

Saint George Parish Community

Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

22 E. Cooke Avenue, Glenolden, PA 19036 - 610-237-1633 - www.stgeorgeparish.org

February 4, 2024 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.

They immediately told him about her.

He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to Him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

The whole town was gathered at the door.

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and He drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew Him.

Rising very early before dawn, He left and went off to a deserted place, where He prayed.

Simon and those who were with Him pursued Him and on finding Him said,

"Everyone is looking for You."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also.

For this purpose have I come."

So He went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

~Mark 1:29-39

Contact Us!

New Parishioners

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Parish Community. Please call the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to make an appointment to register and to learn more about our parish, or visit www.stgeorgeparish.org. *Note: Students must be registered in the Parish before registering in the Parish Religious Education Program.*

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the **second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM**. Parents seeking baptism for their child are asked to please call the rectory. Pre-Jordan is required for parents with a first-born child or parents with additional children who have not attended within a two-year period. Pre-registration is required for Pre-Jordan and Baptism. Please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at the Rectory Office for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning a wedding are asked to call Father Oswald at the Rectory Office at least one year in advance of the wedding date. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life Preparation Program.

Sick or Homebound

In case of serious illness or advanced age, please call the Rectory Office. Arrangements will be made for the Sacrament of the Sick and for Holy Communion. If you are going into the hospital and you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Rectory. Also, when you are hospitalized, please contact the hospital Chaplain and the Rectory Office.

Tree of Life Memorial

If you would like to have a leaf (\$150) or a boulder (\$600) permanently inscribed in memory of a loved one on the Tree of Life, which is located in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church, please contact the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633.

Vigil Candles

Vigil Candles, which are located in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues in the front of the church, are available for your intentions. Small candles are \$2 and will burn for two days. These can be purchased by placing your donation in an envelope and dropping it in the slot provided by the candles. Large candles are \$100 and will burn for an entire year. Large candles can be purchased by contacting the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633. A gold label with your loved ones name will be placed on the candle and it will remain there throughout the year.

Godparents

Only one godparent is required for Baptism. If two are chosen, one must be male and one must be female. A godparent must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist), at least 16 years of age, if married, must be married in the Church, and in good standing with the Church. A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be chosen as a "Christian Witness" provided there is one Catholic godparent. A former Catholic may not serve as either a godparent or Christian witness.

R.C.I.A.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or if you were baptized Catholic but did not complete your sacraments, please contact Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ at the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to learn more about our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Program.

Mass Cards

Mass cards are available at the Rectory Office. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or for special intentions, please contact the Rectory Office for details. Standard cards are available for a \$10 stipend and booklets are available for a \$20 stipend.

Food Pantry

Our Parish Food Pantry is available for parishioners and friends who are in need of a meal but cannot provide one for themselves. If you or a friend needs temporary food assistance, please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at 610-237-1633.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Church **every Friday from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by daily Mass**, unless otherwise announced.

Quotes of the Week

"As soon as healing takes place, go out and heal somebody else."
~ Maya Angelou

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it." ~Helen Keller

"The emotion that can break your heart is sometimes the very one that heals it." ~ Nicholas Sparks, At First Sight

"I never have any difficulty believing in miracles, since I experienced the miracle of a change in my own heart." ~Augustine

Parish Staff

Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Pastor

Rev. Martin E. Woodeshick, Pastor Emeritus - Holy Spirit

Rev. James McBurney, OSA and Rev. James McCartney, O.S.A., Weekend Assistants

Mrs. Lynda Batten, Administrative Assistant and
PREP Secretary, Ext. 101

Mrs. Pat Dinan, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (Tues & Wed)

Mrs. Gloria Greene, Accounts Payable, Ext. 104

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro, Director of Music, Ext. 101

Mr. Patrick McCullough, Maintenance, Ext. 104

Katherine McGovern, Director of Rel. Ed., Ext. 105

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ, Director of Adult Faith Formation and
Pastoral Care, Ext. 103

Mr. Paul Dallatore, Business Manager, Ext. 104

Mrs. Barbara Fister and Mrs. Teresa Murray - Housekeeping
Rectory/Convent/Church

Parish Information

Rectory Hours

Monday thru Thursday

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Summer Hours: 9AM to 4 PM daily

For more details, see page 5.

Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Fax Number: 610-237-9626

Email: st.georgesec@rcn.com

Convent

11 E. Lamont Avenue

Glenolden, PA 19036

Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Office of Religious Education

Director of Adult Faith Formation

Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ

Phone Number: 610-237-1633

For details about RCIA and Bible Study, please contact Sr. Lorraine.

Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Lynda Batten

Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Fax Number: 610-237-9626

Our Parish Religious Education Program serves students in Levels 1-8 and prepares them for 1st Penance, 1st Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Mimi Ednie

Legion of Mary

Mrs. Theresa Murray

Ministry Outreach Program

Mrs. Lynda Batten

Choir Director and Music

Ministry

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro

R.C.I.A.

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ

Join us on Twitter!



Rite of Reconciliation

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Saturday afternoons

Care of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory Office in the event of sickness or hospitalization.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Thursday 6:30 PM - Sept. to Easter

Baptism

Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM

Please call the Rectory Office for an appointment to schedule a Baptism and Baptism Preparation (Pre-Jordan)



Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Fridays 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Devotion - Following the 4:00 PM Mass on Fridays
Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet - Thursdays 7:00 PM

Daily Readings & Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 3: Romans 5: 1-5; Mark 16: 15-20: St. Blaise, Bishop

4:30 PM Joseph V. Palmer

Requested by: Ruth Palmer

Sunday, February 4: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor. 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39: **5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Joan M. Gormley & Pro Populo

Requested by Mary Ann Shields

10:30 AM Deceased members of the Casey Family

Requested by: Denis and Pat Casey

Monday, February 5: 1 Kings 8: 1-7, 9-13; Mark 6: 53-56: St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr (Memorial)

4:00 PM Harry Lightcap

Requested by: Marie Lightcap

Tuesday, February 6: 1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30; Mark 7: 1-13: St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (Memorial)

4:00 PM Margaret L. Vough

Requested by: Mary Ann Shields

Wednesday, February 7: 1 Kings 10: 1-10; Mark 7: 114-23

4:00 PM Halko & Wizda Families

Requested by: Mary Wizda

Thursday, February 8: 1 Kings 11: 4-13; Mark 7: 24-30

4:00 PM: Deceased members of the Haywood Family

Requested by: Irene Finnegan

Friday, February 9: 1 Kings 11 29-32; 12:19; Mark 7: 31-37

George & Irene Bochanski

Requested by: Pat Dinan

Saturday, February 10: 1 Kings 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34; Mark 8: 1-10: St. Scholastica, Virgin (Memorial)

Saturday continued...

4:30 PM Catharine Rowan

Requested by: Pat Dinan

Sunday, February 11: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10: 31-11:1; Mark 1: 40-45: **6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM Jack and Linda Hawkins

Requested by: Denis and Pat Casey

Pro Populo means "for the people" (of St. George Parish)

Daily Mass

4:00 PM Monday thru Friday

Weekend Mass

4:30 PM Saturday

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday

Holy Days: As Announced

Legal Holidays: 9:00 AM

Contributions & Mass Counts

Sunday, January 28	\$ 4,884
Stewardship new grand total	\$16,773
Christmas new grand total	\$10,994
Solemnity of Mary new grand total	\$ 1,763
Catholic Relief Services new grand total	\$ 1,463



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of **February 4th** burns in memory of **Alane Dougherty**. The Bread and Wine is being presented in memory of **Joseph Merrick**.

Gospel Reflection, Local & Parish



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Does your bank advertise itself on TV? If not, it may go to other outlets to make sure you know its ultimate message: “You can trust us.” In doing so, the hope is that you will soon open an account with them. In this time of so much thievery going on, either by a masked and hooded thug approaching a victim at gunpoint across a store counter, or by the clever and callous online hacking that uses deceit as a method, pointing out the guaranteed trustworthiness of any institution is a surefire way to promote hope. In this inflationary context, do we not need to trust any entity that manages our money?

If we move over to consider our spiritual lives, which involve both a relationship with God and with our neighbor, we can easily see that we need hope, which is to trust God. That trust, which on His part neither falters nor fails, demands that we do our part to reciprocate. Our major threat is from the devil. The devil you say. Hasn't he been put on the back shelf? Out of place in our technological sophistication? Ah, but never forget that his chief strategy is to convince us that he doesn't exist. Our Lord Himself had no such doubt. He referenced Satan over thirty times in the New Testament.

God knows we see the devil's handiwork all over the place. Look how well he has done with the widespread use of pornography. The ease with which pro-abortion devotees have made the murder of children in the womb into a “women's health issue.”

As we read or hear about the miraculous healings Jesus performs, both among His inner circle of friends and with anyone in need, we know He can meet any need we may have of healing. Do not be lulled into doubt by the fact that these stories took place over 2,000 years ago. That kind of thinking only damages our trust. For God a thousand years are like a day. And the Bible tells us that “Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.” If doubt starts to damage your trust, remember that the word “gospel” means “good news.” That's such a matter of fact that-pardon the pun-you can “bank on it.”

