Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish-Shrine

Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 12th, 2017

The Italian National Parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Served by The Missionaries of Saint Charles – Scalabrinians
1101 N 23rd Ave - Melrose Park - IL– 60160
P (708) 344 4140 — F (708)344 0902

Staff

Pastor
-Fr. Miguel Alvarez, C.S.

Associate Pastors
-Fr. Augusto Feccia, C.S.
-Fr. Juan F. Aguiar C.S.

Parish Deacons
-John Battisto
-Giulio Camerini
-Jose Ramon Arenas

Secretaries
- Nancy Diaz
- Daniel Michel

Office Hours

Sunday
-8:00am—3:00pm

Tuesday- Friday
-8:30am—8:30pm

Saturday
-8:30am — 1:00pm
-2:00pm—5:30pm

Monday
- We're Closed

Sunday Mass Schedule

5:30pm - Sat. Vigil Mass
7:45am - English
9:00am - Español
10:30am - Italiano
12:00pm - English
1:30pm - Español
5:00pm - Español

Weekly Mass Schedule

English
-Monday - Saturday at 7:45am

Español
-Martes y Jueves a las 6:30pm

Italiano
-Sotto richiesta

THE SCALABRINIAN MISSIONARIES AT MOUNT CARMEL SINCE 1905

humilitas

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, is served
by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St.
Charles – Scalabrinians – .
We are an community of Catholic religious
serving migrants and refugees of different cultures,
religions and ethnicities in 32 countries.
The Congregation was founded in Italy
on November 28, 1887,
by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905),
bishop of Piacenza (Italy).
Our missionary focus is to be migrants
with the migrants and to be in mission
with people on the move,
with a special priority for the poorest
And neediest migrants.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL —MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community bound by the Grace of God the Father
who adopted us all as beloved children through Baptism.
We journey as brothers and sisters
inspired in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nourished with the Eucharist
and strengthened by the love of the Holy Spirit.
Encouraged in the practice of our Catholic Tradition,
we experience and honor the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
while joyfully celebrating the religious practices of our ancestors in Faith.
Heartened by the zealous ministry of the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians),
we strive to create a welcoming space were justice for all and the wellbeing of God's people
become the inspiration in our efforts to build God's Kingdom.

+ + +

NUESTRA SENORA DEL MONTE CARMEL — VISIÓN

Somos una comunidad de fe vinculada por la Gracia de Dios Padre,
que nos ha adoptado como hijos amados por el Bautismo.
Caminamos como hermanos y hermanas
inspirados en el Evangelio de Jesucristo, nutridos con la Eucaristía
y fortalecidos por el amor del Espíritu Santo.
Alentados en la práctica de nuestra Tradición Católica,
experimentamos y honramos a la protección materna de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo,
celebrando alegremente las prácticas religiosas de nuestros ancestros en la Fe.
Animados por el celo ministerial de los Misioneros de San Carlos (Scalabrinianos),
nos esforzamos por crear un espacio de bienvenida donde la justicia para todos
y el bienestar del pueblo de Dios nos inspiran en nuestros esfuerzos para construir el Reino de Dios.

Church Services

We encourage all to register
at the Parish-Shrine.
+ + +
Les invitamos a registrarse
en el Santuario Parroquial.

Support Staff

Business Manager
Alexander Sanchez 708.345.3632

Religious Education
Modesta Martinez 708.344.4140

Activities Coordinator
Miguel Aldana 708.345.3632

Music Coordinator
Ann Marie Nabor 708.579.5373

Community Center Site Director
Pablo Cruz 708.345.3632

Sacramental Life

Confessions *Confesiones*
Saturdays—*Sábados*
4:00pm—5:30pm or by appointment/ *o con cita.*

Baptisms *Bautizos*
Come to the parish office. *Pase a la oficina parroquial.*

Weddings *Bodas*
Contact the priest at least six months in advance.
Contactar al sacerdote seis meses antes de la ceremonia

Quinceañera
Contactar a la secretaria cuatro meses antes de la ceremonia.

