

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 15, 2015**



**Sunday, March 15, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

- 5:00 + Neil Crowley  
8:30 Parishioners of St. John  
10:00 (Sp) + Amelia Moran Gonzalez  
11:30 + John, Jean & Bobby Tramontozzi  
1:00 (Sp) + Ricardo & Omar de los Santos

**Monday, March 16, Lenten Weekday**

- 9:00 Intentions of Patrick Scanlon  
12:15 + Patrick and Mary O'Keefe

**Tuesday, March 17, Lenten Weekday**

- 9:00 Living and Deceased Members of  
the Ancient Order of  
Hibernians

- 12:15 + Dymphna Duffy  
7:00 (Sp.) + Amelia Moran

**Wednesday, March 18, Lenten Weekday**

- 9:00 Mass of Thanksgiving  
12:15 + James and Thomas Heslin

**Thursday, March 19, St. Joseph**

- 9:00 + Joseph Zane  
12:15 + Patrick Joe Kennedy

**Friday, March 20, Lenten Weekday**

- 9:00 Intention of Belky & Diana Reyes  
12:15 + Rafael, Maria & Ralph Sanchez  
7:00 (Sp) Mass of Thanksgiving

**Saturday, March 21, Lenten Weekday**

- 12:15 + Fr. Edward Fagan, OAR, Brother  
Peter Stewart, FSC and  
Brother Joseph Murphy, FSC  
5:00 + Teresa Maher

**Sunday, March 22, Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- 8:30 Parishioners of St. John's Parish  
10:00 + Carmelo Montanez Rodriguez  
11:30 + John, Jean & Bobby Tramontozzi  
1:00 (Sp) + Juan and Juan Jose Checo and  
Family

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S  
DONATIONS**

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Lower Church for the week of March 15-21 in memory of:

**HELEN and CHRISTOPHER KENNY**

The Altar Candles burning in the Lower Church for the week of March 15-21 in memory of:

**BROTHER PETER STEWART, FSC**



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK.....**

Fr. Peter J. McCrann, SMM, Lindsey Guzman,  
Alice Ann O'Donohue Mason, Noreen Liddane,  
Timothy Mahoney.

*We ask that you please notify the rectory when to remove  
a name from the list.*



**the**  
**CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
2015  
*Sharing God's Gifts*

*"It's not how much you give but how much love you  
put into giving."*

*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

St. John Parish Goal: \$50,000

Amount Pledged: \$11,420

# of Gifts: 28

Average Gift Amount: \$407.86

23 % of Parish Goal

The season of Lent is a time associated with prayer, fasting, and charitable giving. The 2015 *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal* offers an opportunity for charitable giving by supporting the various Archdiocesan pastoral, educational, charitable outreach assisted by this appeal.

Remember that you may make a pledge of an amount that you would like to give, make an initial payment, and then pay off the remaining amount over the coming months. Please make use of the specially marked envelopes that you received in the mail or are available in the church.

Many thanks to all who have already responded by making their sacrificial gift.

*St. Patrick's Day*

A special St. Patrick's Day Mass with the Ancient Order of Hibernians will be celebrated on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the upper church followed by light refreshments downstairs in the lower church meeting room. The parish office will be closed in observance of our Archdiocese's patron saint.

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### ***Special St. Patrick's Mass This Sunday***

The Coláiste Trócaire High School Choir from Rathkeale, West Limerick will be part of an English/Gaelic Mass to be celebrated on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Church of Our Lady of Angels, 2860 Webb Avenue. Our neighboring parish extends an invitation for us to join in this special celebration remembering the patron saint of Ireland and our archdiocese.

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### ***Parish Lenten Retreat Day***

Mark your calendars for the afternoon of March 29<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) for the opportunity to view the highly acclaimed 2004 movie, *The Passion of Christ*, as a spiritual way to enter into the journey of Holy Week. Viewings will be held at 12:45 pm (English subtitles) and 3:00 pm (Spanish subtitles) in the lower Church meeting room. Given the nature of this film and its depiction of Jesus' passion and death, the movie is intended for a mature audience and not suited for younger viewers. Our pastoral year seminarian, Mr. Anthony Giacona, will be offering reflections and thoughts in preparation for Holy Week and Reconciliation Monday to be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

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### ***Take Me Out to the Ballgame***

St. John's Catholic Elementary Regional has a block of tickets in section 309 at Yankee Stadium for the May 9<sup>th</sup> baseball game between the Baltimore and New York Yankees. Cost is \$41.00 per ticket. Please contact Mrs. Mauro at St. John's School (718)548-0255 if interested in purchasing tickets .

