

Fourth Sunday of  
**LENT**



We are excited to announce that we are once again preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of marriage for the Catholic Faithful in the year 2023! The anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows below. The 50th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin. The 5th & 25th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus.

**April 16, 2023 3:00pm 50 Years (All Counties)**  
**May 7, 2023 3:00pm 5 Years & 25 Years (All counties)**  
 To register Please call Denise Perry at the




**Annual Appeal** the 2023

**Make your gift today.**









M A S S

intentions



- Sat, 03/18/2023 05:30 pm**  
Leonardo Parsain
- Sun, 03/19/2023 09:00 am**  
Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Louis Ikebununo
- 03/19/2023 11:00 am**  
Basil & Lynette Younker
- Mon, 03/20/2023 07:00 am**  
H&WB of Emilye Chapman
- Tue, 03/21/2023 07:00 am**  
H&WB for Milton Hinton
- Wed, 03/22/2023 07:00 am**  
Thanksgiving for the Birthdasy of Zenaida Makasakit
- Thu, 03/23/2023 07:00 am**  
H&WB of Brenda Perry
- Fri, 03/24/2023 07:00 am**  
Michael & Cecilia Ihiighunam & Deceased Relatives
- 03/25/23 08:30 am**  
H&WB of Violet Snipes-Azzi
- 03/25/2023 5:30PM**  
VickyLopez

**AVAILABLE DAYS FOR MASS INTENTIONS**  
April: 2023

**7AM**  
 Mon 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th:  
 Tue 4th, 18th, 25th  
 Wed 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th  
 Thu 20th, 27th  
 Fri 14th, 21st, 28th  
 Sat 8:30AM: 22nd, 29th  
 Sat 5:30PM: 22nd

WEEKLY COLLECTION	
Mar 12-13 2022	\$3,754
Mar 11-12 2023	\$ 4,074

March 19, 2023

**MARCH 25th,  
FEAST OF THE  
ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**



Mary, Mother of God, how pleasing to God was your humility! You were troubled not at the appearance of the angel, but at what he said. Your fear arose entirely

from your humility, which was disturbed at the sound of praises so far exceeding your own lowly estimate of yourself.

Your humility was rewarded with the greatest privilege ever given to a creature. "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High." By your humility you have found such great grace with God that you were chosen to co-operate with His Divine Son in restoring man to a dignity far superior to that which he had lost by sin. What greater wonder could the world behold, than a woman become the Mother of God, and a God clothed in human flesh? Mary, by your humility, you became the Mother of your Creator. The Creator, in His goodness, became the Son of His own creature.

Mary, My Mother, I rejoice with you that you are so privileged, so exalted as to become the worthy Mother of God. We all rejoice because all the graces and spiritual benefits we have received and shall receive, all our future glory comes from this exalted mystery of the Incarnation. God could not have created a more beautiful throne for Himself than you; His Mother! I thank God for the great glory He has bestowed upon you for which all generations shall call you blessed.

## St. Joseph

Feast: March 19th

This prayer to St. Joseph is said to be dated to the year 50 A.D., which, if accurate, would



make it part of the apostolic tradition. Nevertheless, it is very old and is among the most loved of our traditional Catholic prayers. It has been recited by the faithful for generations, with much positive effect. We do know that this prayer received an imprimatur in 1950 from the

Bishop of Pittsburgh, Hugh Boyle.

After the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph is the most beloved and efficacious saint in heaven, and the guardian and protector of the Universal Church.

*Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires.*

*Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.*

*Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.*

March 19, 2023





### THE BLIND MAN WHO WANTED FOR NOTHING

*The Psalm says, "The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want."*

*But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks?*

*The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to allay their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. "Why was this man born blind?" they ask Jesus. "Did this man sin or was it his parents?" If it was anybody's sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at*



## READINGS

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
 Psalm: 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
 Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14  
 Gospel: John 9:1-41

*least it won't come if they all try hard not to sin.*

*But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it?*

*It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?*

*Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future—not something about the past—that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him.*

*So that is Jesus' explanation for the man's blindness, but it looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?*

*But think about that blind man himself.*

*At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished outcast, a beggar, a nobody. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.*

*Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.*

*Eleonore Stump*

March 19, 2023

**ORATIO IMPERATA AGAINST THE COVID-19**

Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion.

Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health.

Protect those who care for them.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.

*Mother Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.*

*St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.*

*St. Roch, pray for us.*

**REPORT ABUSE**  
**Protecting God's Children**

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints, and encourages anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct by the clergy, religious and lay staff to tell us immediately, so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to sexual abuse victims. Individuals who wish to report an allegation may do so by calling the Child and Youth Protection. 201-407-3256, Fax: 973-497-4001. Or In person, 171 Clifton Avenue. Newark, NJ 07104

**You can Sponsor the ALTAR BREAD, the SACRIFICIAL WINE, OR the SANCTUARY LAMP!**

The Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Bread and Sacrificial Wine are nice ways to remember someone in need of healing, those who are celebrating births, anniversaries, etc. or a deceased loved one. It reminds us the ever presence of Christ. We bring our intentions into HIS PRESENCE with our offering. If you wish to remember someone in this special way, the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for a week, and the Altar Bread OR the Sacrificial Wine of everyday Mass will be offered for your intention an entire week

(circle one) Please, consider offering the:

Sanctuary Lamp or Altar Bread or Sacrificial Wine

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Or for a special Occasion starting on:    /    /

For: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form. Return it either to the rectory or to Fr. Frank with a check in the amount of \$25.

**Ministries:** If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please fill out the form below and give it to Fr Frank. An information & a training session will be held so you'll be prepared.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving as a Lector

I would like to serve as an Eucharistic Minister

**We are Looking for more Altar Servers,** girls and boys, third grade or older, to participate as ALTAR Servers. This ministry is a wonderful privilege for either young

Or older people. It allows you to participate actively in the weekend celebrations of the Eucharist. Please fill out the form below and return to the rectory or Fr Frank

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_