

Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church

Mission Statement

The Roman Catholic Faith Community of Sacred Heart of Jesus welcomes all! Guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through Eucharist, Worship, Education and Service. We are committed to build the Kingdom of God in our world.

Sacred Heart is not just a parish—it's a way of life.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil—5:00pm

Sunday

8:00am, 10:00am, 12 Noon

Monday—Saturday at 9:00am

Holydays

Eve of Holyday at 7:30pm

Holyday at 9:00am & 12 Noon

Devotions

Rosary: Monday—Saturday after 9:00am Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:
Mondays after 9:00am Mass

First Friday:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Sacred Heart Novena after 9:00am Mass
Benediction at 10:00am

Our Lady of Loretto Novena:
First Saturday after 9:00am Mass

Confession

Saturdays 3:30pm—4:30pm

Baptism

Designated Saturdays at 1:00pm.
Call to inquire and register.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made six months prior to
the wedding. Contact rectory for details.

Anointing/Communion for the Sick

Anointing of the seriously ill: call rectory.
Communion for the homebound: call S. Kathleen.

Rectory Office Hours—Daily

open 9 to 1 closed 1 to 2 open 2 to 5
Closed Saturday & Sunday



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
215-35 38th Avenue
Bayside, NY 11361

718-428-2200 718-428-5840 (fax)

www.sacredheartbayside-queens.org

www.facebook.com/SHBayside

Twitter: @SHBayside

Pastoral Staff

718-428-2200

- Rev. Msgr., Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., Pastor
- Rev. Alex Lee, Parochial Vicar
- Rev. James J. Meszaros, In Residence
- Mr. John F. DeBiase, Deacon
- Sr. Kathleen Masterson RSM, Pastoral Associate
(718-224-5695) siskate913@gmail.com

School

- Mrs. Alexandra Conlan, Principal 718-631-4804

Religious Education

- Mrs. Georgette Lyons, Director 718-631-1307

Music Ministry

- Mrs. Angelina Fusco, Director 718-428-2200

Parish Pastoral Council

Mrs. Marianne Cooney, Facilitator

Parish Secretary

Ms. Catherine Sorge 718-428-2200

Parish Support

Sr. Ellen Smith, RSM 718-428-2200

Sunday Mass Assistance

Rev. Msgr. Richard Marchese

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 26th

5:00 Parishioners of Sacred Heart

Sunday, February 27th

8:00 Deceased Members of the Heavey Family
(Family)

10:00 Collective Mass

Lucia Capobianco (Fressle Family)
Patricia Dillon Cairney (Sheridan Family)
John O'Donnell (Wife, Lia)
William O'Brien, Sr. (Cooney Family)
Intentions of Gail Califano (Husband)

12:00 Elsie & Harold Izzard (Family)

Monday, February 28th

9:00 Michael Machalski (Catalano Family)

Tuesday, March 1st

9:00 Helen Gallella
(Camille & Jennifer Gramlich)

Wednesday, March 2nd,

9:00 Josie & Willie Fernandez (living) (Family)
Ash Wednesday

12:00 Noon Mass, 3 PM Liturgy, 7PM Mass

Thursday, March 3rd

9:00 Armando Espinel (Pastor Family)

Friday, March 4th

9:00 Juan Manuel Cepeda (Pastor Family)

Saturday, March 5th

9:00 Peter T. Conticelli (E. Mosberg)
5:00 Parishioners of Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 6th

8:00 Christine Eicher (Holler Family)

10:00 Collective Mass

Evelyn Sadowski (Lyons Family)
Thomas McHugh (P. McHugh)
Evelyn Gillen-Buscher
(Dan & Mary Doyle)

Connie Lyons (Ranee McDonnell)

12:00 Judy O'Connor (Pecorella Family)



Please remember in your prayers those who are ill especially:

Sandi Furci, Mike Henningsen, Antonio & Maria Balbina Mojococa, Charlie Cardile



Please pray for the following members of our parish who have died.

