WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST:

WEEKEND MASSES
5:00 pm: Saturday Evening
9:30 am: Sunday Morning
11:30 am: Sunday Morning

WEEKDAY MASSES
8:30 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at 1:00 PM on the first Sunday of each month. Arrangements must be made in advance with a member of the Pastoral Staff. Please note that there are no baptisms during Advent and Lent.

Marriages Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance and participation in the Diocesan Pre-Cana Program is required. Please call the Rectory to schedule an appointment with Fr. Frank who will discuss the necessary details.

Sacrament of the Sick In the event of serious illness, please call the Rectory and request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Communion for the Homebound Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to those unable to join us for Eucharist. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Confessions First Saturday of the month in the church from 4:00-4:30 PM. By appointment for all other times.

WHO IS WELCOME IN ST. SAVIOUR CHURCH?

Are you a sinner? Have you been away from the church for a long time? Are you divorced or separated? Are you physically or mentally challenged? Are you from a different culture? Are you not accepted because of your sexual orientation? Are you elderly, a teen or young adult? Are you discriminated against because of your color? Are you feeling broken? Are you poor or out of work? Have you been imprisoned? Have you a feeling that you are left out? You are welcome here! This is your home, and we are your family!
February 21, 2021

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

It’s hard to believe that another season of Lent is here already. Each year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes right before the celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening. As you can see from being in church, the predominant color during this liturgical season is purple—a reminder to all of us that we are in a season of penance—asking the Lord to forgive our sins and to give us the courage and the strength to be faithful to the Gospel.

But exactly how did the Season of Lent develop? You see, by the end of the 2nd century, two great festivals were being celebrated in the Church: Pascha and Pentecost. The Pascha today refers to the Triduum (which begins Holy Thursday evening and concludes on Easter). Pentecost was a 50-day celebration which followed Pascha. This 50-day celebration remembered Christ’s passion, death and resurrection. Lent was a later development. Initially, the Christian community prepared for the 50-day festival with fasting and penance. It was also a time where catechumens (persons preparing to enter the faith) began a more intense preparation in order to be baptized and welcomed into the faith at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. At the beginning, fasting for Christians only lasted about 1-2 days, and later was extended to one week—and they would begin their fasting by reading the Passion Account of Jesus. By the 4th century, the period of fasting was extended to 3 weeks, and later to 40 days.

The title LENT comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning “spring.” It was often associated with the seasonal change from winter to spring. The old Latin Missal (Missale Romanum) calls this period “Tempus Quadragesimae,” which means “40 day period of time.” Our Church defines Lent as “a preparation for the celebration of Easter, a time of renewal when members of the community recall their baptism, and a time of reconciliation with each other before the feast of Easter.”

The central theme of the liturgical season of Lent is CONVERSION: a radical redirection of one’s whole life according to the Gospel of Jesus. Thus the season of Lent affords us the opportunity for communal conversion and reflection on the demands of the Gospel—and this can only be achieved in the spirit of a prayerful heart.

Let us allow ourselves the opportunity to enter into this season of Lent with both feet on the ground and with a genuine desire to achieve that radical redirection of our lives based on the Gospel. It’s not going to be easy (I know!), but let’s give it a try. Good Luck!

Until next week, God Bless.

Father Frank
We still have Mass Intentions available for both weekday AND weekend celebrations of Eucharist. Please consider having a Mass celebrated for a loved one or family member—either living or deceased. We are ALL in need of prayers, and there is no greater prayer than the celebration of Eucharist. Each Mass Intention is only $15.00. If you are interested in having a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or in honor of someone who is living, please call Emily at the Rectory and she will be more than happy to assist you.

Please Remember the Poor

We kindly ask ALL the members of our parish family to remember the poor as they leave church each Sunday. The monies collected in our poor boxes are used to assist in the ministry of our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. These monies enable us to provide food, clothing, and other essential needs to people who come to us seeking assistance. Sadly there are too many Sundays where there is very little in our poor boxes a the back of church.. During this season of Lent let’s ALL make a commitment to take a little more seriously one of the traditional disciplines of Lent—PRAYER, ALMSGIVING, and FASTING. Thank you so much!

“We The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them.”

– St. John of the Cross
The Bishop has issued the following directives that must be strictly adhered to:

- ALL MASSES are limited to an attendance of 25% of the capacity of the church while still adhering to the norms of social distancing.
- If you are advanced in age and have health problems please stay home*.
- If you feel sick or have a fever over 100 degrees please stay home*.
- If you are health compromised please stay home*.
- If you wish to enter the church you must bring a mask and wear it.
- You may be seated ONLY in the designated pews.
- To protect you and your fellow worshippers, receive Communion in the hand.
- Please do not touch or kiss any of the statues or sacred images in the church.
- There are to be no group gatherings /or/ communal devotions until further notice.

(*Bishop DiMarzio has absolved older adults with health problems and ANYONE with compromised health from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass. You may watch the Celebration of Mass on television on the Diocesan Channel NET-TV: Spectrum (channel 97), Optimum (channel 30) and FIOS (channel 48).

The Celebration of Mass may also be viewed online at: www.netny.tv).
For centuries, one common practice during the season of Lent has been the praying of the Stations of the Cross. This prayer has enabled people to walk with Jesus toward Calvary and share in His passion and death. We invite ALL members of our parish family to join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross together this Lent. Here at Saint Saviour Parish, we will pray the Stations of the Cross each Sunday morning during Lent.

(February 21; February 28; March 7; March 14; and March 21) immediately following our 9:30 a.m. Celebration of Eucharist.

LENTEN PRAYER with Sister Mary Walsh

Our God is a “God who is rich in Mercy and has Great Love” Ephesians 2:4

I invite you to spend an hour praying together with me as we explore our relationship with God over this past year. There will be time for prayer and reflection.

Saturday, March 13th 10-12 AM
Monday, March 15th 7-8 PM

Both sessions are the same and will be on line using zoom. If you wish to participate please email me and I will send you the zoom invitation.

My email: mwalshcsj@gmail.com

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY

Your faithful support is needed now more than ever. The most needed items now are peanut butter, tuna, soap, toothpaste and toilet paper.