



March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

HH - Hitch Hall MH - Maher Hall
 SB - School Basement
 R - Rectory CH - Church
 WH - Waldeisen Hall

Date	Observance	Mass Intention	Readings	Event
Mon Mar 21		5:30 pm Dorothy Gabelman by Family	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30	
Tues Mar 22			Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35	Kenmore Free Store 4 - 7 pm SB
Wed Mar 23	Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop 99 th Parish Anniversary	6:30 pm (note time) Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception by Fr. Mike	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19	Anniversary Reception After Mass WH
Thur Mar 24			Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23	Synod Listening Session 1 pm HH
Fri Mar 25	The Annunciation of the Lord	5:30 pm Martha Vanca by Joe & Beth Langton	Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	
Sat Mar 26		5:30 pm People of the Parish	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14	Confessions 9 am CH Kenmore Free Store 9 am - noon SB
Sun Mar 27	Fourth Sunday of Lent	8:30 am Stephen & Theresa Novitsky by Dick & Mary Lou Novitsky 11 am Gemma Mastroianni by Ida Rea	Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	

Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

COLLECTION REPORT

Week Ending	Mar 6	Mar 13
Sunday Offering -	\$3,444.10	\$3,776.00
Daily Offering -		\$65.00
Total	\$3,444.10	\$3,841.00
Weekly operating costs	<u>\$3,600.00</u>	<u>\$3,600.00</u>
(Shortfall) Overage	(\$155.90)	\$241.00
YTD Over (short) -	(\$5,029.60)	(\$4,788.65)
St. Vincent De Paul -	\$195.00	\$65.00
Capital Improvement -	\$329.00	\$85.00
Debt Reduction -		\$110.00
Diocese Designated -	\$157.00	\$20.00
Envs used of 240 sent	63	53

Stewardship of Treasure: Your parish envelopes are a sign of your willingness to practice the Stewardship of Treasure assuring the continued ministry of our parish to the people of Kenmore. If you visit another parish or are not yet coming to Mass, please send in or drop off your envelopes. Thank you.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2022 **Catholic Charities Appeal**. If you wish to make a donation, visit www.ccdocle.org for instructions. Be sure to mark Immaculate Conception - Akron as your home parish.

To receive your 2021 Contribution Statement, call the rectory at 330-753-8429, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.

Parish Celebration – This Wednesday, March 23rd, our parish will celebrate 99 years of ministry and look forward to our 100th year! We will mark the occasion with Mass at **6:30 pm** followed by a simple reception of cake, punch & coffee in Waldeisen Hall. Come, celebrate & give thanks.

Anniversary Committee – As we move into our 100th year, we'd like to form a committee charged with planning & implementing events for the parish. If you'd like to share your stewardship and help out, please call the rectory at 330-753-8429. Let's come together to worship, celebrate and have some fun – we need it! Our first meeting will be Wed., April 27th at 6:30 pm in Hitch Hall.

Council Nominations – Nominations for membership on Parish Pastoral Council will begin this month so think about your involvement and stay tuned.

Synod Listening Session – As this is being written, we have had only 15 parishioners participate. Pope Francis, the Church, our diocese and our parish want to hear from you – your insights are important. The mask mandate has been lifted, but you may wear one if you wish. The report is due back to the diocese at the end of the month so there are only 2 opportunities left: Thurs., March 24 at 1 pm; Mon., March 28th at 6:30 pm. PLEASE take this seriously and call with your RSVP. All sessions are held in Hitch Hall.

Lenten Reflection from The Word Among Us

The people discussing the news with Jesus in today's Gospel assumed that the disaster victims must have been greater sinners than everyone else. Tragedy, some of them thought, was God's way of punishing wickedness. But God is not spiteful. He does not wish evil on us when we offend him. It's our own sin that cuts us off from him and leads to other sins, many of which bring their own disasters. That's why Jesus warns his hearers about their need for repentance. But then Jesus tells a reassuring parable for all of us sinners. A landowner wants to cut down his fig tree because it bears no fruit. The gardener asks for mercy – one more year of careful tending might be exactly what the tree needs. God is like that gardener. He sees the ways we're not fruitful. He sees our sin more clearly than we do and he shows us mercy. He cares for us, feeds us, protects us, and cultivates our soul. Like the gardener, he offers us another chance to bear good fruit. Our heavenly Father is a God of second chances! When our sin separates us from him, he wants nothing more than to draw us back, to free us from its effects, and to give us new life. Every day is a chance to be like a healthy, fruitful fig tree and receive the nourishment he offers. We can receive his grace to restore us when we return to him in repentance. We can let him cultivate the soil of our hearts as he teaches us in Scripture or through our life experiences and we come to the altar to be fed by Jesus himself. So don't think that God is out to get you if you've let him down. He loves you and wants to welcome you back to himself. He will give you the strength you need to return.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