*Yanz Hang Liu
Thomas Brennan
Anthony Spataro*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Next Meeting March 1, 2022

On the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, we hold a support group for those who have recently experienced the death of a loved one. Meetings are informative and educational, designed to help the mourner through the initial stages of grief. Meetings are held in the church hall. (Enter on 215th Place between 36th and 38th Avenues.) Call Sr. Kathleen at 718-224-5695 for further information.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Some of these items are repeated from last week's bulletin which never arrived due to weather related delivery issues. I have repeated them for the sake of those who do not have access to the bulletin online.

Item 1

Lent begins this week with our celebration of Ash Wednesday on March 2. The schedule for Masses/Liturgy of the Word Service and the distribution of ashes is as follows: *Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and at the Liturgy of the Word Service. The schedule for the day is: 9:00 AM- Mass-12:00 PM-Mass-3:00 PM-Liturgy of the Word-7:00 PM-Mass.* (All Ash Wednesday Masses and the Liturgy of the Word Service will be livestreamed). Ashes are **ONLY** distributed within the context of the celebration of Mass or the Liturgy of the Word. The distribution of ashes will be done this year in the traditional manner- that is- with the tracing of a cross on the forehead. If you feel more comfortable with having the ashes sprinkled on your head as we did last year- which is the more ancient and traditional manner of receiving ashes- you may ask to receive them in that manner.

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

ABSTINENCE – All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain totally from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

FASTING – All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may also be taken on two other occasions during the day.

EASTER DUTY – After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time of the year. By special indult, in the United States, the time period for fulfilling this precept has been extended to include the period beginning the First Sunday of Lent (March 6, 2022) to Trinity Sunday (June 12, 2022).

Item 2

Lenten Spiritual opportunities are available to help you use these 40 days to deepen your relationship with the lord and prepare for the celebration of the Paschal Mysteries.

Lenten Weekday Masses

Monday-Saturday- 9:00 AM
(Daily Masses are all livestreamed)

Rosary

Prayed at 8:30 AM Monday-Saturday

Eucharistic Holy Hour and Rosary

(Holy Hour will also be livestreamed)
Thursdays- 1:00 PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays- 1PM
(Stations of the Cross will also be
livestreamed)

March 4-11*-18*-25

April 1-8*

(*Children from Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Academy will be present)

Item 3

Please use the Lenten calendars that are inserted in the bulletin this weekend as an aid to prayer and meditation of the Scriptures in this holy season of Lent.

Also, almsgiving is a benchmark of Lent. Many of us, I am sure, remember using mite boxes when we were young during Lent and putting our sacrifices in the box for the missions. Folders for your sacrificial offerings are available for your use throughout Lent. There are 40 slots that each can hold a \$1 bill for each day of Lent. If you can fill the whole card- great if you can only fill part of the card- great! You know what you can give, and I know you do so from the heart. All the money collected in these sacrificial folders will be given to Bridge To Life at the end of the Lenten Season. Lenten Sacrificial Giving Folders are available in the back of the church and at the side entrance.,

Item 4

The Bayside St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 26, 2022, on Bell Boulevard. One of the Aides to the Grand

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Item 4 continued —

Marshall is our own Sr. Kathleen Masterson, RSM! The Grand Marshall is Rita Lyndon-Lenz; the other Aides are Kevin Cadigan, Brian McGuinness, Rory McCreesh and A. Warren Scullin. The Parade Mass will take place in our church at 10A.M. and the Parade will kick off at 1:00 P.M. . Please plan to join our parish contingent and march in the parade to support Sr. Kathleen and our parish. If you are unable to march than plan to come out and standing along the parade route to cheer on the marchers !

There is an insert in the bulletin if you wish to order a Sacred Heart St. Patrick's Day hat so that all our parishioners- both those marching and the spectators- can show our presence at the Parade and support for Sr. Kathleen. Hat orders must be placed by March 4! Get a hat, plan to come out, and march if you can and let us make our parish's presence visible to all on that day.

Item 5

Congratulation to our parishioner, MARK MONGELLUZZO who was named the new President of Holy Cross High School on Wednesday, February 16. Mark is a former member of both the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council. Mark is also a graduate of Sacred Heart School. Mark's appointment is effective as of July 1, 2022. Mark, we at Sacred Heart congratulate you on your appointment and extend to you our prayerful support and best wishes.

