

Weekend of February 3/4

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 3

OL 8AM For the Intentions of Our Lady of Fatima
OL 4PM Audrey Loughnane by the Moore Family
SJ 6PM No Mass

Sunday, February 4

OL 8AM MaryAnn Gardner Martin by Kathy
SJ 10AM For Our Parishioners

WEEKDAY MASSES

Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 am OLOL

Tuesday, 12 noon OLOL

Monday February 5 No Mass
 Tuesday February 6 Patty Perron
 Wednesday February 7 Mass of the Day
 Thursday February 8 Mass of the Day
 Friday February 9 Helen Sanders

Saturday, February 10

OL 4PM For Our Parishioners
SJ 6PM No Mass

Sunday, February 11

OL 8AM Calvin & Arilda Brown by the Brown Family
SJ 10 am Mass of Sunday

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH !

We pray that you enjoy celebrating with us this weekend. Whether you are new to the community or live here, know that you are invited to join our Parish family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Father after Mass. You may register with us by dropping in or calling our rectory during the week at 435-6242.

If you are just visiting for the weekend, we hope you enjoy your visit with us and consider us your "home away from home".

Weekly amount needed to meet Budget Requirement:

\$ 4,000

Weekend of January 28, 2018

Weekly Offering \$ 3,938

We are, as always, very grateful for all who share, in a generous way, their Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Lay Ministries	February 3/4	February 10/11
	Eucharistic Ministers	
4 PM	Mary Jane Colbert Paul Vien Gay Ann Cooney	Richard Boucher Ben Brown Annette Bilodeau
6 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM	Gary Bates Richard Vincent John Kost	Crystal Noble Will Noble Richard Vincent
10 AM	David Bujno Eileen Bujno Paul Belliveau Paul Pauliukonis Julie Roberts	Katrina Allan Virginia Drew Mike Bascom Teresa Bascom Joe Michaud
	Lectors	
4 PM	Dianne Bird	Donna Brown
6 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM	Anne Boisvert	Charles Hauck
10 AM	Betsy Bosiak	Chris Allan
	Altar Servers	
4 PM	J. Clark	J. Clark
6 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM		
10 AM	C. Nowak M. Nowak	A. Glusco J. Garcia

e GIVING

For your convenience, we are offering an additional method of financially supporting your Parish.

- ◆ Set up payments through your bank's online payment service
- ◆ Set up an account with Vanco Payment Solutions
- ◆ Click on the donation link on the Parish Web site
- ◆ Call or visit the Rectory during business hours—435-6242

DIVINE MERCY MILITIA - Please join us every Thursday evening beginning at 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church as we pray for our nation, our Church, our parish, and our world. Concludes with Benediction.

Special Collections

February 4, 2018—Catholic Education
 February 14, 2018—Aid to Churches in Europe, and Africa

READINGS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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“Woe to me if I do not preach it!” (1 Cor 9:16)

Question of the Week



Does your life have a “noble cause”? How would you define it? How does it relate to God’s kingdom and the Gospel?

HIS WORD TODAY

It is hard to imagine a human being who does not want to be happy, free and fulfilled. It is a paradox of human existence, however, that genuine happiness, freedom and fulfillment seem to come mostly to those in the service of a noble cause or project. Caught up in his own losses and sufferings, the not-very-patient Job offers an analysis of the human condition that is dismal and hopeless. For him (and for many people today) life is all drudgery and slavery, lived out in the conviction “I shall not see happiness again.” By contrast, this Sunday’s selections from the New Testament present Jesus as totally in the service of the kingdom of God and Paul as totally dedicated to the service of the Gospel. And both appear remarkably happy, free and fulfilled.

The reading from Mark’s Gospel is part of a larger unit (1:21-45) that presents various incidents in the framework of a typical day in Jesus’ early ministry in Galilee. In today’s excerpt Jesus heals the sick, prays and proclaims God’s kingdom. He heals Peter’s mother-in-law from a fever, and then works a general healing of the sick and those possessed by demons. Early the next morning Jesus goes off to pray and so renews his relationship of intimacy with the one whom he calls “Father.” Finally, when told by his disciples that “everyone is looking for you,” he resumes his activity of proclaiming God’s kingdom in word and deed on the grounds that “for this purpose I have come.”

All his teachings and healings were in the service of the noblest cause of all, the kingdom of God. Jesus did not come to be simply a teacher or healer, however noble those professions are. Rather, he came to teach about and embody God’s reign. In word and deed Jesus reminds us that all human fame, wealth and power are insignificant in comparison with the fame, wealth and power found in God’s kingdom. He alerts us to the signs of God’s reign in the present and challenges us to live as people who already have one foot inside God’s kingdom.

FATHER JOHN'S JOTTINGS

Ash Wednesday this year is on February 14th. It is the beginning of the Lenten season. What am I going to give up this year? We’re all familiar with questions like this one. They come up every year around Ash Wednesday. What should I give up? What can I give up? Is it enough? Of course, these are good questions to ask, but all too often, they can be limited, and we forget to ask, “Why am I giving up these things?” We examine all kinds of things in life—our health, our budget, our weight—because we want to make sure we are heading in the right direction. So let’s examine our spiritual condition as well. Can I make it a point as I pray to quiet my heart and try to sense God’s love? Will I try to forgive people today, or will I let resentment get the upper hand?

As we enter this Lenten season, let’s ask the Lord to fill us with his love, to confirm all the good in our lives and give us the grace to resist sin. And let’s ask him to give us a heart for the poor so that we can become like Jesus and answer the cry of the poor.



Saint Blaise was a physician, and bishop of Sebastea, Armenia and a martyr. He blessed throats and effected many miracles. Crossed candles are used for the blessing of throats on the feast day of St. Blaise, which falls on February 3rd. St. Blaise is traditionally believed to intercede in cases of throat illnesses, especially for fish-bones stuck in the throat. Father will bless the throats of parishioners at all Masses on the weekend of February 3rd & 4th.



St. Valentine—Sweet & Social All You Can Eat Desserts!—Friday Feb 9th 6:30 - 8:00pm at OLOL/SJ Parish Center— (Snow Date - Feb 10th) Enjoy an array of decadent delights and Vote for your favorites—5 Entry categories: cakes, pies, cookies, healthy and novelty desserts—\$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 6 —Proceeds benefit the Northwood and Pittsfield Food Pantries Desserts can be dropped off on Thursday, 2/8 between 11 - 3pm or Friday, 2/9 between 3 - 6:30pm.

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



YOUTH RELIGIOUS FAITH FORMATION

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Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph's Faith Formation



I needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. I didn't know the combination, but our clergyman offered to give it a try. Father Jack placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling."



SAVE THE DATE!

A CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus on March 17, 2018—5-8 PM at the Parish Center in Northwood. Please join us for a fun filled family evening of delicious Irish food and frivolity! Tickets—will be sold before and after Masses for the next few weeks.



Lenten Fish Dinners

Fraturdays: starting February 16, thru March 22, 5:30-6:30 in the Parish Center. Meals include "Catch of the Day," soup or pasta, salad, bread and dessert. \$5 per person, \$3 for children under 6.

Join us for Stations of the Cross-- 7:00 -7:30 at St. Joseph's Church.



Men of St. Joseph's

Lenten Bible Study!

Saturday Mornings 8:30-9:30 during Lent. Beginning Feb 17, in the Parish Center.

Christ is alive and fully present in the Eucharist. Join us as we delve into the "source and summit" of our Faith with Fr. Robert Barron's DVD-based program: Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice and Real Presence. This spiritual study will give you a deeper understanding of the precious gift of Christ's body, blood, soul and divinity that you can receive at each and every Mass.

If you are interested in this fellowship opportunity, please contact Chris Garcia at 269-4143 or 603-319-7021.

PARISH NEWS FLASHES

- ◆ *The next meeting of the Women's Club will be held on February 13th, 7pm, at the Parish Center Hope you will join us .*
- ◆ *The next meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on February 15th at 7pm at the Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.*

Something to Think About....

Embracing the Tough Message

When I was little and attended Mass, I dreaded the homily every week—and the Eucharistic Prayer, and usually the Readings. In fact, I think I dreaded all of Mass except the songs. Because at least during these, I knew what I was doing—singing stirred my heart.

At some point, I realized that what sounded to me like the chatter of adults in the *Charlie Brown* TV cartoons was actually supposed to mean something. I started to wrap my brain around all those words. Although most of it still zipped over my head, every week a word or phrase would emerge from the gibberish and ping my conscience like divine sonar.

These days, I still struggle with distraction and preoccupation: forgotten tasks, lists in progress, my preschooler lying down on the pew. My mother once told me, "There were a lot of Masses when you girls were little that we didn't get much out of." I understand now what she meant.

Of course, the point of the liturgy is not what we "get out of it." Christ is there whether we're preoccupied or not, and grace touches us either way. But, it's worth the effort to refocus after each distraction. As with most things, we get out of liturgy what we put into it. If we make the effort to listen with an open heart, we almost always come away with a word that speaks to a situation, relationship, or problem we're facing.

That is the beauty of the word: It's not static , or dead, but rather living—Jesus, the Word of God, "veiled in flesh." As the carol says, Jesus is always speaking. He speaks through every breath of wind and every person we meet, and in particular, through liturgy. The question is whether we're willing to face up to what it tells us about our lives, right here, right now. It's easy to hear words meant for someone else. However, to embrace words that reach into the raw places of our soul and call us to change—that's a harder *Word* to swallow.

Yet that is why we come to church. The liturgy is the spiritual food that sustains us for daily living. God won't force himself on us. We have to be willing to be vulnerable. We have to listen with ears open to our own weakness. Most important, we have to be willing to change. But if we muster the courage to respond to the Word when he calls, our lives—and by extension, our corner of the world—will be better for it.