

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE  
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951  
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic  
Shrine Church of  
**St. Jude**

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG  
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG  
FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



**Celebration of  
the Eucharist**

SATURDAY EVENINGS  
5:00pm Vigil Mass  
7:30pm Spanish Mass

SUNDAY  
8:00am English & Italian  
9:30am Children's Choir  
11:30am Adult Choir  
5:00pm Youth Mass

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY  
9:00am Mass  
Noon Mass

SATURDAY  
8:30am Mass

HOLY DAYS AS  
ANNOUNCED.

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 19th 2012

**Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

**In Residence**  
Msgr. John Heinlein

**Senior Priest**  
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office  
Hours**

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY, & FRIDAY  
9:00am-5:00pm

WEDNESDAYS  
9:00am-6:00pm

SATURDAYS  
CLOSED

SUNDAYS  
10:00am-2:00pm

CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**Deacons**  
Thomas Gillen  
Kenneth Geoghan  
Mark Herrmann  
Joseph Simeone

**Useful Numbers**

RECTORY  
281-5743

PARISH OUTREACH  
281-5634

RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
281-2835

YOUTH MINISTRY  
281-5743

NURSERY SCHOOL  
395-3959

QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
SCHOOL  
878-1033

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL  
219-3542

**Sacrament of  
Anointing of  
the Sick**  
Available in danger of  
death or whenever  
there is a personal  
need, call the rectory  
for an appointment.

**Sacrament  
of Penance/  
Confession**  
SATURDAYS  
12:00-12:45pm during  
lent and 4:00-4:45pm  
also by appointment  
WEDNESDAYS  
2:00-2:45pm and by  
appointment

**Parish Outreach**  
MON.-THURS.  
9:00am-1:00pm  
CLOSED  
FRI., SAT., SUN.,  
AND HOLIDAYS

**Sacrament of  
Marriage**  
Couples wishing to be  
married should contact  
the rectory at least one  
year in advance to meet  
with one of the priests  
to make wedding  
arrangements.  
Pre-Cana is required  
for all couples.

**Sacrament of  
Baptism**  
Celebrated on most  
Sundays throughout  
the year. Please contact  
the rectory to set up  
an appointment with  
a member of the staff  
to arrange for the  
Baptismal preparation  
session and to set a  
date for Baptism.

**Devotions**

MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
NOVENA  
Mondays after the  
9:00am Mass

ST. JUDE NOVENA  
Thursdays after the  
9:00am Mass

ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesdays  
12:30pm-1:00pm  
Benediction at 1:00pm

FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00pm-9:00pm  
Benediction at 9:00pm

THE HOLY ROSARY  
Monday through Friday  
at 8:30am; Saturdays at  
8:00am

## Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012

5:00pm Parishioners of St. Jude

7:30pm Caroline Huber †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012

8:00am Grace M. Kelly †

9:30am Victor Mendolia †

11:30am Michael S. Orsi †

5:00pm Ronald Lazzaro †

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2012

9:00am Jamie Taccetta †

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

9:00am Fred Kobasiuk †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

7:30am Prayer Service with Ashes

9:00am William George Pfautsch †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:  
Lorraine Soccorso †

4:00pm Prayer Service with Ashes

5:00pm Prayer Service with Ashes

7:30pm John Huber †

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

9:00am Joseph Thompson †  
(Happy Birthday)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012

9:00am Julieanna S. Overton †

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012

8:30am Armondo Munoz †

5:00pm Mario Rakvin †

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012

8:00am Victor Mendolia †

9:30am Anna Diadema †

11:30am Angeline Suraci †

5:00pm Carmine Biondi †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Benjamin Archer, Faith Barile, Paul Bidegain, Janeth Billian, Jeanne Blevins, Janet Brandimarte, Francis X. Butler, Lewis Ciullo, Cathy Cremmens, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Michael Francis Cunningham, Natalie Danisi, Alexandra Ditman, Isabella Grace Dobbeck, Chuck Drake, Nicholas Ferrara, Anthony Fino, Carol Franzone, Christian Gallucci, Frank Gaeta, Bob Gamberale, George Gebhart, Deacon Ken Geoghan, Nora Getchell, Ann Giordano, Michelle Gonzalez, Joan Guarino, Charlotte Hall, Catherine Hannon, Steve Herrbrandt, Jo, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Father Walter Kedjierski, Cookie Landau, Frances Lee, Christine Leone, Katherine Lindsey, Carmine Linsalata, Brian Loftus, Julius Manchise, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joan Muller, Ruth Muller, Ronald Nappe, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Jackie Pastore, Gina Pisano, Abdul Rattu, Karen Ratcliff, Aurora Riel, Salvatore Russo, Al & Farah Schacca, Lucille Story, Patricia Swenson, Angelo Tafuro, Joseph Thompson, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: Mary Hall; Santo Giunta

