



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

- 2-26 Mon 9:00 AM Mary Alice Bagley  
By Ada Rice
- 2-27 Tues 9:00 AM Mary Alice Bagley  
By Dan & Ginni Brandt
- 2-28 Wed 9:00 AM Carmie Mirabito  
By Dan & Ginni Brandt
- 2-29 Thurs 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 3-1 Fri 9:00 AM Communion Service
- 3-2 Sat 4:00 PM Bonnie Figary  
By Marge LaFave
- 3-3 Sun 10:30 AM Madeline DeFalco Franzo  
By Joseph L. Franzo

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

I am not a movie fan but every once in a while I watch one or two movies. And I love those ones that have a sad beginning and a surprisingly happy ending. Such movies with upsetting beginnings put one through intense scenes before ending on an upbeat note, with a smile, and tears of joy. The first reading for this second Sunday of Lent seems like one of those movies that have a disturbing beginning and a terrific ending. The reading presents a story where God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering for him. I find this request to be too much and very disturbing. I wonder what went through Abraham's head. Why could God ask a parent to do such barbaric thing to his son? Does God favor human sacrifice? We are told that God was testing Abraham's faith and obedience.

Abraham proved himself as a person of deep faith and complete trust in God. He was obedient and willing to offer his son Isaac as a burnt sacrifice to God. Abraham went with Isaac to Mount Moriah and he prepared an altar to sacrifice his son as a holocaust to God. But the Lord intervened through an angel to stop him from plunging a knife into Isaac. Instead, God provided a ram for Abraham to make his sacrifice on the altar.

This story has a happy ending. God was pleased with Abraham's faith and obedience and he established a solemn covenant with him. He promised to make Abraham the father of all nations. He blessed him and his descendants to be numerous as like the stars in the sky.

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac to God prefigures Jesus's ultimate sacrifice on the cross. It points to Jesus's faithfulness and obedience to his father's will and the price he paid for our salvation.

In the gospel, Jesus led Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain and while there, he gave them the glimpse of his eternal glory. Jesus was transfigured before his three disciples. His face shone like the sun and his clothing became dazzlingly white. Then Moses and Elijah appeared to converse with Jesus. These two figures represent the law and the prophets respectively and their presence bore witness to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises.

Peter was engulfed in the transfiguration experience and he expressed his delight to be in the Lord's presence. He exclaimed, "Lord, it is good to be here." Peter offered to build three tents, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. A cloud overshadowed all of them, followed by a voice that came from heaven to declare Jesus as the beloved Son of God, and called all people to listen to him.

The words from Peter are necessary for our Christian living especially during this Lenten journey. It is good to enter into the Lenten season, to climb the divine mountain and to glimpse the splendor of Christ and the glory awaiting us in heaven.

Until then, we are called to descend from the mountaintop, to leave our comfort zones, to abandon ourselves and sacrifice our personal interest for the sake of others. We are called to embrace the suffering and hardships that come with our daily duties.

Saint Paul exhorts us in the second reading that God's presence is constantly around us to help us to navigate the challenges and trials of life. He tells us that if God is for us, nothing can be against us or separate us from him.

As we journey through Lent toward the Easter glory, let us strive to follow in the footsteps of Abraham, in his faith and obedience and place ourselves in the presence of God and his loving care for our lives. Let us with the disciples, allow ourselves to be wrapped in the splendor and glory of God so we too can radiate the Lord's image and holiness to all those we encounter each day in our lives.

God bless

Rev. Dr. Ben



Bread and wine are offered this weekend in memory of Father Gordon by Joe & Terry Maggio.



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please note the additional Lenten services being offered. You are encouraged to attend these extra services once a week or more.

**Weekday Mass Schedule-** Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration-**

Every Tuesday during Lent immediately following 9:00 AM Mass in the Chapel and followed by Benediction at noon. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule.

**Stations of the Cross**

Fridays at 5:30 PM followed by Benediction

"When the curtain between life and death becomes thin, this is a sacred place." At our time of need, we were blessed with Fr. Ben's presence and strength, for which we are grateful. We would like to thank our Sacred Heart family for their prayers and support.

The family of Mary Alice (Knapp) Bagley



**Weekend of March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

First Reading-Exodus 17:3-7

Second Reading-Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Gospel- John 4:5-42

**Celebrant:**

Fr. Ben

**Lector:**

Jane Artis

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Gene Walsh

**Altar Servers**

Jack, Henry, & Ella Grigoli

**Sunday 10:30AM**

Fr. Ben

Kathy Saludo

Kristin Reuter

Quinn & Ayla Gronwall

Maddison Curtin & Gabriel Harris

Offerings on February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular, \$2,076.00; Fuel, \$80.00; Catholic Relief Services, \$5.00; Black, Native & Latin American Missions, \$499.00; Ash Wednesday, \$539.00



## FAITH FORMATION A JOURNEY FOR LIFE

February 25<sup>th</sup>- 9:00-10:15 AM PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>- 9:00-10:15 AM PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
The Lenten Family Night of Reflection listed on the Religious Education calendar will not be taking place. The Follow the Savior Pre-Lenten activity held last Sunday was in place of the Family Night of Reflection. Thank you to everyone that attended.

