

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

February 21 St. Peter Damian
 22 Chair of St. Peter
 23 St. Polycarp
 24 Blessed Luke Belludi
 25 Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio
 26 St. Maria Bertilla Boscardin
 27 St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 20
 5:00 PM Sick Members of the Parish
 Sunday, February 21
 8:30 AM Mercedes Tharam Richards (Petroni and Conaway Family)
 11:00 AM Members of the Parish
 Monday, February 22
 NOON: The Magri-Schneider Family (Lisa Schneider)
 Saturday, February 27
 5:00 PM Members of the Parish
 Sunday, February 28
 8:30 AM Sick Members of the Parish
 11:00 AM Members of the Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

God speaks to Moses from the burning bush and sends him to the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 103:1-4, 6-7, 8, 11

A prayer in praise of God's mercy

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Paul teaches that the Scriptures were written to set an example for us.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

March 5, 2016: Jaime Flood and Steve Minnihane
 April 9, 2016: Mary Schwab and Brad Botkin
 May 13, 2016: Kristina Zambelli and Matthew Loftus
 May 15, 2016: Jenna Cerrone and Christopher Levy

PARISHIONER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

February 12, 1961: Frank and Jeannette McCarthy

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

SATURDAY (2/20)

8 AM: MASS
 3:30 - 4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
 5 PM: Sunday Vigil MASS
SUNDAY (2/21) SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
 7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
 8:30 AM: MASS
 9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation
 11 AM: MASS
 12:30-2 PM: Dante Book Group (*Lower Level*)

MONDAY (2/22)

NOON: MASS

TUESDAY (2/23)

10 AM - NOON: Food Pantry
 NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (2/24)

10 AM – NOON: Food Pantry
 NOON: MASS
 NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
 6 PM: Women's Cursillo Reunion (*Church office*)
 6:15 PM: Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
 7-9 PM: Choir Rehearsal (*Church*)

THURSDAY (2/25)

8 AM: MASS
 NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (2/26) ABSTINENCE

10 AM – NOON: Food Pantry
 NOON: MASS (*in remembrance of deceased parishioners*)
 NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
 6:30 PM: Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper

SATURDAY (2/27)

8 AM: MASS
 3:30 - 4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
 5 PM: Sunday Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/28) THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
 8:30 AM: MASS
 9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation
 10 AM Children's Stations of the Cross
 11 AM: MASS
 12:30-2 PM: Dante Book Group (*Lower Level*)
 3 PM: Latin MASS

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory report for February 13-14 and 20-21 will appear in next week's Bulletin.

The second collection this weekend is for the Health Wagon.

PARISH NEWS

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Please call the parish office at 295-7185, to arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Parishioners: Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Jim Cannon, Ron Lavis, Sue Newman, Amber Eros, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, and Charley and Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Leslie Gilliam, Ed Shaffrey, Jane Sargent, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Charlie Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, Kristin Fagan, June Atherton, Natalie Potter, Harper Grace, J. Sloan, Paul Hillard, Dale Evans, Marie Johnston, Suzanne Lank, Stanley Lank, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Lisa Light, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, Susie Jackson, Fr. Michael Hann, Fr. Joseph Torretto, Mike Charlie, Joel Rivera, Pam Heron, Elizabeth Scott, Kwasi Johnson, Marianne Rossner, Angie Lee, Residents of Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention.

Members of the Military: William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

Recently Deceased Member of the Parish

Shirley Elaine O'Rourke

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER

Weekly Stations of the Cross continue on Friday, February 26 at 6:30 pm followed by a simple soup supper provided by the Knights of Columbus. Needed are a cross bearer and two candle bearers. A sign-up sheet is on the credenza. Families are encouraged to attend!

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A LIFE-CHANGING LENT?

