

Ash Wednesday (February 18)
Masses at 6:45 am, 12:10 pm, 7:00 pm

Lenten Daily Mass Schedule
Monday 9:00 am
Tuesday Communion Service 9:00 am
Wednesday 10:00 am
Thursday 6:45 am
Friday 6:45 am & 9:00 am

St. James Parish Community

The Parishioner

Upcoming Events

Lenten Mission w/ Fr. David McCallum
February 21/22 preaching at all Masses
Feb. 23-25 Spiritual Spring Training 7:00pm

Soup Suppers 5:30 pm
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18

Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm
Wednesdays, March 4, 11*, 18
(*6th & 8th Grade Stations)

St. James Fish Fry 5:00-7:00 pm
Friday, March 6, Caz College Dining Hall

Mystery Players - Living Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 20 7:30 pm

1st & 9th Grade Liturgy 11:00am
Sunday, March 22

Palm Sunday - All Masses
Sunday, March 29

Leave The Light On Reconciliation Time
Monday, March 30 4:00-7:00 pm

Lenten Newsletter



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FINDING YOUR PERSONAL DESERT

In preparing for Lent, a question many of us ask ourselves is: *What will I give up for the forty days and forty nights that take us to Easter?* The idea of “giving up” something we enjoy: chocolate, peanut butter, a glass of wine, soda, (or the more painful deprivations from my childhood...a package of Oreos or a box of Twinkies!) centers on the principal that denying ourselves of such things will make us better people.

Actually that can be true if “giving up” has the purpose of freeing us to take time to talk with God about what we need to change in our life or how by faith we can be more aware and focused on our purpose...being the best student, parent, friend or servant to others.

When Jesus spent forty days and forty nights in the desert, he was deprived of the ordinary things of everyday life; living only on basic foods, separated from the distractions of the world, its noise, “busy”ness and talk. Jesus freed himself to talk to God and to reflect on how to fulfill his purpose. After forty days, Jesus is changed and more focused by this lifestyle of simplicity.

Forty days of giving up the things that are a part of our everyday life can do the same. We can be changed by depriving ourselves of the conveniences of our modern lifestyles, including our 24/7 use of technology for communication, information and entertainment. Time away from something we enjoy or think we “need” can free us to spend time with Jesus, praying or reflecting on change or how to be better focused on our life’s purpose. Even 30 minutes a day in our own “desert” can create powerful transformation.

Lent is an opportunity to become something better or at least more focused on what we are called to do with the help of the Jesus who is always with us.

Fr. Kevin

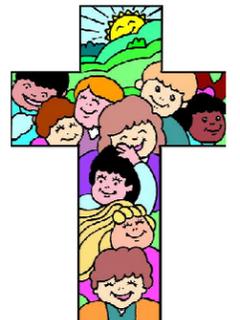
SACRAMENTAL PREP NEWS

Congratulations to our young children in the Sacramental preparation program who celebrated their First Penance on February 7! The service, which started with the children singing “*Oh, How He Loves Me,*” was heartwarming.

In four Saturday morning preparation sessions, the students learned about forgiveness and God’s mercy through the Gospel stories of the Good Shepherd and the Prodigal Son. The children were taught about making good, moral choices and following God’s commandments. Their parents participated in the program by studying at home with their children, attending each session’s prayer service, and having their own faith formation group while their children were in class. Faith formation and preparing for the Sacraments is truly a family journey of faith. We are also blessed with the support of the people involved in this program. Special thanks to: **Michelle Blanchard, Kathryn Eberst, Brian Eberst, Susan Green, Diana Berger, Joan Stoker, Jean Shepherd, John Addante,** and of course, **Father Kevin,** for giving of their time and talents and sharing their faith.

The next step for these children is preparing for the **Sacrament of First Eucharist.** Classes will begin on Saturday March 14, 2015. The reception of the Sacrament will be celebrated at the **11:00 Mass on Sunday, May 3.** Please keep these children and families in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith. God bless them!

Sandra Addante



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www.stjamescaz.com

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Stations of the Cross: A Lenten Practice for All Ages and Stages of Life



Stations of the Cross, a form of meditation designed for personal reflection on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ offers contemporary Christians the opportunity to examine how closely we are living the call to discipleship.

During Lent 2015, St. James will offer 4 diverse versions of Stations of the Cross. All are invited to partake of these opportunities for meditation that promise to be a meaningful and much-needed respite from the pace of modern life.

