

“Can You Not Watch One Hour With Me?”**Will You ‘Fit’ Jesus Into Lent and Easter?**

Easter 2019 is *almost* as *late* as **Easter** can possibly be: April 21; it will be this late again in 2030; but in 2038 it will be on its *latest* possible date: April 25, which last occurred in 1943. Between now and 2050, **Easter** will only be in March 6 times; the closest it will come to its *earliest* possible date, March 22, is in 2046, when it falls on March 25. **Easter** was last on March 22 in 1818 and will be on this date again in 2285. [There’s some **Easter** trivia to share!]

Over the centuries - or rather, millennia, numerous attempts to ‘set’ **Easter** on a certain Sunday in spring have failed, which may be a blessing in disguise. For by keeping the way the ‘first’ **Easter** was ‘set’ [roughly: Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring, which some say puts the ‘first’ **Easter** on March 25] - and as a *moveable* feast, **Easter** ‘intrudes’ on us. And should not the three greatest days in world history: **Holy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and **Easter** - be days around which **WE** plan **OUR** life ... not the other way around?

As we begin the annual 40-day **Lenten** campaign to prepare ourselves to properly celebrate the crux of our faith, what can we do to make **LENT** - the three day **SACRED TRIDUUM** - and **EASTERTIDE** - the center of our life? This annual **Lenten** insert offers the ways our Parish helps make these times more central, more meaningful and more spiritually fruitful.

Good Friday Family Promotion. I join with my brother Knights of Columbus who, throughout the country, are encouraging families to come to church on **Good Friday** for that solemn day’s once-a-year rites. [I would add that we also make **Holy Thursday** and all **Easter** weekend events a priority!] And the best way to do that is to first ‘get in shape’ by taking part in as many **Lenten** events as you can.

How sad that many treat the day Jesus suffered and died for us like any other day. If we make time for Super Bowl parties, Fourth of July BBQ’s, Christmas and New Year’s festivities and other special events - **we can make room for the Great Three Days!**

Lenten Spiritual Exercises. For your first **Lenten** ‘workout’ I strongly suggest everyone gets their ashes in church! Personally, I find ‘Ashes-on-the-go,’ where people get dabbed at train stations, malls, etc., offensive and contrary to the liturgical norm that Sacraments - and even sacramentals like ashes - take place in a dignified place, during a prayer service in which the Word of God is proclaimed! Ironically, some non-Catholic Christian communities, who once criticized Catholic customs like ashes as superstitious non-biblical, manmade rites now conduct such rites - devoid of Scripture, hymns, prayers, etc. **So, as I said, get your ashes in church!**

Then, on each day of **Lent**, make time for daily prayer; come to daily Mass; log onto a Catholic website for the day’s readings or reflections; watch each day’s Mass homily on the US Catholic Bishop’s website: www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/index.cfm; if you have Sirius Radio, check out their programs; they even broadcast the 7:00-7:30 am daily weekday Mass from NYC’s Saint Patrick Cathedral. Join in communal **Stations of the Cross**, lead the **Rosary** after weekday daily Mass or pray them privately. **JUST DO SOMETHING EACH DAY IN LENT FOR JESUS!**

The venerable **Lenten** triple play: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving still works! In addition to prayer as mentioned above, fast: fast from food, from optional activities, from whatever distracts you from prayer or good works. Give to the poor via Operation Rice Bowl mite boxes, available in the narthex, the **Cardinal’s ‘Sharing God’s Blessings’ Annual Appeal** or other charities. **Again, just DO SOMETHING!**

Above all, allow Jesus and His Church to recreate you through the **Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation**. As they say, **“Confession is good for the soul!”** May all our **Lenten** prayers and good works, fasting and charitable offerings, bring us to the joy of **Easter!**

With my love and prayers,

Very Reverend Michael J. Kreder,

V.F., KHS - Pastor

+ **Mardi Gras** **Tuesday** **March 5** +

Join in 'Fat Tuesday' fun: 6:00 pm pot-luck supper in our Parish Center and thence to the church for Night Prayer at 7:45 pm and the burning of last year's palms for this year's ashes. Contact the Parish Office for details.



Ash Wednesday
March 6

Fasting from all signs and sounds of festivity, we strip away all that keeps us from focusing on God. Blessed ashes mark the start of our Lenten journey of self-denial, penance and prayer, for we must 'spring clean' our homes and our souls! Ashes are a sign of repentance and mortality so those of any age may receive ashes. In Ash Wednesday's First Reading the Prophet Joel includes "infants at the breast" in the fasting and communal penance imposed on the people.