Presentaciones
Contactar la Secretaria al menos dos semanas antes

Religious Services

Recitation of the Holy Rosary
Mon—Sat at 7:00am

Adoration *Adoración al Stmo. Sacramento*
Wednesdays 6:00pm—8:00pm

Novena & Benediction
Wednesday/Miércoles 7:30pm

Grupo de Oración Carismática
Martes a las 7:00pm

Other Services

Gift Shop Hours *Venta de Artículos Religiosos*
During the regular office hours.
Durante las horas de oficina

Community Center *Centro Comunitario*
Social outreach *Servicios a la comunidad* (708) 345 - 3632

Food Pantry *Despensa de comida*
Wednesdays 4:00pm—6:00pm

Religious Education—*Catecismo*
Saturday - *Sábados* 3:30pm — 6:30pm
Sunday - *Domingos* 10:00am—1:00pm
- Mass Included—Incluye la Misa

During Lent

Fridays—Viernes

+ Abstinence / Abstinencia de Carne / Abstinenza
+ 7:00pm Stations of the Cross Trilingual

Wednesdays—Miercoles

+ 6:00pm Adoración y Predica Cuaresmal
+ 7:30pm Novena with Lenten Preaching

Thursdays—Jueves

+ 6:00pm 1st Reconciliation Rel Ed Students
Confesiones estudiantes de Catecismo

Martes y Jueves

+7:00pm Ensayo para el Via Crucis

March 13th Monday

8:00pm Meeting with Associations for Good Friday

March 24th Friday

6:00pm Parish Reconciliation Service
Fish Fry at the Gym

April 10th Monday - Lunes

7:30pm Servicio de Tinieblas

April 13th Thursday - Jueves

7:30pm Visitation of Churches

Monday/Lunes
5:30pm Clases de Guitarra

Tuesdays / Martes
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico
7:00pm Grupo de Oracion
7:00pm Eng. Choir Practice

Wednesday/ Miercoles
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico
7:00pm Men of Mt. Carmel
7:00pm OLMC Fitness Club

Thursday/Jueves
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico

Friday/Viernes
7:30pm Practica de Coros
7:00pm Matrimonios con Prop.
7:00pm Jornadas Matrimoniales
7:00pm Boys/Girls Scouts
7:00pm Jovenes para Cristo

Weekly Offering

March 4 – March 5, 2017

Regular Sunday Collection: $5,753.00
Second Collection: $2,553.00
Children: $333.00

From the Pastor's Desk

Last week, each family received a coin bank. Our Lenten Campaign this year is aimed to help cover the expenses of the restoration of Liturgical items in our Church. Each year I ask families to consider saving their coins during the Lenten Season and turn them over to the Church during the second week of Easter. The success of this campaign in previous years has been very helpful and I hold no doubt this year will be just the same. I am asking you all to consider saving as many loose coins as possible. If each family returns a full bank at the end of the campaign, we will have the necessary means to cover the expenses of this important project.

A few years back, a family returned the sanctuary lamp that was in the old church. That item, together with several others (censor, holy water boat, several candelabras, three different monstrances for adoration, the consecration bells, the ciboria to keep the consecrated hosts in the tabernacle, etc.), were in dire need of restoration. Most of our liturgical vessels and altar objects have been in use for many, many years and they all show their age; therefore, in preparation for the Jubilee year we are celebrating in 2018, I saw the need to have them all refurbished. Some of those items have already been restored to their former glory and you can see them on display this weekend. This will give you an idea of where your monies for the Lenten Campaign will go. Aside from the restoration, a New Presider's Chair will be replacing the one that has been in existence for almost 50 years. A more appropriate chair will provide us with the opportunity to make a small change in the sanctuary and beautify our Church for its 50th anniversary on June 2018.

I look forward to see that the success of our efforts will yield much needed fruit. If you find in your heart the inspiration to collaborate in a more generous way towards this project of restoration and upgrade of our liturgical objects and altar supplies, do not hesitate to contact me. We can gladly dedicate one of those objects in your own name, your family's name or in loving memory of a deceased one. Blessings and let's continue our Lenten Journey in a Spirit of Generous detachment.