Once upon a time two young girls were talking and one said that she had ten pennies. The other girl looked at her hand and only saw five. She said, “You only have five pennies, silly.” Then the first girl replied “I have five and my father told me he would give me five more tonight. So I have ten.” She understood that her father's promise was as good as done.

God love you and give you His peace.

Local Lenten Series

Evening Prayer, Reflection and Benediction at 6:30 PM at All Locations

February 20: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Morton; **February 27:** St. Gabriel, Norwood; **March 5:** St. Madeline, Ridley Park; **March 26:** St. George, Glenolden. Join us this Lent for this local Lenten series and prepare your heart, mind and spirit for the celebration of our Lord's Passion and glorious Resurrection. Social to follow. Stay tuned for more details.

Lenten Outreach

Encountering Christ Through Lent



Saturday, February 24, 2024

St. George Parish Hall from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

All our welcome to join us as we come together to make brown bag lunches for the homeless and the needy in our local area. Each bag will contain a sandwich, a bottle of water or juice box, potato chips and fruit snacks. We will keep on packing until all supplies are used and then they will be delivered to our destination. If you would like to volunteer to help transport the lunches, please contact the Rectory Office.



PREP students are invited to attend as a Lenten Service Opportunity, especially our First Holy Communion class and Level 7 & 8 PREP.

Donations are also needed. If you can help, donations should be clearly marked “**Lenten Sandwich Outreach**” and placed in the receptacle at the doors of the church or dropped off at the Rectory Office by **Monday, February 19th**.

The following items are needed: Large jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly; Individually wrapped lunch size bags of potato chips; Individually wrapped fruit snacks; Juices boxes; Small bottles of water; Large Sandwich Bags. We also except monetary donations so that we can purchase the supplies.

Saint George Rectory will supply the bread, but, so they will be nice and fresh, donations of bread are also welcome a day or two prior to the event and can be dropped off at the Rectory Office only.

Thank you for helping us reach out to those in need of a meal.

Parish & Local



A Message from Our Pastor

February 4th? Already? WOW! How did that happen? We just celebrated Christmas. Time sure flies. This means that the season of Lent is not far behind us, beginning with **Ash Wednesday on February 14th**. Yes, Lent outweighs St. Valentine's Day so we are not expecting a dispensation. Ash Wednesday is still a day of fast and abstinence. If you have plans for dinner, remember abstain from meat and only one full meal that day.

We are pleased to be holding our Sandwich Outreach as a community service this Lent. We will be making P&J sandwiches for the homeless and needy in our area. If you can spare some time between **9:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 24**, please come to the Parish Hall to help us prepare these brown bag lunches. Please teach your children about community service and encourage them to join us.

Speaking of the Parish Hall, many have asked about the situation with the school being unrented. Please know that we have a very interested candidate, who has submitted an offer. As soon as the particulars are reviewed and worked out, I will share with you more specific details.

In the meantime, as we move forward during these winter months, please remember the importance of spiritual reading, prayer and Mass attendance, especially during Lent.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at Mass.

Blessings on your week ahead.

~Father Oswald

Feast of St. Blaise

The Feast of Saint Blaise is celebrated on **February 3**. Saint Blaise is the Patron Saint of throat illnesses, animals, wool combers, and wool trading. For those who would like to participate, the blessing of throats will take place following each Mass this **Saturday and Sunday, February 2nd and 3rd at the conclusion of each Mass**.



February's Drawing Challenge

On February 14th, we celebrate Ash Wednesday and thus begins the season of Lent.

In the Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Lent, we here about Jesus being tempted by Satan in the desert and then about how the angels came to minister to him.

And so, for February's drawing challenge, we ask you to draw your vision of this Gospel scene. Once completed, your masterpiece can be placed on the bulletin board in the Cry Room of the church for everyone to admire! Drawings should include your full name as they will be returned to you at month's end. Look for the stickers and words of admiration!

Good luck and have fun!!!

Here is another challenge for you. Instead of the *Cry Room*, do you have a suggestion for renaming the room? If so, email your suggestion to st.georgesec@rcn.com.

