St. Barnabas
A Catholic Community in Bellmore, New York
Since 1912

Rev. Adrian McHugh, Pastor
Rev. Charles Omotu
Rev. Francis Agyeman
Deacon Bernard F. Sherlock

Rectory Office
2320 Bedford Avenue,
Bellmore, NY 11710
516-785-0054  Fax: 516-221-7789
Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
Friday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
(Closed Weekdays: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM)
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Emergency Only: 516-280-0359

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Principal, Ms. Leeann Graziose
516-785-5709

St. Barnabas Christian Formation
Mrs. Marjorie Lampert
516-785-0130

Social Ministry
Mrs. Alice Witt
516-785-6243

Music Ministry
Mr. William R. Dione

Youth Ministry
Mrs. Margaret Harnisch

Pastoral Care
Sister William Noreen Reilly, S.C.

Business & Personnel Manager
Mr. John G. Nappi

www.stbarnabasny.org  02/28/16  Find us on Facebook

MASS TIMES :  Monday to Friday: 6:30 and 9:00 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM  See the Bulletin for the Holy Day Schedule
Saturday Vigil : 4:30 and 7:00 PM
Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon and 5:00 PM
10.15 AM in the Holy Family Chapel

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second, third and fourth
Sundays of the month. The Pre-Baptism Class is held in the Church on the
first Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM. Please contact the rectory for an
appointment with a priest.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturday from 12:30 to
1:30 PM or by appointment with a priest.
For the Sacrament of Matrimony contact the rectory for an appointment
with a priest.
The Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated on the fourth Saturday of every
month following the 8:00 AM Mass. To arrange a visit to a sick person by
a priest, contact the rectory.
St. Barnabas the Apostle
Third Week of Lent

Monday, February 29
6:30 AM  Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
9:00 AM  Walter Krowka

Tuesday, March 1
6:30 AM  Louis & Rory Grandwilliams
9:00 AM  Frank Sampino

Wednesday, March 2
6:30 AM  Joseph Caniano
9:00 AM  Mary & Neil Schettino

Thursday, March 3
6:30 AM  Mary Anne Bahnken
9:00 AM  Robert Doud
(School Mass)

Friday, March 4
6:30 AM  Claire Votke
9:00 AM  Living & Deceased Members
of the Robinson & Wupper Families
3:30 PM  Wedding:
Sean Smith & Stacey Miller

Saturday, March 5
8:00 AM  Mary Grace Varneke
Fr. Francis  4:30 PM  Margaret Quinn
Raymond Vogts
Janet & Bob Elbert
Anthony Venezia
Ann Byrnes
Salvatore Scaduto

Fr. Adrian  7:00 PM  Ricky Laun

Sunday, March 6  Fourth Sunday of Lent
Fr. Francis  7:00 AM  Karen Orzel
Fr. Charles  9:00 AM  Eileen Balke & Deceased Members
of the O’Rourke Family
Fr. Francis  10:15 AM  Dorothy Camilleri
Fr. Adrian  10:30 AM  Vincent Karchinski
Fr. Charles  12:00 PM  For the People of Our Parish
Fr. Adrian  5:00 PM  Donna & Michael McGuire

We pray for our recently deceased
Nicholas Anthony Lucas
Joanne Blake
James B. Spillane
and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Bread & Wine
The Eucharistic Bread & Wine is offered in memory of Viola & Joseph Quinn with love from the LaBau Family.

Sanctuary Lamp
The Sanctuary Lamp Candle will be lit this week in loving memory of Michael Grosso from the Grosso, Curro, and DeLeo Families.

Easter Flowers
Remember your loved ones, living and deceased, at Easter by having Easter flowers on the altar in their honor. The offering is $15. To arrange for this, fill out this form and drop it off at the rectory or in the collection basket.

Easter flowers in memory of:
__________________________________
__________________________________
__________________________________
_____________________________
Dear Parishioners:

In this special season of Lent, the Catholic Ministries Appeal provides each of us an opportunity to join together - renewed in spirit and in our commitment - to respond wholeheartedly to Pope Francis’ call to enter the Door of Mercy and open our hearts to our brothers and sisters, especially those in difficulty and need.