Item 6

The Sacred Heart Easter Egg Hunt will return this year after being cancelled due to Covid 19 the last two years! On Palm Sunday, April 10 after the 10 AM Mass the children of the parish are invited to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn in front of the rectory. (In case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will take place in the Church hall). Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun!

Item 7

I am grateful to all those who participated in the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal and not only helped our parish reach its goal of \$91,954.00 but to surpass our goal by \$24,370.00. Our parish total at the end of the 2021 ACA was \$116,324.00! As promised, the Diocese returned \$24,370, the

amount we went over goal to us, and that money was immediately used to make payments on some of our large bills like our annual insurance bill and diocesan assessment bill (both of which are over \$60,000 annually. We also have a bill of \$60,000 that predated my arrival here that I need to eventually start making payments on as well). Once again thank you not only for your generosity to the 2021 ACA but your continued generosity to our parish especially throughout these difficult and trying times. You are in my prayers! May God reward you for your generosity!

As we get closer to the beginning of Lent, we will begin to hear about our 2022 ACA. I have received word that our goal will remain the same as last year for the 2022 ACA- \$91,954.00.

Item 8

During our lockdown period we received two bequests from deceased parishioners. One bequest was from the estate of MARY E. FOWLER. MARY left \$25,000 to the Church and left a separate bequest of \$10,000 specifically to the Leisure Club of Sacred Heart Parish. We are very grateful for these generous gifts and that she remembered her parish in her last will and testament.

We also received a bequest of \$25,000 to the Social Action Committee from the estate of ANNE VERRONE. We are very grateful for this generous gift and that she remembered the Social Action Committee in her last will and testament as a sign of her gratitude for all the years she received meals from our Meals-on-Wheels Ministry. We are, however, having a problem with this bequest because it did not say Social Action Committee of Sacred Heart Parish- it simply said Social Action Committee and a note to contact Sr. Kathleen. The bank will not release the money because it does not have the parish name on it. We submitted all types of documents to them to no avail. I then enlisted the assistance of the Diocesan Finance Office who also were not able to make any headway with the bank and who has turned this over to the Diocesan lawyers who are fighting to get this money. This has been a " battle" for well over a year with this particular bank.

So....

We are grateful that parishioners think about the parish and remember us in their last will and testament.

We hope that others who may not have considered this may be moved to do so in the future.

Please be sure that if you are leaving it for a purpose, you are specific. i.e., using the example from the case above Social Action Committee of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Bayside, NY.

That being said, be careful of being overly specific- i.e., I am leaving \$1,000 for Masses to be said for me on these special dates every year until the money is used up.- this a request that might not be able to be fulfilled therefore we would not be able to accept this bequest. If, however, you simply stated I am leaving \$1,000 for Masses to be said for the repose of my soul that is a request that can be fulfilled because the Masses can be said in the parish or by the priests when they are on retreat or on vacation or by a retired priest that might be living in the parish.

Item 9

Last week Bishop Brennan visited our Deanery and met with the priests. We had a small group discussion and dinner with the Bishop which was followed by Mass at which Fr. Alex and I, along with the other priests of the Deanery concelebrated. The Mass last week was beautiful and attended by people from all the parishes of our Deanery. Fr. Alex and I concelebrated the Mass along with the other priest in our Deanery. I am grateful to the one family of four from our parish that showed up at the Mass and made their presence known by wearing their red Sacred Heart jackets. THANK YOU! (I had hoped more of our parishioners would have come out to meet and greet our new Bishop and to pray with the members of our Deanery.) I am also grateful to Deacon John and Angelina who were present at the Mass. I am also grateful to Sr. Kathleen and Mrs. Lyons who were not only at the Mass but were then at a meeting with the Bishop, the pastors of the Deanery and the other representatives of the parishes of the Deanery to give "bullet points" on the Synod discussions held in each parish. It was a long evening (especially for the Bishop and priests), but the Bishop was happy to get to visit and come to know this section of our Diocese. A special word of thanks to those in the parish who took part in the Synod discussions and to Sr. Kathleen and Mrs. Lyons for their assistance in this endeavor.

