xavier School:** Congratulations to all the students in Grades 4-8 who received "Honors" for the second quarter. On February 18th, AshWednesday, children in Grades 5-8 will attend the 9:00am Mass and children in Grades 1-4 will receive ashes at 10:00am at a special prayer service. Parents are invited to attend. It's not too late to buy tickets for "The Magic Flute": on Saturday, February 21st at 7:00pm or Sunday, February 22nd at 5:00pm. Tickets are available in the Rectory. For updated information, please visit the school website at sfxschool.net.**Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7:** "A clean heart create for me God; renew within me a steadfast spirit." The children are preparing for Lent. **The Parents' Communion Meeting** will be held on Monday, February 23rd at 7pm in the Church.**Big Deal Supermarket & Holy Name Society "Lenten****Fundraiser"** begins this weekend, February 14th/15th through Easter Sunday, April 5th. A percentage of all sales during this period will be donated by Big Deal Supermarket to St. Francis Xavier Church. Just drop your receipt into the jar labeled Lenten Fundraiser.**This week's second collection** is for Peter's Pence.**Next Week's Readings (First Sunday of Lent):** Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9 (10); 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.



Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe, but Lent begins with Ash Wednesday this week. Just as the Yankees and Mets are about to begin spring training with pitchers and catchers reporting within days to get in physical shape in order to be ready to play at their best this season, so too do we begin our "spring training" this Wednesday (the word Lent means "spring time") to get in spiritual shape in order to recommit ourselves to living our faith with hearts and minds renewed.

The readings and prayers of the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday call us to conversion of heart. As we approach to receive the ashes on our foreheads this Wednesday, we may hear the words: *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."* We are reminded of our mortality, of our sinfulness and, therefore, of our need to repent and seek God's Mercy. We may also hear the words: *"Repent and believe in the gospel."* Repent or turn away from sin. That is what conversion is – turning away from sin and turning toward Christ. All of us, I think, want to be more faithful to the gospel and closer to Christ. The hard part, however, is turning away from our sins.

In the Gospel of Ash Wednesday Jesus lays out for us the fundamentals for countering our tendency toward sin and strengthening us in holiness - **prayer, fasting, and alms giving**. There is no better sacrifice I can make than the sacrifice of my time for **prayer** - such as taking time every day to spend with the Lord in silence, perhaps reading and meditating on a passage from Scripture, praying the Stations of the Cross, taking the time to go to Mass more often during the week and participating in Mass more devoutly on the Lord's Day. There is no better way to undo my tendency toward self-indulgence than **fasting** - for when I fast or deny myself something that gives me pleasure, I am strengthening my will to say "No" to myself and "Yes" to God. And there is no better way to reverse my tendency toward selfishness than **alms giving** - putting the needs of others before my own by doing acts of charity and giving generously to those in need. **Prayer, fasting, and alms giving** are the fundamentals to help us put things back in the right order: God first, then others, and myself last. As I have heard it said, "I am not number one, I am number three."

To help nourish our spiritual growth this Lent we are offering two Parish Retreats which I hope you will take advantage of. The first is our Parish Mission preached by Father Pat Angelucci of the Salesians of Don Bosco beginning with all the Masses on the Third Sunday of Lent and continuing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, March 9th, 10th, and 11th. The second is a special Holy Week Retreat on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week preached by Father Glenn Sudano of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal as we come to the climax of Lent and prepare for the Sacred Easter Triduum with the preaching and insights of Father Sudano.

And finally, remember that Lent is not complete without a good Confession in order to bring the process of conversion of heart to its culmination and prepare our souls for receiving the abundant graces of Easter. Lent is such a blessed time and opportunity for spiritual renewal that we all need so much. I pray that this Lent may truly be a moment of Grace for all of us. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey

ASH WEDNESDAY—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

Lenten Fast and Abstinence: During the Season of Lent, the Church urges all the Faithful to reflect a spirit of penance in their daily life through performing acts of fast and abstinence.

