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# St. Mary and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes

**March 14, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent**


*Rejoice!*

**Laetare Sunday**



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called **Laetare Sunday**, from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" ('Rejoice, O Jerusalem').

Like Gaudete Sunday midway through Advent, Laetare reminds us of the event we look forward to at the end of the penitential season and the joy in anticipation of the Resurrection. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent.

 Catholic Fortress

*Rejoice!*

**St. Mary Parish**  
607 East Main Street  
Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania 15851  
814-653-8586  
Email: [stmaryschurch2@verizon.net](mailto:stmaryschurch2@verizon.net)

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**  
20 Shaffer Street (P.O. Box J)  
Sykesville, Pennsylvania 15865  
814-894-2772 Social Hall 814-894-7981  
Email: [abvmchurch20@gmail.com](mailto:abvmchurch20@gmail.com)

**Pastor – Father William R. Barron**

**Shared contact information:**

**Web address:** [www.stmarysassumption.com](http://www.stmarysassumption.com)

**Parish app:** search "myParish – Catholic" to download app

**Fax number:** 814-653-2769

Mass Intentions

<b>Monday, March 15 — St. Mary’s</b> Dr. Sam Earley By Joyce Snyder	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 16 —Assumption</b> Marge Varacallo By Steve & Barb Cook	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 17- No Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday, March 18- St. Mary’s</b> Madelyn Tomasura By Monica Bobal	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday, March 18</b> <b>Stations of the Cross—St. Mary’s</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Friday, March 19— St. Mary’s</b> Deceased Members of The Coates Family By Gerry Bembenick	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday, March 20 -Assumption</b> Ed Felix, Sr. By Russ & Mary Withrow	<b>4:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday, March 21— Assumption</b> All Parishioners of both Parishes	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Sunday, March 21 — St. Mary’s</b> Anthony J. August By Joyce & Family	<b>10:30am</b>

Ministers Schedule for March 20-21, 2021

	<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
	<b>(ABVM)</b>	<b>(ABVM)</b>	<b>(St Mary)</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>			<b>M. Hannah</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>F. Rosana</b>		<b>D. Bowley</b>



Sacrificial Giving

<u><b>Mar. 7</b></u>	<u><b>St. Mary</b></u>	<u><b>Assumption</b></u>
Collection	\$2,650.00	\$2,240.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 461.00	\$ 479.00

Thank you for your generosity!

CSA—Catholic Services Appeal

	<u><b>St. Mary</b></u>	<u><b>Assumption</b></u>
<b>CSA Goal</b>	<b>\$20,301</b>	<b>\$19,312</b>
<b>CSA Paid</b>	<b>\$ 7,305</b>	<b>\$ 2,840</b>

Thank you for your continued support.

Sanctuary Candles

<u><b>In Memory of:</b></u>	
<b>Larry Wells</b>	By: Aunt Serveria & Uncle Gary
<b>Doug Smelko</b>	By: Mom & Dad
<b>Agnes Murone</b>	By: Toni & Larry
<b>Thomas &amp; Rose Garofallo,</b>	
<b>Mary &amp; Patsy Manco,</b>	
<b>George, Albert, Peter, &amp; Edward Manco,</b>	
<b>Peter Manco, Jr.,</b>	
<b>Santo, Frances, Patrick, &amp; James Manco,</b>	
<b>Oliver, Josephine, Arlene &amp; Katheleen Meme</b>	
	By: Edward Manco Family

Information

<b>Prayer Chain</b>	<b>Anointing of the Sick :</b>
St Mary 653-2752	Call Fr. Barron 814-503-0028
Assumption 661-3894	

Parish Spotlight ~ From the Pastor’s Desk

**Rejoice! Laetare Sunday is here.**

It’s optional, but I’ve always liked it when the Church’s sacred ministers wear “pink” on Laetare Sunday or the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The day’s theme comes from the entrance antiphon reflecting on Isaiah 66:10-11: “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast.” *Laetare* is the first word — meaning “rejoice” — in the Latin text. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent’s Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy during our Lenten fasts and penances. Call it pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolized in a few other interesting liturgical possibilities. During Lent, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal forbids flowers adorning the altar. But on Laetare Sunday (as well as solemnities and feasts within the season), there’s a temporary halt to these penitential observations! At one time, marriages were generally forbidden during Lent, but Laetare Sunday was often associated as a day when marriages could be celebrated during the penitential season. While marriages are now only forbidden on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, Laetare Sunday is still a fitting day for those wishing to be married before Eastertide.