Our gifts to the Appeal serve others through numerous programs and ministries that feed the hungry, provide shelter and carry God’s love to the ill and homebound, including those imprisoned. Our support also demonstrates our commitment to vocations for the priesthood, the diaconate, religious education, youth programs and defense of the unborn.

In short, there is an abundance of ministry which take place on Long Island, in whole or in part, because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. The presence and activity of these ministries connects our parish to the entire Catholic Church on Long Island. Moreover, our parish benefits financially by your support to the Catholic Ministries Appeal because once we reach our goal, 20% of all we raise comes back to our parish community to use for our needs.

This Lent, during our special Jubilee Year of Mercy, I invite you to reflect on the words of Pope Francis and answer his call to open our hearts as we work together as one and look to the future with hope. Please join with me in supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal by making a gift today.

Thank you for your continuing generosity in supporting the good works of our Church. May God bless you with many graces during this holy season of Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Adrian McHugh, Pastor
It's what people call 'the good life' - a steady job, a comfortable home, loving friends and family. Moses has it all once he settles down in Midian.

The years go by. Moses seems content with small pleasures and accomplishments. He never talks about his past or dreams about his future. He lacks any true passion, any sense of adventure. He simply lives the good life.

And then there comes a day, a day that starts out like any other. Moses gets up early and leaves for work. Off into the countryside he goes, leading his father-in-law's sheep. Then, in the far distance, something interrupts this tranquil scene. Moses sees a bush blazing! He decides to investigate. Suddenly, a voice fills the air, calling 'Moses! Moses!' The sound of that voice fills all the open, empty countryside. Then he hears his own response, small and weak and tense: 'Yes, I'm here.' The voice tells Moses that he is on holy ground and should remove his sandals. He does so, and then drops to his knees in the dusty soil.

The voice identifies itself: 'I am your ancestors' God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Childhood memories return to him. He knows of this God from old stories, but had never encountered him before -- not in dreams or visions, and certainly not in broad daylight here on the job! Moses feels a thumping inside his chest. His heart is racing.

But now the God of his ancestors tells him to leave his comfortable nest and deliver his people from bondage in Egypt. The God of his ancestors, in fact, tells him to become a hero!

Moses accepts God's call to him. No longer will he be centered on his own satisfaction. Instead, his concern will be for the purposes of God, what God wills for the world. He will give himself up to a life of faith.

Bushes don't just blaze for Moses. Bushes blaze for us. And when a bush blazes, we must respond, must turn from our preoccupations and discover what awaits us. Perhaps it is some terrible burden that makes us investigate the blazing bush in hope of a better life. Perhaps it is some sense of wonder that leads us there, our desire for the eternal. In any case, we must turn aside and draw near.

What are the blazing bushes in your life? A bush blazes when some person or place or moment reaches out to you, calling you insistently by name. A bush blazes when your life's glory and pain and challenge and patience and laughter and grief together speak to you with heaven's voice. A bush blazes when something demands that you put aside your mask, and live from the center deep inside you. A bush blazes when you take what action you can for others, and find in this risk your abundant freedom.

Such bushes blaze forth in every life. Dare to listen to them!
The Week at a Glance

Sunday:
1:30 PM  Baptisms, Church
7:30 PM  Al-Anon Meeting, School Cafeteria

Monday:
8:00 PM  Charismatic Prayer Meeting, Holy Family Chapel

Tuesday:
10:00 AM  Prayer Shawl Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
1:00 PM  Friendly Senior Meeting, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM  Lenten Reflection & Benediction
Sr. Joann Bonauro, Church
7:00 PM  Family Music Practice, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM  Catholic Daughters Meeting, School Cafeteria

Wednesday:
7:00 PM  Baptism Class, Church
7:00 PM  RCIA Meeting, Convent Meeting Room
7:30 PM  Al-Anon Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
8:00 PM  Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday:
7:00 PM  Bible Study, Rectory Meeting Room

Friday:
1:30 PM  Stations of the Cross, Church
7:00 PM  Youth Ministry, School Cafeteria
8:00 PM  Nocturnal Adoration, Church

Saturday:
12:30 PM  Reconciliation, Church

Financial Reports

Weekend Collections
2/22/15:  $13,481.00
2/21/16:  $17,869.00

Parish Families Registered 5,005
# Envelopes Mailed  1,463
# Envelopes Used  667
# Envelopes 2/22/15  465

2015 Catholic Ministries Appeal
Goal Amount:  $109,100.00
Total Pledged:  $127,940.00
Total Received:  $127,510.00
Total # of Donors:  711

Year End Contribution
Call the Rectory to receive a contribution statement for 2015.