SACRED HEART of JESUS BULLET POINTS

- Many people still envision the Church to be the hierarchy/clergy.
- Many people do not feel heard by the Church.
- We can always do a better job at listening to others.

- Some feel they can speak candidly on issues at the parish level but not beyond.
- We need to hear from those on the periphery: LGBTQ populations, teenagers, young adults, divorced and remarried, people not living in a sacramental marriage, single people.
- Some do not see themselves as part of the decision-making process on either the parish or the diocesan level. We must make sure that people know they were heard but also help them realize that decisions must take into account other information.
- We need to do a better job at working with other Christian denominations in giving witness in a world that increasingly does not know Jesus.
- We need to better equip people with the spiritual tools to deal with issues and to know where the Church stands on issues.

Item 10

Pass along the good word about Sacred Heart Catholic Academy. Registration is ongoing. For information call the Principal, Mrs. Conlan at 718-631-4804.

Special dates/celebrations this week:

- February 27- Eight Week in Ordinary Time
- February 28- Anniversary of the Resignation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (2013)
- March 1- Shrove Tuesday - Mardi Gras
- March 2- ASH WEDNESDAY
- March 3- St. Catherine Drexel
- March 4- St. Casimir
- World Day of Prayer (Honestly, I did not know what this was about, so I looked it up online and here is what I found: "World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.")
- First Friday
- First Saturday

March 5-



The 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of our parish and the daily work of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone by supporting the following ministries:

*Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative, Catholic Charities;
Hospital, College and Prison Chaplains; Diocesan Vocations Office;
Catholic Migration Services; Office of Faith Formation; Bishop Mugavero Residence for infirmed clergy; Futures in Education Scholarship Foundation*

All donations made to the ACA above our parish goal are returned directly back to our parish for operations and improvements.

FAMILY MASS **Sunday, March 6, 10:00 AM**

We celebrate Family Mass monthly at Sacred Heart. Readings from the children's liturgies are used. Any questions call Mrs. Lyons, DRE., at 718- 631-1307. **Our Family Mass schedule is as follows: April 3, May 1 and June 5.**

Lenten Longings: "Seeing with God's Eyes"

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (1813-55) was fond of describing the Sunday encounter with the sacred texts as looking into a mirror:

"The first requirement is that you must not look at the mirror, but must look in the mirror and see yourself in God's word.

Then, while reading God's word, you must incessantly say to yourself:

'It is I to whom the word is speaking' "

YOU ARE INVITED to make a six-week faith sharing retreat by exploring the Sunday readings of Lent. Let's take the challenge to see ourselves, others, and the world with the eyes of God.

Lenten **MONDAYS: 12:30 to 2pm**

FEBRUARY 28 to APRIL 4

(in the rectory meeting room)

For info., call Sister Kathleen(718-224-5695)

LENTEN PRAYER BOOKS

We again have Lenten Prayer Books available. Please feel free to take one. Written on the inside cover is the name of a member of our Rite of Christian Initiation Program. The individual will become a full member of the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. This year we have eight people in the process. Please remember in your prayer the person listed in your book. Your prayers will assist them as they continue their journey to full communion with the Catholic faith during Lent.

LENTEN DVD SERIES

With Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

THE INCARNATION:

KEEPING GOD IN THE FLESH

Part 1: Tuesday, March 8

Part 2: Tuesday, March 15

KEEPING INCARNATE THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Tuesday, March 22

7:30 pm IN THE Church Hall

(Enter door on 215th Place)

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is an internationally renowned speaker and spiritual writer.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to have a daily Lenten reflection emailed to you, you can sign up at:
Best Lent Ever 2022—Dynamic Catholic and/or
Daily Lenten Reflection with Dr. Tim Gray

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Fr. Alex will begin training classes for new altar servers after February 28th. All children in fourth grade or higher are eligible to become altar servers. If interested in becoming an Altar Server, please call the rectory to register for the training classes at 718-428-2200.



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CUB SCOUT PACK 49
Cards for a Cause Fundraiser
Will take place
on

Saturday, March 5th at 5 pm Mass
Sunday, March 6th at 8 am, 10am and 12 pm
Masses
Sale of Greeting Cards

Choose from 5 different decorative boxes.
Each filled with 30 individually wrapped greeting cards with matching envelopes.

ALL OCCASION (2 different boxes)
HOLIDAY (50 Cards)
THANKS & BLANK CARDS
KIDS BIRTHDAY COLLECTION

Cost per box is \$30.00
Proceeds will be used by
Cub Scout Pack 49 for
A Camping Trip

MEALS-ON-WHEELS



After the pandemic forced us to end our 35 years of providing weekend Meals-on-Wheels to our homebound seniors, a new ministry has evolved. Individuals who love to cook have formed a Soup Team. Hearty

soups are made and then frozen for delivery on a weekly basis.

Those who have been the lucky recipients of this "Liquid Love" rave about how delicious the soup is. Each soup delivery is accompanied by a brioche roll. If you or someone you know can benefit from this outreach, please call Sister Kathleen at 718-224-5695.

For those who are in need of daily sustenance, the **CITY MEALS-ON-WHEELS** can provide that assistance:

SNAP Services Now for Adult Persons 718-454-2388
(ZIP CODE 11360)

Selfhelp Senior Services 718-321-8194 **(ZIP CODE 11361)**

God's Love We Deliver 212-294-8102

MINISTRY OF CARE

Ministry of Care group assists all who have direct contact with homebound parishioners or those residing in nursing homes. There are Eucharist ministers who take the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. For them and for our nursing home visitors this monthly meeting is an opportunity to pray and stay connected with others who minister in the same way. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every other month at 1PM in the rectory meeting room.
Next meeting March 8th If someone you know ill or homebound and cannot attend mass, the Eucharist can be brought to them. Contact Sr. Kathleen at 718-224-5695 to make arrangements.

SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTS GROUP

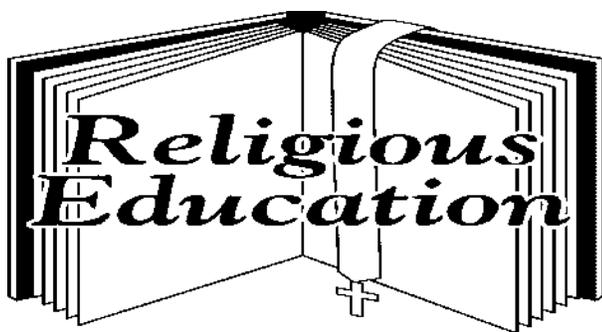
We invite parents/guardians with children/adults with all special needs or IEP's to join us to share and exchange ideas in an informal setting. For information contact Mrs. Lyons at 718-631-1307 or email at shreled@sacredheartbayside-queens.org. Meetings are at 10am., on the following dates:

Tuesday March 8, Tuesday, April 5
Thursday, May 12, Thursday, June 2

For information contact Georgette Lyons at 718-631-1307 or email at shreliousedbayside@yahoo.com

Justice & Peace Committee

A Lenten practice for spiritual development that's good for you and for the environment... Develop "Meat consciousness" and reduce the level of meat in your diet. Shifting to more plant-based foods is essential to combating climate change, soil, air and water pollution, ocean dead zones, and myriad other problems caused by industrial livestock production. If we decide to eat fewer meals with meat or dairy each week, we can have a huge impact on our collective health and the health of the planet (**GREENPEACE**)



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Our program is for students in public or private schools. The Diocese requires two years of instruction to receive the Sacrament of Communion and Confirmation. This program is for children first thru eighth grade, older children and special needs children.

If you wish to register a child for classes, you can submit the registration form electronically by going to the Faith Formation website @sacredheartbayside-queens.org

or

call Mrs. Georgette Lyons,
Director of Religious Education at
718-631-1307.

