



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel St. Ann Parish

[www.mtcarmel.ws](http://www.mtcarmel.ws)

## LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:00, 10:00, and 11:30 a.m.

## DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m.

## HOLYDAY MASSES

Vigil: 7:00 p.m.  
Holyday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by private appointment.

## PASTORAL STAFF

Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone, Pastor  
Rev. Jesus Martinez, Associate Pastor  
Most Rev. George E. Rueger, in residence  
Deacon Gerry Montiverdi, Part-time Liturgical Assistant.

## PARISH OFFICES AND STAFF

Mailing Address: 28 Mulberry St., Worcester, MA 01605  
Street Address: 24 Mulberry St., Worcester, MA 01605  
Telephone: 508-797-4546  
Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Lisa Fenuccio, Administrative Assistant  
Email: [lisaolmc@gmail.com](mailto:lisaolmc@gmail.com)  
Phyllis Lynch, Secretary  
Mr. Francis Heffron, Head Custodian  
Mr. Glenn MacGregor, Part-time Custodian  
Mr. Walter Borek, Part-time Church Caretaker

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents and Godparents must attend the Baptismal instruction session before the Baptism is celebrated. These sessions take place on the First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Community baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of every month after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Private baptisms may also be arranged by calling the parish office.

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

To prepare for this lifelong commitment, couples must begin marriage preparation twelve months before the proposed wedding date, according to the diocesan policy.

## FAITH FORMATION

The Religious Education Program offers instruction to children and young people from Grade One through the high school years. Children are prepared for the reception of First Reconciliation and then First Holy Communion and young people for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in high school, including those who attend Catholic schools. Rel. Ed. Office: 508-791-6139.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This process of sharing faith stories and studying the Bible and the teachings of the Church is open to anyone who is in need of receiving any one or all of the Sacraments of Initiation. -Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation or to anyone who wishes to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

## FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Mrs. Joan D'Argenis D.R.E./Youth Director  
Maria Sciannameo RCIA Director

## LITURGICAL MUSIC MINISTRY

Mr. Scott Olson, Organist  
Mr. Michael Garceau, Organist/Wedding Ministry

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The Council is committed to assisting the pastor in various liturgical celebrations and parochial and diocesan fundraisers and to pursuing its own charitable endeavors.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Guild of Our Lady of Sorrows  
Beato Angelo D'Acri Society  
The Gene J. DeFeudis Italian Cultural Center  
Mt. Carmel Golden Years Club

## PRO-LIFE CONTACTS

Pro-Life Office, Mrs. Allison LeDoux: 508-929-4311  
Respect Life Parish Representative: Louise Faiola: 508-756-1150  
Visitation House: 508-798-0762  
Problem Pregnancy: 888-310-7217

## ILLNESS

Arrangements can be made to have Holy Communion brought those who are homebound due to illness, age, or impairment of any kind or to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing and Reconciliation with them. Please notify the parish office with the necessary information.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

To become a registered member of the parish, please call the office. One of the secretaries will gladly assist anyone and complete the registration over the phone or through the website.

## REPORTING THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

To report the abuse of a child or a teenager, please contact Mrs. Frances Nugent, Director of the Diocesan Office of Healing and Prevention at 508-791-7171. You may also call Gloria Caprioli, our parish coordinator for prevention and education, at 508-344-7718. Lastly, you may call Msgr. F. Pedone at 774-243-1154.

**WEEKEND COLLECTION  
2/7/2015 & 2/8/2015**

4:00 PM Mass	\$805.00
8:00 AM Mass	\$342.00
10:00 AM Mass	\$563.00
11:30 AM Mass	\$619.00
Shared Envelopes	\$235.00
Total Mass Collections	<u>\$2,564.00</u>

Special Collections:

Weekend Envelopes –mailed in	\$953.00
Children’s Envelopes	\$2.35
Fuel	\$184.00
Initial Offering	\$50.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$30.00
Church in Latin America	\$6.00
Catholic Free Press	\$122.00
Capital Campaign	\$295.00
On-Line Giving	\$247.50
Candle Offering	\$122.00
Total	<u>\$2,011.85</u>

Restricted Funds	\$453.00
Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$4,122.85</u>
Total	<u>\$4,575.85</u>

