

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Saturday, March 17:

5:00 Daniel P. Blaine

Sunday, March 18:

7:00 Deceased members of the Quinn & McCauley Families

9:00 Stanley Modzelewski

11:00 People of the Parish

1:00 Xeu Qian Zheng

5:00 Joan Rogers

Monday, March 19:

7:00 John Clark

9:00 Edward Lewis

Tuesday, March 20:

7:00 Nancy McVey

9:00 Daniel P. Blaine

Wednesday, March 21

7:00 Joseph Russell

9:00 John Clark

Thursday, March 22

7:00 Mary Tighe

8:00 Daniel P. Blaine

Friday, March 23:

3:00 Raphaella DiLorenzo

7:30 Fr. Raymond Dolan

Saturday, March 24

9:00 Claire Smolka

5:00 Sykes, Maine & Meldrum Families

Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday)

7:00 Mary Tighe

9:00 Al & Sue Amore

11:00 People of the Parish

1:00 Brendan Hoey

5:00 Lisa Arbus

Saturday, March 24:

5:00 B. Jones, K. Apoe

T. Hudik

Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday:

7:00 J. Prenty, V. O'Grady

9:00 Sr. Iraida, Sr. Barbara M. Gambardella

11:00 K. Wisniewski, F. DiSalvo P. Jezycki

1:00 W. Ortiz, T. Cunningham D. Tarafa

5:00 F. Maley, J. Gordon E. Ortiz



Susan Pellecchia, Lois Mazzitelli, Meghan Clark, Alberto Meranda, Anna Parente, James Parente, Mary Kenny, John C. Marino, Cpl Justin Campbell, Sheila Jones, Frank Silvestri, Barbara Walsh, Christian Pepo, Jean Forte, Kathryn Capofari, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Mark Herman, Frances Bocignone, Crystal Helewa, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Michael DiCostanzo, Carol Perrone, Barbara Lord, Linda Powers, Dana DiPietro, Joseph Detz Sr., Eileen Leigh

**Collections:**

March 11th.....\$6,344.00

Catholic Relief.....\$1,661.00

**Palm Crosses:** The Sacred Heart Youth Group will be selling Palm Crosses after all the Masses this Sunday.

**Wedding Bands**

I Steven Michael Arroyo Jr. & Carmen Taylor

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In high school during the sixties, Victor was a normal boy who enjoyed sports and dancing. He was quite popular among his fellow students. All of that changed drastically one day when he contracted Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy. His doctors assigned him to a leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana. He spent six lonely years there. Then the doctors discovered drugs that curtailed the effects of the disease. Fortunately, it was sufficient to save his life. Unfortunately, it was too late to prevent the disease from deforming his body. Victor now had one eye, a limp, and only partial use of his hands. His face was so disfigured that people would cringe at the sight of him.

Victor returned home in his early twenties. His old friends abandoned him, and not even his own parents could bear his infirmities. He became homeless. Victor would appear only at night so as to avoid the typical reaction of horror that he received whenever people saw him. It was no surprise that he slumped into a depression, convinced that nobody cared.

As his mental outlook grew darker the light of Grace appeared. Victor remembered a kind priest who had treated him with great compassion when he visited Victor and the other patients at the leprosarium. That priest was Bishop Fulton Sheen. Victor never forgot how Bishop Sheen treated him and the other outcasts with great dignity. Although he was not a Catholic, Victor decided to write to Sheen and ask for an appointment. He doubted that the letter would get through since Bishop Sheen was very famous and was receiving thousands of letters a month. To his great surprise, Sheen responded. He invited Victor to his office in New York. When Victor entered his office and sat down he blurted out bluntly, "I've come to you because I have no one to turn to. I haven't a friend in

the world." The bishop answered, "Well, you have one now."

Sheen began to act on that assurance almost immediately. He helped him find an apartment. He gave him food and clothing. He secured a job for Victor in a behind-the-scenes position where his deformities would not be a hindrance. Once a week, Victor was invited to Bishop Sheen's home for dinner. Because Victor had difficulty using his hands, Sheen personally cut his food for him during each meal. Eventually, with the Bishop's love and support, Victor regained his confidence. He began to once again show himself in public. When Fulton Sheen was installed Bishop of Rochester in 1966, Victor was sitting in the front row. [For further reading see Brandon Vogt, *Saints and Social Justice: A Guide to Changing the World*, 2014].

Jesus once said: *What you do for the least of My brothers and sisters, you do for Me.* [Matthew 25:40]. At times, the least of His brothers and sisters appear in our path as very broken individuals. Sometimes the best we can do for them is what Fulton Sheen did for Victor: he affirmed his dignity. Each human person: male or female, black, white or brown, hetero- or homo-, rich or poor, born or unborn, has unfathomable human dignity. However, through no fault of God, what happens to us in this world can sometimes cause that dignity to be obscured. As a result, the darkness can overwhelm us, as it did to Victor. The (only) answer to the darkness is the light of Jesus Christ, that dwells within us. Our vocation as Christians—in Lent or out—is to let that light shine.

God bless you!

Father Eric

**Sacred Heart School:** Now accepting applications for September 2018  
[www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsny.org](http://www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsny.org).

