

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The season of Lent starts this **Wednesday, February 14th**. Ash Wednesday Masses will be held at **10:00 a.m.** at **Sacred Heart** and **6:00 p.m.** at **St. John the Baptist**. We have the rare coincidence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day converging on the same day. Many people may see this as incongruous, as Ash Wednesday is a penitential day in the life of the Church and Valentine's day is celebration of romantic love. Nevertheless, this incongruity should remind us of the backbone of romantic love – sacrificial love or as Greeks say, *agape*. This type of love, the gift of self for the good of another, should be the basis of all relationships, particularly the relationship of marriage, where husband and wife mutually seek the good of each other. The season of Lent is a time when we should grow in sacrificial love, desiring to love God and neighbor more. Our penances and sacrifices remind us to do this. (Catholics are asked to fast and abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** and to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent. More details, as well as exceptions, are explained elsewhere in this bulletin.) Ashes, also, remind us of our own mortality. This, in turn, should lead us to put our lives more in God's hands, our creator and Father, who desires us to live with Him in eternity.

World Day of the Sick falls on **February 11th**. It coincides with World Marriage Day which is celebrated the Sunday before Valentine's Day. We should remember in our prayer all married couples and all of our sick brothers and sisters. Both of these days remind us of two of the Church's sacraments – the Anointing of the Sick and Matrimony. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the sick person is united more closely to Christ, sharing in the Lord's Passion. The sacrament strengthens the sick person against discouragement and despair as they deal with their illness. It can also provide healing for the body and the spirit. It can provide forgiveness of sins to those unable to confess their sins. It is given to Catholics who have reached the age of reason and have begun to become seriously ill, are facing surgery or even dying, although one does not have to be dying to receive the sacrament. Matrimony, of course, is that covenant in which husband and wife establish a partnership for the whole of life, ordered to each spouse's good and the procreation and education of children. Christ infuses both sacraments with His grace and both the sick and married couples witness to God's presence in their lives.

I pray that you all have a good week and a good Lent.

Fr. Kitsmiller

Associate Administrator

Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun., 2/11	9:30 a.m.	Joyce Tisone by Carl Tisone
Mon., 2/12	5:30 p.m.	Clara Zari by William Lalli
Wed., 2/14	6:00 p.m. Ash Wed.	Viola DelGreco by Dan & Betty Jo LaPenna
Sun., 2/18	9:30 a.m.	Carmela Nardella by Luisa Stefanelli
Mon., 2/19	5:30 p.m.	Antonio Frissora Mr. & Mrs. Ed Chadwick

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun., 2/11	11:00 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting (Marrapese)
Mon., 2/12	6:00 p.m.	Italian Village Men's Faith Sharing Group (Marrapese Hall) SJB Women's Faith Group (Classroom)

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Blessed Sacrament: Nicholas A. Cenci by Chris Soteriades

Marian Lights: Virginia & Dominick Finissi

by Norma Jean & Bill Finissi, Sr.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sun., 2/11 9:30 a.m.	Gabe Bishop, John Snoad	Pete Tamburro, Ed Pagnanelli, Leslie Pasion, Judy Pishitelli & Antonio D'Alberto
	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sun., 2/18 9:30 a.m.	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto	Margi Baker, Andrea Myers, Sharon D'Alberto, Marge Contino & Margaret Panico-Harn

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in Hospitals, Nursing Facilities or Homebound suffering.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL
AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS**

MOTHER ANGELINE McCROY: Marie Tarantelli

****If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input.**

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around **9:00-9:05 a.m.**, and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact the Men's Faith Sharing group. Leaders for **February** are:

February 11	Vincent Davis
February 18	Leslie Malek-Pasian
February 25	Carl Tisone

2018 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

February 11 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31–11:1/Mk 1:40-45

February 12 – Weekday

Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

February 13 – Weekday

Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20–6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

February 15 – Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

February 16 – Friday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

February 17 – Saturday after Ash Wednesday

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

***Pray for our Priest and seminarians**

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

February 4, 2018

Number of Envelopes Used – 31

In Envelopes: \$1,065.00 Loose Money \$129.00

Regular Collection	\$ 1,194.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (71.64)
	\$ 1,122.36
Votives	\$ 36.20
Catholic Times	\$ 17.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 5.00
	\$ 58.20