As of the end of January 2024 the regular collection and Holy Days was \$79,152.00. The budget for these collections is \$78,716.72. To date we are \$435.28 over budget. This report will be done monthly from now on as it will better reflect the financial standing of our collections.

### Black, Native & Latin American Missions

Thank you for your generous support of last week's special collection. As a parish we collected \$524.00, which will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America, the Caribbean and here in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america) and click "How to Give." Your gift makes a difference!



"He who gives to the poor will never want." Please consider donating new **underwear** for needy children, men and women. Donations can be placed in the blue receptacle in the vestibule.

### What are you giving up for Lent?

Here are 5 ideas that might prove challenging but they may help to actively cultivate virtue and really target our faults.

**1-Mortify your will through the practice of obedience**-do this by cheerfully serving the people in your life.

**2-Attend especially to the tasks you don't like doing.**

**3-Embrace annoyances**-when others annoy you, examine yourself and discern how you, too, act or think in that way.

**4-Impose a strict watch on your tongue.**

**5-Check impulsive actions**-will this action really help anyone?

~from The Catholic Company

### February Bulletin Quotes

"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent  
[usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection](http://usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection)

### New Synod Sessions

Dioceses all across the U.S. are being asked to hold a new round of synod listening sessions, focusing on church structure, organization, leadership, and church life. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany has scheduled four sessions in the month of March. Three are in person, one is virtual. Register at [www.rcda.org/synod](http://www.rcda.org/synod) and make your voice heard.

### New Lenten Website

<https://www.rcda.org/lent> Lent begins on Valentine's Day this year. So, do we have to fast? Fr. Anthony Barratt shares a beautiful response. The theme on the page this year is **Make It Personal**, sharing thoughts on how to build your personal relationship with God. You can also find a calendar of Lenten events around the Diocese and Meatless Meal recipes, even a few cooking videos featuring some of our clergy.

### Sharing the Talks from the NYS Eucharistic Congress

Powerful messages were shared in the talks and homilies at the Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville in October. You can now find them all at <https://www.rcda.org/nysec2023>. You can also find the page by clicking the Prayer and Worship tab under Offices & Ministries at <https://www.rcda.org/>

### Women Prophets of the Bible

Please see the flyers at each of the exits for information on an upcoming Lenten scripture study being offered through Zoom by the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center.



**Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers:** Gussie Shifflett, Steve Pickwick, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Bettye Pete, George Mertz, Kimberlee Roe, Grady Charles Weigand, Kevin, Michael Bell, Barbara Bennett, Daniel Rickard, Andre' Lundstrom, Mark & Andrea, Kim Sumski, Dorothy Kashuda, Alyson Sabillon, Linda Falk, Debra Barnard, Diane, Bonnie La Voie, Doug Williams, Faith Williams, Don Butler, Debra Patterson, Ed Nicol, Dawn Maruszewski, Carey, Madlyn Sumski, Alex Roberts, [Paul J. Hamilton, Sr.](#), Ray & Mary Munetz, Jazmers Moore, Bruce Allen, Kimberly Bosket, David Rivera, Jackie Bargher, [Matthew Baxter](#), Darline Smith, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, [George Walters](#), Lorraine Keckeisen, Maria LaBar, Kathryn Wickham, [Patrick](#), John McCann, Natalie Stone, Marian Heeps, Mary Kolermous, Clare Sterchak, Terri Cristofaro, Liliana, Nancy Daugherty, Mark Morotwe, Sharon Guenther, Kira Cronk, Terry Yackel, Jack Yackel, Jim Mylotte, Alice Walters, Mariah Pierce, [Rev. Steve Deckard](#), Terry Nicolini, [Tammy Byrnes](#), Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Susan Chidester, Ines Warlock, Alyce Hopkins, [Bob Oliver](#), Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Barb Doyle, Ruth Glaum, Tom DeMulder, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Tony & Lila Donnolo, Stefanie Smith, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, Alicen Knapp Feroletto, Assunta Siniscalchi, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlena Keath, Marian Agyemang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Pat Hamilton, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Marge LaFave, Denise Dinato, Joe Maggio, Olivia Ross & family, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Jess Johansen, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolino, Charlie Washburn, Sean Granan, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Grushans, Marion Kiselica, a dear friend, Father Peter, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Marlena, Pat Elbrecht, Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, James Rattrie, Danielle Guglielmo, Ellen Reuter, Francis & Alfredine Duguay, Chelsi Byrne, Jaxson Beadle, Joan Rice, Joe Santorelli, Joan Barber, Stephanie Soldingier, Eileen Donohue, Rowan DeCocker, Bonnie Tabone, Austin Kilmer, Nancy Herron, Mike Wombacker, Daniel, John

*Please Note: All names will remain on our list and will be prayed for unless our office is notified to remove an individual.*