Second Collection Next Weekend
Catholic Relief Services
Next week, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This Collection supports six Catholic agencies benefiting millions of vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished families and individuals around the world. From direct humanitarian service to helping victims of human trafficking and working to reunify families, the funds from this Collection make a real difference in lives across the globe. How will you help? Next week, please support the Catholic Relief Services Collection and Jesus in disguise.

Second Collections
Beginning next weekend, March 5th & 6th, the second collection will be taken up after communion.

The Week at a Glance

Sunday:
1:30 PM  Baptisms, Church
7:30 PM  Al-Anon Meeting, School Cafeteria

Monday:
8:00 PM  Charismatic Prayer Meeting, Holy Family Chapel

Tuesday:
10:00 AM  Prayer Shawl Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
1:00 PM  Friendly Senior Meeting, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM  Lenten Reflection & Benediction
Sr. Joann Bonauro, Church
7:00 PM  Family Music Practice, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM  Catholic Daughters Meeting, School Cafeteria

Wednesday:
7:00 PM  Baptism Class, Church
7:00 PM  RCIA Meeting, Convent Meeting Room
7:30 PM  Al-Anon Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
8:00 PM  Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday:
7:00 PM  Bible Study, Rectory Meeting Room

Friday:
1:30 PM  Stations of the Cross, Church
7:00 PM  Youth Ministry, School Cafeteria
8:00 PM  Nocturnal Adoration, Church

Saturday:
12:30 PM  Reconciliation, Church
St. Patrick’s Day

At

SEAS Gym
Saturday March 19, 5:30-9:30 PM
Following 4:30 Mass
Corned Beef & Cabbage
Beer, Wine & Soda

$25 per Adult and $5 per child
Up to 12 years, teenagers $10
Babysitting service available for younger children
Bring the family to 4:30 Mass
Then enjoy some Food, Dancing and Fun

For Reservations Please Contact
Austin Cannon Jr or Austin Cannon III or Thomas Ancona
516-221-7186  516-710-8256  516-849-7600

Please RSVP By Saturday March 12
We Pray for the Sick
Nicoletta Russo, Meghan Alice Roach, Debbie Cain, Stephen Rich, Patrick Hoyne, Jerry Hefner, Rosemary Grandwilliams, Barbara Cannon, George Donohue, Lillian Rocco, Pat Simone, Don Davis, Louis Romano, Kristin O’Halloran, Patricia Merget, Mildred Scalesi, Rita Lemma, Mary Grimes, Donald Grimes, Jacob Daniel Haubeil, Damon Capobianco, Eugene Ryan, Carol Chiasera, Francis G. Noonan, Terri-Ann Clarke, Charlie Riiska, Natalie Martin, Patrick Clarke, Kevin Keegan, Jason Todhunter, John Nalick, Dolores Young, Corinne Capozzi, Barbara O’Neil, Diane LaBianca, Theresa Anselmo, John C. Hannan Sr., Clarence Anspake, Dr. Lawton Manderson, Terrie Manderson, George Stockerl, James P. Corliss, Jr., Vic Caliguiri, Lottie Smakowski, Dominick Schiavone, James Hoare, Nicole & Baby Ella McKernan.

Guest Speakers
March 1: Sr. Joann Bonauro 'Change Our Hearts'
March 8: Ms. Leeann Graziose 'Table of Plenty'
March 15: Ms. Jan Jamroz 'Blest are They'

Followed by Discussion & Benediction

Thank you to all who attended and assisted at our Parish Mission. It was a wonderful few days of grace and peace. A special thanks to Monsignor Jim Vlaun, Monsignor Joe DeGrocco, Fr. John Sureau and Fr. Michael Holzmann. May God continue to bless their ministry.
Food Pantry Weekend - March 5th & 6th
Our Food Pantry has been very busy this winter helping our neighbors. Right now, we are in great need of: soups, crackers, canned pasta, jarred sauce, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, rice, rice mixes, jelly, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit, sugar, coffee, tea, detergent, soap and tissues. God bless you for your kindness.