**WEEKEND COLLECTION  
2/14/2015 & 2/15/2015**

4:00 PM Mass	\$957.00
11:30 AM Mass	\$104.00
Total Mass Collections	<u>\$1,061.00</u>

Special Collections:

Weekend Envelopes –mailed in	\$740.00
Fuel	\$90.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$5.00
Church in Latin America	\$10.00
Catholic Free Press	\$60.00
Christmas	\$5.00
Capital Campaign	\$105.00
On-Line Giving	\$240.50
Candle Offering	\$51.00
Total	<u>\$1,311.50</u>

Restricted Funds	\$180.00
Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$2,192.50</u>
Total	<u>\$2,372.50</u>

The Finance Committee has determined that we need to collect \$9,400 each week to meet our current expenses. Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Ann parish.

**PARISH MISSION –  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY – MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>,  
17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 PM**

This year instead of having one preacher for the mission, three priests will lead us – Father Charles Monroe, pastor of Our Lady of the Angels, Father Steven LaBaire, pastor of Holy Family Parish, and Father Dennis O’Brien, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake in Leominster. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm and every Tuesday evening throughout Lent from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

**THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH**

Many people have asked if we could continue the Feast of Saint Joseph. Truthfully, there were many reasons that we stopped this event. One was the cost and two the people who attended were getting older. However, I am big on tradition and I thought perhaps this year we could down scale it and after the Mission Mass on March 18<sup>th</sup>, invite people over for Zeppole and coffee. We would have to charge \$5.00 to anyone who was interested and I would need a count by March 12.

**FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY**

**Friday – March 13  
4 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
28 Mulberry St - Worcester**

- Fish (Haddock) and Chips - \$12.00
- Baked Haddock with Baked Potato or Rice Pilaf- \$12.00
- Fish Chowder - \$3.00
- Macaroni and Cheese - \$3.00

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be available in the parish office or by emailing Joan at [joan\\_dargenis@yahoo.com](mailto:joan_dargenis@yahoo.com)

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND  
CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone – [fpedone@charter.net](mailto:fpedone@charter.net)
- John Conte, Chair – [john.conte@verizon.net](mailto:john.conte@verizon.net)
- Cheryl Berthiaume – [cherylbert23@gmail.com](mailto:cherylbert23@gmail.com)
- Amoret Zamarro-Beiter – [amoretzb24@gmail.com](mailto:amoretzb24@gmail.com)
- Albert Cecchini – [acecchin@concentric.net](mailto:acecchin@concentric.net)
- Mateo Fiore
- Deacon Gerald Montiverdi – [montigrs@verizon.net](mailto:montigrs@verizon.net)
- Maria Sciannameo – [maria.sciannameo@yahoo.com](mailto:maria.sciannameo@yahoo.com)
- David Soares – [dasoares8@charter.net](mailto:dasoares8@charter.net)



# MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 21, 2015—4:00 p.m.

**The People of the Parish**

**Mr. and Mrs. Chester and Marcia DiLeo—50th  
Wedding Anniversary Renewal of Vows**

Sunday, February 22, 2015—8:00 p.m.

**Michael DelloStritto** (Birthday Remembrance) by wife  
Josie and Children

Sunday, February 22, 2015—10:00 a.m.

**Francis Turo** (Birthday and 6th Anniversary) by Rose  
and Family

**Jeremiah “Jerry” Porcaro** by Family

Sunday, February 22, 2015—11:30 a.m.

**Felix Scricco, Jr.** by Family

Monday, February 23, 2015—7:00 a.m.

**Francesco & Christina Scaglione** by great grandson,  
Michael

Tuesday, February 24, 2015—7:00 a.m.

**Mr. and Mrs. William Grandone** by Mr. and Mrs.  
Michael J. Grandone

Wednesday, February 25, 2015—7:00 a.m.

**The Sick of the Parish**

Thursday, February 26, 2015—7:00 a.m.

**Parishioners Intentions**

Friday, February 27, 2015—7:00 a.m.

**Dolores Kalil** by sister Annette Riccardi and  
Albert Kalil

Saturday, February 28, 2015—4:00 p.m.