Nature’s annual cycle is characterized by two phenomena, light and life. Out of the darkness of night comes light; out of death comes life. The transition from night to light characterizes the winter season; the transition from death to life is proper to summertime. The holy year of the Church is likewise divided into two phases which have similar characteristics.

In other words, nature and the mysteries of our salvation coincide. The dark color of violet in Advent harmonizes well with the diminishing sunlight late in the year, and in Lent with the silence of life through Winter leading up to Spring. In both cases, we see a parallel. Just as darkness gives place to light at the turn of the Winter Solstice and death to life at the beginning of Spring, so the violet of Advent gives place to the bright white of Christmas joy, and of Lent to the brightness of Easter life. But wouldn’t black be more appropriate as a color of darkness and death?” someone might wonder. Ah, here again we encounter the Church’s wisdom! Black is the absence of all color and light. But as “children of the light, we are never in complete darkness. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Laetare Sunday is the Church’s way of giving us a “shot in the arm” as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It’s an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

Being aware of traditions and customs assists us in celebrating the beauty of our faith. As you can see, there is much associated with even a nondescript day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent — not to mention the rest of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond. Take advantage of the richness of our Catholic traditions.

## PARTNER PARISH NEWS

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS #890** will hold their regular monthly meeting Monday, March 15 at 6:30 pm at the St. Mary's Social Hall in Reynoldsville. We will have our annual White Elephant Auction. We ask all members to wear a mask and we will practice social distancing. Any questions please call Angela Deemer at 375-0344

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY** is accepting applications for preschool for the 2021-2022 school year. Tuition assistance applications are available. Please call the school at 814-371-2570 for information.

**LENTEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES** at St. Catherine of Siena Church in DuBois will be held on Sunday evenings during Lent; March 14, & 21 beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be Meditation, Scripture, Reflection, and Music. Guest speakers are as follows: March 14 - Dr. Lisa Witherite-Rieg, March 21 - Fr. James Gutting.

**CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be available after all masses at both churches with the exception of Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass at Assumption because I need some travel time and set up time for 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Fr. Barron

**TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS:** Fr. Bill will be the celebrant at a Solemn High Mass on Solemnity of St. Patrick, Patron of the Diocese of Erie, on March 17th. This Liturgy will be in the form of the Traditional Latin Mass. The Mass will be offered at 6 p.m. at St. Casmir Church, 629 Hess Avenue, in Erie. Deacon will be Fr. James Power and Subdeacon Fr. Joseph Patrone. The liturgy should conclude around 7:30. If you are interested in a carpool to this Mass, contact your parish office to make arrangements.

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:** will be held on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There are 3 different ways to attend: 1. Live in-person at Our Lady of Peace in Erie, (limited to 250 people), 2. virtual at Satellite parishes via Zoom, which one of those being St. Mary's Church Social Hall in Reynoldsville, or 3. virtually via Zoom at your own home. At St. Mary's Church, Father Bill Barron will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m., then there will be a light breakfast immediately after Mass. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. Father Larry Richards will be the Master of Ceremonies. There will be 2 amazing speakers, Caralyn Collar, writer and speaker for BeautyBeyondBones blog and Alyssa Bormes, Catholic educator, author, speaker, and radio host on Catholic Kaleidoscope. The morning will conclude with a light lunch and opportunity for confession. Registration forms will be available on the table as you enter the church. If interested, please complete the form and drop it at the office or in the collection basket, or mail it to St. Mary's Church, 607 East Main St. Reynoldsville, PA 15851. Deadline to register is March 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost: donation only! For more information, please call Betsy Stover at 653-2740 or Jill Bowley at 590-1177.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** I ask for this year that you sit along the middle aisles for Stations to keep social distance from the minister as he walks. I am pleased to have the assistance of Deacon Dan Satterlee in leading Stations of the Cross for Lent 2021. Stations will take place as typical on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Here are the dates and locations: Thursday, 3/11 – Assumption; Thursday, 3/18 - St. Mary's; Thursday, 3/25 - Assumption

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES** I would anticipate the scheduling of some type of communal penance service towards the end of Lent in late March. However, this is scheduled by the Dean, Msgr. Riccardo, and not myself, and so I will notify you when dates are confirmed. Fr. Barron

**HOLY TRIDUUM 2021:** We will observe the regular order for the sharing of the Triduum services between St. Mary's and Assumption. This means that, in 2021, it will be St. Mary's turn to host Holy Thursday Mass and the Easter Vigil, and Assumption's turn to host Good Friday services.

