



## *St. Mark's Catholic Church*

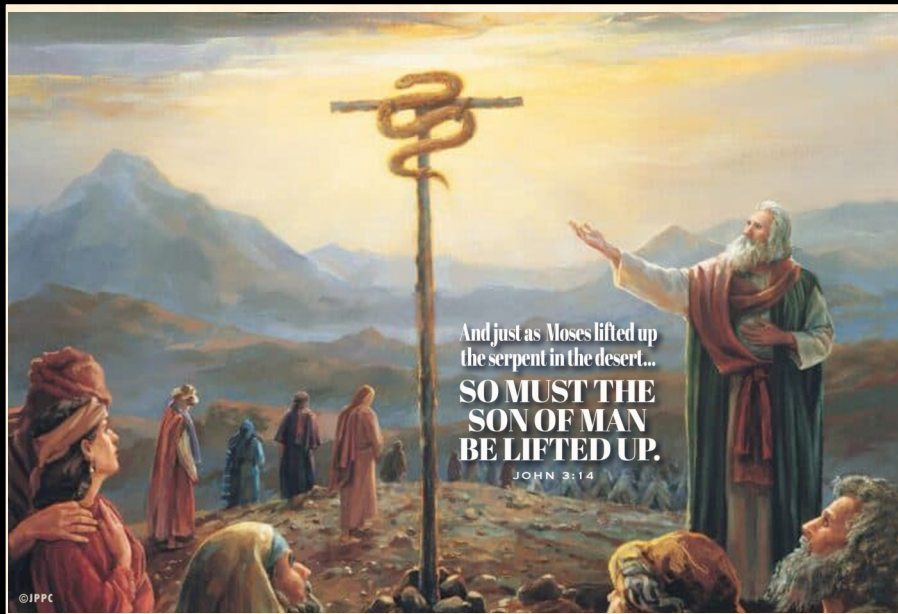
**Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor**

**Rev. José Fernandez-Bangueses, Resident Priest**

**Rev. Bernard N. Mohan (*Wednesday and Friday*)**

**Deacon Michael Keary**

215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750 Phone 732-449-6364 Web: [www.stmarkseagirt.com](http://www.stmarkseagirt.com)



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Reading I 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God,

tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects.

Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

"Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

### Responsorial Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

**R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:

"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

### Reading II Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.



### Verse Before the Gospel

**Jn 3:16**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

### Gospel

**Jn 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.



### Readings for the Week March 14, 2021

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13-16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33



**On St. Patrick's Day,  
Wednesday, March 17th,  
Msgr. Flynn will celebrate  
the 11 AM Mass in Gaelic!**

## Pray FOR THE SICK

**Please Note:** New Policy for the Pray for our Sick. Names will remain on the sick list read at mass for 4 weeks and then removed unless the requester calls to remain on the list for another 4 weeks. To ensure the consent of the person whose name appears here, the pastor's policy requires that only they or a family member may request a name be added to this list. Names will remain in the bulletin until the person or family request it be removed.

*Christopher Walker, Alice Healy, Benjamin Ohlweiler, Jeremy Pavlick, Lucy Gargano, Christine Frauenheim, Robert MacPherson, Jake Gilbert, Bill Lesniak, Jim Bogan, Bruce Bogan, Sr., Cathy Shalloo, Sharon Cox, Lee Cox, Bobbie Woods, Julia Buonocore, Alexandra Gavilanes, Sarah Gallagher, Jimmy Azzollini, Vivian Wilson, Ken Hauck, Dorothy Waugh, Patricia Cavanaugh, Rose Courtney, Grace Philhower, Maria Valdez.*

If you are a parishioner who has not been able to attend Mass and would like to have a Eucharistic Minister bring Holy Communion to you, please contact Donna at the rectory, 732-449-6364 x100 or email [donna@stmarkseagirt.com](mailto:donna@stmarkseagirt.com).

Eternal Rest grant onto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

*Please remember in your prayers those of our diocese, parish, friends, and family members who have recently died:*

† Peter Warshaw

† Emily Walker

† Ruth Doran

† Rosemarie Heck

May the angels lead you into paradise...