THE JOINT PARISH RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. New members welcome. Keep up to date and provide input for all the current local and National news on life issues affecting our country and the Catholic Community. Next meeting March 16, 2022 at 7:30pm. Meetings at St. Josaphats Rectory 34-32 210th St., Bayside, N. Y.

CATHOLIC HEALTH

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL & HEART CTR.

100 Port Washington Blvd. Roslyn, N.Y.

Job Opportunities

St. Francis Hospital and Heart Center is looking for you. The Nursing Department has positions for Nursing Assistants/ Patient Care Associates (PCA). Job training, High School Diploma or equivalent required. Paid Health Benefits for employee and family and paid time off. **Contact: Jaime Slone at 516-562-6893 or visit our website at <https://stfrancisheartcenter.chsli.org/> and click on careers.**

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

St. John's university Speech and Hearing Center

152-11 Union Turnpike, Flushing, N. Y.

The Center will be offering FREE speech and hearing screenings and "Hearing Aid Help" now through April 28, 2022. Call the center for an appointment 718-990-6480

AA MEETING

Are you having trouble at work or in your relationship at home? Do you think alcohol might have something to do with it? Are you afraid the answer may be yes?

Every Friday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm

at

St. Josaphat Church

34-32 210th Street, Bayside, N. Y.

Entrance on 210th Street and 34th Road

Please call 914-393-3122 for information.

Queens Deanery # 5

Sacred Heart, St Anastasia, St. Robert Bellarmine, OLBS, St. Josaphat, American Martyrs, St. Kevin, OL of Snows, Holy Family, St. Gregory the Great

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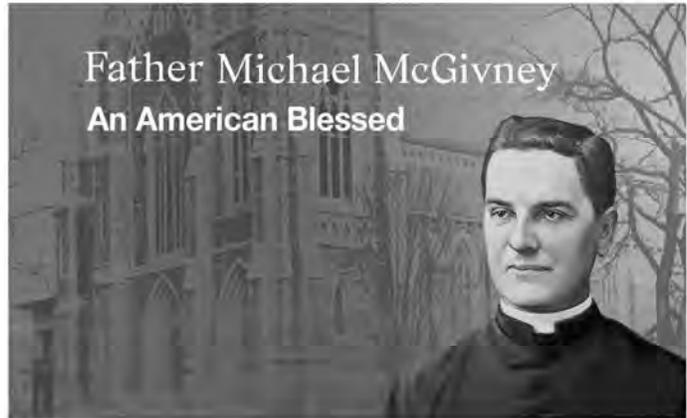
PICK OF THE WEEK

February 27, 2022

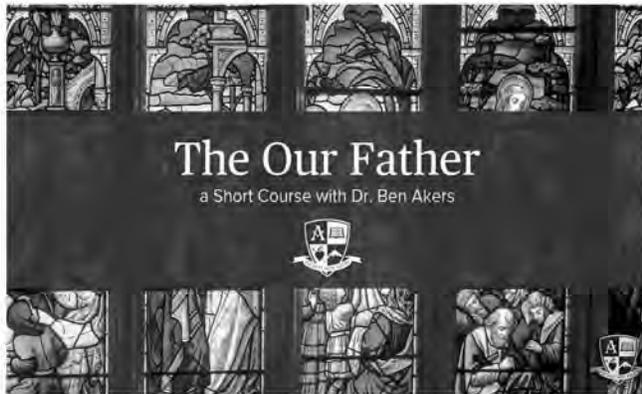
WATCH

FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY: AN AMERICAN BLESSED

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Michael McGivney, paving the way for his beatification. This new documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization, and empowerment of the laity.



Father Michael McGivney
An American Blessed



The Our Father

a Short Course with Dr. Ben Akers

JESUS: THE MODEL AND MASTER OF PRAYER

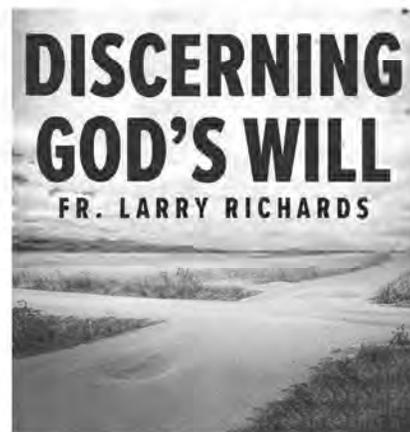
In this episode of his course on the Our Father, Dr. Ben Akers teaches us what we can learn from the perfect model and master of prayer: Jesus himself.