**Helen Glodas and Peter Holland** by Stephen and  
Donna Grasseschi

Sunday, March 1, 2015—8:00 a.m.

**Susan (Rossetti) Heney** by a friend

Sunday, March 1, 2015—10:00 a.m.

**Carmella Piccirello** by Carmine and Esther Lonardo  
**Cafaro Vincenza** (First Anniversary) by Family

Sunday, March 1, 2015—11:30 a.m.

**Henry Covello** (First Anniversary) by Wife



**Please pray for the sick of our parish:** Anna Perro, Francis Caffone, Susan Stomski, James Dionne, Donna Grasseschi, Lena Sbrogna, Michael Crossen, Lori Blackwell, Carmella Szklarz, Matteo Fiore, Matthew Hicks, Henry Penny, Patrick Loconto, Eleanor Lupisella, Butch Rano, Mary O'Connor, Christina Rovezzi, Christopher Collazo, Eleanor Gaudenzi, Eileen Biziewski, Patricia Naples, Paula & Arthur Mari, Beverly Sacco, Ava Grace Mackenzie, Mary Grimaldi, Sim Simone and Earl Duncan, III. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

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**THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS ARE  
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:**

**Vera Sbrogna**  
By husband, Gus

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**NEW HYMNALS**

The new Worship IV and Gather III hymnals have arrived and are on display at the entrances of the church. Please consider donating a set as a gift from or in memory of a loved one. We will have a special nameplate printed for this purpose, which will be affixed to the hymnals. The cost is \$40.00 for both hymnals, which must be purchased together. We will begin using the new hymnals on Ash Wednesday.

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**GUIDELINES FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows:

**Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Fasting** is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

***Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St. Ann  
Golden Years Club***

**Program for the Month February 2015**

**February 24, 2015**

10:00 A.M. Socializing  
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social.

**REMINDER --- PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING  
FOOD FOR THE POOR --- FOOD FOR OUR FOOD  
BANK---DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK HAVE  
BEEN VERY LOW---IF MEMBERS DONATE ONE ITEM  
EVERY TUESDAY FOR THE FOOD BANK IT WILL BE  
VERY HELPFUL.**

**BEATO ANGELO D'ACRI ITALIAN WOMEN'S  
CLUB – 77 YEARS STRONG!**

We are welcoming new members and past members to come join in the fellowship of belonging to the Beato Angelo D'Acri Italian Women's Club. If you are of Italian decent or are "Italian thru marriage", please drop in and check us out. We meet the first Monday of the following months: March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December at the American Legion Post #201- 326 Plantation St. Worcester. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. If you cannot make our first meeting, you are welcome to join us at any of our remaining meetings. The dues are \$20.00 for our calendar year. Some of the things you'll experience are field trips, guest speakers, parade participation, community service projects, and delicious "coffee and" prepared by volunteering members. I look forward to seeing all the new faces and welcoming back our past members.

Jane Sabatalo Karantzoulidis- President

**3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

I would like to put together a committee for a 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Tuesday, April 7. All I need is someone who knows what they are talking about, and teams. We will give out prizes. It would be ages 18 and up. Anything can change, but we need to start somewhere. If you are interested in helping or would like to form a team, please let me know. Obviously I am looking for ideas, what to charge, (I thought maybe \$100. or \$150.00 per team,) etc.  
Joan

The Best of **Broadway**  
Presented by *Jack Craig*  
**Music** – With Class !

**Wednesday – February 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Recreation Center**

**Donation - \$5.00** From 'Second Hand Rose' (1921) through 'Memory' (1982), the songs in this program celebrate the high points of American musical theatre. Stand-out productions like 'Showboat', 'South Pacific', 'My Fair Lady', and 'Hello Dolly' are all included as well as unique hits from writers such as Noel Coward, Kurt Weill, and Irving Berlin. The program concentrates on the "golden age of musicals" by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, and Stephen Sondheim – but, *all* of the 24 songs we will be singing are classics!