- Free Universal “Pre K For All” (4 year olds born in 2014).
- Apply Online beginning February 5, 2018 at [www.schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/ApplyOnline), Sacred Heart code is 31RABJ

**Open House Date:**

- Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9 AM– 11 AM

**Stations of the Cross:** Just a reminder that Stations of the Cross will take place on all Fridays during Lent at 7:30 PM followed by Benediction. This is a great way to sacrifice during the Lenten Season.

**Msgr. Farrell High School:** The Holy Name Society of Msgr. Farrell High School will be hosting the 6th annual Fr. John Comiskey Memorial Mile on Sunday, April 15th, at Farrell High School. We ask that all former students attend this event to honor a stellar educator who dedicated over forty years of his life to teaching at the school. Anyone interested in donating or participating should visit the following website <https://tinyurl.com/6thcomiskeymemorialmile> to download and complete the registration form.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

**Friday, March 23, 2018**

Stations of the Cross

7:30: A. Maida, M. Ahern, T. Koleci

**Saturday, March 24, 2018:**

5:00 : M. Crowdell, A. Cruz, G. Garcia

**Sunday, March 25, 2018:**

7:00 Kevin, Maggie & Harry Postler

9:00 J. Ahern, S. Ahern, J. Mullen

11:00 H. Bond, A. Buscemi, V. Kaleta

1:00 N. Ehresman, L. O’Neal, J. Torres

5:00 A. Basile, T. Murphy, J. Orellana

**St. Joseph Retreat Center Upcoming Events**  
(St. Joseph Hill Academy)

**Romeo & Juliet:** An opera presented by “Allegra Durante & Friends” will be held on Friday, March 23rd, with complimentary cocktails starting at 7 PM. Ticket prices are \$75 each, \$250 for four and \$35 for students.

**Father/Son Celebration:** Fathers, Grandfather and Uncles are invited to a retreat on Saturday, March 24th, facilitated by Grace Conte. Ticket prices are \$25 for two people and \$10 for every additional person. Celebrate your special bond with a morning of fun, food and games from 9-11 AM ending with Mass.

**Online Giving:** Do you know that Sacred Heart now offers online giving that makes donating quick and easy. This is perfect for our parishioners who take frequent vacations, have a busy weekend schedule or have moved but wish to continue their support of our parish. Just go to the Sacred Heart website, [www.sacredheartsi.org](http://www.sacredheartsi.org) and click on the link at the top of the page.

**Vocations Summit:** On Monday, April 16th, Our Lady Star of the Sea located at 5411 Amboy Road will be holding a Vocations Summit from 7-8:30 PM. Any student 8th grade through High School who is interested in or considering a vocation is encouraged to attend. If you or someone you know is interested please call (646)-244-4333 for more details.

**Saint Padre Pio:** The relics of Saint Padre Pio are coming to the Diocese of Metuchen. They will be venerated for the 50th anniversary of his death on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 from 9 AM-6:30 PM at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi. The Cathedral is located at 32 Elm Ave. in Metuchen, New Jersey. Bishop James Checcio will lead a prayer service at 1 PM and Fr. Timothy Christy will celebrate Mass at 7 PM. For more information call (732) 548-0100.

## **SACRED HEART PARISH GROUPS**

**Bible Study:** Our Pastor, Fr. Eric, has a weekly Bible study group which meets on Saturdays from 1-2 PM in the school's small cafeteria. During the hour The Rosary is recited, Father gives a short bible lecture and there is a brief group discussion. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**Altar Servers:** We are always looking for new boys and girls to become altar servers. If you are in the fifth grade or older, are a practicing Catholic and have received your first Holy Communion you can join. If anyone is interested please contact the Rectory at (718) 442-0058 or simply ask Fr. Eric after Mass. Being a server not only increases one's spiritual experience at Mass but also is a great way to get involved in the parish.

**Sacred Heart Youth Group:** Sacred Heart currently has a Youth Group for children in grades 6-12. If your child is interested in joining or if you have any questions contact Maria Montouri at (347) 247-2930. The group meets every first and third Monday of the month in the school cafeteria at 7 PM. There is free pizza, drinks and snacks for all who attend the meetings. The group does service projects like clothing and coat drives, eyeglass drives and bake sales. There are fun social activities like movie nights, bowling and laser tag! Also, any student who is currently in need of community service hours can join for an easy way get hours and have some fun at the same time.

**Legion of Mary:** The Sacred Heart chapter of the Legion of Mary meets weekly (if possible) on Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the rectory. The meeting lasts roughly one hour and the members pray the Rosary and offer assistance to the Pastor. If you are interested please call

Patti Foley at (718) 983-5416. All are welcome . Thanks to all who support the Legion of Mary.

**Holy Name:** The Holy Name Society is one of the oldest and most traditional groups of the Church. We are excited to be bringing it back to Sacred Heart. All men of the parish ages 18 and older can join. The meetings take place in either the school auditorium or cafeteria and light refreshments are served.

**Sacred Heart Scouts:** Just a reminder to all those interested that Cub Scout Pack 74 and Boy Scout Troop 74 meet every Monday, barring holidays, at 7 PM in the school cafeteria.

**Sacred Heart School Play:** The Sacred Heart Theatre Group will be performing "Peter Pan" this year. The play starts at 7 PM on March 23rd & March 24th in the school auditorium. Admission price is \$10 per person. Come and watch our children showcase their acting and performing abili-