"Fasting" requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two other smaller meals may be taken during the day to maintain physical strength, but these two meals together should not equal a full meal in quantity. Fasting obliges all those who have reached the age of 18 and continues to oblige until age 59. Those not specifically obliged to fast are encouraged to join in the discipline of fasting to the extent that they are able.

Abstinence" prohibits individuals from eating meat on a particular day. Abstinence obliges all those who have reached the age of 14 and continues to oblige throughout their entire life. Those not specifically obliged to abstain from eating meat are encouraged to join in this discipline to the extent that they are able.

ASH WEDNESDAY and **GOOD FRIDAY** are days of **fast and abstinence**. **Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.**



CARDINAL'S
APPEAL
Staying God's Gifts

Cardinal Dolan is asking for your support of the vital ministries, programs and services provided through the *Cardinal's Appeal* each year. Invest in your faith and your parish by making your gift to the 2015 Appeal. Please fill out your pledge card and send it in, or drop it in the collection or at the Rectory. Thank you!

Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:



Our Parish Prayers List

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Eduardo Alicea, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Maryanne Cataldo, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Carlann Defedele, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Alfred DeSantis, John Dinelli, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmelia Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liferi Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liferi, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Joseph Milone, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mazzella, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Teresa O'Hara, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parthen, Richard Quartarone, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Juliana Szanto, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Diana Vicinanza, Dominick Villara, Gelacio Villaviza, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Rev. Arthur Welton, Gary Wieler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel



Our Parish Prayers List

In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially: Zachary Piragnoli, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Bianco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Antony, Cpt. Brian Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardilelo



Our Parish Prayers List

Pray for those who have died: Carmela DiCarluccio and Betty Caraccio



the CARDINAL'S

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Sharing God's Gifts 2015

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Did you know, in the Archdiocese of New York:

- ❖ There were 23,646 baptisms and 17,522 confirmations last year
- ❖ 95,896 students are currently enrolled in religious education programs
- ❖ There are 210 retired priests
- ❖ There are 87 seminarians



Your gift to the *2015 Appeal* ensures we are in a position to continue providing support to those most in need throughout the archdiocese.



You can make your gift online at

www.cardinalsappeal.org

May God bless you for your generosity.

Lent 2015

Daily Mass Readings
and Reflections for
the Sacred Season

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

18 FEBRUARY
Ash Wed.

Be not a show-off. Keep your prayer between you and Our Lord God in heaven.

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

19 Watch
Over Me

Surround yourself with those who delight in the laws of the Lord.

Psalms 111-4, 6

20 A Time to
Fast

Lent is a time for us to share our bounty with the poor, to pray and to fast.

Isaiah 58:1-9

21 Take Up
the Cross

This Lent, make a renewed commitment to follow Christ's teachings.

Luke 5:27-32

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

22 Repent!

Reconcile yourself to God. Seek out the forgiveness he offers us in the Sacrament of Penance.

Mark 1:12-15

23 Judge Not

Refrain from rash judgments. Our God is just, filled with mercy and compassion.

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

24 Our Father

Today, pray the prayer that Jesus taught us. Remember to focus on God's forgiveness.

Matthew 6:7-15

25 Sackcloth
and Ashes

Even the mighty need to humble themselves to do God's will.

Jonah 3:1-10

26 Just Ask!

Prayer is at the heart of our Lenten journey. God wants to hear our prayers.

Matthew 7:7-12

27 Holding
Grudges

Open your heart to reconciliation, seeking ways to settle old disagreements.

Matthew 5:20-26

28 Perfection

Can we attain perfection? God asks nothing less of us. Lent is a good time to try.

Matthew 5:43-48

1 MARCH
Beloved!

God has given us his only Son. Listen to Jesus as he speaks the Word of God.

Matthew 9:2-10

2 Mercy!

How can we show mercy and forgiveness to our enemies? To our loved ones?

Luke 6:36-38

3 One Master

When we humble ourselves to serve others, we become models of Jesus' service to us.