CCD 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades will be presenting a Power Point Presentation on a variety of Religious Topics these presentations will be done using Paintings, Sculptors, and Books. The students will choose a particular work of art or book and explain the meaning behind the work of art or book. All parents, sponsors, friends and relatives are invited to join us on the evenings of **Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** (9<sup>th</sup> grade presentations) and **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** (10<sup>th</sup> grade presentations) starting at 6:30 p.m. We are looking for donations of cookies and pastries

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

**NEW YORK SPRING DAY TRIP TO SEE THE  
RADIO CITY SPRING SPECTACULAR**

**Saturday, March 14** – Cost - \$110.00 per person includes bus and show. A new show inspired by the magic of New York in the spring. It's a dazzling musical celebration about the energy, places, people, passion and promise that make this city spectacular. This extraordinary show features dynamic dance numbers performed by the Rockettes®, along with one of a kind puppetry and state of the art technology and takes audiences on a whirlwind adventure across New York City while telling an inspiring and hopeful narrative about three New Yorkers who change each other's lives in unexpectedly wonderful ways. We have a certain number of tickets in the Prime seating section; all other tickets will be in the Orchestra section. Tickets will be assigned with first pay, best seats. All seats are good, but some are spectacular.

**WINTER WEATHER POLICY**

In the issue of safety, we want to restate the policy for weekday Mass when the weather is threatening. On those weekdays when Worcester schools cancel or delay opening due to inclement weather, the 7:00 am Mass is also canceled.



## LENTEN SCHEDULE MT. CARMEL UNPLUGGED

1. Each week put in the bulletin – Lenten Journey idea for Lent, read a Bible verse: 1<sup>st</sup> week visit a family member that you have not visited for a while.
2. We would like to offer Eucharist Adoration every Friday during Lent, from 12:00 – 6:30 p.m. **We need volunteers.** If interested please see either Msgr. Pedone or call the office, so we can set up a schedule.
3. Stations of the Cross every Friday, starting on February 20th
4. Seven Last Words – Tuesday, March 31
5. Bus to visit churches on Holy Thursday – April 2
6. Book Discussion: Tuesday, March 3

**Walking with Jesus: The Heart of Christian Life Paperback 'by Pope Francis** Jesus is walking ahead of us. He is always before us. He goes ahead of us and leads the way. This is the source of our confidence and our joy: to be his disciples, to remain with him, to walk behind him, to follow him.' Pope Francis is acclaimed for the humble and simple faith that he has demonstrated in public and private. In this major new book he presents the heart of his approach to living as a Christian: following in the steps of Jesus. The book is divided into three parts: The Gospel of the Way, The Gifts of the Way, the Story of the Way. Francis has spoken and written widely on these themes during his first 18 months as Pope, and his thoughts are here collected for the first time, edited and abridged with full Vatican approval. Like his best-selling *The Church of Mercy*, this book is aimed at a broad readership of believers and non-believers, priests, religious, dedicated laypeople, and teachers.

**Book Discussion:** Tuesday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. **Saint Padre Pio: In the Footsteps of Saint Francis by Michael J. Ruzala** In an age that smirks at the mention of miracles, sin, angels, and demons, St. Pio of Pietrelcina has emerged as a figure of immense popularity, attracting fascination, veneration, and also emulation. Padre Pio, who once wrote in a letter, "I am a mystery to myself," is certainly a mystery to all who know of him. To those who moved beyond mere credulity, he became an inspiration to embrace the fullness of faith. Perhaps that is why his shrine in outlying San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, is second only to the Vatican itself in annual number of pilgrims and why Italian Catholics now report to praying more for St. Pio's intercession than for that of any other saint. This book is a concise introduction to Padre Pio's life, especially as compared to the example and journey of his spiritual father, St. Francis of Assisi. If St. Francis is said to be the most popular saint of all time, Franciscan Capuchin Padre Pio is perhaps the most popular saint of our times. Given that he passed only in 1968, it is remarkable to think that such a spiritual "superhero" could exist in our modern age. Through not spared from misfortune, he was spared those things that cloud us from perceiving the world in a truly spiritual way. Perhaps that is why Padre Pio offers us just the message we need to hear. If anyone is interested in joining us for these Book Discussion or would simply like to read the books. Let me know and I can order a book for you. The cost of the books *Walking with Jesus* and *the Saint Padre Pio: In the Footsteps of Saint Francis* are \$10.60 (includes tax) each.

