



Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish

Rev. Alfred J. Lampron
Administrator

PARISH OFFICE:

446 Mount Hope Road • Wharton, NJ 07885

Main Office: (973)627-0066 • Fax: (973)627-3631

Peter Helmer, *Administrative Assistant*

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INFANT BAPTISM

Kevin & Sandy Hayes 973-328-6552

**GRADE SCHOOL & JR. HIGH SCHOOL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sr. Thomasine Smith, S.C.C. 973-366-0184

MUSIC MINISTERS

Kathleen Carey 973-366-1703

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Joan Moran 973-366-4974

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Raymond Dean 973-366-5874

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Collection every week
Lois Bateson 973-366-2066

PHYSICAL PLANT

Michael Hardy 973-366-8435

READERS

Marty Siebold 973-989-1240

USHERS

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sunday: The Lord's Day, Vigil Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Daily Mass, Monday - Saturday, 8:30 AM

RECONCILIATION

Confessions every Saturday, 4:00-4:30 PM and also
at parishioners' convenience by appointment.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are usually made one year in advance
to properly prepare for marriage. Contact the Parish
Office for an appointment.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Contact Parish Office for pastoral visits in the hospital
or at home. Eucharist ministers are able to visit the
sick upon request. The Sacrament of the Sick can be
celebrated anytime there is a need.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration Forms are located in back of the church
or at the Parish Office. Please register so that we may
serve you better.

PARISH TRUSTEES

Cecile Cole
Raymond Dean

February 18, 2018 • First Sunday of Lent



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday February 18, 2018

First Sunday of Lent

9:00 Richard Bateson

10:30 Sr. Lorraine Gallagher, O.P.

Monday, February 19, 2018

8:30 Intentions of Jennifer Mendoza

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 Sick members of the Parish

Thursday, February 22, 2018

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

8:30 Maureen Piccoli

Friday, February 23, 2018

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

8:30 Special Intention

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:30 People of the Parish

5:00 Alison Walters Soderberg

Sunday February 25, 2018

Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 Edward Herda

10:30 Clara Kroll

The inner word What's in your heart?

Lent marks the time of year the church seems most focused and intent on its identity and mission. Through renewed attention to prayer, repentance, and generosity, we seek once again to incorporate ourselves more closely into the ministry, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ. For the church's ministers to open this reality to the people they serve, they themselves need to enter into the season and the mysteries for which it prepares.

- What is troubling my conscience and making it difficult for me to be truly myself and present the gospel to others with integrity? What steps can I take to clear my conscience?
- God's promise of an everlasting covenant inspires faith and confidence. Do I share this confidence? Do I convey it with sensitivity?
- For many, Baptism is a distant and unremembered event. What does it mean to live out my Baptism now? What difference does my Baptism make in how I live?
- In what ways can I rededicate myself to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? How can I reenvision these practices this year?

February 18, 2018

First Sunday of Lent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Last December, a 49-year-old American female tourist was killed in a shark attack off the coast of Costa Rica. It was described as an extremely rare incident. Less rare but equally deadly were the hurricanes that swept into Texas and Louisiana earlier last Fall, which destroyed lives and property. Both the creatures that live in the oceans and the oceans themselves can be so deadly.

But water has another power. It is life giving and life preserving. Dehydration is deadly for our bodies. This is true in a higher realm. This leads to a consideration of the water of Baptism. That takes us to the heart of the annual Lenten season that is upon us. One could say that Lent is all about baptism. Lent as we know it had a gradual development. In the early days of our Church, it was a period of penance and preparation for new catechumens, those seeking Baptism and entrance to the Church. As the living Church evolved, Lent became an observance for the whole Christian body, already part of the Church but in need of reform and renewal. Its hallmarks remained prayer and fasting leading to reform of one's life. All this leading to

a glorious rebirth in celebrating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in Holy Week.

In the recent past, of the generations before us, a collective groan may have been heard across the Catholic landscape, as six weeks of fasting and abstinence of meat loomed on the horizon.

“What are you Lenting on?” became a familiar question friends asked one another. Cigarettes and alcoholic beverages were put aside by many people, which still remain a good idea. There was a rule that specified, for all the days of Lent except for Sundays, only one full meal and two other light meals for all those aged 21 to 59. Now such fasting and abstinence from meat is required only on Ash Wednesday and the six Fridays of Lent. Conscientious people wrestled with what the fast meant for them. Cooks called on their creativity to come up with meatless meals. Macaroni and cheese contested with pizza as Friday night staples, before we headed out to church for the evening “Stations of the Cross.”

The rigid rules are gone, which can be seen as a good thing. The younger generations that grew up with the “personal choice” concept of Lenten penance nevertheless does so without the constraint of multiple rules. Fortunately, the beautiful devotion of the Stations, lost for a time, has survived and is making a comeback. The accent is slowly shifting to observing the kind of fasting Scripture recommends, as Isaiah chapter 58 describes: fasting from injustice to others; sharing one’s food with the hungry; and giving clothing and shelter to the homeless poor. The goal and the hope is that we all find ourselves at the end of Lent not just six weeks older but better at keeping our baptismal promises. We are then sprinkled with life giving water at Easter Liturgies.

Of course, our Lenten resolve has to be genuine and never half-hearted because Jesus proved on the cross His whole-hearted love for each of us. So, we shouldn’t want to be like the critically-ill lawyer who was found frantically leafing through the Bible in his hospital

room. When asked the reason, he replied, “I’m looking for loop holes.”

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

A covenant is a solemn agreement between parties sworn before God who oversees such oaths. Here God makes such a covenant with Noah and promises not to destroy all life with flood waters.

