



Our Lady of Mount Carmel St. Ann Parish

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
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
2/21/2015 & 2/22/2015**

4:00 PM Mass	\$1,568.00
8:00 AM Mass	\$325.00
10:00 AM Mass	\$928.00
11:30 AM Mass	\$1,003.00
Shared Envelopes	\$160.00
Total Mass Collections	<u>\$3,984.00</u>

Special Collections:

Weekend Envelopes –mailed in	\$1,173.00
Children’s Envelopes	.35
Fuel	\$330.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$30.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$5.00
Church in Latin America (second collection)	\$557.00
Easter	\$55.00
Good Friday	\$5.00
Easter Flowers	\$30.00
Catholic Free Press	\$120.00
Capital Campaign	\$297.00
On-Line Giving	\$267.50
Candle Offering	\$285.00
Total	<u>\$3,159.85</u>

Restricted Funds	\$1,009.00
Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$6,134.85</u>
Total	<u>\$7,143.85</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.

PLEASE MAKE UP YOUR PAST ENVELOPES!

The excessive snow and cold of this winter has critically impacted all of us, including our parish. Weekly collections have dropped dramatically and our plowing and sanding bills, along with our heating and electricity bills have placed an additional very serious financial strain on our parish. From mid-January to mid-February, our plowing and sanding bills alone have amounted to \$8,455; our heating bills were \$7,470; the electricity bills were \$3,000 for a total of \$18,925 for one month. Our payroll alone amounted to approximately \$12,000 for the same period. All this comes to \$30,925. At the same time, the collections amounted to approximately \$15,000, leaving a deficit of \$15,925 just for one month! This is on top of a deficit of over \$100,000 that has been accruing for years. We were forced to borrow from our savings, which are quickly dwindling, to pay these latest bills. **WE CANNOT CONTINUE ALONG SUCH A FINANCIALLY PRECARIOUS PATH FOR MUCH LONGER AND REMAIN SOLVENT. WE NEED YOUR HELP AND YOUR SACRIFICIAL SUPPORT.**

I plan to meet with our Finance and Pastoral Councils on Monday, March 9th to discuss options for our parish.

Monsignor Pedone

A SERIOUS CONCERN

Recently, city inspectors appeared at our church due to a complaint made by a parishioner to the city of chipped and falling paint in various sections of the building, particularly over the altar. I am certainly aware of this issue, as is anyone who visits this church. I was asked to remedy this problem as soon as possible and was informed that if another complaint is made, further action on the part of the city would be taken. The city, as we learned in dealing with the church fire alarm system, could seek an injunction from the court ordering that the work, which would include scrapping and repainting the church interior, be completed.

Several months ago, I received a bid of \$50,000 to scrape and paint the parking lot side of the church, which has serious issues of paint peeling from the ceiling and walls. That is something we cannot afford currently and it is only one section of the church. Several of you volunteered to help scrape and paint, and I am grateful. However, I was informed by the Diocesan Superintendent of Buildings and Facilities that this would be prohibited because it is against OSHA regulations and our insurance carrier would not cover us in the event that someone is injured.

If we are ordered by the city to remedy the situation as described above, I would have no choice but to close the church building and move all worship to the parish center, including all Lord’s Day and weekday Masses, funerals, weddings and baptisms.

In the interim, I am hopeful that we can reach a solution that is fiscally reasonable and responsible to this dilemma. I respectfully ask for your prayers.

Monsignor Pedone

PARISH MISSION – MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH, 17TH, 18TH at 7:00 pm.

On Monday, March 16th, Father Dennis O’Brien, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake in Leominster, will celebrate Mass and preach. The topic of his homily is “Listen With the Ears of Your Heart.” Mass begins at 7:00 pm.

On Tuesday, March 17th, Father Steven LaBaire, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Worcester, will celebrate a penance service and preach. The topic of his homily is “Lord Grant Me a Kind Heart, Cleanse Us of Our Indifference.” Several priests will be available to hear confessions. The penance service begins at 7:00 pm.

On Wednesday, March 18th, Father Charles Monroe, pastor of Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Worcester, will celebrate Mass and preach. The topic of his homily is “Freedom: What Is It For?” Mass will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please make every effort to attend and bring a friend!



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

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
Ellen Biancheria (Month's Mind) and **Ann Silvestris**
(Month's Mind) by Family and Extended Family

Monday, March 2, 2015—7:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Tuesday, March 3, 2015—7:00 a.m.

Nancy B. Donnellan by John Evangelista

Wednesday, March 4, 2015—7:00 a.m.

William and Theresa Scaglione by grandson, Michael

Thursday, March 5, 2015—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Friday, March 6, 2015—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Saturday, March 7, 2015—4:00 p.m.

Francis Grimaldi by mother Mary and Susanne

Sunday, March 8, 2015—8:00 a.m.

Susan and Catherine Petrone by Family

Sunday, March 8, 2015—10:00 a.m.

Virginia Pepi by husband Robert

Sunday, March 8, 2015—11:30 a.m.

Henry Covello (First Anniversary) by Wife
Emilia Garofoli (7th Anniversary) by Family



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.

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

William and Theresa Scaglione
By grandson, Michael

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.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

This annual appeal for the Diocese of Worcester serves 28 charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Through your generous support, we are able to serve thousands of families and individuals in Worcester County through outreach, formation, evangelization and worship. Our goal again this year is \$50,000. The last two years you as a parish successfully exceeded this goal. We are again asking for your generous and faithful support to this vital diocesan campaign. Our in-pew campaign will take place at all Masses the weekend of March 21st and 22nd. Please be generous!

THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

This year we will be having the Feast of Saint Joseph after the Mission Mass on March 18th. We will be serving zeppole and coffee in honor of Rosemary Zamarro. We will be charging \$5.00 to anyone who was interested and I would need a count by March 12.

**CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD EVERY TUESDAY
EVENING FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 PM AND SATURDAYS
FROM 11:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON AND AGAIN FROM
3:00 TO 3:45 PM. PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNI-
TY TO REFRESH AND RENEW YOUR SOULS DUR-
ING THIS SACRED LENTEN SEASON.**

During this season of Lent we are asked to take time to reflect and meditate on our lives and our relationship with God. Following is a meditation/reflection to the soul by Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. You may find this helpful during your journey through Lent as we look forward to Easter!

"You have a task, my soul,
A great task if you so desire.
Scrutinize yourself seriously-
Your being, your destiny;
Where you come from and where you must
rest.

Seek to know whether it is life that you are living
Or if it is something more.
You have a task, my soul, So Purify your life!

Please consider God and His mysteries,
Investigate what existed before this universe
and
What it is for you.
Where you come from and
What your destiny will be.
This is your task, my soul,
Therefore, Purify your life!

CCD 9th and 10th 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 9th** (9th grade presentations) and **Tuesday, March 10th** (10th grade presentations) starting at 6:30 p.m. We are looking for donations of cookies and pastries

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.

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

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.

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

LENTEN SCHEDULE MT. CARMEL UNPLUGGED

1. Each week put in the bulletin – Lenten Journey idea for Lent, read a Bible verse: 1st week visit a family member that you have not visited for a while.
2. Eucharist Adoration every Friday during Lent, from 3-6 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 at 6:30 p.m.
4. Tenebrae Service presenting the Seven Last Words—March 31st at 7:00 p.m.
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

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

TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Along for the ride

When you choose to follow God, amazing things can happen. The journey, though, takes faith. It requires listening and surrender; it means recognizing you're not in charge. You follow in the footsteps of a God who leads. Moments of transfiguration give guidance, while sacrifice challenges and fosters trust along the way. Life isn't a journey straight to the top. You can find yourself led to the highest of heights by the most unusual of paths. Being able to honestly declare, "Here I am, Lord," you give God the liberty to take you higher than you ever imagined possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26). "He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white."

MONDAY, MARCH 2

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Gift that keeps on giving

Jesus said: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." A version of this Golden Rule exists in all the major world religions—Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism—and the ethical idea dates back to antiquity in Babylon, Greece, China, Egypt, India. In psychology, it is the healthy ability to empathize, necessary to experience compassion—a truly universal rule that each person is required to universally apply. And the more it's practiced *by* you, the more it might be practiced *toward* you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). "For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

FEAST OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER; LENTEN WEEKDAY

The leader of the pack

Her family called her Kate. In girlhood she felt a vocation to the church but balked at obedience. She just couldn't take orders from a superior who might be "stupid," she told her spiritual director frankly. Also, life would be dreary if the community consisted of a bunch of "old maidish dispositions." Kate concluded religious life wasn't for her: "I hate never to be alone." The solution was simple. Katharine started her own vigorously active order with a rich contemplative lifestyle, hand-selecting the women she would lead. Follow wise leaders—or become one yourself.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). "Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Let an exam of conscience be your guide

Today is the first day of a novena in honor of Saint Francis Xavier, co-founder of the Jesuits. The novena is modeled on the Spiritual Exercises, and each day includes a focus on your relationship with God as it is *really* lived. For example, on Day 6, you are encouraged to make an examination of conscience, asking which thoughts, words, and actions that day you are most proud of and which you regret. Each day, an important tradition is stressed, but always focusing on the life and healing power of Francis Xavier. You can do this without a novena, but this devotion might jump start a deeper life of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232). "Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Growing tips for faith

Trees figure prominently in the Bible and often serve as symbols of our faith. Those who first heard the words of scripture—being people living on the edge of the desert—were quite aware of the special care trees require to grow strong and bear fruit: Droughts and floods, weeds and critters, and even the occasional curse from an angry messiah can kill a tree in short order. Care for your faith as you would a sapling. Weed and water and protect it against the elements. And be mindful of the seeds of faith you plant in others.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). "He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream."

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Let us pray

Today's World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement begun in the 19th century by Christian women so that they may "meet and pray with each other and [be] reminded to live a reconciling and forgiving life with others. . . . Anyone who wishes to join this movement makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice." This offers a focused and practical way of holding yourself to faith "in deed and not only in word." Find out more at www.wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/history-prayer/.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

A diary dear to all believers

In the third century, Felicity and Perpetua were imprisoned in Carthage because of their faith. While there, Perpetua kept a diary. It is one of only a few extant works written by martyrs in the early church who were women. The account conveys Perpetua's deep trust that the Spirit had not abandoned her and Felicity, but offered strength in the face of hardship and death. The story is part of the long Christian narrative about our God—always present, with us in all circumstances. Pray today with Felicity and Perpetua, reflecting on God's faithfulness in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). "You will show faithfulness to Jacob, and grace to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from days of old."

End of Bulletin

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