**Thank You!** We are so grateful to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and its ministries! We would especially like to thank all of those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through the Parish Giving Program.

**3.7.2021 Collection  
\$11,820.**

**3.8.2020 Collection  
\$12,684 .**



## ANNOUNCEMENT from Bishop O'Connell

Bishop O'Connell has issued a diocesan-wide dispensation from the Lenten obligation of abstinence from meat on **Friday, March 19, 2021**, in honor of the Solemn Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, during this special **"Year of St. Joseph."** He encourages the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton who wish to take advantage of this dispensation, if possible, to transfer the Lenten abstinence from meat to another day that week, to attend Mass on March 19 OR to do some special act of penance instead.

## Parish Appeal

**HELP**  
*Jesus*  
**IN DISGUISE**

Today we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support for this collection gives aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, six Catholic agencies help Jesus in the guise of the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and the poor and marginalized. Please prayerfully consider contributing to The Catholic Relief Services Collection today.

## First Reconciliation:

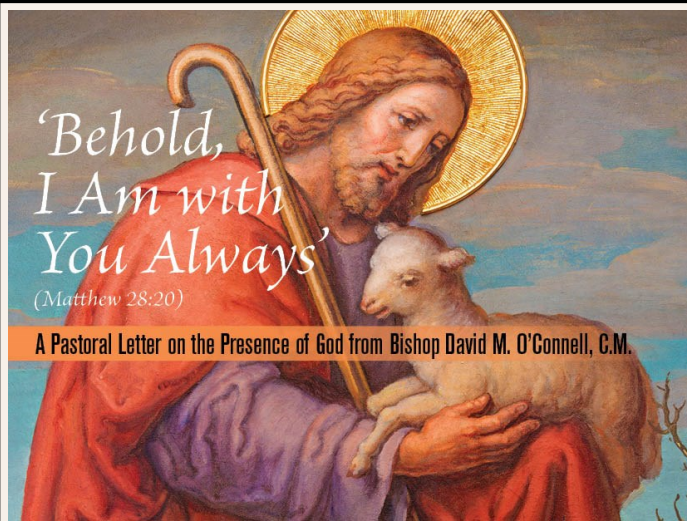
Our children in the second grade class celebrated First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 6, 2021. They told the story of the Lost Sheep and learned that God is a loving God who always forgives. We are most grateful to our Priest, Msgr. Flynn, Fr. Jose and our Catechist: Mrs. Richey, Mrs. Savino, Mrs. Garcia and our families who celebrated with us. Many blessings to these children on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Gift of Forgiveness! Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord.











### Bishop issues pastoral letter on the presence of God

As the pandemic passes the one-year mark and continues to stretch into 2021, a profound side-effect has emerged: isolation.

The experience not only leaves people separated from each other through illness, social distancing and quarantining, but often leaves them, "wondering where God is," writes Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in his new release: "'Behold, I Am with You Always,' A Pastoral Letter on the Presence of God."

The title of the letter is taken from the Gospel of Matthew 28:20, which reads, "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of time." Formally issued Feb. 22, 2021 on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, the pastoral letter was published March 1 across diocesan media as a written text and podcast in both English and Spanish. It was also sent to all parishes and schools for distribution in their local communities.

In this, his third pastoral letter as 10th Bishop of Trenton, Bishop O'Connell addresses the painful reality of separation and loneliness, offering guidance to the faithful for developing the assurance of faith and recovering a sense of the presence of God.

The Bishop also remembers those for whom "social distancing has been their way of life for a long time and not by choice: "... The poor, the outcast, the bullied, the marginalized, those living alone, 'quarantined' for whatever the reason. Social distance and isolation are sentences imposed by society upon them, without parole. ... We must not forget them." To read the Bishop's letter on the presence of God, please visit:

[Bishop's pastoral letter offers hope in the presence of God - Diocese of Trenton - Lawrenceville, NJ](#)

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2021 IN ACTION!

### Clergy and Religious Administration - Vocations

God calls each person to a life of holiness and service, whether single, married, ordained or consecrated. The Diocesan Ministry of Vocations provides discernment opportunities, encouragement, support, education and resources for those responding to God's call through the ministerial priesthood.