Ashes are distributed during Mass at:

7:00 am - 8:30 am
12:00 noon - 7:00 pm

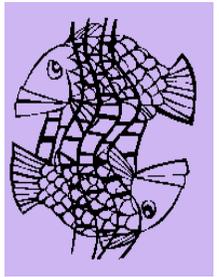
and during a Children's Liturgy of the Word at 4:00 pm

Easter Precept or Easter Duty

All Catholics are obligated to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the **1st Sunday of Lent, March 10**, and **Trinity Sunday, June 16**. Those conscious of serious, grave or mortal sin must celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** first; they must go to Confession before receiving **Holy Communion**.

Fast & Abstinence Guidelines

Those 14 and older are to **ABSTAIN** from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and all **Lenten Fridays**. Those between 18 and 59 should **FAST** by eating only one main meal and two smaller ones on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. Those unable to abstain or fast for a valid reason [i.e., **St. Patrick's Day party** or **wedding**] may abstain on another day or perform a different penance; Canon law only permits **PASTORS** to dispense from fasting or abstaining. Ignoring penitential days, without good cause, is a serious sin of omission. Our Bishops ask us to abstain from meat on Friday all year long for **Pro-Life causes** and **world peace**.



Sunday Mass Obligation

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 7:30 am - 9:00 am
10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Weekday Morning Mass

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:00 am

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at 8:30 am

Midday Prayer with Holy Communion

Monday through Thursday at 12:00 noon

Food Collection - Operation Rice Bowl

To help feed the hungry locally and abroad: make a donation to our 'Fruit of our Lenten Fast' Collection on **Ash Wednesday**, or our **Second Collections** for our **Social Concerns & Charitable Fund** on **March 10** and on **Passion [Palm] Sunday**, or donate money and/or nonperishable food to help those less fortunate. Return **ORB: Operation Rice Bowl** mite boxes by **Holy Thursday, April 18**, to the special **ORB** basket found near the Sanctuary.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation Penance or Confession

Let Jesus purge your heart and soul of sin in the primary sacramental experience of God's mercy: by confessing our sins in the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation - aka 'Confession.' While only all mortal sins must be confessed, this Rite's sacramental grace also purges us of our lesser or venial sins. It serves as a

'check-up,' helps nip sinful habits in the bud before they bloom into full-blown sins, and strengthens us against temptation and other distractions.

Those guilty of mortal sin may NOT receive Holy Communion until they confess them to a Priest. Confession is also encouraged in Lent and Advent, before a Baptism, Confirmation or Wedding, or serving as a Sponsor or Godparent. The 4 parts are:

CONTRITION. To be contrite or remorseful we must know our sins, so we examine our conscience by shining God's divine Light, found in Gospel values, the Ten Commandments, Precepts of the Church, Beatitudes and Seven Deadly Sins, into every aspect of our life. *If you can't come up with any sins, ask your family or friends to help ... they know your sins!*

CONFESSION. Priests not only speak for God and the Church; as 'doctor of the soul' they help cure sick souls, as medical doctors help heal bodies - but only if we are totally open and honest. Begin with "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned" or simply say, "Please help me" from behind a screen or face-to-face. We may remain anonymous, but should tell our state in life [married, single, ordained, a parent, etc.], and approximate date of our last confession. List all grave, serious mortal sins by number and kind: abortion, adultery, etc.; a general admission [*I'm*

impatient, rude, insensitive, etc.] covers all lesser sins. An Act of Contrition card is available in the confessional; at Penance Services we recite it from a printed program; don't let not knowing an Act of Contrition keep you from this Sacrament of Healing!

ABSOLUTION. Listen as the Priest prays; make the Sign of the Cross on yourself as he imparts it on you at the end of the beautiful Prayer of Absolution.

PENANCE. To express our gratitude and offer a token of our willingness to try to avoid future sins, we perform a penance: a prayer, good deed or other sign. To celebrate Reconciliation come to the:

Parish Penance Service

MONDAY - APRIL 8 - 7:30 pm

Several priests will hear private confessions after the communal Examination of Conscience & Act of Contrition at this annual Penance Service.

Or Saturday afternoons at 4:00 pm.

All MUST ARRIVE at 4 pm as Confessions MUST END by 4:45 pm for the 5 pm Mass!