Second Reading: I Peter 3:18-22

Christians are saved by “passing through” the waters of baptism. That blessed water is the redemptive opposite of the destructive waters of the flood that threatened Noah and his passengers aboard that famous ark.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

The Son of God overcomes His testing by Satan in the desert before He begins His public life and ministry. He begins that with the announcement that the kingdom of God “is at hand,” and not in the faraway future, as was always thought.



As a community of believers, who trust in God’s mercy, healing and strength, it is our duty to pray for those who are ill and infirm. The following parishioners or family members of our parishioners are in need of our prayers. We ask God to grant health and peace to: **Lois Bateson, Jean Birrell, the Budwick family, Vincent DePalma, Barbara Dietrick, Linda Doshier, Kathryn Duch, Bernice Lawson, Noah Lorencovitz, Sara Maloney, James Matar, Cora Oakley, Nancy Orkin, Kathy Philips, Angela Rios, Michael Salagaj, Andy Secallus, Sister Thomasine Smith, Frances Spilman, Ralph Sutton, Rob Talmadge and Maureen Tuccio.**

First Friday Adoration

Everyone is invited to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration each First Friday beginning after the 8:30 Mass until 6:00pm. There is a signup sheet in the church vestibule for each hour. Please join us on Friday, March 2nd for this special prayer and devotion.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is Prayer and Fasting, Peaceful Vigil, and Community Outreach. Take part with Morris County Right to Life at Planned Parenthood, 196 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960, 7AM to 7PM seven days a week from Ash Wednesday February 14th through Palm Sunday March 25th. We invite pro-lifers as individuals or groups to participate. Bring signs to hold (except graphic type) or they will be supplied as needed. Please register at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/morristown/>. Alternatively, you may email: info@morriscountyrighttolife.org or call 973-933-2800. There is a flyer with more information on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Lent 2018

The Way of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday afternoon during Lent, beginning at 3:00 P.M. in the church. This traditional Catholic devotion is a meaningful way to grow closer to the Lord in His passion and death for our salvation. Please consider making this prayer a part of your spiritual journey during these forty days of renewal.

Fast and Abstinence

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting, as explained by the U.S. bishops, means eating only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at

breakfast and around midday or in the evening, depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.



Reconciliation throughout Lent 2018

“Welcome Home” is a diocesan initiative to invite all Catholics to experience the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held every Monday during Lent, from February 19th to March 12th, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in every Catholic Church in the Diocese of Paterson. Don't be afraid! Information will be provided. Ask the priest to help you. Experience the gracious mercy of God! Our parish Penance service with St. Mary's in Dover will be held on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m.

www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org



CRS Operation Rice Bowl

This Lent our parish community will participate, once again, in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter our neighbor, as companions on the journey, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We will reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. We will see how our prayers, fasting and alms can support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

As a family, during this holy season, we should reflect on the crosses of hunger, poverty and war carried by our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homes. We also have an opportunity to reflect on our roles in caring for them as members of our human family. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE SUGGESTIONS IN YOUR FAMILY LENTEN PLANS:

- Use CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey – and guide your Lenten almsgiving.
- Prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Visit crsricebowl.org/stories to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

We will collect your CRS Rice Bowl at the end of Lent beginning at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

Did you know that CRS Rice Bowl has a web page specifically for families? Visit crsricebowl.org/families for activities that will help your family grow in our Catholic faith this Lenten season.

Spiritual Reading for Lent

The Little Black Books, and Purple ones for children, are available on the credenza for your use in prayer during Lent. Please take advantage of this popular resource for spiritual reflection during this holy season of renewal. You will also receive a copy of *The Word Among Us*, containing the scripture readings for each day of the Lenten Season as well as a daily meditation.

INVITATION

All are invited to take a 40-day Journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself. Starting on Ash Wednesday, participants will receive daily emails with short inspirational videos, practical tips to incorporate into their everyday lives, and encouraging stories from Dynamic Catholic team members.

Comments from people who have participated in the past include: *"Lent for me usually comes and goes. However, after experiencing Best Lent Ever, I felt a connection,"* and *"This program was great and brought me to confession after more than 10 years."*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS A FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

Friday, February 23, at 8:00 p.m., the Franciscan Mystery Players will present their moving version of "The Way of the Cross" at St. Clement Pope & Martyr Church, 154 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Rockaway Twp.-Dover, NJ.

Written by Franciscan Father Francis Pompei, the Mystery Play is not a "play" in the common sense, but is in fact a prayerful experience that uses special lighting, a stirring soundtrack, pantomime actions and inspirational narration to portray the Stations of the Cross in a manner that invites each viewer to contemplate the meaning of the Passion, and how it relates to their life today.

The group is comprised of 15 teens and 9 adult advisors from several parishes in the Paterson Diocese. Adults and teens are encouraged to attend this special Lenten experience. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes early. A free will offering will be taken.

MASSACRE IN EL SALVADOR: A PRIEST REMEMBERS AND FORGIVES

Rev. Raimundo Rivera, M.Div.

Father Rivera was born and raised in El Salvador and became a U.S. Citizen in 2006. His journey to the U.S. was dangerous and difficult. Extremists in El Salvador murdered his family during the country's civil war in the 1980s. With his experiences, Father Raimundo has an incredible witness of forgiveness to share.

Join us from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, in Rauscher Hall at Assumption Parish in Morristown for this free event. To register, visit www.assumptionparish.org, or call Theresa Miller at Immaculate Conception School of Theology at (973) 761-9575.

Morris Catholic High School Spring Auction

On March 24, Morris Catholic High School will hold its Spring Auction at Hanover Marriot. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Live, silent, basket auctions. \$85 includes sheet of basket tickets and a sit-down dinner. Contact ftuite@morriscatholic.com.

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