We are committed to fostering an environment where vocations to the priesthood are valued and nurtured within the domestic church of the family and the local parish community.

The priest is a servant of the Lord, giving his life to worship, prayer and commitment to God's people. Your gift helps to amplify the call to serve.

To make a one time gift, pledge payment or pledge using all major credit cards, bank draft, Apple Pay, PayPal or Visa Checkout please visit: [Annual Catholic Appeal Donate -](#)

### A Lenten Suggestion:

Please join some of our parishioners in saying the Rosary after the 7:30 AM & 11:00 AM masses and on Fridays before the 11:00 AM mass.



## STATIONS of the CROSS

**On Fridays during Lent, the Rosary will be recited before the 11:00 AM Mass. Stations of the Cross will follow Mass. Adoration begins after Stations of the Cross.**

**If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet and would like a copy of the bulletin, please call the Rectory at 732-449-6364.**

### CYO News: by Mrs. Reilly

We are inviting our CYO families and all St. Mark's parishioners to assist us with "Operation Swaddle the Baby" which is being organized by CYO sophomore Caitlin. Please see details on page 7 and thank you, everyone, in advance for assisting in this very important charitable event. God bless you all!

# ~ Operation Swaddle The Baby ~

Sponsored by St. Mark's CYO

Help us make a change... A Diaper change that is!

**PLEASE** support the Diaper Bank at Child Care Resources of Monmouth County

## **WHAT IS DIAPER INSECURITY?**

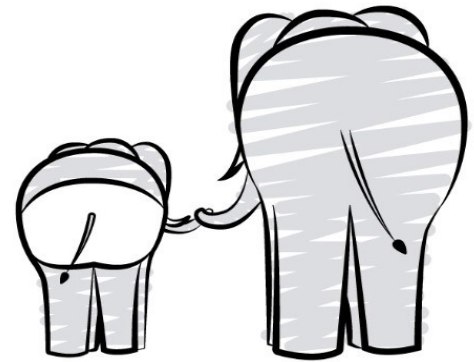
The condition where families cannot afford a sufficient supply of diapers to ensure their children are clean, dry, and healthy.

### **WHEN:**

Saturday 3/13 and Sunday 3/14

Saturday 3/20 and Sunday 3/21

The Diapers and Wipes can be left in designated bins in the church vestibules.



**Diapers @CCRMomouth**



**WHAT IS NEEDED?** While all Diaper sizes are accepted, the greatest need at this time is for size 5, size 6 Pull ups for Boys and Girls and Wipes.

## **Why a Diaper Drive?**

- \*In the United States 1 in 3 families struggle to afford diapers.
- \*Infants typically use up to 12 diapers a day, while a toddler uses up to 8 diapers a day.
- \*Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to potential health risks and are more likely to experience child abuse and neglect.
- \*30% of low income mothers reported they could not afford to change their child's diaper as frequently as they wished.
- \*1 in 10 mothers reported stretching diapers, a practice associated with diaper dermatitis and urinary tract infections.
- \*More than 30% of respondents reported increased levels of maternal stress and depression as a result of diaper need.