Or call ANY Roman Catholic Parish Office to make an appointment with any Priest.

NO Confessions will be heard during the Sacred Easter Triduum - so plan to come to Confession early!

The Catholic Advocate & New Jersey Catholic

For an orthodox Catholic view of the news and local church events subscribe to our online archdiocesan periodicals. Call 973-497-4200 for details or log onto the Archdiocese of Newark's website at: rcan.org for more information.

Annual Catholic Women's Conference
Saturday - March 9 - 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Seton Hall University
South Orange Campus

This annual Conference can help Catholic women experience fellowship, learn about, renew and strengthen their faith. Speakers include: **Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark; Gloria Purvis, Mary Rice Hasson.** The day includes: Confession time; a Holy Hour; an Adoration Chapel open all day for prayer; music, exhibitors and camaraderie and holy Mass with Cardinal Tobin at 4:00 pm. **Registration is \$25 per attendee ages 18 years and older.** Breakfast and lunch included. Register at: www.rcan.org/womenscommission. For more info, email: catholicWomen@rcan.org or call 973-497-4545.

Annual Catholic Men's Conference
Saturday - March 16 - 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Seton Hall University
South Orange Campus

This annual Conference can help Catholic men experience fellowship, learn about, renew and strengthen their faith. Speakers include: **Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark; Fr. Larry Richards, Gregory Floyd & Father Mariusz Koch, C.F.R.** The day includes: Confession time; a Holy Hour; an Adoration Chapel open all day for prayer; music, exhibitors and camaraderie and holy Mass with Cardinal Tobin at 4:00 pm. **Registration is \$25 per attendee ages 18 years and older.** Breakfast and lunch included. Register at: www.NJCatholicMen.org. For more info email CatholicMen@rcan.org or call 973-497-4545.

Unlocking the Beauty of the Revised Roman Missal's Orations [Prayers]

Do you read each week's bulletin article on the revised Mass orations as your '**Lectio Divina**' or weekly 'holy study?' In recent years, the topic has been the Saints, on or near their Feast Day. Check our Parish website for past articles! Make reading it your **weekly discipline!**

All Liturgical Ministers' Gathering
Laetare Sunday - March 31 - 4:00 pm

All who serve in ANY Liturgical Ministry: **Altar Servers, Deacons, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Masters-of-Ceremonies, Music Ministers, Sacristans, Readers** - and all who wish to serve in these ministries - are invited to this annual gathering. We will review basic policies, review Holy Week's elaborate rites, celebrate Evening Prayer and enjoy fellowship and refreshments. If you're bringing an appetizer, or other drink to the 'after party' - or wish to help with set-up or clean-up - let Debbie Moran know at the Parish Office by March 28.

Homebound Parishioners

Contact the Parish Office to have the Most Holy Eucharist brought to the sick or homebound, or to have a loved one, neighbor or friend visited by a parish minister.

2018 Christmas Collection Stats

Donation	Households	Total
\$50.00 - \$99.00	143	\$7,543.00
\$100.00 - \$499.00	271	\$41,955.00
\$500.00 - \$999.00	24	\$12,900.00
\$1,000 & Up	12	\$27,000.00
Total	450	\$89,398.00
Grand Total		\$102,322.00

FYI: 450 Households gave 87% of our Christmas Collection.

Parish Office Phone: 201 - 438 - 2200

Parish website: stmaryrutherford.org

Parish email: rcansmr@aol.com

Diocesan website: rcan.org

Vatican website: vatican.va

Stations of the Cross Friday Evenings

The church is open weekdays from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm for private praying of the venerable *Stations of the Cross*. On Fridays at 6:30 pm the Spiritual Life Committee conducts a variety of communal *Stations* at 7:30 pm; check the bulletin for each week's format. On *Good Friday* at 7:30 pm we will conduct our 22nd annual 'Walking the Stations' in which parishioners share their personal reflections on how we, the Body of Christ, the Church, must die and rise to new life each day! Join in these uplifting spiritual exercises!



Our *Pieta* statue, usually in the corner of *Pieta Hall*, is moved to the foot of the predella [sanctuary] at the end of the 3:00 pm *Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord* through that night's *Stations of the Cross* until we decorate for Easter on Holy Saturday.

Is God Remembered in Your Will?

While concern for our own needs and others may keep us from tithing a full 10% now, most should be able to reach this goal in their will. Is God and your Parish remembered ... in your will?