Pray for the Sick

Bill Battagliese, Lynda Batten, Brenda Brolley, Rose Celia, Christopher Chamberlain, Fred Cuccinello, Lenora Cuccinello, Terry Dolores, Jean Doney, Mark Ednie, Tina Gula, Peggy Hershman, Cynthia Horton, Diane Horton, Romano Horton, Madeline Loftus, Margie Loftus, Sean Mackey, Maureen Maley, John McBride, Packy McCann, Peg McCann, Marianne Mezei, Colleen Muldoon, Ralph Pfaff, George Phillips, Michael Plasha, Jr, Maria Prince, Rosemary Rausch, Stanleyh Riley, Michael Talent, Yvonne Gair Wolfe and Carmella Young. *Our prayer list has been updated for the new year. Names are listed for 30 days unless otherwise requested. If we have not heard from you in over 90 days, the name has been removed. If more time is needed, please contact the Rectory Office. Please let us know if your loved one is doing better. We love to hear the good news!*

Pray for Our Beloved Deceased

As we pray for our own families and friends, we ask you to please remember **all those who died in the past week**. May they rest in the peace of Christ and the loving arms of our Blessed Mother.



Adult Choir

If you would like to consider joining us, please contact Mrs. Kathy Lerro, Director of Music, at 610-237-1633. New voices are always needed and welcome. You don't have to be a professional singer to join us. All voices join in harmony! Practices are held every **Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM**.

Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad You Did!

Rosary Group

The Rosary Group meets on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM** in the Church. We recite the Rosary and conclude with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy for your intentions. Take the time in this New Year to come and pray with us.



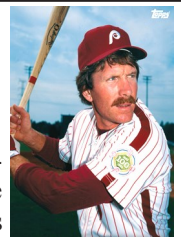
CHILDREN'S Liturgy of the Word

Hey kids! Don't forget to join us in the chapel during the homily at the **10:30 AM Mass on Sunday** for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Children will hear the gospel message at their own level of understanding. If the children do not want to participate on their own, parents are welcome.

Man Up Philly 2024

Saturday, March 2, 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM
16th Annual Men's Spirituality Conference
Cardinal O'Hara High School

We encourage all men to join us for an inspiring day of faith and fellowship. Experience the faith journey of our speakers "from death into life" including Hall of Famer, Mike Schmidt, among others. For more information or to register, please visit manupphilly.com.



Parish & Local

World Day for Consecrated Life

Remember to Pray for Our Priests

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on **February 2nd**. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. This information and more can be found at the website for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org.

Online Rosary for Vocations

In addition to the weekly Adoration for Vocations on **Thursdays**, vocations supporters gather via Zoom on the first **Saturday of each month** to pray a rosary for vocations. Visit www.HeedTheCall.org for more details.



Little Sisters of the Poor

Consider a discernment day with the Little Sisters of the Poor for Catholic young women 18-35, **Saturday, January 27, 2024 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM**, at the Holy Family Home, 5300 Chester Ave, in Philadelphia. For more information or to RSVP email, please email srjudith.jacobus@lsp-usa.org.

“So choose life in order that you may live.”

~Dt. 30:19



School News Cardinal O'Hara

Cardinal O'Hara High School is planning a 50th Reunion for the Class of 1974 on **October 19, 2024** at the Llanerch Country Club. For more information or to update your email and mailing address, please contact John Caramanico at jcaramanico56@gmail.com or 610-633-0783.

Sacred Heart Academy

Please join us at Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr for one of our upcoming admission events! Grades 5 & 6 Scholarship Exam on **Saturday February 10, 9:30 AM**. Lower and Middle School Virtual Information Session on **Wednesday February 21, 6pm** and Red & White Breakfast all school Open House on **Friday February 23, 9:00 AM**. All information and registration links can be found on the admissions page at SHAbrynmaur.org.



Jesus and the Eucharist Lenten Study

This Lent, as we continue this year of Eucharist Revival, we invite you to grow closer to God alongside fellow parishioners and friends through the *Jesus and the Eucharist* study. This 7-week study is being used in parishes throughout the county for the Year of Parish Revival. Each session is full of powerful content and testimonies. It will be a great opportunity to grow in community and explore the richness of our Eucharistic faith. We would love for you to join us! The study will be held in the convent on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM beginning on February 21 and continuing through April 3**. If you have any questions, please email tricia.trochlil@gmail.com.

We will offering a morning program Bible Study during Lent. More details will be published as they become available.

Vocation Corner

The priests of tomorrow are in our midst. They are members of our families. They are friends and neighbors. Encourage vocations. Pray for the gift. Visit www.HeedTheCall.org for details about special programs, events and more information.

Retreats at Villa Maria by the Sea

Friday, March 1 at 4:00 PM - Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 PM

Directed/Private Retreat

Wednesday, March 6 - 8:45 PM - 2:15 PM

\$60* *The Wow and the Woe of the Psalms*

Tuesday, March 19 - 8:45 AM - 2:30 PM, \$60*

God's Transformative Love:

Moving into the Heart of What Matters Most

*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before these day events for an additional \$95. Contact Sister M. Emily Vincent, IHM, Program Director, Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center 101 111th Street, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247, 609-964-7696 or www.VMbytheSea.com.