Matthew 23:1-12

4 Stewards

Remember to support your parish during Lent with time, talent and treasure.

Matthew 20:17-28

5 From God

Blessings will come to those who trust in the Lord. Praise his holy name.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

6 Bearing
Fruit

Spreading the Word of God is part of our Christian duty as Jesus' disciples.

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

7 Mercy and
Kindness

God showers us with undeserved gifts. Can we return the same?

Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12

8 God's Laws

We are given the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a perfect time to use it.

Exodus 20:1-17

9 Finding
Acceptance

Think of those you ignore or neglect. Make a place in your heart for them.

Luke 4:24-30

10 A Search
for Truth

Remember me, dear God, as I seek to make your path my path.

Psalms 25:4-9

11 Teacher,
Model

Keeping God's commandments is our way to enter the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:17-19

12 Take Heed
and Hear

When you are called, will you have the courage to listen and to answer?

Jeremiah 7:23-28

13 A Renewed
Faith

Are you taking the time this Lent to fast, to pray more, to offer alms to the needy?

Mark 12:28-34

14 Swimming
Upstream

God loves us beyond measure. He seeks our love in return. Can we do that?

Hosea 6:1-6

If any want
to become my
followers, let them
deny themselves
and take up their
cross daily and
follow me.

— Luke 9:23

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

15 Supreme Sacrifice

God gave us the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, so that we may have eternal life.

John 3:14-21

16 Praise the Lord!

Take time today to thank and praise our God for all he has given us.

Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13

17 The Living Water

When God's Word is spoken and lived, life will be abundant and fruitful.

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

18 Always on His Mind

No matter what sins you have committed, you are in God's heart forever.

Isaiah 49:8-15

19 A Man for All Men

In his humble and righteous way, Joseph shows us true heroic virtue.

Luke 2:41-51

20 Take Refuge

There is still plenty of time to make this Lent a true spiritual journey.

Psalms 34:17-21, 23

21 Living a Just Life

Are we careful to be fair in all our dealings with others? How can we be more fair?

John 7:40-53

22 Learning to Obey

Jesus was sent by the Father to die for our sins. He obeyed his Father's wish.

Hebrews 5:7-9

23 Our Shepherd

Do not fear, for the Lord is at our side. Pray this Lent for God's peace.

Psalms 23:1-6

24 Believe in Him

Jesus is the Son of Man who takes away the sins of the world. He is with you always, even to the end.

John 8:21-30

25 Annunciation

"Hail Mary!" She conceived a son, who came to save the world.

Luke 1:26-38

26 Keeping Your Word

Do you make promises you don't keep? Resolve to make a change and keep your word.

John 8:51-59

27 Terror Is Everywhere

Fear assaults us daily. But God is always there to see us through to safety.

Jeremiah 20:10-13

28 False Idols

What idols stand in the way of keeping God at the center of our lives?

Ezekiel 37:21-28

29 Holy Week

As Lent comes to an end, we still have time to make changes in our lives.

Mark 14:1-15:47

30 We Touch His Hand

Reach out today to our needy brothers and sisters and offer your help and prayers.

Isaiah 42:1-7

31 Will You Deny Him?

Jesus calls us to stand up and be counted. Are you ready to answer his call?

John 13:21-33, 36-38

1 APRIL
Betrayals

Do not give up on Jesus. He is there for us even in our darkest moments.

Matthew 26:14-25

The Paschal Triduum

from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Vigil Mass

HOLY THURSDAY
The Meal

Take the bread, pass the cup and remember that he gave his life so that we may live with him forever.

John 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY
The Cross

He hangs on the Cross. His duty to the Father is fulfilled. We are the beneficiaries of this magnificent deed.

John 18:1-19:42

EASTER VIGIL
The Glory

The tomb is empty. We are amazed. He has risen from the dead. Our world is changed forever.

Mark 16:1-7

Traditional Lenten Disciplines

Fasting & Abstinence: Catholics aged 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

Prayer: Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Almsgiving: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace.