

Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 * PREP Office 856-468-7566

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org



Third Sunday of Lent * March 8, 2026

We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli
Pastor

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil
Parochial Vicar

Thomas F. O'Brien
Deacon

Peter Traum
Deacon

Phil Curran
Deacon

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano
Directors of Music

Mr. Gerald Voltura
Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Patricia Houwen
Business Manager

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at www.incarnation-church.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.....7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)

Saturday.....8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday.....7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..

Holy Days.....5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day

Eucharistic Adoration.....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday of Lent

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. When Jesus indicates that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never be thirsty again, the woman immediately answers, "Give me this water, sir". Jesus then reveals that she has had five husbands and tells her that He is the Messiah. The woman believes Jesus and proclaims this news to all the townspeople, who believe her and come to see Jesus.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 7

8:30am Mary, Tom and Lisa Hengel
r/b Betsy Groody and family
5:00pm Thomas W. Kollar and Gertrude Toner
r/b wife, Anne and son, Joe
Joan and Robert Wnek r/b Taylor Family
Marie Costello r/b Hollywood Family
Robert Dougherty r/b Bob and Leanne McCartney
Peter Worthington r/b Bob and Roseann McCartney

Sunday, March 8

7:30am John and Craig Forsman r/b wife and mother
9:30am Judith Melleady r/b family
Mary Hess r/b Maria and Joseph Cardella
Frances LaMonica r/b John and Elizabeth Ianelli
Paul Leonhardt r/b Fran and Joanne West
Adele Petruzzo r/b Tony and Maryann Gedaka
11:30am Julia Crumsho r/b Rosie and Steve Crossan

Monday, March 9

7:00am Dr. Francis Keely
r/b Kathleen and Bill Dougherty
8:30am Joseph Amodei r/b Joseph Little

Tuesday, March 10

7:00am Gary Seidt r/b Taylor Family
8:30am Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Wednesday, March 11

7:00am Jack McGeehan r/b wife and daughter
8:30am Thomas E. Flood r/b loving family

Thursday, March 12

7:00am Barbara Tomarchio r/b husband and children
8:30am All Unborn Children r/b Paul and Lucille Jones

Friday, March 13

7:00am Judy Gloster r/b Taylor Family
8:30am Agapito Capistrano r/b Capistrano Family

Saturday, March 14

8:30am Salvatore Aversa
r/b Anthony and Catherine Silenzio
5:00pm Lucille Arnold r/b sister, Carol

Sunday, March 15 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30am Antonio DiFabio r/b Parcels Family
Joseph Schiavo r/b Alicia, Sharon and Jerry
Josephine Marchio r/b daughter, JoAnn
Emanuele Demonte
r/b wife, Beata and children, Ethan and Julian
Len Scully r/b brother, Bob and family
Peter Hodson r/b Prime Timers
9:30am Mary Hess r/b Carol and Jeff Riggs
11:30am Deceased Members of Monte and Quigley
Families

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 9	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday, March 10	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday, March 11	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday, March 12	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday, March 13	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday, March 14	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for vocations.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

Reading 1 – Exodus 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!” The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

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

Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel - John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” — For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed, the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?” They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work.” Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me everything I have done.” When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of John 4:5-42. In this passage, we read about Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well and the impact our Lord has on her life. It is interesting that Jesus comes to the well at the hottest hour of the day and asks the woman to do Him a favor. Namely, He requests a cup of water. In response, she opens herself to dialogue rather than simply dismissing our Lord's request. She thinks that in giving Him a cup of water she would be doing Jesus a favor. In reality, she was allowing the Lord to do her a favor. Inconveniences are the vehicle through which God sometimes invites us to open ourselves to receive His grace as well. If we only knew the gifts God wants to give us when we open ourselves to Him with greater generosity and availability. Think of how many times in your day you experience brief moments of inspiration inviting you to stop and consider doing good for others. These moments can be inconvenient, yet they can also be opportunities to allow the Lord to use our lives just as He used the life of the woman of Samaria. God is never outdone in generosity, and we are always blessed with more than we give when we offer to the Lord the gift of our time and talent to do His will. We would all be willing to invest our time and energy in opportunity if we were guaranteed a greater gift in return. We are called to be generous disciples of Jesus who willingly respond to such moments of inspiration. We are called to create Holy Moments!

Think about it: What are some of the inconveniences I experience that could be invitations from God to create holy moments that open my life to others and so be blessed by the Lord



This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for:
A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.



Space is Limited!

[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/1765337](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765337)

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

Church of the Incarnation
240 Main St, Mantua Twp, NJ 08051

To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“...a time to be born...”

Brooks Tooley Murray, James Michael Kernan

“...a time to welcome...”

Rucci Family, Taylor Family

“...a time to be married...”

Thomas Morgan and Emily Grassi

...a time to be healed...”

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amaradio, Bernadette Andrews, George Austin, Verna Bisconte, Rita Bruno, Carla Carelli, Colleen, Lynn Collins, Krista Collings, Bob Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D’Alessio, Robert Deegan, Alberta DiFabio, Lucyna Dinces, Barbara Lynn Clark, Stephen DiTullio, Michael Donahue, Rich Donofrio, Joyce Drechen, Ellie & Les Edwards, Jack Ewen, Mary Fekete, Francis Ferry, Anna Forsman, Marylou Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Margaret Giordano, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, Nat Holland, George Ivan, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Patricia Manning, Anthony and Biago Marciante, Richard Marcantonio, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Maryellen McAteer, John McDevitt, Dorothy McKeever, Anne McMenamin, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Jack & Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Joan Morlachetta, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Sylvia Penamante, Lee Peters, Giovanni Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Barbara Ragonese, Janet Rainier, Teri Reed, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Jason Russell, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Mark Serock, Linda Sesko, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Melissa Swanson, Janie Talemal, Jason Tallarida, Ernie Tolentino, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, Justin Weaver, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, Jacqueline Zellner, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

“...a time to die...”

Carl C. Drozdowski, Nicholas Pontelandolfo,
Thomas “Tommy” Gardner, Mark Gallagher

STEWARDSHIP SERVICE

God-Centered Stewards

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” -John 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we as *His stewards* become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

Stewardship Report

February 24 through March 2 - \$21,725.80

FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation. You can do so here. **Be sure to select one-time gift – as recurring is default.**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Think Stephen Ministry

You are the front lines of caring ministry in our congregation. Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. If you see people who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them about this special ministry in our congregation where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. If you would like to talk to a Stephen Leader, please call 856-468-5536.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

LENT: PRAY, FAST, GIVE

Soup and Scripture

Nourish your body and your spirit each Monday in Lent with homemade soup and the second half of Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" video series. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. with video to follow at 6:15 p.m.

Adoration

The Knights are hosting a Holy Hour of Lenten Reparation on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Stations of the Cross

Join us every Friday (except Good Friday) during Lent at 7:00 p.m. as we pray the Stations of the Cross together. On Thursday, March 19 and March 26, we invite you to join us for Recovery Stations of the Cross. This contemporary reflection connects Christ's journey to Calvary with the journey of those seeking healing from addiction, grief, trauma, and other life struggles. Come walk with the Lord who understands our pain and leads us toward freedom and new life. All are welcome.

Opportunities for Service

Give back to others this Lent through the gift of time and service. Consider making sandwiches at Divine Deli March 29, pick up some extra groceries for the food pantry, or support parish events by joining the Knights of Columbus (men) or Incarnation Angels (women). Questions: 468-1314.

SJCMA-South Jersey Catholic Ministry Appeal

Thank you to those who have already donated to the annual Ministry Appeal. This campaign not only helps a variety of ministries in the diocese, but will also support the parish once our goal is reached. To make a pledge, visit www.camdendiocese.org/sjcma.

COR MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men, are you looking for an opportunity to grow your faith while connecting with other men of the parish? Join us every 2nd Tuesday of the month for Cor (Latin for "Heart"), a new video and discussion-based fellowship. Our next meeting is this Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kernan Center. For info, call/text Brian at (424) 274-2648 or Bob at (856) 994-3476.



PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for all in our armed forces, especially:

Francis M. Duras, Greg Giordano, Dane Kozlosky, James Tingle, Johnny McGowan, Vincent McManus, Vincent W. Abruzzese, John Robinson, Sean Owens, Matthew Cottrell, David Nahas, Colin Wexler, Liam Wahl, Ty Thuston, Brian Guzzetti, Leonard Puggi, Daniel Golden, Brett Govern, Ryan Lisle, Devin Kozlosky, Cory Carpenter, Christopher Hansen, Luke Wordelmann, Ryan Gilroy, Tyler L. Novak, Danielle Davis, Jesse Nester, Adam Stetser, Joseph Vaccarella, Matthew Murphy, Sara Huber, Robert Coughlan

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Senior citizens ages 55 and older are invited to join the Incarnation Senior Citizen Club. We meet on the second Thursday of each month, with our next meeting March 12. Lunch is served at noon for \$2.00 per person. The meeting begins at 12:45 p.m. with Bingo to follow. Yearly membership dues are \$8.

Additionally, The Incarnation Senior Citizen Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Monday, March 23. Cost is \$40 and includes a casino credit. We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. Full payment is due March 12 to reserve your seat/ Checks can be made payable to Incarnation Senior Citizen Club. For questions, call Bonnie at 609-517-4894 and leave your name and number.

OLDIES DANCE PARTY

St. Padre Pio Parish, 4680 Dante Ave., Vineland, is having an Oldies Dance Party from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Hosted by Bob Kelly of Fox 29 News and "Kelly Drives," with music by DJ Joel. Admission is \$50 per person and includes buffet dinner, salad, beer, coffee, and dessert. BYOB. Donations of desserts gratefully appreciated. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets or information, call Janice at 856-305-4177 or email stevejanice1136@gmail.com. Make checks payable to St. Padre Pio Parish and mail to the address above – tickets will be mailed to you.

St. Patrick's Day Social

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

in the Kernan Center at 240 Main Street
Sponsored by Incarnation Council 6364, Inc.

Tickets: \$40 Per Person • 7-11pm

*Reserve a Table for Family & Friends –
or Come Alone and Join The Fun!*

Featuring:

- Plenty FREE Beer, Wine and Set-Ups – BYOB
- Dancing, Basket of Cheer, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

Masso's Menu:

- Ham & Cabbage, Roast Beef, Green Beans & Potatoes
- Meatballs & Cold Cut Tray
- Desserts & More!

Incarnation
Council 6364 Inc.
@incarnationcouncil6364



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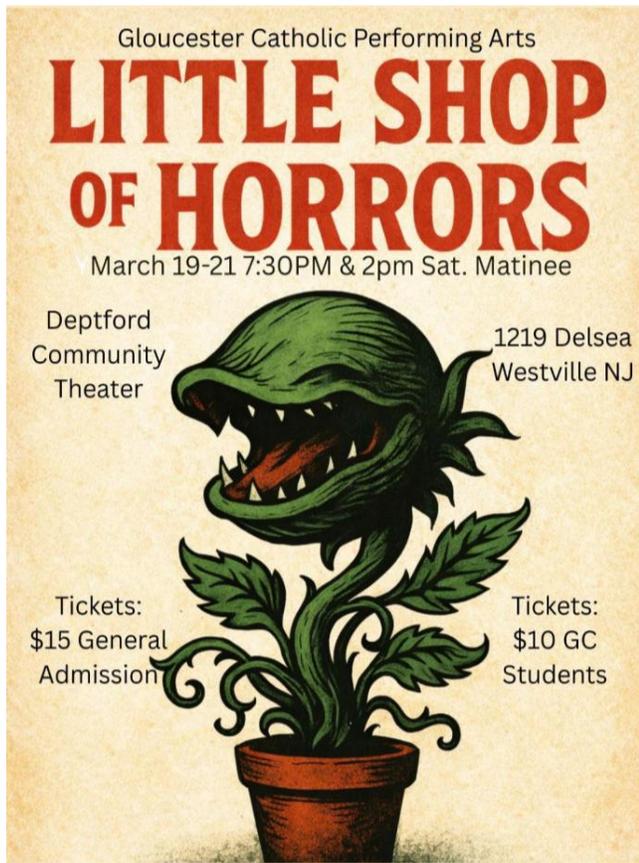
Scan the QR Code to Pay or Make Checks Payable to:
Incarnation Council 6364, Inc.

For Reservations & Details, Call Bill M.
at 856-237-3852 or Parish Office
at 856-468-1314.

No tickets sold at the door



PROCEEDS BENEFIT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6364 CHARITIES



GCHS CENTENNIAL JUBILEE

This year marks Gloucester Catholic’s Centennial Jubilee, a milestone that reflects one hundred years of faith, tradition, and the strong spirit of community that has shaped generations of Rams. Please join us this spring as we gather to honor our past, celebrate our present, and continue the proud story of Gloucester Catholic. Once A Ram, Always A Ram!

GCHS Centennial Jubilee
 March 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
 Collingswood Ballroom, Collingswood, NJ
 Tickets: GCHS100.org – order yours below
 Inquiries: gchscentennial@gchsrams.org

IRISH TENOR

Holy Angels Parish is hosting “Come Walk with Me,” an evening of music, meditation and prayer, at 7 p.m. on March 18. The evening will feature a special guest, Irish tenor Mark Forrest.

For information, call the Holy Angels Parish Office at 856-845-0123.

INCARNATION INSIGHTS

Have you ever heard a Catholic teaching and wondered, “Where is that in the Bible?” Join us on March 18 for a one-hour discussion designed to explore exactly that question. As Catholics, we believe that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together reveal God’s saving plan. Many of our teachings—such as the Eucharist, Confession, the Communion of Saints, devotion to Mary, and the authority of the Church—are deeply rooted in Scripture. Sometimes we simply need help knowing where to look. This session will walk through key passages from both the Old and New Testaments and show how they illuminate what we believe and celebrate at Mass. Whether you are new to the faith, returning after time away, preparing for a sacrament, or simply wanting to grow deeper in your understanding, this evening will strengthen your confidence in sharing and defending your faith with charity and clarity. Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. Together we will discover how richly the Word of God supports the life of the Church and how Scripture comes alive when read within the family of faith. Come and see how beautifully our Catholic faith is woven throughout the Bible!



Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God’s response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

“[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love...” — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

Practice trust. “Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?” (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, “Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands.” Trust grows through repetition.

Refocus your heart. Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

Create quiet. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God is the friend of silence.” Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

Give rather than acquire. Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

“Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.”
St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

Choose mercy. Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets’ call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God's plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, "God is at work at all times; every moment is 'God's time'." The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

God works in uncertain moments. The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist's arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

God draws close. Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God's grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God's invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew's account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus' trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father's will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God's mercy. In Christ's willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

Q & A Does repeated failure change how God loves me?

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, "He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness." His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483). Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

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