

## HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2023

“The Lord said to Moses: ‘You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart... Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord... So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’”

Jesus cited this passage from Leviticus when He taught us to love God above all things, with heart, soul, strength and mind, and indicated we do this when we care for our neighbor. In our world, where diversity can be a gift, we are plagued by war, hate, racism and discrimination in so many ways. How distant from the gospel mandate.

The Sermon on the Mount offers a special emphasis on love of neighbor - and enemy - making them the object of our prayer. May we place that person, country, group in our prayer and ask the Lord to help us live the Old Testament mandate and the great commandment of the New. May we not only strive to be perfect, but as Saint Luke tells us, ‘to be merciful as our Father is merciful.’ We can do it.




# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Reverend James Burke, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Kathleen Bodnar, Parish Cat. Leader  
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry  
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee  
Mr. Robert Butler, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL .....	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY .....	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287 FAX .....	732-528-1901
CONVENT .....	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE .....	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY .....			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS .....		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation) - St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM - St. Denis Church  
Mass is shown on the Parish Facebook Page each weekend.  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: See bulletin or website for schedule

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays, 3:30-4:15 pm & by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Parents must complete the required preparation with the Pastoral Associate and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-12:00 noon & 1:00 PM- 4:30 PM, Friday 8:30 AM- 12:00 noon only. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.



**Saturday, February 18, 2023**

- 8:30 am John Robert Rathjen by Catherine Cafone
- 8:30 am Richard Baus  
by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family
- 8:30 am Charles McCauley by Joan & Mark Clarkin
- 4:30 pm Dennis Fitzgerald
- 4:30 pm Maureen Tomney by Kay Kolon
- 4:30 pm Barbara Brown by Patrick Lewis

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**

- 8:00 am Roger Salerno by Keith Henderson
- 8:00 am Benedict Petraitis by Dawn Wilson
- 8:00 am Dorothy & Richard Miller by Deacon Gary
- 9:30 am William Pavincich by Ed & Helenbeth Matyas
- 9:30 am Antonia (Nina) Distefano by the Family
- 9:30 am Carmen Fazio by the Family
- 10:00 am For the People of the Parish

**Monday, February 20, 2023**

- 7:30 am Michael Gabler by Jamie Herman
- 7:30 am Roger Brandell by Gene Bialas
- 7:30 am Robert Scippee by Caren & Michael Bauer

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

- 7:30 am Nancy Erickson by Jackie Lyons
- 7:30 am Mary Prieriello by George & Lorraine Kipel
- 7:30 am Christian Whitaker by George & Lorraine Kipel

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023-Ash Wednesday**

- 7:30 am Michael Gabler by Betsy & Jim Rice
- 7:30 am Art Schucht by the O'Brien Family
- 7:30 am Patricia Fontayne by Andie Hansly

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023-Ash Wednesday**

- 12:00 pm John J. Lewis by his Family
- 12:00 pm Jerry Ward by Patrick Lewis
- 12:00 pm Eileen McKeever by CDA, Court St. Denis
- 7:00 pm Leola Dingley by the Dingley Family
- 7:00 pm William Bertscha by Lynn & Billy Bertscha
- 7:00 pm James Hendricks by Peter Haas

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

No Mass

**Friday, February 24, 2023**

- 7:30 am The Sarullo, Bugliario, Schellar & Burke Families  
by the Bugliario Children
- 7:30 am Marian Russo by The Schwartz Family
- 7:30 am Danny Boyle by Frances McGinley

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

- 8:30 am William Consovoy by Lucia & Joseph Nitti
- 8:30 am Margaret Kennedy by Bill Meehan
- 8:30 am William Nicholas Kleinmann by Kim Sackett
- 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

- 8:00 am Andre V. Bellusci by the Gahm Family
- 8:00 am Martin Freeman by his Wife, Joanne Freeman
- 8:00 am Dorothy Devaney by Ron & Terry DePasquale
- 9:30 am Claire D'Agostaro by Donna & John Kuchinski
- 9:30 am Alice Brady by Patti, Ray & Fallon Family
- 9:30 am Mary Hanley by Patti, Ray & Fallon Family
- 10:00 am Juanita DeJesus by the Caruso & Trinita Families
- 10:00 am Pater Casazza by Mr. & Mrs. James Pedler
- 10:00 am Timothy Thrash by John Burke