LEARN

LISTEN

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

Discovering the will of God can be an intimidating challenge in the spiritual life. Join Fr. Larry Richards as he guides us in this task through practical advice and personal stories!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Judge It By Its Fruit

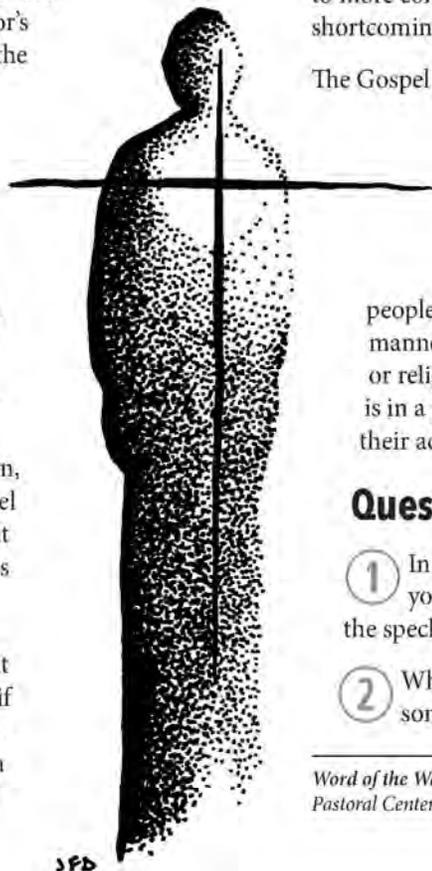
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Sirach 27:5-8 - All tested by their speech
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 - Glorification of the body
- ▶ Luke 6:39-45 - All known by their works

As is often the case, the first reading and the Gospel reading are connected in theme. The first encourages us to judge people by their words, not their physical appearance, because their speech reveals their interior life. Just as good fruit grows from a tree well-cared for, someone who cultivates a good character will speak from that place of goodness. Two centuries later, Jesus echoes the same theme, expanding on it with further examples.

Jesus' teachings today give a very concrete challenge to all his disciples down through the ages that is often hard for us to hear. Rather than point out the faults of another — “the speck in your neighbor's eye” — we are asked to notice the wooden beam in our own eye. Of course, we may want to believe that our neighbor has the beam in his eye, while we either have only a speck or maybe even think we are completely clear-sighted!

The paradox is that when we quit focusing on someone else's faults to remedy our own, we will probably no longer feel the need to stand in judgment of anyone else. Just before this passage, Jesus stated, “Stop judging and you will not be judged.” That statement might seem almost impossible, but if we concentrate on taking the wooden beam out of our own eye that might naturally lead



to more compassion and understanding of others' shortcomings.

The Gospel passage ends with Jesus picking up on a theme in the first reading from the Book of Sirach. Both remind us that we can know a tree by its fruits—good trees will produce good fruit, but rotten trees will not. Though the world may judge people by their “appearance” (their skin color, manner of dress, sexual orientation, language, or religion), Jesus asks us to look deeper to what is in a person's heart. Ultimately, their words and their actions will reveal what is there.

Questions of the Week

- 1 In what kinds of situations do you find yourself getting caught up in focusing on the specks in other people's eyes?
- 2 What good fruits have you seen produced by someone who is genuinely a “good tree”?

Harden Funeral Home & Francis X. Hatton Funeral Home

New Address: 192-15 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11358

718-229-3055 www.harden-fh.com

718-229-0744 www.francisxhatton-fh.com

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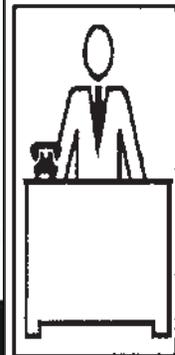
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