Lenten Enrichment Program

Our Adult Faith Formation Series
Book Discussion on Matthew Kelly's
'Perfectly Yourself.'

3 Thursday Evenings: 7:30 - 9:00 pm
March 7, March 14, March 21

In December, the Adult Faith Formation Team handed out a free copy of the book from Dynamic Catholic entitled *Perfectly Yourself*, by Matthew Kelly. As promised, we will be meeting in the parish center for discussion about the book on *Thursdays March 7, March 14 and March 21 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm*. Even if you haven't read, please meet with us anyway to discuss faith, life and *Lent!*

Get Involved In Your Parish

Become a *better Catholic Christian* by joining one of the many ministries, groups and organizations listed in the bulletin; with so many Masses, Funerals, Sacraments, faith formation for adults and children and other events, there's something for everyone! **ALL** Parish groups warmly welcome new members! Contact the Parish Office for info about any group.

Vocations & Lay Church Ministries

Is God calling you to be a *liturgical* minister: *Altar Server, Music Minister, Usher, Reader;* *catechetical* minister: *Religious Formation, Sacramental Preparation Instructor;* or a *Priest, Deacon, Sister* or *Brother*? Speak to a Priest, Deacon or Religious. *'Good*



Catholics' must pray for Vocations. For more info call 973-497-4365 or visit the Vocation Office's Archdiocesan website: rcan.org/vocation. All are requested to pray for all Priests, past and present.

'Whom Shall I Send'

Sunday - March 24 - 7:00 pm

Saint John's Lutheran Church

145 Mortimer Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070

Phone: (201) 438-0840

FEATURING: Nikki Casseri,* Benjamin Culpepper, Dorothy Dobkowski, Leo Grinberg,* Brandon Schraml* & Tony Bartoli, Percussionist

*Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Director & Choreographer: Carol Ferrone Musical

Director: Gerard DeMan

Playwright: JS Pecorella

'Whom Shall I Send?' is a vibrant musical drama, similar to the 'No Greater Love' presentation. 'Whom Shall I Send?' highlights how God's call has been heard, answered and lived out in key biblical persons. The Xavier Company or TXC, who performs in churches throughout the tristate area, will NOT be offered at Saint Mary Church this year; the performance is at the nearby Saint John Lutheran Church. To learn more about TXC go to www.thexaviercompany.org. There is NO admission fee but donations are appreciated.



2019
Cardinal's
Annual
Appeal:
'Sharing
God's
Blessings'

Give alms by pledging to the Cardinal's Annual Appeal or 'Sharing God's Blessings.' Many in our Parish are blessed with many worldly resources; the CAA/SGB enables us to easily share the blessings God entrusts to us in a way that benefits the physically or spiritually poor and needy. Help us reach our Parish goal of \$70,001.00 toward the Archdiocesan goal of \$7 million. Pledge cards were distributed February 3; please return your pledge card via the collection

basket if you have not yet done so; if you need a pledge card, please contact the Parish Office.

When he visited our Parish two years ago, Cardinal Tobin was quite impressed - not only with our buildings and colorful lighting - but even more so with the people and their warm, welcoming spirit. He relies on Parishes like ours to help our sisters and brothers throughout the Archdiocese of Newark - and beyond - by being generous with whatever God has entrusted to us. So make Saint Mary Church proud!

The RCIA:

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Rites of Sending & Election

We are overjoyed to have a Catechumen this year who will be Baptized, Confirmed and receive First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 20:

Sachiko Niiya

Sponsor: Isaac Sanchez

Sachiko will receive our Parish's blessing in the Rite of Sending at our 12:00 noon Sunday Mass on March 10. Later that day, all 2019 Catechumens in the Archdiocese of Newark and their Sponsors will meet our Cardinal-Archbishop at the Basilica Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark in the inspiring Rite of Election at 4:30 pm. Pray for these Catechumens [soon to be called the Elect], all Candidates [those already baptized who are preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church], and our Parish's adult Candidates for Confirmation who receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, at the 12:00 noon Mass:

Kevin Capurro - Sponsor: Madelyn Briceno

Krista Lee Ponti - Sponsor: Dana Ponti

Damiano Lee Sasso - Sponsor: Jessica Sheridan

If you - or any ADULT you know - wishes to become a Roman Catholic - or needs to receive First Eucharist or Confirmation - contact Mary Kay Benjamin by email at: religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org or call 201-438-2476. Through the RCIA, the unbaptized or those baptized into non-Catholic Christian communities are catechized with Catholic dogma, doctrine and practices. Join us!