St. Vincent de Paul
Serving the needy of the parish is the main purpose of SVDP. We strive to help individuals and families meet their basic needs. This can include limited financial support for rent and financial monthly expenses as well as food. We provide resources to help make you self-sufficient and furnish a list of agencies and programs for assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

Volunteer Drivers Wanted for Veterans
Nassau County will provide the vehicles to transport residents to and from the Northport VA, East Meadow, Valley Stream and Hicksville Clinics. The hours needed are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. A valid NYS driver’s License is required. If you have any questions or would like further information, contact the Veteran’s Service Agency at 572-6526.

Knights of Columbus
Blood Drive
The Bellmore Knights will be sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday, March 13th from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM in the South Cafeteria of the school.

Indoor Yard Sale
March 5th & 6th, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
101 Frederick Ave., Bellmore
Vendors Wanted: call Teresa at 826-6022

Columbus Hall is now available for rental.
The Bellmore Knights of Columbus’ new facility located at 101 Frederick Ave. off Bedford Ave. in town, is now available for rental. This is a state-of-the-art facility perfect for parties up to 80 guests. Please think of the Bellmore K of C for your celebration events such as Birthdays, Anniversaries, Wedding Rehearsals, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Business Meetings, etc. For details on hall rental please call 785-9407.
Banns of Marriage
Frank Billera & Krista Burke
Daniel Tinucci & Lauren Hale
Kevin Colucci & Jaclyn DeFino

Nocturnal Adoration
First Friday, March 4th at 8:00 PM in the Church.

EM’s & Lectors
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Lectors are needed for our Easter Sunday Masses. The sign up sheets are available in the sacristy after Mass or please call the rectory during the week.

Eagle Scout Project
Altar server and youth group member Thomas Ham is a member of Boy Scout Troop 285 and is currently working on his Eagle Scout project. Thomas’ project is to renovate the St. Barnabas Youth Group Room situated in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. He became interested in this project because he is an active member of the Parish as well as the youth ministry program. His plan is to by shelving for storage. He will replace the rug and the seating area (couches). He will purchase an entertainment center with television and a DVD player. The approximate cost of this project is $1,650. He is asking for donations of money and materials. If you can help, please send checks payable to “Troop 285” and in the memo section note, “Thomas Ham Eagle Scout Project” and send it to 332 Frederick Ave., Bellmore, NY 11710. For questions or any other donations, please contact Thomas Ham at 804-0012 or email thoham285@outlook.com.

Girl Scout Sunday
Our Annual Girl Scout Sunday Mass will be held on Sunday, March 6th at 9:00 AM. Immediately following the mass will be a Communion Breakfast in the school cafeteria. Tickets are $6, $3 for children 4 and under, and must be purchased no later than February 28th. For reservations, call Pauline Schlenke, 785-5549, Judy Hughes, 781-8040, Joan Monastero, 783-8567 or Joyce Caggiano, 796-9754.

Catholic Daughters of the America’s
The next meeting of the Catholic Daughter of the Americas, Court Mother Seton #2413, will be held on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM. We will hold our annual baby shower with a speaker from the Life Center. Please bring an unwrapped gift for baby and mom. Our annual St. Patrick’s day Bake sale will be held on Sunday, March 13th. For further information call Jackie at 781-7846 after 7:00 PM.

Widows & Widowers
On Tuesday, March 15th we will be meeting at 12:30 PM for lunch at Paddy’s Loft located at 1286 Hicksville Road in Massapequa. The cost is $28 and reservations are required. Please call Dolores Meadows at 826-2512 and forward your payment to her at 2671 Cedar St. Seaford, 11783.