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Matt Corica, Joseph Competello, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Anthony Ochoa Jr., Katherine M. Onorato, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Randy Sanchez, Steven Schloesser, Carl Seaman, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

## Important Lenten Information

**SCHEDULE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Ashes will be distributed during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on February 22nd, Ash Wednesday at 9AM, 12 noon, and 7:30PM. In addition to these Masses, ashes will be distributed during prayer services at 7:30AM, 4PM, and again at 5PM.

**LENTEN REGULATIONS:** All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food in between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be eaten during the day.

**MORNING LAUDS:** As has been the custom here at St. Jude, we will pray Morning Prayer (The Prayer of the Church) Monday through Friday at 8:15AM. We will begin on Thursday, February 23rd, followed by the Holy Rosary.

**LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** The Way of the Cross devotion will be prayed each Friday night during Lent at 8PM. Spanish Stations will be on Tuesdays at 7:30PM. Italian Stations will be on Wednesday at 7:30PM.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION/PENANCE:** Lent is a special time of grace in the life of the Church. It is a time when many people receive the grace to come back to the practice of the faith. It is also a time of ongoing conversion for each of us. The Sacrament of Confession/Penance is available each Saturday during Lent 12 noon-1PM and from 4PM-4:45PM and on Wednesdays from 2PM-2:45PM. We encourage you to make use of this sacrament. The Confession Schedule for Holy Week will be printed closer to that week. Please mention this opportunity to family and friends who may be looking for the opportunity to come home!

## Faith Formation

**MID-WINTER RECESS:** There will be NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES, February 18th-February 25th. Classes will resume on February 27th. The office will be closed February 20th, The office will be open February 21st-23rd from 9AM-5PM.

## St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "...your sins are forgiven." Indeed forgiving is a divine act of mercy. When we forgive others we are acting in and by God's power. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and forgiveness into our hearts and into our lives.

**SAVE THE DATE!:** Friday, May 11th for the 'St. Vincent de Paul' fundraiser, it's BUNCO NIGHT! More info will follow in future bulletins.

## For The Sick

We will be updating our sick list. If you, or someone you love, is still sick and needs our prayers, please contact the rectory at 281-5743 or [rectory@stjudemb.org](mailto:rectory@stjudemb.org) before March 12th to be sure their names remain on the sick list. All others will be removed.

## Eagle Scout Project

As you may have noticed an outside podium has been completed off the path on the west side of the church. We are now asking ministries, parishioners, families and friends who may be interested in donating towards purchasing the St. Francis statue that Fr. Greg has chosen to be mounted on the completed podium. All donations can be placed in the regular collection basket, dropped-off or mailed to the rectory. Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for the 'Eagle Scout Project-Statue'. Funds donated to the project are \$390.00 as of 2/8/12.



# Making a Good Confession

It is that time of year. The Holy season of Lent begins this (Ash) Wednesday with fasting, abstinence, and the imposition of blessed ashes as a sign of our need for repentance and of our nothingness without the grace and mercy of the good God. While many people will wait to confess their sins towards the end of Lent, closer to Easter, the tradition of the Church directs us that we should **begin the season** by so doing. Yet, whether one approaches the sacrament early or late in the season, that one is confessing at some point is the most important issue. When we cry out from the depth of our hearts, “Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned,” surely He is there at our side, ready to forgive. Don’t let fear deter you from this precious sacrament. That brand of fear is the work of the evil one.

Before approaching the sacrament, it is vitally important to make **an examination of conscience** so that you are clear (as much as is possible) in regard to what sins you have committed since your last worthy confession, and not neglect to confess any sins for lack of preparation. Take some time in prayer at home or in church (before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament) to ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know your sins and trust in the mercy of God. Using an examination of conscience from a prayer book, [A Primer for Confession](#) (available in the pamphlet rack), or another source, review a list of **commissions** and **omissions**, and make note of how you have offended God since your last confession.