Maybe it's time you try something different. Sign up for Dynamic Catholic's email program Best Lent Ever®. Each day you'll receive an email with a short video featuring Matthew Kelly and a member of the Dynamic Catholic Team. Using Matthew's new bestseller *Rediscover Jesus* as their guide, they will take you on a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus—and yourself—in a deeply personal way. **Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent**



LIGHTHOUSE CDs: Angels Explained: What You Should Know About Choirs

Dr. Mark Miravalle - Professor of Theology and Mariology at Franciscan University of Steubenville - teaches on the fascinating subject of Angels. Why did God create angels? How are they different from humans? Are guardian angels found in Scripture? Discover the answer to these questions and many more as Dr. Mark Miravalle explains the nine choirs of angels, their differing roles and hierarchical order, and how much angels can help us if we only ask.

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Every Wednesday at 6:15pm in the Chapel a group of Parishioners prays the Rosary together. Come join us for this peaceful, caring 45 minutes. All are welcome.

HOLY COMFORTER MINISTRY FAIR

After Mass this weekend the various ministries at Holy Comforter will be showcased in a Ministry Fair. Learn about the ways you can participate in the life of our parish community. There will be something for everyone! Representatives from select ministries will be on hand to answer questions after the weekend masses:

New Evangelization;

Finance Council;

Christian Formation: Catechist/Substitute Catechist
Parish Life;

Social Ministries: Uganda and Bi-Parish Haiti Committee;
Liturgical Ministries: Sacristan, Altar Flowers, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Music Ministry and Funeral Liturgy.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

PANTRY NEEDS

Now that Lent has started, it seems appropriate to think of tuna fish. How about making a Lenten sacrifice by buying a couple of cans of tuna for our pantry? You don't have to wait until Friday. Any day is a good day to help the poor. Thank you for your support.

BI-PARISH HAITI COMMITTEE

St. Michel School Soccer: Father Petina has asked for help to outfit the school soccer team. A collection container is available at the St. Thomas Aquinas Haiti Table until March 3 to received donations of gently-used soccer shoes. Thank you.

Medical Clinic project and School activities are on the agenda for a visit by parishioners over Spring Break. Please keep our Twin Parish in your prayers.

Next meeting will be at 1pm March 13 at Holy Comforter.

All are welcome. Contact: e-mail Anne Knasel at anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller at ginnyannzeller@gmail.com. Website: www.saltadere.org

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

2016 FIRST SACRAMENTS CLASS

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers: Lucy Barnaby, Ignatius Blumenfeld, Anders Netland, Tommy Nguyen, Louisa Pesch, Megan Pounsberry, Emily Wetzel, Finbar Wilkinson, Karam Talya, Leo Manka, Esa Pannone, Helena Stewart, Sarah Kate Zeller, Tristan Zeller.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Parishioners are invited to participate in Stations of the Cross at 10 am on Sunday February 28 in the Church.

CHILDREN'S MASS

The next Children's Mass will be held at 11 am on Sunday, March 2nd. We will be looking for children to help as gift bearers, ushers, and lectors.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OFFICE FOR BLACK CATHOLICS

The Office for Black Catholics invites young adults to attend a day of meaningful reflection on where we have been, where we are and where we are headed on Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:00 – 3:00, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Richmond. The day will include talks, fellowship and prayer. Fr. Chester Smith, S.V.D., facilitator. Child care will be available. Cost: \$5.00, includes lunch and materials. Please RSVP no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, to obc@richmonddiocese.org or call Katie Lemza, (804) 622-5179.

2016 WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND: 4/21-4/24/2016

Catholic Women are invited to spend an inspiring long weekend at Camp Overlook near Harrisonburg, with other women who want to deepen their relationship with God and enrich the way each lives out her faith every day. The weekend will be led by a team Catholic women who have made a Cursillo weekend before, along with Fr. Dan Bain and Ms. Patty Huffman participating as spiritual directors. Mass will be held each day, along with engaging reflection times and talks on specific issues of Catholic Christian living. Great food and fun included. Cost: \$60.00 (donations will be accepted at the end of the weekend to allow others to go on a Cursillo Weekend). For information and downloadable applications, visit the Valley Cursillo website: www.valleycursillo.com or call Rob and Ann Michel at 434-978-3954.