Adsum,

On **Thursday March 30th**
the Knights of Columbus
will be honoring our Pastor,
Fr. **Miguel Alvarez, cs**
at the Columbian Booster
35th annual Honors Night.
We would like to invite his staff
and parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to
come out and support Fr. Miguel
for this distinguished award
from the Knights of Columbus.

The Donation is $40.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Rectory. The event will take place at the White Eagle Banquets, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave, Niles IL.

Cash bar, **Dinner at 7:30pm.**

Any questions about this event or information about becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus please contact Robert Adams Jr at 847-259-4975

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish & Shrine
Altar & Rosary

LENTEN EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

Friar Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM

When: Thursday, March 9th, 2017
Mass at 6:00pm / Followed by Dinner & Reflection

Where: O.L.M.C. Gym
22nd and Cortez st. Melrose Park

$15.00 Donation

THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFIGURATION

"We used to be such good friends. How is it that you've moved so far away?" one man asked another. "Perhaps," the other replied, "you have moved away. By standing still." This exchange very well could have happened between Peter and Jesus, had Peter been allowed to erect tents to stay on the mount of the Transfiguration. He nearly succumbed to the temptation to stay in a place of wonder and light. But Jesus knew the hard truth: we are on a continual journey when we are walking the paths of God's will. It is not good for us to stay in one place on our faith journey. Equally unhealthy is staying put in times of joy and wonder to avoid life's difficulties, or to wallow in our trials and temptations and fail to be companions for our sisters and brothers who are also suffering—or celebrating! The pilgrim Church is required to do one thing on its Lenten journey: to walk continually with Christ as his Body born of water and the Spirit, seeking God's will, helping the reign of God to be known on earth, being led to the end of our journey, transfigured for all time into the company of heaven.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine
St. Anthony Society

Annual Lenten Fish Fry

ALL YOU CAN EAT BEER BATERED COD, COTTAGE FRIES, COLE SLAW, CORN ON THE COB, FRUIT, SWEETS, COFFEE, SODA, WINE ** AND MORE...

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

$10.00 adults $8.00 children under 12

For tickets or more information call 312.860.2530 / 708.372.1432, or the rectory at 708/344-4140. ** $2.00 donation & must be 21

LENTEN JOURNEY

In Catholic tradition, lent is considered a journey towards Easter, a peaceful walking through reflection, prayer and fraternal relationships in such a way that reaching new life can be considered a wholesome experience. We would like to invite each one of you to take part in the different liturgical and spiritual services that will be offered here at the Shrine. Please make sure you take the time to join us in prayer and worship:

EACH **WEDNESDAY** OF LENT:
+Reflection during Novena with Fr. Feccia.

EACH **FRIDAY** OF LENT:
+ Stations of the Cross
-7:00pm Trilingual

Celebrating the Eucharist every Sunday should be the highlight in the life of every Christian
We should be attentive to enjoy this privilege during the Sundays of Lent

ABSTINENCE AND FASTING

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old or older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but are not yet 59. Those who are bound by these regulations may take Only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The Paschal abstinence and fasting are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged on Holy Saturday.

Mensaje del Párroco

La semana pasada, todas nuestras familias recibieron una alcancía para llenarla de monedas. Este año, como lo hemos venido haciendo anteriormente, iniciamos la campaña cuaresmal con la esperanza que podamos reunir los suficientes fondos para cubrir los gastos que está originando la reparación y arreglo de muchos de los artículos que usamos para el culto divino y las celebraciones litúrgicas. Esperamos que cada familia se esfuerce y sea capaz de llenar esa alcancía como una muestra de cariño hacia nuestra Iglesia. Como se ha hecho en otras ocasiones, confiamos que esta vez la campaña sea todo un éxito.