\$? \$? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? \$? \$?**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/17-6/30/18)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 1,194.00	-\$ (1,691.00)	-59%
FYTD:	\$ 89,435.00	\$ 90,629.00	-\$ (7,217.89)	-2%

SJB Collection Counters for**Monday, February 12, 2018**

Maruja Paule, Donna Veri, & Darlene Rauch

SJB Collection Counters for**Monday, February 19, 2018**

Mary Spellacy, Maria Lucchin & Nick Perschetti

**Office Hours:**The Parish Office hours are **Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church: announces the **2018 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program**. If you are a high school senior student of Italian descent, attending Central Ohio High School, and accepted to an accredited two or four-year College or university in the U.S. for the 2018-2019 academic years, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been sent to central Ohio high school guidance counseling offices. All application materials (application form, activity listing, personal recommendation letter, school recommendation and transcript, and personal essay) must be received at St. John's no later than **2:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2018**. For information, call **St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church at 614-294-5319**. For more information, go to www.sjbitaliana.com. **Under Current Events.**

Watterson High School Italian Festival Project Immigration

History: We invite you to assist us! The Italian Language Students from Bishop Watterson, will be interviewing our church members born in Italy, on **Sundays: February 25, March 4, and March 11th after Mass**. The interview will be videotaped and conducted by the student. The project goal is to document the history of our **St. John's** families, and the nature of St. John's as the conduit for the creation of a new community for the immigrant. This finished project will be presented at Watterson and at The Columbus Italian Festival **2018**. Please email landa7@mac.com to sign up or contact **Rhonda Frissora at 614-599-3695** or **Landa Brunetto at 614-579-1150** for further details, Thank you!

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY BREAKFAST: St. Joseph Day Breakfast will be **Sunday, March 18th** starting at **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in Marrapese Hall. This year will have a scrumptious brunch right after Mass. We invite anyone to bring the classic desserts for sharing at the St. Joseph Table. We also encourage an outpouring of assistance for Holy Family Food Kitchen. Please bring personal hygiene items or hats, gloves and scarfs for men, women and children. If you would like to participate on the committee, please contact **Landa Masdea Brunetto at 614-579-1150** or landa7@mac.com. We would like to welcome the participation of THE PIAVE CLUB which will be helping **Vince Millitello** and the committee to make this another wonderful after-Mass breakfast. Tickets will be sold after Mass starting TODAY! See Margaret **Panico-Harn**.

Catholic Times Weekly Newspaper: Thank you to all new and returning readers of the **Catholic Times**. Contact the parish office if you missed the special collection and learn how to sign up for the upcoming year for a minimum donation of **only \$17.00** (less than 39 cents per issue). As an evangelization tool, Bishop Campbell encourages all Catholic households in the diocese to receive and read our diocesan newspaper, the **Catholic Times**. You need the **Catholic Times** to keep up on all of the news throughout the diocese and the Catholic world.

AROUND US

Ash Wednesday is February 14: At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, ashes are blessed during Mass, after the homily. The blessed ashes are then "imposed" on the faithful as a sign of conversion, penance, fasting and human mortality. The ashes are made from the palms used at the previous Passion Sunday ceremonies.

Church Regulations Regarding Fasting and Abstinence during

Lent: Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics **fourteen years and older** on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday applies to all Catholics from age 18 through age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Those who are ill or pregnant may be dispensed from their obligation.

World Day of the Sick: February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. **Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in hospitals, nursing facilities or homebound.**

Holy Father's Intention for the Month of February:

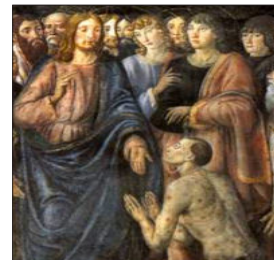
You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for the following intention:

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.



"We need to see with the eyes of faith, the beauty of God's saving plan which is the link between the natural environment and the dignity of the human person."

~ Pope Francis



He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. – Mark 1:41-42

An Act of Kindness

It was but a sunny smile,
And little it cost in the giving,
But it scattered the night like the morning light
And made the day worth living.
It was but a kindly word,
A word that was lightly spoken,
ET not in vain for it chilled the pain
Of a heart that was nearly broken.
It was but a helping hand,
And it seemed of little availing,
But its clasp was warm, it saved from harm
A brother whose strength was failing.