**SAINT DENIS PRAYER GROUP**-The Prayer Group meets at 12:00 noon each Monday in St. Denis Church. There are no meetings on holidays. All are welcome.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Raymond Hayser and Joseph Morrow.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Belle & Ashton, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Catherine Kelleher, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Gordon Justin, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, Bill Koch, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, Lois Borton, William Liao, Marylee Monsell, Norma Friel, Tony Picinich, the Borgias, Patricia Wolfe, Marian Keefe, Elizabeth Clos, Gail Fallon, Lois Brookes, Andrew Chermack, Mark Clarkin, Duane Danish, Werner Ziesmer, Thomas P. Coyle, Constance & Hugh Doherty, Jim Trischitta, Regina Kiesche, Colleen Nielsen, Mary Carstens-Lockenmeyer, Rob & Katie Spawn, Jack Noble, Jim Racioppi, Sondra Thompson, Barbara Liggett, Gerald O'Keefe, Jimmy Conrey, Norma Summers, Vera Raffetto, Bobbie Banks-Grove, Margaret Mullin, Johnny Gondek, Celina Koch, Marilyn Woerner, Diane Padluck, Theresa Sergel, Joan Harriman, Sharon Goettle, Rick Constrisciano, Barbara Cabrera, Linda Wynd, Katherine Geiger, Christopher Schwartz, Paul Gearing, Butch Wright, Carmine Basile, Susan Suagee, the Nesbitt Family, the Slotnick Family, and the Campbell Family.



We welcome into our parish family the following children who were brought to the Lord through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Vivienne Noel Lacey  
&

James Robert Perniola

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

**LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS** – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the priest’s ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.

**HELP AT MASS: PROJECTIONISTS-** We have a need for volunteers to help with the projection of lyrics and prayers at Mass. This is a great service opportunity for students and a chance for parents and children to work together. You can choose your Mass and the frequency of volunteering. Contact the office for training with Deacon Gary.

**RESOURCES FOR CATHOLIC MARRIED COUPLES-** The Diocese of Trenton honors all Catholic married couples with a special web resource to enhance their marriage in three important ways: 1) *Reconnect with Your Spouse*, 2) *Make Your Marriage Even Better*, and 3) *Serve Others in Your Marriage*. Find all this and more at [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day-for-couples](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/world-marriage-day-for-couples), and for newly married couples, be sure to visit [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/newly-married-resource-page](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/newly-married-resource-page) - what every couple needs to make their marriage extraordinary! (Part of the *BuildingStrongMarriages.org* initiative of the Diocese of Trenton)

Celebrating the Beauty of Catholic Marriage from the Catechism— read more at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org) under “Resources”:  
1643 "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter - appeal of the body and instinct, power of feeling and affectivity, aspiration of the spirit and of will. It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility. (Catechism of the Catholic Church)



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy LS3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Major David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC Capt. Philip Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Sgt. Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC, and USMC Private Robert E. Mullin IV.

February 22, 2023

A Day of Fast & Abstinence

Masses will be celebrated at

7:30 am, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

(With Distribution of Ashes)



**Ladies, you can join us at any time!**

Our WWP community is comprised of women, just like you. We strive to learn more about our faith and understand how the teachings of Jesus Christ can be relative to our everyday lives. Together we create an authentic community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another.

We offer two day/time options for our gatherings:

Tuesday, 7:30-9pm or Wednesdays, 12:15-2pm.

We meet at the St. Denis Parish Center (school).

**We don't actually exercise—**

**we “walk” on a faith journey together.**

**Walking with Purpose leads hearts to Christ.**

**For more info, visit [www.wwpnjshore.com](http://www.wwpnjshore.com)**

**ST. DENIS MEN’S GROUP** is a faith study group for Catholic men at the Jersey Shore, coordinated from St. Denis Parish. The group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Parish Center, from 6-7 pm. For more information contact the St. Denis rectory at 732-223-0287.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY- CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST CONFERENCE** will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, 8am-3pm at St. Gregory the Great Church in Hamilton, NJ. There will be a great line-up of speakers: Bishop David M. O’Connell, CM as the presider and homilist, Chris Stefanick, author, TV host and evangelist, Gerry Cooney, retired boxer, business man, radio announcer and author, and Mark Houck, speaker, author and evangelist. Pre-registration is \$45, \$50 at the door/\$25 for students. Order tickets at [CatholicMenFor-JesusChrist.org](http://CatholicMenFor-JesusChrist.org). For more information call 609-587-4877 or visit [info@catholicmenforjesuschrist](mailto:info@catholicmenforjesuschrist)

**EARTHQUAKE RELIEF-**Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey. Caritas Internationalis, in coordination with authorities, is bringing displaced people to safe, open spaces and distributing hot meals and clothing. To make a donation, please click the CRS link on our parish website.

**OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: **888-296-2965**



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2023

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
DOMINICK DESTEFANO  
&  
ANTONIA (NINA) DISTEFANO  
REQUESTED BY  
THE FAMILY

**PASTORAL TALKS 2023** will take place at St. Margaret's Church, 300 Ludlow Ave. in Spring Lake at 6 pm on the following dates :

- March 1- "Journey to Our Heart Room, in Meditation" by Sr. Carole MacKenthun, R.S.M.
  - March 8- "The Three Glances of Christ" by Deacon Paul Vitale
  - March 15- "Our Young People and the Existence of God" by Msgr. Richard Liddy, Ph.D
  - March 22- "Living and the Modern Church" by Fr. Martin Padovani SVD, MS
  - March 29- "Prodigal Sons and Daughters" by Very Rev. Damian McElroy
- Q & A will follow in Duffy Hall. These events are free and all are welcome.



Francis House of Prayer • 84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501 invites you to: **REVIVED BY THE EUCHARIST** on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 During the Eucharistic Revival we want to be "revived" by the Eucharist. Join Fr. Bill Lago for a presentation on a

few ways to refocus our intentionality in receiving the Eucharist. Sharing from insights by Raniero Cantalamessa, we will reflect on several ways to approach a renewed and revived appreciation of the mystery of the Mass and the august privilege of taking part in sharing in the Body of Christ. The day will include silent reflection and conversation along with lunch and conclude with a celebration of the Mass. Donation: \$35, includes lunch; Zoom \$25 To register, please call 609-877-0509 or e-mail FHOP@verizon.net



**St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry at St. Denis Church Phone: 732-223-1383**

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall (lower level of church)

There is curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM-3PM and

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month: 10AM-12 noon

This week's needed items:

Apple juice, boxed milk, salt, pepper, & toilet paper.

Thank you.

**A COOKING SHOW WITH JIMMY AND JOE-**

Jimmy of Jimmy's Cucina and Joe Leone will present a special to benefit "A Gift From The Heart", a non-profit 501c3 providing job training, socialization and employment to young adults with disabilities while fostering love, purpose and creativity. Jimmy and Joe will be creating foods that celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Day. After the demonstration, you will be able to sample small fares of their yummy recipes. The event will take place Sunday, 2/26/23, 4 pm, at the Manasquan Elks, 17 Stockton Lake Blvd. There will also be a 50/50, cash bar and a gift auction. Tickets are \$50 per person. For ticket information visit: info@agiftfromtheheart.org



**FLUTE/CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT-**

Marjorie Koharski, flutist and Keith Calmes, guitarist, will be performing at Holy Innocents Church, 3544 West Bangs Ave. in Neptune on Sunday, 2/26/23 at 3 pm. They will play the music of Bach, Carulli, Moszkowski, and more. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be taken.

**SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE-**

The Woman's Club of Manasquan is have a Spring Clothing Drive on Thursday, March 16th, 9 am-5 pm at 62 Main Street in Manasquan. The clothing drive will benefit the women and children at 180 Turning Lives Around and the men at Jersey Shore Rescue Mission. Please donate SPRING clothing that is gently worn (or not worn) and clean.

**ATTENTION EXPERIENCED SEWERS-**

Would you like a meaningful opportunity to use your skills? "The Memory Care Project- Bear Hugs"? Visiting Nurse Association Health Group offers hospice patient families a special service: Memory Bears crafted from the garments of a loved one, by a team of skilled volunteer seamstresses. VNAHG offers the Bear Hugs Program through its joint venture with RWJ Barnabas Health Hospice. For more information about becoming a volunteer seamstress, please contact Pauline DePalma, BSW, Director of Volunteer Services at Pauline.depalma@vnahg.org.

**THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



Our ministry of lay volunteers is inspired by the values of the Gospels and the work of Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris is 1833. The first U.S. conference was formed in St. Louis in 1845 and it remains to this day the national headquarters. There are over 800,000 members worldwide in 140 countries. The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers members the chance to grow spiritually, to cultivate friendships and to provide person-to-person help to those who ask for assistance. The volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul, who come from many diverse backgrounds, invite you to join their efforts, and they also thank all who donate so generously to the Society.

To learn more about helping those in need, come to the Society's next meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 7 pm in the Parish Center.

If you need assistance, please call the hotline at 732-223-1383.

## **A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL**

Lent begins this Wednesday. Our parish's theme: "Embrace the Uniqueness of Lent." As disciples of Jesus our Messiah, we are thankful to God for the uniqueness of our Catholic spirituality that gives us 40 days of Lent patterned after our Lord's 40 days of temptation in the desert. We embrace the unique privilege to "go into the dessert" with Jesus. We also need to embrace the uniqueness of our journey. God deals with us uniquely. It is logical, since no two people are identical, that God, like any parent, loves each person uniquely. Jesus says we must be "salt of the earth and light for the world" and each of us do this uniquely. "Each day we make a new beginning following in the footsteps of Christ." In Lent, that "new beginning" is not just a new day, but also a renewed commitment to following Christ "giving it all we've got".

With that in mind, I look at a popular challenge today on social media - "75 Hard." From the author, Andy Frisella, "75 Hard" is about building mental toughness so as to change the way you approach every task in front of you. One's commitment to the 75-day challenge is to show you the following traits in yourself: confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, self-belief, and fortitude. You choose to follow the program perfectly and without compromise.

Concept sound familiar? Lent is "40 Hard", 40 days with Jesus in the desert that He humbly submitted to perfectly and without compromise. Each disciple is meant to commit, without compromise, to the traditions of Lent – fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We "give up" and "add on" in order to build mental toughness, which then translates into spiritual toughness (as disciples) so to re-approach our God-given identity, so to approach every task in front of us thru/with/in Jesus. We approach each task in front of us as a Confirmed Disciple – thus having the God-given traits of confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, God-belief/self-belief, and fortitude. For 40 days this Lent I ask you to take a 'hard' look at your identity as being Baptized/Confirmed in Christ and sharing Communion in Him. Take a 'hard' look at how God sees you with love, at God extending mercy and forgiveness to you. Take a 'hard' look at how you can actualize your hopeful approach to your self-esteem and self-worth because of God making us in God's image and likeness. Take a 'hard look' at how you were created for a definite reason. And take a 'hard look' at the Scripture phrase "I can do all things through God who strengthens me." In Lent, you take on mental toughness through daily commitment to concrete acts of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving: following the Church's guidelines (see the insert in this bulletin) and also the guidelines God is calling you to this Lent, remembering it is meant to build you up, not stress you out. (For a wholistic look, see last week's bulletin or other aides to Lent we hand out this week).

The "75 Hard" author writes: "There's nothing worse than rolling through life in the passenger's seat. You wake up, go to work, and drift through each day with no direction or driving force ... You start doubting yourself ... Your thoughts beat you up every minute of the day to the point where you feel like you'll always be stuck right where you are in this funk forever." God does not want this for you at all. God gives us Lent to bless us and transform us and get out of any 'funk' we may be in (body/mind/spirit). God wants us to deepen our faith/hope/love. Embrace the uniqueness of Lent this year. And let us pray for each other for the grace to live Lent to the fullest for the glory of God and our spiritual strength thru/with/in Jesus.



### **WALK WITH MARY ON HER WAY OF THE CROSS....**

At the Annunciation, it was announced to Mary, to her surprise and awe as a mere teenager, that she was chosen by God to be the Mother of God's only Son. Rooted in an unwavering faith in God and in God's plan, her human response to that divine call was a life changing, world changing "YES!". Her journey as Mother of Our God would take her from a simple room in Nazareth to the foot of a cross on Golgotha. All are welcome as we accompany Mary on her last walk with Jesus...her Son, her Body and Blood... as we pray the Stations of the Cross... **Monday, February 27, 11 am & 7 pm in St. Denis Church.**



Recently the company that supplies us with our church donation envelopes merged with a larger company. The transition has not gone smoothly and we have received envelopes that do not have correct dates on them or are missing altogether. The following is a list of the correct dates of our remaining special second collec-

tions in February and March:

Feb. 19th- Church in Central & Eastern Europe

March 5th- Parish Debt

March 19th- Catholic Relief Services

We will post in the bulletin each week what the second collection will be for the following week. Please use the envelope provided for that collection, regardless of the date on the envelope. For the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, no envelope has been provided so please use a plain envelope with your name, address and the amount of your donation written on the front, or use a check. We will be sure to credit each collection with the proper donations.