Upon entering the confessional or approaching the priest-confessor behind the screen (anonymously) or face-to-face, make the sign of the cross and say, “**Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been (the length of time) since my last confession. These are my sins**” or “**I accuse myself of the following sins.**” (Indeed, we are to be accusing ourselves, plain and simple.) We should then proceed to humbly confess any mortal sins; then follow with the venial ones, and not purposefully omit any, confessing plainly and simply, **with sincere sorrow (contrition)** for them and **a firm purpose of amendment** to avoid these sins in the future.

After confessing, the priest will perhaps give some advice and encouragement, and a penance of prayer or deed. Then the **Act of Contrition** should be made (you may bring a copy with you). Making the sign of the cross, the priest will then pronounce the sacramental **absolution** of sins, encouraging you to go forth to give thanks to God and begin again in His grace.

## Confession “Don’ts”:

- \*Don’t try to **make excuses** or attempt to **justify or rationalize** your sins. Either you are accusing yourself of a particular sin or not. God knows the intricate details and the truth.
- \*Don’t say, “**I might have...**” or “**I think I possibly...**” did whatever. Either you committed the sin, or you didn’t. When in doubt, simply say, “**I did...**”
- \*Don’t say, “**I feel that ...**” Though emotions are involved, it’s about sin, not feelings.
- \*Don’t say, “**I would like to bring to confession today...**” If it’s a sin, just confess it.
- \*Don’t say, “**I’m struggling with ...**” We all struggle. That’s called virtue. When we’ve sinned, we ceased struggling and gave in.
- \*Don’t say, “My husband/wife/son/daughter/sister/brother/boss/friend treats me horribly and...” and then rant on for several minutes about

- your grievances against them.** Confession is **not** the place for that.
- \*Don’t “confess” **the sins of others:** your spouse, children, co-workers, etc. **Your sins only.** (Warning: confessing other’s sins should be “rewarded” with a hefty penance and a substantial monetary fine to the poor box!)
- \*Don’t be vague or general. The integral confession of **specific sins** is necessary for a good confession.
- \*Don’t engage in **chatter/issues that do not directly pertain to your sins**, unless deemed absolutely necessary. Your health, spouse, children/grandchildren, the priest’s family and his health/interests, sports, music, the weather, gardening, cooking, Sacred Scripture, how beautiful the church looks, the price of gasoline... are all fine topics to discuss in the proper settings, BUT THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PLACE IN THE CONFESSIOAL!!! (Does that make it clear enough?)
- \*Don’t profess **the good you do** or how you like to help others, or say “I’m a good person.” As our blessed Lord commands, we are supposed to do good always. The sacrament of confession is not the place to be patting ourselves on the back, but rather the venue where we shed tears of sorrow and humble ourselves before the good God.

## Confession “Do’s”:

- \*Confess /Accuse yourself of **your personal sins, or your compliance in another’s sin.** Be clear and objective.
- \*Provide **only necessary (and circumstantial) information** and (especially for mortal sins) mention such circumstances as considerably aggravate or extenuate their malice (such as if one has had sinful relations with another person, whether that individual was married or unmarried). When in doubt, ask the priest if elaboration is needed.
- \***Be concise and do not ramble on.** Everyone’s time is valuable. I’m sorry to have to break the news to you (not really), but **you are not the center of the world.** At last check, God still is, and there are probably other people waiting in line behind you to confess their sins; some of whom may have been away from the sacraments for many years and might “chicken-out” and lose courage if the line is held up due to your self-centeredness in the confessional. Don’t rush, but do think about the confessor and the other penitents in line.

(But quite seriously, if you do need to legitimately make a long confession, perhaps after many years with lots of background and circumstances to be given, etc., please wait until the end of the line, if at all possible (or perhaps make an appointment with a priest), so that neither you, nor the priest, are rushed.)

- \*In a nutshell: Be brief, be bold, and be on your blessed way!
- \*Do your penance as soon as possible and rejoice in and live God’s merciful love!

Regular confession times are noted on the cover and elsewhere in this bulletin. For your convenience, Msgr. Heinlein and I will also try to make ourselves available for the sacrament between Masses on Sundays. Generally, the green light above the confessional door means “go/enter”, and the red light means “stop/occupied”. When in doubt as to whether anyone is in with Father, simply knock. Remember: If you feel more comfortable, you can always confess at another parish, if you prefer. Please, just make sure to go to confession, and frequently: God’s mercy is greater than any of our sins!