El próximo año estaremos celebrando el jubileo de los 50 años de construcción de la Iglesia y los 125 años de la celebración de las Fiestas en honor de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo. Este jubileo doble será motivo de gran regocijo y causa de mucha celebración para nuestra comunidad de Fe. Es apropiado que, como preparación a ese doble jubileo, dediquemos especial atención a reparar y mantener en óptimas condiciones todo lo relacionado con la Liturgia y el Culto Divino. Los Vasos Sagrados, el Incensario, varios Candeleros, el Bote del agua bendita, Los Ostensorios que utilizamos para la exposición del Santísimo Sacramento, estos son tan solo algunos de los objetos que hemos estado acondicionando en estas semanas; confió que lo que recaudemos con las alcancías que distribuimos, podamos cubrir los gastos de este mantenimiento. También hemos pensado que es necesario cambiar la silla presidencial de nuestra Iglesia y ese será un proyecto que implica algo de restauración en el área del altar y que sin duda nos hará incurrir en costos extras, es por ello que les pido su sean procuren regresar sus alcancías llenas la segunda semana de Pascua.

No tengo duda que como ha sucedido en ocasiones anteriores, este proyecto contara con el apoyo y la generosidad de todos. Si alguien desea hacer un donativo más grande podemos arreglar que alguno de los objetos que están siendo reparados se dediquen a su nombre, el de su familia o como memorial de un ser querido. Si alguien está interesado por favor no duden en ponerse en contacto conmigo. Dios les bendiga en este viaje cuaresmal hacia la Pascua.

Adsum,

JORNADA CUARESMAL

La Cuaresma es un viaje hacia la Pascua. Después de cuarenta días de jornada, la Iglesia nos conduce al encuentro con el Resucitado. Con Oración, Penitencia y Caridad Fraterna preparamos nuestra existencia para el encuentro con la Resurrección. Les invitamos a tomar parte de los diversos momentos de celebración litúrgica y Reflexión Espiritual que se estarán ofreciendo en nuestro Santuario Parroquial:

CADA **VIERNES** DE CUARESMA:
+ Rezo del Santo Viacrucis
-7:00pm En varios Idiomas

La Asistencia a Misa Dominical
se vuelve un momento muy privilegiado
y de gran ayuda para nuestra conversión,
ojala podamos hacer el esfuerzo
de asistir en familia cada Domingo de Cuaresma

El dia jueves 30 de Marzo
Los Caballeros de Colon estaran honrando
a nuestro Parroco **P. Miguel Alvarez, cs**
durante una cena de gala.
Invitamos a sus parroquianos y amigos
a estar presents para este
reconociemiento tan distinguido.

Los boletos para la cena estan a venta en la Rectoria
y los pueden adquirir a $40.00 por persona.

Para mas informacion sobre este evento
o sobre como ingresar con los caballeros de Colon
pueden contactar la oficina de la Parroquia
o a Robert Adams al tel: 847-259-4975

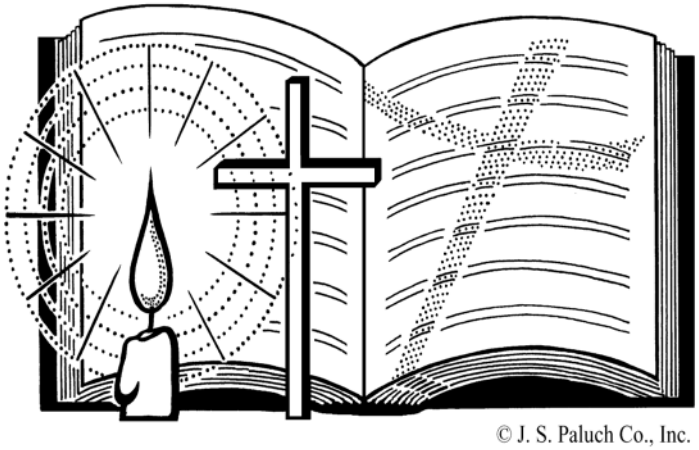
TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Muchos católicos aprovechan el tiempo de Cuaresma para confesarse. El sacramento de Reconciliación tiene una historia un poco complicada, pues ha sufrido muchos cambios con el transcurrir de los siglos. Al principio, la penitencia sólo se celebraba una sola vez en la vida de un cristiano y era necesaria en caso de pecado grave, como lo era la apostasía, el adulterio y el asesinato. El penitente tenía que hacer una confesión en público, frente al obispo y la comunidad entera. La penitencia consistía de un ayuno severo y vestir una indumentaria especial que lo distinguía. Esta penitencia podía durar semanas, y a veces, meses. Durante este tiempo, el penitente no podía estar presente en la mesa de la Eucaristía hasta que el obispo le diera la bendición de reconciliación, la cual, a menudo, se llevaba a cabo el Jueves Santo. Con el paso del tiempo, los cristianos se dieron cuenta de la necesidad de celebrar el sacramento de la Reconciliación con más frecuencia y por otras clases de pecado.