St. Paul and Jesus both warn us of the dangers of the failure to repent of our sinfulness. We will all die, of course, but for those who believe, those who repent of their sinfulness, those who strive to follow the ways of Jesus, those who seek to forgive and seek forgiveness, those who want to be lifted & freed from their burdens, death of the early body is nothing compared to the glory of the resurrected body and eternal life. Jesus warns of what will happen, if we don't repent. Lent is the season of repentance, a time when we look deep within and ask God to take away the things that keep us from being the people God created us to be. Who do we need to forgive? From whom do we need to seek forgiveness? What attitudes and behaviors do we need to ask God's help in changing? Let us not be like the tree that fails to bear fruit, but strive to bear fruit for our parish and community and let us give thanks that God is patient like the gardener in our Gospel! We are all works in progress so let's keep moving forward, even when we make mistakes, for our goal is the heavenly banquet.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In His Name: Toiletries for the homeless served by the Peter Maurin Center. Please place donations in the basket by the main doors of the church. Thank you.

Community Meal Needs: Green beans, corn, noodles, beef broth or stock, brownie or cake mixes, canned frosting, canned mushrooms.

CareCards - Please keep them coming! To participate, purchase cards of encouragement, add a short note and sign your name. Put the cards into the envelope (do not seal) & place into the basket. Please do not drop off cards from charitable/religious organizations.

Liturgical Ministry Needs: We are in need of people willing to participate in the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday. Please call the rectory to sign up. We are also in need of a "Speaker" for the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday at the 5:30 pm Mass.

Subway Cards – We are in need of \$10 Subway cards to give to those who come to our doors in search of food. Thank you for your kindness.

Masses - If you'd like to schedule a Mass, please call the rectory; the stipend is \$10. The next available dates are: Weekdays: Mar. 28, 30, Apr. 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13; Saturdays: Apr. 2, 9, 23, 30, 5:30 pm; Sundays, Apr. 3, 10, 24, 8:30.

This Friday, March 25, is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Because Solemnities are not observed as penitential days, the penitential practices like fasting or abstaining from meat are not required on this day even though it falls on a Friday in Lent.

The 3 pillars of **Lent** are: prayer, fasting & almsgiving.

Prayer – Read the daily Mass readings, sign up to receive a daily reflection at lentreflections.com or dynamiccatholic.com, attend daily Mass, make a Holy Hour, go to confession. Make **Fridays** special by worshipping at the 5:30 pm Mass, staying for private prayer time from 6 – 6:30 pm & then praying the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm.

Fasting & Abstinence - Fridays in Lent are days of complete abstinence. Good Friday is a day of fast & abstinence. Abstinence (from meat and meat products) is obligatory beginning at age 14.

Almsgiving – Rice bowl containers are available at all doors of the church. Your Lenten alms will help Catholic Relief Services (CRS) fight hunger and poverty here at home and around the world. Your donations will make a difference!

Other Events

•**Grandparents Workshop:** The diocese is offering workshops to help grandparents hand on the faith to their grandchildren. The closest one to us is at Queen of Heaven in Uniontown on Mon., March 28th from 9 am – 2 pm. The day will include brunch, Mass, talks and discussion. The fee is \$10 and you can register at www.dioceseofcleveland.org/events.

•**Women's Retreat:** Sat., Apr. 2nd, 9 am – 3 pm. St. Francis de Sales. Theme: The Joy of the Lord is My Strength. Optional Mass at 8:15 am. Cost is \$30. Box lunch provided. Deadline to register is March 25. For more information or to register, email AkronCatholicWomensRetreat@gmail.com, visit stfparish.com, or call 330-644-2225.