**In Christ,  
Fr. Greg**

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

**BLIZZARD BUCKS SWEEPSTAKES:** Grand prize: \$10,000, 2nd prize: \$2,000, 3rd prize: \$1,000, and 20 prizes of \$100. Raffle tickets are \$50 per chance. Limited to 600 tickets with 23 Guaranteed prizes. GRAND PRIZE DRAWING MARCH 10th in the 'St. John's Auditorium' at 3:00PM. Coffee Social Winners need not be present to win. All proceeds will benefit 'Our Lady Queen of Apostles'. Tickets will be available after Mass this weekend of February 18th & 19th. For more information please call 878-1033. Thank you, supporting 'Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School'.

## Hospice Volunteers

Volunteers are a special gift to those overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for someone who is at the end of life. Volunteers provide companionship to patients and respite to families. 'Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk, Inc.' is offering our community a 'Volunteer Training Program'. The program, which is held in East Northport, will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9PM starting this Thursday, February 21st and conclude on March 1st. Although the classes are held in our East Northport office, patients are located throughout Suffolk County, near your home. Pre-registration is required. For information, please contact Amanda Dubinsky, Volunteer Coordinator at 631-930-9340 or adubinsky@vnshs.org.

## Lenten Fish Fry

St. Jude Parish is hosting the annual Lenten fish fry! Come feed your body and soul. Fridays during Lent beginning next Friday, February 24th and ending March 30th, the week before Good Friday. There is plenty of time to enjoy your meal and afterwards join us for the Stations of the Cross at 8PM in the church. Dinner includes: Fish fillet, french fries, coleslaw, roll dessert and soda (or bring a drink of your choice) for just \$8 per person. The fish fry will be held in the parish center hall from 5-7:30PM.

## Catholics African Ancestry

**THE 31ST ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING** will be celebrated next Saturday, February 25th at 2PM at 'St. Agnes Cathedral,' located at 29 Quealy Place in Rockville Centre.

## Catholic Health Services

**HEALTHY SUNDAYS:** Offers education and information for your health and well being. FREE FLU IMMUNIZATION at 'St. John the Evangelist Parish' located at 25 Ocean Avenue in Center Moriches next Saturday, February 25th from 6PM to 8PM (before the Mass). Refreshments will be served. For further information call Father Freddy Lozano 631-569-4657 or Luz Puello, CHSLI 631-465-6304.

## Divorced/Separated/Widowed?

Find help for the heartache of divorce, separation, and widowhood. A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is March 2-4th at the 'Monfort Spiritual Center' in Bay Shore. For more information and reservations, call John at 516-822-0635. You can also email us at beginningexperienceli@hotmail.com.

## Irish Night Dance

The 'Dominican Sisters of Amityville' will be hosting their annual 'Irish Night Dance' for the benefit of their senior sisters on Saturday, March 3rd at 'St. Bridgid's School' in Westbury. The evening will begin with a Mass for "Peace in the World" at 7PM followed by a truly Grand Irish Celebration including Step Dancers, Bagpipers and music by the 'Celtic Connection Band' at 8PM. Back by popular demand is a traditional hot Irish dinner. For more information or to purchase tickets for this fun evening (\$40 per person) please call the Committee at the 'Dominican Sisters Development Office' 631-842-6000 ext 238 or contact S. Patricia Koehler, O.P., Irish Night Chairperson for ticket form pkoehler@aol.com.

## Residential Openings

'Catholic Charities' still has vacancies in a few of our facilities. '**Mary's Manor Enriched Housing**' in Inwood for the frail elderly 65 or older. It is in the style of assisted living as we provide meals and home health aide assistance. '**St. Anne's Gardens**' in Brentwood consists of rental apartments for independent seniors, 60 or older. '**Thea Bowman Residence**' in Amityville, is for independent living, physically disabled individuals and families. For an application, call Stanan Management at 516-486-1000. For more information call 'Catholic Charities Housing Department' at 516-733-7076.

## "Blessed Are You" Bereavement Conference

Sponsored by 'Catholic Cemeteries' and the 'Office of Faith Formation' in the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre'. For the bereaved and those ministering to them. All faiths welcome! On Saturday, March 17th from 8:30AM-5:30PM at 'Kellenberg Memorial High School' in Uniondale. The 'Bereavement Conference' is designed for anyone who has experienced loss and for those who minister to the bereaved. A keynote speaker and multiple workshops are offered in specific loss, traumatic loss, spirituality and support and workshops for facilitators. Download a listing of workshops or register online and save. "...Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted" (MT5:4). For more information go to <http://www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement.html>.