7. **Mt. Carmel Unplugged** What are you doing for Lent? Consider added something religious to your life. This is an opportunity to get to know Jesus better, perhaps you can take a journey on a Friday evening joining us for the Stations of the Cross, maybe you can go to a Mass during the week, join a Bible Study class or read a new book. I hear every day, how busy our schedules are and we do not have the time to add anything to our lives. How about, taking something away, such as stress. We invite you to join us on **Saturday, March 21** from 2:00—4:00 p.m. to unplug. Unplug all your cell phones, I pads, iPods, computers, televisions, radios, ect. and try to relax. Take this time to focus on family and prayer, The family that prays together, stays together. If you are not able to join us this day, choose a day that works for you and your family, even if it is just for one hour

8. Parish Mission Week – March 16, March 17 and March 18

## PARISH FOOD PANTRY

Through your generosity, we are able to help families in our local area with food. Please drop off food items in the white cart near the shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Your donations make a big difference to some one who is hungry. Many thanks!

## TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**What's the point?**

"What do you ask of God's church?" "Faith." "What does faith offer you?" "Eternal life." These two brief question-and-answer exchanges are part of the Rite of Acceptance celebrated in all parishes receiving new members this year at the Easter Vigil. Cradle Catholics seldom consider what they hope to "get" out of church membership, or what the purpose of a life of faith is. Faith isn't a set of rules to believe, and eternal life isn't something that awaits us in the afterlife. Faith means trusting in God. The everlasting returns on that trust begin immediately!

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). "I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living things."*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Keep it simple**

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." What if the secret to life boils down to this simple instruction that God gave to Moses? Lent, with its focus on prayer, fast, and almsgiving, is a perfect time to try your hand at holy living. But don't complicate things. The journey toward holiness really is as simple as feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty—whether physically or spiritually. It's all good, and it's all part of God's holy plan.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224). "Lord, when did we see you . . . and not minister to your needs?"*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**God would like a word with you**

Listening to God's word may sound like a difficult and mysterious task. But actually it is quite simple. God is a being of few words. In fact, the only word God ever utters is *love*—now and forever. Live that word and your soul will be healed. Enough said.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**One week in—how we do it**

Staying focused is one of the great challenges of our multi-tasking, multiplex lives. Lent is a week old and perhaps already forgotten in the rush to stay connected. Take 15 minutes tonight to completely disconnect from all devices and shut off all screens. Turn off the lights and sit in the dark and imagine yourself in Jesus' sandals a few weeks before Good Friday, knowing this life was nearing its end yet determined to stay focused on the mission. Would you be up to the challenge? Probably not—but that is why you have a savior. Thank him quietly in the dark for going the distance so you could see the light.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). "No sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah."*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Call your mother**

Among the many titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Our Mother of Perpetual Help, bestowed by Pope Pius IX in the 19th century and associated with a famous, 15th-century Byzantine icon of the same name. The icon, depicting Mary's motherly love for the Child Jesus, is enshrined in Rome. Redemptorist priests are entrusted with both care of the icon and propagating devotion to Mary under this title. Our Mother of Perpetual Help is always there for you, as is your Heavenly Father, waiting to hear from you, waiting to answer your prayers.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

**The sum of Christianity**

"What is the joy of God? It is to forgive!" Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Angelus. In this teaching, "is the whole Gospel; it is all of Christianity!" Take time during these weeks of Lent leading up to the glory of Easter to reconcile with God and others. Begin with a simple: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned," in a Confessional, and then offer the gift of forgiveness to others. The benefits will be immediate and lasting.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). "Leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother."*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Thank heaven for God's peculiar ways**

We are to be a people "peculiarly" God's own, according to Moses (Deut. 26:18). *Peculiar* seems an odd choice of words. But, in fact, it is quite peculiar that God calls us flawed humans to be his sacred people. Generation after generation has fallen short on God's commandments, particularly the call to forgive, which is the centerpiece of Jesus' mission and ministry. Luckily for us, God, the master of forgiveness, "never tires of forgiving us" as Pope Francis says in *Evangelii Gaudium*. Despite our shortcomings, we face each day knowing that God will be perfect in the love and mercy he shows us. How perfectly wonderful!

*TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

# **End of Bulletin**

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