Algún tiempo después, esta práctica cayó en el desuso y fue sustituida por la confesión privada, la cual se originó entre los monjes irlandeses. Después, esta práctica fue aceptada por toda la Iglesia. De esta manera es que nació el sacramento de la reconciliación que conocemos hoy. Actualmente, a pesar de que la Iglesia dice que no es necesario acercarse al confesionario antes de recibir la Comunión, se nos exhorta a confesarnos por lo menos una vez al año, o lo antes posible después de haber cometido pecado grave.

EL VIAJE DE LA TRANSFIGURACIÓN

"Solíamos ser tan buenos amigos. ¿Por qué te has alejado tanto?" un hombre le preguntó a otro. "Quizás", le respondió el otro "tú te has alejado al quedarte quieto". Este diálogo bien podría haberse dado entre Pedro y Jesús si a Pedro se le hubiera permitido armar tiendas para quedarse en el monte de la Transfiguración. Casi sucumbió a la tentación de quedarse en un lugar de maravilla y luz. Pero Jesús sabía la difícil verdad: estamos en un viaje continuo cuando transitamos los caminos de la voluntad de Dios. No es bueno que nos quedemos en un lugar en nuestro viaje de fe. Es igualmente malsano estancarnos en los momentos de alegría y milagros para evitar las dificultades de la vida que ensimismarnos en nuestros sufrimientos y tentaciones para evadir ser buenos compañeros de nuestras hermanas y hermanos que también están sufriendo; ¡o celebrar! La Iglesia peregrina debe hacer una cosa en su viaje de Cuaresma: caminar continuamente con Cristo como su Cuerpo nacido del agua y del Espíritu, buscando la voluntad de Dios, ayudando a que se conozca en la tierra el Reino de Dios, siendo guiada al final de nuestro viaje, transfigurada para siempre en la compañía del cielo.



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AYUNO Y ABSTINENCIA

ABSTINENCIA:
De acuerdo a las reglas de la Iglesia Católica, todos los mayores de 14 años deben abstenerse de comer carne el Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de cuaresma.

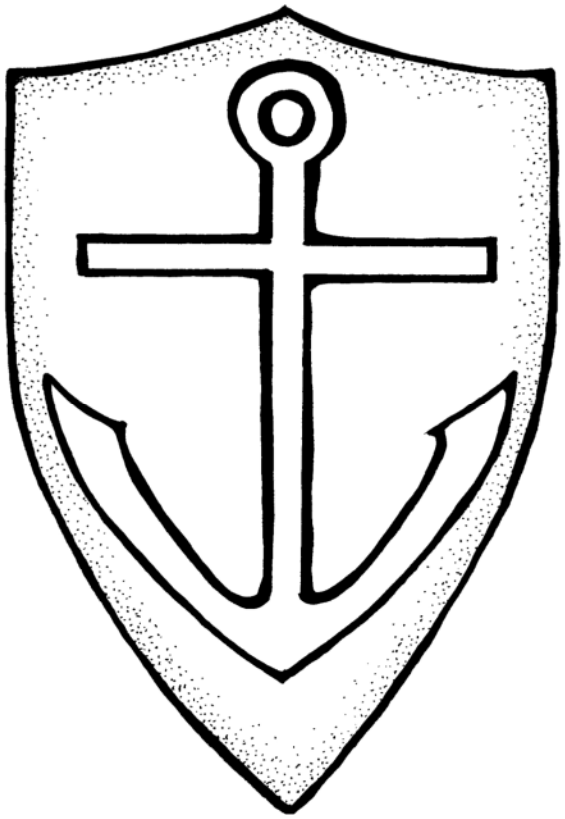
AYUNO: Debe ser observado por todas las personas entre 18 y 59 años de edad. Nos obliga el dia Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo –se invita también a prolongar el ayuno pascual haciéndolo el Sábado Santo-. La mejor manera de hacer ayuno es: Una comida completa y dos comidas ligeras si lo sienten necesario.