## *This Week's Mass Intentions*

Date	Intention	Requested by
<b>Monday, March 15</b>		
7:30 AM	† Anne Macenczak	Estate
	† Rose Heck	Don Sabatini
11:00 AM	† Maureen Smith	Family
	† Richard Martel	Giegerich Family
<b>Tuesday, March 16</b>		
7:30 AM	† John Vassallo	Denise & Dennis Tonry
	† Dr. Frank Zolli	Margaret Azzarella
11:00 AM	† Eleanor Cercerno	Saint Mark's Social Concerns Ministry
<b>Wednesday, March 17</b>		
7:30 AM	† Cavazini, Coyne, Holodan & O'Malley Families	Winifred and Robert Cavazini
	† Mary Beth Oria	Dr. & Mrs. Philip Passalacqua
	† Ruth Doran	Janet & Art Ferrante
11:00 AM	† Catherine Rosalie Vento	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony P. Randazzo, Jr.
	† Harry McEnroe	Alice McCoy Perry
	† Peggy Krauss	Marion Reilly & Family
<b>Thursday, March 18</b>		
7:30 AM	† Mary Jo Bihuniak	Tages Family
	† Rose Heck	Marianne & Jim Sheridan
11:00 AM	† Sheila Ann Miller	Saint Mark's Social Concerns Ministry
	† Dr. James Boozan	Mark & Cynthia Larsen
<b>Friday, March 19</b> ☿		
7:30 AM	† Joseph & Margaret Azzarella	Margaret Azzarella
	† Mary Anne Kern Beute	Donatelli Family
11:00 AM	† John J. "Jack" Geiger	John & Maria Checton
<b>Saturday, March 20</b>		
7:30 AM	† Ani Slevin	Saint Mark's Parish Family
	† Patricia Buckley	Ed & Judy Blaha
4:30 PM	† Vincent Kemper	John Kemper
	† Jose Reis	Mark & Connie Duffy
	† Ramona Walsh	Marybeth & Joe Walsh
<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21</b>		
8:00 AM	People of the Parish	Roger Brandell
	† Thomas Brandell	Jim & Ginny Mulvihill
10:00 AM	† Peter F. Reilly, III	Karen & Michael O'Hare
	† Dr. James Boozan	Dr. Robert & Mrs. Belott
	† Dr. Michael Cahill	JoAnn McGuirk
	† Michael Mitchell	Erika Garcia & Family
5:00 PM	† Jesus Mendoza	Mother & Family
	† John Fredy Puentes	Family
	† All Souls	

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2021**  
**The precepts of the Lord give joy to my heart.**



# TOGETHER

## DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

Every year at this time, I reach out to the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton to ask for your help and support of the Annual Catholic Appeal.

I am mindful that I am coming to you during a time that has been and remains very challenging. The toll that the coronavirus pandemic has had on so many of our families over this last year has been immeasurable. At times of need, I often think of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who committed her whole life to serving the most dire needs of the poor, the homeless, the sick she found in the streets. She was known to have said: "I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot; but together we can do great things."

Since this pandemic last March, the Diocese and our parishes have remained steadfast in serving our communities in spite of the challenges, perhaps even more so.

And so I come to you, again, during these extraordinary days, and ask you to give what you can to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

I am profoundly grateful for your past generosity and for whatever support you can provide for the significant work that lies ahead. I need your help.

Know that I pray each day for you, the faithful, for your health, safety and well being.

May God bless you always.



Most Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M.  
Bishop of Trenton



Ministrare Non Ministrari

**IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR, BUT WE,  
THE CHURCH, ARE STILL HERE AND OUR  
MISSION REMAINS THE SAME.**

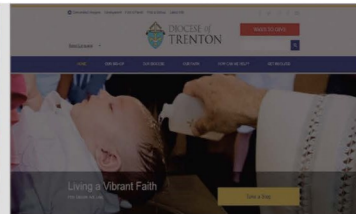
The Diocese and our parishes have remained steadfast in serving our communities . . .

Finding new ways to connect with people through livestreamed Masses.



Supporting ministry to youth, families and many others in our communities through video conferencing and digital resources.

Safely welcoming parishioners back to Mass and students back to learning.



Keeping our community informed through communications outreach.

Assisting those in need through our Catholic social service agencies.

**Together we can do great things. Will you help?**

If you wish, you may designate your gift to a specific ministry (see website for choices).

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/aca-donate-page>



## Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring of their children as St. Joseph did for Jesus.

## Eucharistic Devotion



**T**he importance of Eucharistic Adoration is shown in the fact that the Church has a ritual that regulates it: the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. This is an extension of the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which occurs in every Mass: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those

called to the supper of the Lamb." Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church. The Rite concludes with the ordained minister blessing the faithful with the Blessed Sacrament.

While everyone is not yet able to participate in the Mass in person, we encourage those who are able to make a visit on Fridays immediately after the 11 AM Mass for Adoration. Benediction begins at 1:45PM. Come spend some quiet time with the Lord.