What's on the Ballot in 2024?

Delaware County ballots for the *April 23, 2024* Primary Election will include a combination of contests in federal, state and local primaries, including candidates for President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer, State Senator (9th and 17th Districts only), and State Representative Districts (all Districts) Democratic and Republican primary voters also will be electing convention delegates. Republican primary voters will be electing local committee members. More election information, including dates, deadlines, in-person and drop box polling locations, can be found on the Delco Votes! website at DelcoPA.Gov/Vote.

Parish Religious Education

PREP News



The new email address for Kathy McGovern, new Director of Religious Education at St. George is st.georgePREP@astound.net.

Our faithful parish families have several inspiring things to look forward to during the remainder of this PREP year:

- ⇒ **Sunday March 3** is our Church Tour and Preparation for **FIRST PENANCE for level 2 students** in both PREP & at Catholic school from **11:30 AM-1:30 PM**.
- ⇒ **Tuesday March 5 at 6:30 PM** will be a time of **Evening Prayer, Reflection & BENEDICTION of the Blessed Sacrament**. *All are welcome*, but our PREP children **NEED** to attend. This event replaces Living Stations of the Cross.
- ⇒ **Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 PM** is our parish's SACRAMENT of **FIRST PENANCE** for our Level 2 students
- ⇒ There will be a **YOUTH MASS** for all parish families at **10:30 AM on Sunday, March 10**. We have youth helping with altar serving and reading, and are looking for children to bring up gifts and be Greeters at that Mass. Parents of interested youth should contact Kathy McGovern or Lynda Batten at 610-237-1633...first come, first served.
- ⇒ **April 13 and 14** will be our parish **PREP BAKE SALE**. Please support our children by making &/or purchasing **BAKED GOODS** to be sold after all Masses.
- ⇒ **Thursday April 18 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** will be our First Communion Retreat for Level 2 students.
- ⇒ **Sunday April 28, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM** will be our PRACTICE for First Communion in Church
- ⇒ **Saturday, May 4 at 4:30 PM** our Mass will include First Holy Communion. Please pray for these children!
- ⇒ All are invited [but for PREP it's required] to attend our annual May Procession honoring our Blessed Mother immediately following the **10:30 AM** Mass. This is the last PREP activity for the 2023-2024 school year.

Registration 2024-2025 Program

Registration for the 2024-2025 PREP year will be available soon. Please stay tuned for details on how to register or reregister. Students in a sacrament year are especially encouraged to register early.

Lenten Sandwich Outreach

PREP students are invited to join us on **Saturday morning, February 24, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM** to help make P&J sandwiches for the homeless. Mark your calendars NOW!

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 - Mass with ashes **4:00 PM**
Prayer Service with ashes **7:00 PM**
1st Day of Lent and a Day of Fast and Abstinence

We Need to Recharge our Spiritual Batteries

Do you have a cell phone? It seems like a lot of people own one. As you probably know, it has a built-in battery, and it has to be recharged. You can't do much with it if the battery runs out. What else do you have that needs to be recharged?

People need to recharge their human batteries, too. We work and play hard, and if we don't get enough rest, pretty soon we just don't have enough energy to do the things we need to do.

Even Jesus had to recharge. Today we'll learn how He did that. As you listen to what happened, use your arm to tell how "charged" you think Jesus' "battery" is. Reach your hand up as high as you can, to show a full battery. Move it up or down, depending on if the battery is being used or recharged. Lowering it all the way to the floor indicates the battery life is completely out. Remember to continue indicating the battery charge throughout.

Here we go. Ready? Jesus traveled all around Galilee preaching, driving out demons, and healing people. One day, Jesus and some of His disciples went to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was there in bed with a fever. Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up. All at once, the fever left her and she began to prepare a meal for everyone.

That evening many people came to Jesus to be healed of all sorts of diseases. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. That must've been a long day.

Jesus got up before sunrise the next morning and found a quiet place to pray and recharge His spirit. When Simon and the others woke up, they found Him and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus had recharged His batteries and was ready to go. He said to them, "Let's go to other towns and villages so that I can preach to them, too. That's what I came to do." So they traveled throughout the region of Galilee, and Jesus preached in the synagogues and healed people and cast out demons. Where is Jesus' battery power now?

If Jesus thought it was important for Him to recharge His spiritual battery, it's important for us to do that, too. That's why we should spend time in prayer every day and come to church each week.

God, help us to remember that just as our bodies must be renewed by proper rest, our spirit must be renewed by spending time with You in prayer, Bible study, and worship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