The first three Wednesday evenings in March will feature a different interpretation of the Stations at 7:00 pm, each preceded by a Soup Supper at 5:30 pm. Make an evening of it by sharing a simple meal with others, then attending Stations.

Returning this year on March 4th are the poignant Marian Stations. Listening to the voices of various women reflect on Jesus' Way of the Cross through the eyes of his mother, Mary, often evokes a strong emotional response. It matters not whether

you are a mother yourself... empathy, compassion, heartbreak, and resolve are universal human emotions certain to be challenged with this rendition of the Stations.

On March 11th, our 6th and 8th graders will reprise Stations as interpreted through the lens of teens and tweens. The crosses that burden middle school and junior high students will be explored as we consider how Jesus walks with people of all ages through the challenges of growth and change.

New this year, the Pope of the People offers a meditation on Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection on March 18th. While we can't promise Francis in the flesh at St. James, his words are certain to be a thought-provoking experience and a fitting culmination to the Soup Supper/Stations series.

Finally, for the first time in a number of years, St. James will be hosting a Living Stations of the Cross. On Friday, March 20th, be sure to join us at 7:30 pm as the Mystery Players of Immaculate Heart Central School in Wattertown present this powerful meditation. Teri Smithers, St. James parishioner and IHC alum, states "The Mystery Players are a must during Lent. The impact of their performance is profound and must be experienced firsthand."

Still wondering how the practice of Stations of the Cross can enhance your Lenten experience? Check out Aaron Hostetter's blog, *Walk With Me: How Praying the Stations Can Boost Your Lent* at:

<http://lifeteen.com/walk-praying-stations-can-boost-lent/>

See you at Stations!

Blessings-
Sr. Rose Casaleno,
Youth Ministry

IHC Mystery Players present THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A beautiful and powerful meditation of Jesus' Passion and Death

Friday, March 20th
7:30 pm
St. James, Cazenovia

All Welcome
Free Will offering



Mustard Seed News



Just before Christmas there was a terrible fire in South Otselic. The biggest building in the center of town burned to the ground. The loss was unbelievable. A general store, the sheriff's office and nine apartments all gone. Families had to find a place to stay nearby so that the children could continue in school. One family, a grandma and two grandchildren were able to relocate across the street. The apartment was less than ideal, but with the help of the Mustard Seed, Grandma could pay the security deposit and first month's rent. Several parishioners, after hearing of the fire, stepped up with furniture, mattresses and Christmas gifts for the whole family. This outreach made it possible for the children to stay in school and salvage a new way of celebrating Christmas. Thanks to the generous support of our faith family, we were able to help these fire victims.

Ron Huftalen, Mustard Seed Outreach



SPIRITUAL SPRING TRAINING A Lenten Mission with Fr. David McCallum

February 21/22 Fr. David will preach at all Masses
February 23-25 7:00pm



Evening 1: Finding our Inner Room
Evening 2: Finding God in Our Lived Experience
Evening 3: Encountering Jesus

Lent. A four letter word?

Lent /lent/ noun
the period preceding Easter that in the Christian Church is devoted to fasting, abstinence, and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In the Western Church it runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and so includes forty weekdays.

LENT. A four-letter word. (No, not in that sense...but if it is for you, read on!)

FAST. PRAY. GIVE. On the surface, three more 4-letter monosyllables. But look closer. Each is a verb. An action.

So to what actions are we called during this liturgical season? And what are some practical ways of incorporating the disciplines of fasting, praying, and giving as a means to deeper spiritual growth?

While **fasting** traditionally refers to abstaining from food and/or drink, perhaps it would be helpful to think of other areas of our lives from which we would benefit from fasting...abstaining from Facebook? Gossip? Impulse purchases?

And **praying**...how might we develop a daily habit of not just speaking to God, but genuinely listening for His voice?

Giving. Again, while traditionally defined as almsgiving, what about giving of ourselves? Visiting someone who is homebound, trying out a ministry, playing a board game with a child?

As we enter the season of Lent, in what ways is God calling you to the disciplines of fasting, praying, and giving? Just as pruning a fruit tree at this time of year is a practice designed to give **new life**, so too are the practices of Lent designed for **individual renewal and growth**.

Blessings of growth and change-
Kelli Johnson, Coordinator of Faith Formation

Some resources to explore:

www.bustedhalo.com/lent



Center for
Action and
Contemplation

<https://cac.org/richard-rohr/daily-meditations>

<http://www.csricebowl.org/what-is-lent/>