There are less participants than at Mass and all safety precautions are being taken. Masks must be worn at all times in Church.

**Please Note:** At this time, because of Covid 19, we are not accepting clothing, or any personal books, devotionals, religious articles or Rosary beads. In the future we will gladly accept your donations, but at the present time and for the safety of all those concerned, we are asking that these items not be left at the church. Thank you.

## St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society

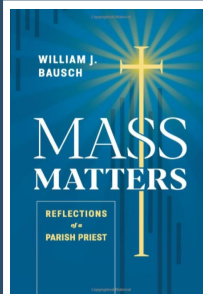
St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society will be reciting the rosary after the 11am mass on the first Monday of each month.

We invite those that cannot make it to church, to join us from home in the recitation of the rosary. In this way we continue to honor our Blessed Mother and follow her directions to continue praying for an end to abortion and all the intentions of her Immaculate Heart.



St. Mark's would like to let our Parishioners know what practices we have in place to protect them during the pandemic so that they can make informed decisions on whether they feel they would like to attend in person Masses. Social distancing with roped off pews which allows those present to sit at least 6 feet apart, all pews, door handles and railings are sanitized after every Mass daily and during the weekend Masses and Sacraments, sanitizer is at the front and side entrances, bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis, masks must be worn by everyone in the church, the priests and Extraordinary Ministers use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion, Communion is distributed one side at a time to allow for social distance, the windows are open during Mass to help circulate air, collection baskets are placed on the Altar rail rather than the Ushers handling the collection, weekend requirement is entrance thru the front doors for Parishioner count but you may exit thru all doors.

**If you have any questions please call the Rectory Office at 732-449-6364.**



## MASS MATTERS

Fr. Bausch's book "Mass Matters" is on sale in the rectory for \$15.

Please call ahead and we will have it ready for you to pick it up!

## Save the Date!

## Easter Egg Hunt

March 26th, Palm Sunday

After the 10AM Mass & the 5 PM Mass (Spanish)

Watch bulletin for more details!





# PASTORAL TALKS

A VIRTUAL 5 PART LECTURE SERIES  
PRESENTED BY ST. CATHARINE SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE  
"Fire of Faith"

*Series dedicated to the loving memory of Robert Dougherty  
and his faithful service to Christ and His church*

FEB 22

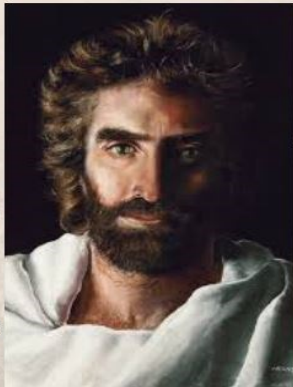
Fr. Damian McElroy  
"The Beauty of the  
Eucharist"

MARCH 1

Fr. Richard Villanova  
"Reclaiming the Truth,  
the Sacred Liturgy"

MARCH 8

Fr. Jeffrey Kegley  
"Renewing of the mind"  
(Based on Romans 12:2)



MARCH 15

Father Gregg  
Abadilla  
"My Vocation Story,  
Our Call to  
Holiness"

MARCH 22

Fr. Kevin O'Neil  
"Seven Last Words  
of Christ"

VIEW THE LECTURES BY VISITING THE LINK ON ST.CATHARINES WEBSITE:  
<https://www.stcatharine-stmargaret.org/>

"HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH. HE IS THE BEGINNING, THE  
FIRST BORN FROM THE DEAD, THAT IN ALL THINGS  
HE HIMSELF MIGHT BE PREEMINENT"  
COLOSSIANS 1:18



Lenten Soup for the Soul Series

San Alfonso Retreat House

755 Ocean Ave • Long Branch, NJ • 07740

March 15, 24

6:00 – 8:30 PM

\$20 per Evening

Looking for some spiritual nourishment this Lent?

Come to our [Lenten Soup for the Soul Evenings](#) this March!  
Join us for some soup, fellowship, prayer and reflection to feed  
your body, mind, heart, and soul!