### **DIOCESE OF TRENTON YOUNG ADULT RETREAT-**

All young adults (18-39) of the Diocese of Trenton (and beyond) are invited to the annual Young Adult Retreat, at St. Raphael's Church in Hamilton N.J. on March 4, 2023. The day will include inspiring talks, fellowship, breakouts, prayer and more." Please go to [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/yaretreat](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/yaretreat) for more information.

### **ARE YOU A WOMAN RETURNING TO COLLEGE?**

Scholarships are available from the Woman's Club of Spring Lake. Eligibility for scholarship consideration by the Woman's Club of Spring Lake is open to female residents of Monmouth County who have had an interruption in their education, who are now seeking an initial associate's or bachelor's degree and who are currently enrolled or newly registered at an accredited two or four year institution. Applications and info are available at: [www.womansclubofspringlake.org](http://www.womansclubofspringlake.org). Applications are due by April 1, 2023.



**February 5, 2023**

Weekly Collection- \$13,030.00

2nd Collection-  
Black & Native American Missions- \$895.00

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !***



The Rectory Office will be closed  
Monday, February 20, 2023  
in observance of President's Day.

The office will reopen  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 8:30 am.

**GREETINGS TO EVERYONE FROM THE ST. DENIS GRANDPARENTS' GUILD-**

As you are all aware, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 the Church begins the season of Lent. As we enter this blessed season, we invite all grandparents and seniors to join us in continuing to model a Christian way of life for *all* children. Our mission in light of the influence of the secular world today, becomes even more urgent. The Grandparents' Guild provides prayers for all children and for ourselves as well. Come join us at our next meeting on February 21, 2023 at 11:00 at the St Denis Parish Center (school building). Our objective at this meeting is to discuss specifically how we plan to share with our grandchildren, our love for the Church and each other. We will begin by reflecting on Father Bill's Message in last week's bulletin, "Everything you do in Lent, must have the expressed intention to..... benefit you to better yourself as a disciple of Christ (through your Lenten disciplines/devotions leading you to a stronger response to your vocation.).... "Pray for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to help us reflect on our plans for Lent." As grandparents and other caring seniors, we strongly suggest encouraging our grandchildren to attend Mass every Sunday beginning with Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten season. Understanding that this may not be possible for everyone, we can certainly take a few teachable moments, perhaps even a phone call, to discuss questions they may have about Lent. Examples... What is the significance of the ashes on Ash Wednesday? Why do we abstain from meat on Fridays? We look forward to sharing your thoughts and prayers as well.

**Prayer from The Catholic Grandparents Handbook by Lorene Hanley Duquin:** *Lord Jesus, When the apostles asked if you would teach them how to pray, you gave them the words of the Our Father. Today I ask you to please teach me the best way to pray with my grandchildren. Allow your Holy Spirit to work through me to touch their hearts, their minds, and their souls. Amen*

**DISCOVER THE JOY OF BEING A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER-** Share a memory, hold a hand, lend an ear and touch a heart. Visiting Nurse Association Group will provide you with training and support to enhance your gifts of compassion, commitment and companionship to those nearing the end of life. You can offer a supportive presence and companionship through home visitation, or make comfort and bereavement calls in our office. We also need volunteers to provide administrative support on a variety of projects that enhance our patients' care. If interested please contact Pauline DePalma at Pauline.depalma@vnahg.org. We encourage you to wait one year following the death of a loved one before volunteering.

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Hosted by the  
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*Thursday, March 30, 2023  
8:30 AM- 3:00PM*

*"Arise my friend, my  
beautiful one, and come!  
See, winter is past, the rains  
are over and gone."*

*Come share a day of  
encouragement  
in your journey with Christ.  
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share and quiet  
time to reflect.  
Closing with  
celebration of Mass.*



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