Applications are due Monday, April 14

SHINE: 2016 SOCIAL MINISTRY SUMMIT

Presented by the Office of Social Ministries, Shine: 2016 Social Ministry Summit, is a one-day conference to explore ways in which we can engage in works of mercy in all their dimensions: spiritual, practical, social and evangelical. We extend an invitation to everyone, including volunteers, social ministers, campus ministers, lay leadership and those already engaged or interested in the social mission of the Church. Come and learn how you may be called to live out the Gospel within social ministry! All are invited, but space is limited so register soon to secure your place.

Saturday, March 12th 9:00AM *St. Michael Catholic Church, 4491 Springfield Rd., Glen Allen, Virginia 23060*

Early registration price: \$25.00 (Light breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials included)

Register online at: regonline.com/shine2016

THE SECULARS OF THE ORDER OF DISCALCED

CARMELITES are lay people inspired by the Holy Spirit to answer the call to holiness through prayer, study, and apostolic acts of charity. Their spiritual formation is founded on the Carmelite Saints and Doctors of the Church, St Teresa of Jesus, St John of the Cross, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The *Community of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity* meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Staunton, on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you desire to learn more about this way of life, please pick up a brochure located in the vestibule of the church. For further information, and to arrange a visit, please contact Patricia McAdams at 286-4055.

*From the Pastor***IT IS LENT AGAIN**

Lent is a time to free our souls from detrimental sin so we can do good works; just as a farmer removes weeds so that the garden can yield the desired fruits. However, while Lent is a time of “rejuvenation and resurrection,” I would like to discuss the suffering which is implicit in the hope of the resurrection, the aspect of **SELF-DENIAL**.

Canon 1249 of the Church law states- *“all members of the Christian faithful in their own way are bound to do penance in virtue of divine law; in order that all may be joined in a common observance of penance, penitential days are prescribed in which the Christian faithful in a special way pray, exercise works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their responsibilities more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence according to the norm of the following canons.*

Canon 1250 — All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the universal Church. This canon is taken from Poenitemini, part III.

Canon 1251 — Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following quote also serves to make the point that the observance of Lent is not optional for members of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1966 Pope Paul VI reorganized the Church’s practice of public penance in his “Apostolic Constitution on Penance.” The 1983 revision of the Code of Canon Law incorporated the changes made by Pope Paul. Not long after that, the U.S. bishops applied the canonical requirements to the practice of public penance in our country. To sum up those requirements, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

For the love of the Lord, self-denial during and after Lent is not a burden for us. The season of Lent compares Christ’s forty days of fasting in the desert as told by Matthew (4:1-11), Mark (1:12-13), and Luke (4:1-13) with our observance of Lent as 40 days. Note that Jesus does not begin his ministry until he has purified himself in the desert through self-denial and suffering. Let us think of this as the spiritual weight-lifting before the big spiritual race. The lesson here is that we cannot become good Catholics without the proper formation. When we become spiritually strong we can go out and flex our spiritual muscles in the sense that we have the strong fortitude to endure life’s temptations, and have the strength to share the fruits of our self-denial with others.

It is only through the suffering of self-denial that we realize we can do nothing without Him. As part of my own Lenten observance I am reading Searching for and Maintaining Peace. In it, Fr. Philippe writes that we must learn to let go in order to receive God. Sounds a lot like the meaning of Lent does it not? We must let go of our sin, let go of our worries, and let go of our wants. By releasing ourselves from our own individual concerns we have the space needed to accept God’s grace. The self-imposed questions are no longer “**What do I think is true?**” but “**What is the truth?**” The question is not, “**What is it that I want out of life?**” but “**What is God’s vocation for me?**” By letting go of ourselves we cling on to God. But, this leap takes great faith, it involves much suffering and a strong will. Christ’s agony in the garden, the ultimate moment of human suffering, only purified his heart all the more so he could freely give himself over to the Father’s will.

Let us allow our Lenten suffering bond us closer to Him who is our satisfaction and embrace self-denial. One spiritual writer noted: “**suffering [self-denial] is the process of purification by which alone man is in most cases sanctified.**” If we freely deny ourselves temporal concerns, then we are left no choice but to concern ourselves with the Eternal.