Fr. Feccia's Reflection

Seconda domenica di quaresima, Anno "A"— La seconda tappa del cammino quaresimale ci presenta Gesù trasfigurato sul monte. Più che un racconto da ascoltare, è un'icona da contemplare, come uno spiraglio aperto su un mondo divino e misterioso, vicino e nello stesso tempo molto lontano.
È passata soltanto una settimana da quando Gesù ha predetto ai discepoli la sua passione, e la parte che anch'essi dovranno assumere. Dopo questi discorsi, la trasfigurazione ha lo scopo di rafforzare la fede dei tre apostoli che saranno testimoni del sudore di sangue. All'improvviso, essi vedono ciò che Gesù sta per diventare. Sul suo volto umano minacciato dall'ombra della morte, per brevi istanti risplendere la luce abbagliante della pasqua, troppo bella per non scomparire e quindi ancora oggetto di speranza. Moséh ed Elia stanno accanto a Gesù, con la loro presenza. I due grandi testimoni dell'alleanza antica dicono che gli ultimi tempi sono vicini e che è apparso il grande profeta atteso. Anche il Padre è presente nella nube, e la sua voce, come al momento del battesimo, svela per un attimo il mistero di Gesù di Nazaret: «È il mio figlio che amo. Ascoltate il suo insegnamento sconcertante». Accettate in lui e voi stessi lo stretto intrecciarsi della gloria e della sofferenza, della forza e della debolezza, della morte e della risurrezione.
Ma ora è tempo di ridiscendere nella pianura per riprendere il cammino sulle orme del servo. Presto le tenebre del Golgotha inghiottiranno lo splendore di quel volto trasfigurato: non ci sarà più nulla da vedere, e apparentemente più nulla da sperare. Ma la luce di quel giorno non era un inganno, la visione non aveva nulla del sogno. L'alba della pasqua mostrerà che la vita può sorgere dalla morte. Esodo di Gesù, Esodo dei discepoli È ancora il nostro esodo?
Il Tabor e il calvario— Gesù ha appena annunciato agli apostoli la sua prossima passione e morte, ma loro non hanno compreso, non hanno voluto comprendere. La trasfigurazione ha lo scopo di conformare con potenza quella previsione, e di anticipare nello stesso tempo la passione imminente. «È mio figlio, in lui ho posto tutto il mio amore, ascoltatelo, credete a quello che vi ha detto» In realtà la morte di Gesù doveva essere la cosa che più ripugnava alla fede degli apostoli e aveva bisogno di una conferma. Qui, sul Tabor, Gesù non è diverso da quello che sarà sul calvario: cioè la somma dell'amore di Dio, la parola che viene dall'alto, l'annuncio di una vittoria sulla morte che sconvolgerà tutta la storia dell'uomo.

INDICAZIONI PRATICHE DEL DIGIUNO E DELL'ASTINENZA

+ il **mercoledì delle ceneri** e il **venerdì santo** sono giorni di digiuno dal cibo e di astinenza dalla carne e dai cibi ricercati o costosi.
+ i **venerdì di Quaresima** sono giorni di astinenza dalla carne e dai cibi ricercati o costosi.
+ negli **altri venerdì dell'anno**, i fedeli possono sostituire l'astinenza dalla carne con altre opere di carattere penitenziale.
+ al digiuno sono tenuti i fedeli dai **diciotto** anni compiuti ai **sessanta** incominciati; all'astinenza dalla carne i fedeli che hanno compiuto i **quattordici** anni.
+ anche coloro che non sono tenuti all'osservanza del digiuno, i bambini e i ragazzi, vanno formati al genuino senso della penitenza cristiana.