**Monday, March 15, 2021**

**What Are You Thirsty For?**

Presenter: Christine Marie Eberle

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

**Broken Body of Christ/Broken Body of Earth:  
A Call to Ecological Conversion**

Presenter: Sr. Margaret Galiardi, OP

Space is limited; registration is required

To register: e-mail [info@sanalfonsoretreats.org](mailto:info@sanalfonsoretreats.org)

Phone: 732-222-2731, X140

Full program description available at

[www.sanalfonsoretreats.org](http://www.sanalfonsoretreats.org)

## Easter Flower Memorials

Your donation beautifies the Church to Proclaim the Risen Lord!

*Please use this form to drop off at the Rectory or pick  
up an Easter Flower Memorial Envelope and drop it in  
the basket on the side altar. Easter Flower Memorial  
Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church.  
Memorials will be published in the bulletin after Easter.  
Flowers are refreshed throughout the Easter season!*

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Flower Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important: Please be sure to print your loved ones' names clearly.**

**Iglesia de "San Marcos" Apostolado Hispano**

**Misa Dominical: Domingo 5:00 p.m.**

**Misa de Semana: Martes 6:00 p.m.**

**Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor**  
**Rev. José Fernandez-Bangueses,**  
**Sacerdote Residente**  
[josefernandez@stmarkscagirt.com](mailto:josefernandez@stmarkscagirt.com)  
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 122.

Horario de oficina en Español:  
Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  
**Andrea Martinez, Apostolado Hispano**  
[liz@stmarkscagirt.com](mailto:liz@stmarkscagirt.com)  
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104.  
Fax: (732) 449-1646

Directora del Ministerio de Religión  
**Diana Zuna Nieves**  
[diana@stmarkscagirt.com](mailto:diana@stmarkscagirt.com)  
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

**Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma ~ Marzo 14, 2021**



**Primera Lectura: 2 Crónicas 36, 14-16. 19-23.**

En aquellos días, todos los sumos sacerdotes y el pueblo multiplicaron sus infidelidades, practicando todas las abominables costumbres de los paganos, y mancharon la casa del Señor, que él se había consagrado en Jerusalén. El Señor, Dios de sus padres, los exhortó continuamente por medio de sus mensajeros, porque sentía compasión de su pueblo y quería preservar su santuario. Pero ellos se burlaron de los mensajeros de Dios, despreciaron sus advertencias y se mofaron de sus profetas, hasta que la ira del Señor contra su pueblo llegó a tal grado, que ya no hubo remedio. Envío entonces contra ellos al rey de los caldeos. Incendiaron la casa de Dios y derribaron las murallas de Jerusalén, pegaron fuego a todos los palacios y destruyeron

todos sus objetos preciosos. A los que escaparon de la espada, los llevaron cautivos a Babilonia, donde fueron esclavos del rey y de sus hijos, hasta que el reino pasó al dominio de los persas, para que se cumpliera lo que dijo Dios por boca del profeta Jeremías: Hasta que el país haya pagado sus sábados perdidos, descansará de la desolación, hasta que se cumplan setenta años. En el año primero de Ciro, rey de Persia, en cumplimiento de las palabras que habló el Señor por boca de Jeremías, el Señor inspiró a Ciro, rey de los persas, el cual mandó proclamar de palabra y por escrito en todo su reino, lo siguiente: "Así habla Ciro, rey de Persia: El Señor, Dios de los cielos, me ha dado todos los reinos de la tierra y me ha mandado que le edifique una casa en Jerusalén de Judá. En consecuencia, todo aquel que pertenezca a este pueblo, que parta hacia allá, y que su Dios lo acompañe".

**Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6**

**Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**

Junto a los ríos de Babilonia nos sentábamos a llorar de nostalgia;  
de los sauces que estaban en la orilla colgamos nuestras arpas. R.

**Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**

Aquello que cautivos nos tenían pidieron que cantáramos.  
Decían los opresores:  
"Algún cantar de Sión, alegres, cántennos".

**Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**

Pero, ¿cómo podríamos cantar un himno al Señor en tierra extraña?  
¡Que la mano derecha se me seque, si de ti, Jerusalén, yo me olvidara! R.

**Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**

¡Que se me pegue al paladar la lengua Jerusalén, si no te recordara, o si, fuera de ti, alguna otra alegría yo buscara! R.

**Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**





## Segunda Lectura: Efesios 2, 4-10.

Hermanos: La misericordia y el amor de Dios son muy grandes; porque nosotros estábamos muertos por nuestros pecados, y él nos dio la vida con Cristo y en Cristo. Por pura generosidad suya, hemos sido salvados. Con Cristo y en Cristo nos ha resucitado y con él nos ha reservado un sitio en el cielo. Así, en todos los tiempos, Dios muestra, por medio de Jesús, la incomparable riqueza de su gracia y de su bondad para con nosotros. En efecto, ustedes han sido salvados por la gracia, mediante la fe; y esto no se debe a ustedes mismos, sino que es un don de Dios. Tampoco se debe a las obras, para que nadie pueda presumir, porque somos hechura de Dios, creados por medio de Cristo Jesús, para hacer el bien que Dios ha dispuesto que hagamos.

## Aclamación antes del Evangelio: Juan 3, 16.

### R. Honor y gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.

Tanto amó Dios al mundo, que le entregó a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él tenga vida eterna.

### R. Honor y gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.

## Evangelio: Juan 3, 14-21.

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a Nicodemo: “Así como Moisés levantó la serpiente en el desierto, así tiene que ser levantado el Hijo del hombre, para que todo el que crea en él tenga vida eterna. Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que le entregó a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo para condenar al mundo, sino para que el mundo se salvara por él. El que cree en él no será condenado; pero el que no cree ya está condenado, por no haber creído en el Hijo único de Dios. La causa de la condenación es ésta: habiendo venido la luz al mundo, los hombres prefirieron las tinieblas a la luz, porque sus obras eran malas. Todo aquel que hace el mal, aborrece la luz y no se acerca a ella, para que sus obras no se descubran. En cambio, el que obra el bien conforme a la verdad, se acerca a la luz, para que se vea que sus obras están hechas según Dios”.



*'Y les aseguro  
que estaré con  
ustedes siempre'*  
(Mateo 28:20)

Una Carta Pastoral sobre la Presencia de Dios  
por el obispo David M. O'Connell, C.M.

## Obispo publica carta pastoral sobre la presencia de Dios

Ahora que la pandemia pasa la marca de un año entero y sigue presente en el 2021, un efecto secundario profundo ha surgido: el aislamiento.

La experiencia no solo deja a personas separadas de los demás por la enfermedad, distanciamiento social y hacer cuarentena, sino que a menudo las deja “cuestionando dónde está Dios”, escribe el obispo David M. O'Connell, C.M., en su nuevo escrito: “Y yo les aseguro que estaré con ustedes siempre”, una carta pastoral sobre la presencia de Dios”.

El título de la carta viene del Evangelio de Mateo 28:20, que dice, “Y yo les aseguro que estaré con ustedes siempre, hasta el fin del mundo”. Publicada escrita el 22 de febrero, 2021, en la Fiesta de la Silla de San Pedro, la carta pastoral fue publicada el 1 de marzo a través de los medios diocesanos como texto escrito y podcast en inglés y español. También fue enviada a todas las parroquias y escuelas para distribución en sus comunidades locales.

En esta, su tercera carta pastoral como el décimo Obispo de Trenton, el obispo O'Connell se enfoca en la realidad dolorosa de la separación y soledad, ofreciendo dirección a los fieles para profundizar la seguridad de la fe y recobrar un sentido de la presencia de Dios.

El obispo también recuerda a quienes “el distanciamiento social ha sido su realidad durante mucho tiempo y no por ninguna opción propia:” ... los pobres, marginados, maltratados, quienes viven solos, ‘en cuarentena’ por cualquier razón. El distanciamiento social y aislamiento son sentencias impuestas por la sociedad sin ninguna posibilidad de la libertad.

“... No podemos olvidarnos de ellos”.

La carta pastoral está disponible en inglés y español, por escrito y por audio en podcast. Para aprender más, visite al: [www.PecesdeTrenton.org](http://www.PecesdeTrenton.org)