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The St. John-Visitation parish implementation committee continues to meet, discuss, and plan for the upcoming parish merger that will become effective by August 1, 2015. Among the concerns being addressed are:

- 1) arrangements for a shuttle bus from the Visitation site to the St. John site for Sunday Masses for those who may find it difficult to walk or to use mass transit
- 2) the newly merged parish will offer opportunities for continuance of those presently serving in parish liturgical ministries (lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers)
- 3) the need to accommodate existing parish societies and groups to meet at the new merged parish site
- 4) parking availability at the merged parish site
- 5) the mass schedule at the merged parish site

Visitation Parish had an evening forum on Friday March 13 and retreat day on Saturday March 14 as a way to prepare and assist parishioners with the upcoming merger. Members of St. John Parish implementation team attended the Friday evening session as observers in preparation for next joint meeting to be held on March 24.

As Cardinal Dolan noted in his November 2, 2014 merger decree:

"This is a very difficult time for the faithful of the Parish of Visitation, as they will now worship at your parish church, and no longer at their former parish church. And so, they must see this merger not as "them" having to fit into "your" parish but as two parishes coming together, in the Lord's name, to become a new worshipping family."

We are in the midst of an ongoing process in shaping a new Catholic parish community in Kingsbridge that will require a different understanding and approach to parish life. In the spirit of our Church's liturgical season of "*dying and rising to new life*", your continued prayers and understanding during this time of transition are greatly appreciated and much needed.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 15, 2015**

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has constantly reminded us that the greatest virtue is mercy. All other virtues surround it.

St. Paul told the Ephesians, and us, that because of mercy, we have salvation in Christ Jesus. This comes to us through grace, which is the life of God, given as a gift, not earned, but accepted.

How often we take this gift for granted. How rarely do we recognize the gift of God's grace in others. How rapidly we gloss over the inspired words which Paul included in his letter, words like 'brought to life', immeasurable riches, His kindness.

Reflecting upon The Word will strengthen us to continue our Lenten journey, for it is in completion of the paschal mystery where we place our hope.

Yes, 'we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.' 'Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.'

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**SU PALABRA HOY** *por el Reverendo William J. Reilly*  
**Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma**  
**15 de marzo de 2015**

Nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, constantemente nos recuerda que la virtud más grande es la caridad. Todas las otras virtudes la rodean.

San Pablo le dijo a los efesios, y a nosotros, que gracias a la caridad tenemos la salvación en Cristo Jesús. Esto nos llega a nosotros por la gracia, que es la vida de Dios, que se nos da como un don, que no ha sido ganada, sino aceptada.

A menudo tomamos este don por sentado. Rara vez reconocemos el don de la gracia de Dios en otros. Qué rápido pasamos sobre las inspiradas palabras que San Pablo ha incluido en su carta, palabras como 'nos hizo revivir', riquezas inmesurables, su bondad. La reflexión en La Palabra nos fortalecerá a continuar nuestra jornada de cuaresma, ya que es en completar el misterio pascual en donde ponemos nuestras esperanzas.

Sí, 'nosotros somos creación suya: fuimos creados en Cristo Jesús, a fin de realizar aquellas buenas obras, que Dios preparó de antemano para que las practicáramos.' 'el que obra conforme a la verdad se acerca a la luz, para que se ponga de manifiesto que sus obras han sido hechas en Dios.'

St. John's Parish will be joining other parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Center in offering opportunities for individual confessions on Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 9:00 PM. The availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the Monday of Holy Week is a spiritual way to experience God's love, mercy, and forgiveness in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum and the Easter season.

Our parish's celebration of Reconciliation Monday will begin with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the lower church at 3:00 pm, Eucharistic adoration throughout the afternoon and evening, and will conclude with Benediction prior to 9:00 pm. Consider accepting the invitation of Lord to his disciples: "*Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?*" (Matthew 26:40) along with experiencing sacramental forgiveness on Reconciliation Monday.

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***Easter Flowers***

Specially marked envelopes are available in the church for those who wish to donate with the upcoming decoration of both the upper and lower church for Easter with lilies and flowers.

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***Remember to Check the Church Bulletin Boards***

Notices and flyers of local area and Archdiocesan upcoming events and activities, that are often not included in our parish bulletin due to space limitation, are posted on the church bulletin boards. You may wish to take the time to read them; perhaps you may find something that may interest you.

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