Friendly Seniors
The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st at 1:00 PM in the Holy Family Chapel.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The St. Barnabas Prayer Shawl Ministry knits/crochets shawls/blankets for parishioners who are in the hospital/nursing home or suffering in some way, and who might draw comfort from receiving the prayer shawl. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a shawl or blanket please contact Sr. William at the Office of Christian Formation at 785-0130 and we will gladly provide you with one. Also, if you have any yarn to donate that would be most appreciated. If you do you can either contact Pat Gillen at 826-1182 to make arrangements for her to pick it up, or you can bring it to the Rectory. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 AM in the Rectory meeting room.
**Bereavement Counseling and Support**

St. Bernard’s Parish in Levittown and St. Bridgid’s in Westbury are offering general bereavement groups this spring, as well as ongoing groups for bereaved parents and survivors of suicide. Contact Alice Witt in Social Ministry for information at 785-6243.

**2016 Catholic Men’s Conference**

The Long Island Catholic Men’s Ministry will proudly present its 7th Annual Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 12th at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This year’s theme is “Science and Catholicism”. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Murphy at 11:00 AM. The speakers are: Barrie Schwortz (the Shroud), Tim Francis (Eucharistic Miracles) and Dan Lynch (The Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe). Confessions from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

**Training for New Extraordinary Ministers**

Session “A” is required of ALL New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are required to attend Session “B” in addition to Session “A”. Call The Rectory to Register.

**In Nassau:**

EM “A” Session and Lectors
April 2nd, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

“B” Session Extraordinary Ministers
May 14th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

**In Suffolk:**

EM “A” Session and Lectors
March 12th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

“B” Session Extraordinary Ministers
April 23rd, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

Evening Sessions for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors at St. Elizabeth, Melville
Session “A” - Wednesday, April 13th, 7-10 PM
Session “B” - Wednesday, April 27th, 7-10 PM

**Golden Wedding Jubilee Celebrations**

Couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at liturgies on Sunday, April 10th at the Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville and on Sunday, April 24th at the Church of Maria Regina in Seaford. Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 PM. Couples may register for ONE liturgy. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory. Registration must be received by March 25th for the April 10th liturgy and by April 8th for the April 24th liturgy. If you have any questions call 678-5800 ext. 207.

**Faith ’n Fun**

Father Charles Mangano and his sister Laurie are presenting a program at Cure of Ars Church in Merrick this Lent entitled, “Faith ’n Fun with Father Charles and Laurie.” The Faith night is Thursday, March 10th from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM in the Church. This presentation “Heart to Heart; growing in intimacy with the Father who loves us.” They will be singing and preaching on this theme and the night will include a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The night will include songs from their new album, “Heal Me.” The Fun night will be, Friday, March 11th from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the Msgr. Leonard Hall at Cure of Ars, (doors open at 7:30 PM). Fr. Charles & Laurie will be doing a 20 minute skit, followed by a sing-a-long and refreshments. No cost. A free-will offering will be taken up at the Night of Recollection.

**Healing Mass**

Continuing the Marian Healing Ministry of Fr. Dennis Kelleher CSSR, there will be a Healing Mass at St. Anastasia's Church, 45-14 245th Street, Douglaston - Little Neck on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 PM - Rosary, Mass & Healing Service. Celebrant: Fr. Augustine Fernando. Music by Tony Owen. For information contact St. Anastasia's Church (718) 631-4454. Come and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the, healing touch of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of Mary the Mother of God and our mother.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Regional Catholic School

Where we “LIVE” with Respect, Responsibility & Reverence
Our weekly news column to all alumni, families and parishioners
Please visit our website at www.steas.com for all our news and current events

Upcoming Events/News/Reminders

Creative Arts classes each Tuesday in March
Report Card Conferences - Thursday, March 3rd
Father’s Club Bowling Event - Sunday, March 6th

Let’s Dance!
7th & 8th grade celebrated a Valentines Day Dance
on Friday,
February 12th.
A great time was had by all!
Hi Everyone,

So here we are at the Third Sunday in Lent! We are about at the halfway point. This is a good time to stop and see where we are. Perhaps you’ve gotten off to a great start this year. If so, you are undoubtedly feeling the difference.

Maybe it hasn’t been easy to get started, especially coming off a vacation week. If that’s the case with you, what do you do now? Actually, you can start good Lenten habits at any time, and if you’ve gotten off track, you can restart as well. I think God’s looking for the change in our hearts, and that may take time. So what do we do now? Try some of the things suggested here or attend some of the Lenten programs going on in the Parish. Another idea I’ve been thinking of goes along with the Year of Mercy.