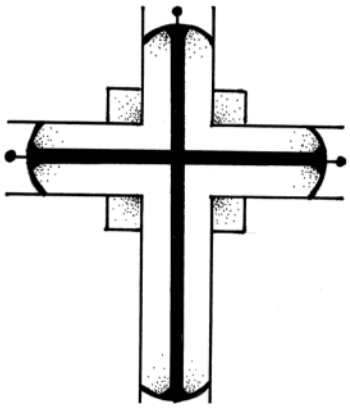


Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 11	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †	
5:30 pm †	
SUNDAY, MARCH 12	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
7:45 am † Paz Tapia	
† Maria Tapia	
9:00 am †	
10:30 am † Francesco Palermo by Mother & Father	
12:00 pm †	
1:30 pm †	
5:00 pm †	
MONDAY, MARCH 13	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am In thanksgiving to our Lord by Magdalena	
TUESDAY, MARCH 14	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am † Rosalie & Sam Lisuzzo by Daughter Rose	
6:30 pm †	
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am † Carl Vovola by Children	
7:30 pm NOVENA	
THURSDAY, MARCH 16	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †	
6:30 pm †	
FRIDAY, MARCH 17	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †	
SATURDAY, MARCH 18	**LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †	
5:30 pm †	
SUNDAY, MARCH 19	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
7:45 am † Paz Tapia	
† Maria Tapia	
9:00 am †	
10:30 am † Maria Fasullo by Josephine Ciraulo	
12:00 pm † Christine Tradaglini by Dave	
1:30 pm †	
5:00 pm †	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE ILL OR INFIRMED :

Linda Bandy	Luke Westrick
Antonela De Biasio	Ann Yench
Mary Donato	Alexandra Vitali
Judith Escamilla	Ken Douglas
Jacob Duda	Michael Turso
Kristie Goldi	Anna Baffa
Linna Goldi	Jan Clark
Susan Humpf	Sara Zonca
Carol Maioni	Nancy Oshea
Vandy Liala	Madeline Vittori
Ethan Maidl	Victor Mejia Jr.
Joseph Pulido	Nico Felice
Lauren Rendi	Emelio Scalzitti
Bobby J. Villa	Nell Baker



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Blessed Sacrament was not reserved in church buildings in the first centuries of the church. In those early years, of course, people met in borrowed "house churches," gathering on the Lord's Day for community, apostolic teaching, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers, as Acts of the Apostles tells us. Dispersed, people went their way into the workaday world until the next assembly. Weighing down their hearts was the absence of brothers and sisters, not only the sick, but those imprisoned for the faith. No wonder they developed a way of extending the food of the Holy Table to them.

Forty years ago, every altar boy in training heard about Saint Tarcisius. He was a twelve-year-old boy at the time of intense persecution in fourth-century Rome. His community had begun to convey the consecrated bread from their Eucharist to those condemned to death or awaiting trial. Normally deacons did this, but on one occasion, it was necessary to send the boy to bear the holy mysteries to the prison. The legend says that he was an athlete, and was detained on the way by some playmates who wanted him to join in their game. When he refused, they demanded to know what he was carrying. The situation went from bad to worse, and he was badly beaten and died of his injuries. A hundred years later, a pope called him a second St. Stephen. In the nineteenth century, Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman of England wrote a novel in which he expanded the story and popularized it. By then, no one seemed to notice that this twelve-year-old was actually touching and ministering the Eucharist, unthinkable until recently. Scholars say the story rings true: the first reason for setting some Eucharistic bread aside was not adoration, but Communion of the sick.

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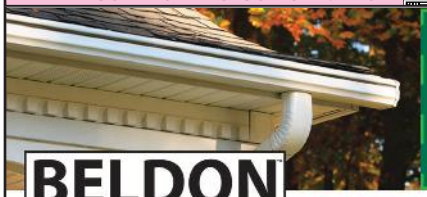

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