**FUNERAL DINNERS:** Effective immediately, the social halls of both Assumption Parish and St. Mary's Parish will be open for funeral dinners after funerals at the respective churches. Please note, however, that the Altar Rosary Societies of both parishes are predominantly made up of people who are the "at risk" part of the population for serious complications from the Coronavirus. Therefore, if you wish to use either social hall for a dinner after a funeral mass, you must provide for your own caterer. We cannot at this time expect the Rosary Society to facilitate your funeral dinner. Whenever that would change, I will let you know. Fr. Bill Barron

**HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES:** Visitation to the Nursing Homes is still limited to clergy assigned to the home. If you have a family member who needs to be visited at Christ the King Manor, please contact Fr. Matias at the Manor. He will be happy to visit and if necessary, provide the sacraments. If your loved one is in another nursing home, please call the parish in the town that that home is located, and ask the pastor for guidance. Fr. Ed Walk is the chaplain at the Dubois hospital, and can make visitation freely throughout the hospital. Fr. Bill Barron

**LIVESTREAMING OF MASS** - Mass will continue to be livestreamed daily.

**SUNDAY & HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** - The obligation to attend these Masses is not in effect. No one is required to attend mass in person at this time.

**FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS** - Please note that you are allowed to have non-family and extended family attend funerals and weddings again. The seating capacity for Assumption Church given social distancing is 60. The capacity for St. Mary's is 85. There is overflow seating with the closed circuit tv in the St. Mary's Social Hall for an additional 40-60 people. We are working on installing a closed circuit tv at Assumption Social Hall that will seat an additional 30 people. All attendees at funerals and weddings, except for bride and groom and those "in the wedding" must wear masks for the duration of the service.

**BAPTISMS** can proceed freely. Please call to schedule a baptism anytime.

**NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** Fr. Bill is posting new YouTube videos giving spiritual guidance and direction during this time of challenge you can find our new channel on YouTube by searching for St. Mary's and Assumption Parishes on YouTube.

**SIGN UP FOR THE PARISH APP:** Text APP to 88202 to download our parish app. 1) Download my Parish App 2) Select our Parish after opening.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Visit our parish website on the homepage and click on your parish icon to take you to the portal for online giving registration, or press the icon on the myParishApp called giving to take you to the portal.

## ST. MARY'S NEWS

**TURKEY TAKE OUT DINNER** will take place at St. Mary's Social Hall on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. Dinner includes Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Cole Slaw, Roll, and Dessert. Cost is \$10 per dinner. Pick up dinners in the parking lot beside the church. \*\*\* **We have already met our 150 reservations, but we will know if we have any extra dinners by Tuesday, March 23rd, so if you would like to be on a list, call Betsy Stover at the office – 653-8586.**

**FLOWER MEMORIALS:** In your packet of contribution envelopes, you will find an offering envelope for Easter Flowers. Please use this envelope by writing the names of your deceased loved ones on the envelope and dropping it in the collection basket at any Sunday Mass or put it through the mail slot at the office by March 28<sup>th</sup>. The names of your loved ones will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## ASSUMPTION'S NEWS



**30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LENTEN FISH DINNERS** will take place in the Assumption Social Hall in Sykesville on the Fridays of Lent: March 19 & 26<sup>th</sup>. **TAKE-OUT ONLY! MASK REQUIRED.** The dinners will be available from 4 – to 6:00 p.m. or Sold Out! Social Distancing will also be used in line. Menu: Breaded or Baked Fish or Shrimp Dinner. Meals include: Homemade Macaroni & Cheese or Haluski, Baked Potato, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter & Cake. Adults:\$10.00; Children 12 & Under: \$4.00. 50/50 Drawing each week. Ample Parking – Handicapped Accessible.

**FLOWER MEMORIALS** – In your packet of contribution envelopes for March you will find an envelope designated for Easter Flowers. Please use this envelope for your Easter Remembrances of Deceased Loved Ones by writing their names on the envelope and dropping it in the collection basket at any weekend mass at the entrance of the church or putting it through the mail slot at the rectory office now through March 27/28<sup>th</sup>. Names of Memorialized Loved Ones will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.