What if this week we all had only kind and merciful thoughts about everyone we meet. What if we held no grudges and refused to get angry we might ordinarily get angry. What if we forgive people who do something to us. That mercy will come back to us in amazing ways. Jesus tells us to do this in the Lord’s Prayer. Today’s Gospel reminds us about the need for repentance, and mercy is a great way to do this!

Hopefully these ideas will help you have a good Lent!

Have a blessed week!

Peggy

Our next night is Friday, March 4th - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Open to all Middle Schoolers and High School teens help run the night. We’ll have plenty of food and games! Never been here before? No problem, we’d love to have you stop down! We’ll be playing Toilet Paper Dodgeball - don’t miss it!
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2016

The following is an excerpt from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis:

I asked that “the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy”. The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience at first hand. God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2015

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Family Liturgy

Holy Thursday Service for Children, Thursday, March, 24th, 3:00 PM in the Holy Family Chapel - Please join us for this moving service where children will reenact the Last Supper. Children ages 3 and up are invited to participate as followers of Jesus. Practice will be held on Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Chapel. If you are interested in participating please contact stbarnabasfamilyliturgy@gmail.com or sign up after the 10:15 Family Mass.

Easter Egg Hunt – Will take place outdoors in a grassy area immediately following the 10:15 Family Mass on Sunday, March 13th – weather permitting

Palm Sunday, March 20th - Children will participate in the entrance procession at the 10:15 Family Mass. Palms will be blessed and distributed after Mass.

Easter Sunday, March 27th - Following the 10:15 Family Mass small bottles of holy water will be available to take home.

Paper hearts will be available for children to color and complete, filling in how they will open their heart to Jesus during Lent. Each Sunday at the 10:15 AM Family Mass, children can present their completed hearts in the Offertory Procession. These hearts will then be placed on the cross with hopes of being transformed for Easter.
DO I HAVE TO TELL MY SINS TO A PRIEST?

“If I’m really sorry in my heart, and I ask God to forgive me, won’t He? Why do I have to go tell my sins to a priest?”

We’ve all either heard those questions, or asked those questions, or both. There are several reasons why it’s necessary for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

First and foremost, it’s because it’s a sacrament. Catholics believe that sacraments are physical, concrete celebrations of the Church that communicate God’s grace to us because Jesus is present in His Church. Without the sacramental celebration, we do not experience the grace the sacrament brings to us. Sacraments make grace effectively present in our life.

Going to Confession is not simply about “getting forgiveness” from God, which, admittedly, cannot be controlled by human agency. Going to Confession is, however, about sacramental grace being effectively present in our life to have an effect on us and to bring about our conversion, and sacramental grace is not available without the sacrament.

Also, there is the very human reality that praying or asking for forgiveness internally, or mentally, is simply not enough. As physical creatures, we need to externalize things to make them real to us. Just as love, for example, cannot remain an abstraction, but must be put into concrete practice in order to really be love, so too with our experience of God’s forgiveness in our life. There is something about “getting it out” once and for all and letting our sins go by verbalizing them that is an integral part of healing and forgiveness. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the confession (verbal disclosure) of sins, even from a simply human point of view, frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others.

It allows us to clearly confront the sins we have committed, to take responsibility for them, and to thereby open ourselves to God and to others. (CCC 1455) As Pope Francis remarked in 2010, “For me, sin is not a stain that I have to clean. What I should do is ask pardon and make reconciliation, not stop by the cleaner’s on my way home.”

Therefore, the sacrament is as much about being healed as it is “getting forgiveness.” Part of the healing involves being reconciled with the community, our brothers and sisters in the Church, we have sinned against. Sin damages our relationship with others, and therefore we must be reconciled with the community; it is never a simple case of “God and me.” Going to Confession brings about reconciliation with the Church.

Finally, the simple truth is that we must go to the Sacrament of Penance because we are Catholic; it’s part of our identity. The faith we have is the faith of the Church, which has been handed on to us; faith is not a matter of my own personal beliefs or philosophy. The Sacrament of Penance is part of who we are as Catholics.

Remember the priest will never reveal to anyone in any way anything you say in Confession; the sacramental seal is absolutely inviolable, it is a sacred trust that all priests take.