**Palm
Sunday
of the
Lord's
Passion**

April 14

In Procession, with *blessed palms*, we honor Christ as our King and reflect on His Passion and Death:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am - 9:00 am

10:30 am - 12:00 noon

All children are invited to our special Children's Liturgy of the Word at ALL Masses this weekend; before Mass all children come to the center aisle; after the Procession they go to see a ½ hour age-appropriate video on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection and return during the Lord's Prayer.

Monday of Holy Week - April 15

regular daily Mass at 7:00 am

Chrism Mass - 8:00 pm

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Priests renew their Ordination promises and **Cardinal Tobin** blesses and consecrates the Holy Oils: the Oil of Catechumens used at Baptism, the Oil of the Sick used in the Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism, used at Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the blessing of new churches & altars. All are invited to our Cathedral for this ancient, moving ceremony. Pray for our Priests!

Tuesday of Holy Week - April 16

regular daily Mass at 8:30 am

Wednesday of Holy Week - April 17

regular daily Mass at 7:00 am

Holy Thursday Morning - April 18

Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

[no morning Mass or any other Mass permitted]

coffee, bagels & fellowship afterwards

The Sacred Triduum

The Paschal Fast

Lent ends as we begin Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper; we then enter the shortest but most central liturgical time: the three-day Easter Triduum. To more fully join in Christ's Death and Resurrection, all are strongly encouraged to join in all Triduum events and the Paschal Fast, which is even more intense than the Lenten fast: all should fast from Good Friday until the Easter Vigil *"as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts."* [From the Ceremonial of Bishops # 295.]

Holy Thursday - April 18

We solemnly celebrate Jesus' parting gifts of love: His abiding Presence in the Eucharist; His care and concern for us in the Ordained Priesthood; and Christian Service, our call to continue His work. For as Jesus said after washing the Apostles' feet: *"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."* [John 13:14-15]

In the *Mass of the Lord's Supper* we serve by: washing feet, giving alms through Operation Rice Bowl, and 'watching one hour' with the Lord in *Eucharistic Adoration* until *Night Prayer*.

Holy Thursday Services

Morning Prayer/Breakfast 8:30 am

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

Night Prayer 11:00 pm

Good Friday - April 19

We meditate on Christ's Passion and Death with ancient rituals and in profound silence. The church is open all day for private prayer and for public services: Morning Prayer, Children's Passion Play, *Main Celebration of the Passion of the Lord* and ecumenical Stations of the Cross. All should visit the church this day to thank God for His redeeming love!

Good Friday Services

Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Children's Stations	12:00 noon
The Passion of the Lord	3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross	7:30 pm

Holy Saturday - April 20

Ancient tradition prohibits Mass this day; we keep watch at the tomb in solemn prayer. Pray for those who will be baptized and welcomed into our Church during this day of prayerful reflection.

Holy Saturday Services

Morning Prayer with RCIA Rites	8:30 am
Midday Prayer with Easter Food Blessing	12:00 noon
Easter Vigil Mass	7:30 pm

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

April 20 - 7:30 pm

Church law strictly requires that the ONLY Masses permissible on Holy Saturday begin AFTER nightfall, in darkness, so there can be no 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on

Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil Service, the climax of the liturgical year, which begins at **7:30 pm**, is a four-part ritual with roots in antiquity. The four parts are:

SERVICE OF LIGHT. The Paschal Candle, symbol of the Risen Christ, lit from the blessed fire, is brought into the darkened church. As all light their candle from the Christ-Light, the darkness of the tomb erupts into the warm glow of the Risen Lord's presence!

LITURGY OF THE WORD. We tell our scriptural story of God's marvelous, saving deeds throughout history.

LITURGY OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION. With blessed Easter Water we renew our Baptismal Promises and welcome our newest members through the Sacraments of Initiation, making God's saving deeds and the Risen Lord *truly alive* in us, His Church!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST. In the highpoint of the Great Three Days [and the entire year] we share Eucharist with our newest members for the first time. We pledge ourselves anew to become Eucharist: to become Christ's loving presence in our world.

NOTE: There is NO 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday; the ONLY MASS is at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday - April 21

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter Masses

Saturday Easter Vigil:

7:30 pm

Easter Sunday:

7:30 am - 9:00 am

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

[Note the different Easter Mass schedule!]