## Seminary of Immaculate Conception

Sunday, March 25th at 3PM N.T. Wright Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the 'University of St. Andrews' will be speaking about "*How God Became King: Why we've all misunderstood the Gospels*". For further information, contact the 'Seminary of the Immaculate Conception' located at 440 West Neck Road in Huntington. Call 423-0483 ext 112 for more information. Free will offering.

## St. Jude Easter Fair

This year's Easter Fair is Saturday, March 31st. In past years, our parishioners have been extremely generous with our requests for donations for our fair raffles. We are looking for donations of fully assembled baskets ready to raffle off at the 'St. Jude Easter Fair'. We do have some baskets if needed to get you started. Please let us know if you can help by calling the rectory. Fully assembled baskets shall be turned in by Friday, March 2nd. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Value for donated baskets should range from \$5 to \$50.

## St. Joseph's College—Pilgrimage

The 'Spirit and Spirituality of Spain & Portugal' (10days) departing May 23rd for "Medieval Monasteries, Gothic Cathedrals and the Basilica at Fatima." Travel with 'St. Joseph's College' faculty member Sister Grace Rowland, CSJ. For a detailed brochure call Sister Grace at 631-654-0199 or email [growland@sjcny.edu](mailto:growland@sjcny.edu).

## Catholic Ministries Appeal 2012

The Catholic Ministries Appeal has begun in our Parish and across the Diocese. The Catholic Ministries Appeal is the yearly appeal that helps our diocese fund many ministries, services and agencies in the 133 parishes across Long Island. We realize that everyone's financial situation is different. Discuss with your family and prayerfully reflect upon the graces that God has bestowed on you and your loved ones. The decision you make is between you and God, and through prayer and reflection, you will come to a meaningful response. Our Parish Goal for 2011 was \$50,174.00. Our Parish reached our goal and received a 20% parish share of \$10,034.80. Monies pledged and received over goal was \$7,115.00, and we received an 80% parish share of \$5,692.00. The total parish share received for 2011 was \$15,726.80. Our parish Goal for 2012 is \$56,200.00. If we reach our parish goal, St. Jude will receive a parish share of 20% totaling \$11,240.00. For any money pledged and received over goal the parish receives a share of 80%. There is a payment option available (4month or 10 month) on the pledge card that you can use to make a pledge, or pay online; or you may wish to use a credit card. Please call 516-379-5210 ext. 213, and speak to Maggie.



## Hibernian Festival Singers

On Sunday, March, 11th at 3PM the 'Hibernians Festival Singers' will be hosting 'Taylor's Traditional Irish Dance Cabaret' direct from Dublin at the 'Bay Shore High School'. The show will feature Ireland's greatest comedian, Noel V. Ginnity, Irish tenor Paul Hennessy, soprano Emer Hartnett, Irish ballad singer Andrew McCarthy, a musical ensemble featuring Pat Maranane, accordionist Aible Grace, uilleann piper Tommy Keane, Ireland's most talented dancers and the 'Hibernian Festival Singers', under the direction of Christopher Bilella. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For further information, please call 631-665-1371 or 631-563-1032.

## Virtus Español

Alguna persona que voluntariamente y regularmente ofrece su tiempo y servicio en sus parroquias y escuela y desea permanecer activo en sus ministerios debe participar en una sesion de entrenamiento de virtud. Sirvase tomar notar que solo necesita asistir a una sola clase de virtud. Hemos programado virtud en nuestro centro de formacion del apostolado hispano de brookhaven como sigue: viernes, 13 de Abril 7PM. Para registrarse en esta sesion, hagalo a traves de online [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) ó venga a la sesion 15 minutos antes para su registro. Para mas informacion llamar a carmen roncal 516-395-2174.

## Divine Mercy Conference

On March 24th Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the 'Archdiocese of New York' is one of the special guests slated for the 'Marians' 7th Annual Divine Mercy Conference' at 'Cardinal Spellman High School' 1 Cardinal Spellman Place in the Bronx. Speakers include: Cardinal Timothy Dolan, 'Archdiocese of New York'; Scott Hahn; Linda Santo, 'Mother of Little Audrey - Witness to Sanctity of Life'; Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR; Abby Johnson, former director of 'Planned Parenthood', now pro-life advocate; Msgr. James Lisante; Susan Tassone; Joan and Dave Maroney of 'Mother of Mercy Messenger's'; Perth Amboy Catholic NJ - Grade School Divine Mercy prayer group; Sister Rebecca Piatek, 'CSSF-Felician-Franciscan-Lady of Hope province'. The conference includes Holy Mass. The celebrant will be Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC. There will be Adoration, opportunities for confession, and a question and answer session. For more information call 1-800-462-7426, email [service@marian.org](mailto:service@marian.org) or go to [www.thedivinemercy.org/events/event.php?id=227](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/events/event.php?id=227).

## Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY				
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	Total
Jan. 22	192	120	156	278	500	170	1716
Jan. 29	367	175	208	379	600	190	1919
Feb. 5	332	189	221	372	590	160	1864
Feb. 12	349	145	182	300	565	177	1718

## Weekly Collections

February 12th	\$8,884.28
Monthly Maintenance	\$3,291.00
Poor Box	\$114.25

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

2012 Goal	\$56,200.00
Pledges a/o 2/12/12	\$4,465.00
# of Donors	23
Payments a/o 2/12/12	\$2,440.00

Thank you to all who have pledged.

## Scripture Readings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012 *Weekday*

JAS 3:13-18 • MK 9:14-29

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012 *Weekday*

JAS 4:1-10 • MK 9:30-37

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

*Ash Wednesday*

JL 2:12-18 • 2 COR 5:20-6:2 • MT 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012 *Lenten*

*Weekday* DT 30:15-20 • LK 9:22-25

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012 *Lenten Weekday*

IS 58:1-9A • MT 9:14-15

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012 *Lenten*

*Weekday* IS 58:9B-14 • LK 5:27-32

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012 *First Sunday of*

*Lent* GN 9:8-15 • 1 PT 3:18-22 • MK 1:12-15

## Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of February 20th have been donated:

In memory of Joseph and Mary Thompson

Dates are available for weeks of

March 19th and April 2nd, 16th, & 23rd

## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for the weekend of February 11th & 12th have been donated:

In honor of St. Jude

## Wedding Banns

III Sean Peter Penfold/Melissa Ann Dugan

II Daniel Repperger/Kristina Olivo

## Baptisms

May God bless them and their families!

# Why doesn't Lent start on a Sunday?

**Q** Why do we still celebrate Ash Wednesday on a Wednesday? We've moved Ascension Thursday to the following Sunday. Why not this too? —Margaret

Dear Margaret,

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (first day of spring). Lent, derived from a word meaning “spring,” refers to the forty-day penitential season determined each year by counting backward from the date of Easter. “Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper exclusive” (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 28; Pope Paul VI, 1969). The six Sundays in Lent are excluded from the count, since each represents a “mini-Easter.”

While some rites calculate the days of Lent differently, in Western Christianity Lent was transferred to a Wednesday to align the number of days of Lent to the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4:1–2).

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence that begins a period of prayer, penance, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter, but it’s never been a holy day of obligation. An obligatory holy day like the Ascension can be transferred to a Sunday, “the primordial holy day of obligation” in the universal Church, only by the national conferences of bishops “with the prior approval of the Apostolic See” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1246).

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## NO! NO! NO!

Though I haven’t checked statistics, I’m guessing that the most commonly used word in the English language is no. I base this assumption not on adult conversations, but on the numerous times the word no is said—or shouted—by my twin 2-year-old nephews. I adore them, but it’s frustrating when I ask for a hug, for a song, or to share toys, and the only response is a definitive “No!” It’s amazing how quickly little ones master that word.

Even we supposedly more-mature grown-ups have quite a mastery of the word no. We may not say it as directly, but we’re very familiar with the art of refusal. “Gosh, I just really don’t have time to attend that faith-formation evening at church.” “Honestly, I can’t see myself ever forgiving her.” “I don’t have the energy to listen

to his complaints about work anymore.” The words are nicer, but the translation really is the same: No. No. No.

Yes, God loves us so much that he wants to be one of us.

Yes, God shows us how to live by giving us Jesus to follow.

Yes, God triumphs over death by raising Jesus to new life.

Jesus is filled with yeses. He is open to us, giving to us, living with us.

Today Saint Paul tells us that Jesus is God’s yes to the world: Yes, God loves us so much that he wants to be one of us. Yes, God shows us how to live by giving us Jesus to follow. Yes, God triumphs over death by raising Jesus to new life. Jesus is filled with yeses. He is open to us, giving to us, living with us.

What about us? What about the times we could say yes to God or to another person, but we say no because it’s easier or takes less time or requires less of us? Might we remember how often God says yes to us?

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