



PENANCE -The Renewal of the Heart

Through Jesus
the forgiveness
of sins is
proclaimed
to you.

Acts 13:38



If GOD FORGIVES our sins and we accept that forgiveness, then why should we do penance? "PENANCE" has more than one meaning. Penance is one name for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but it also refers to voluntary actions that express sorrow for our sins and desire to draw closer to God.

Penance is a part of continual conversion to Christ. In baptism, we receive the life of Christ; throughout our lives Christ calls to us to renounce sin and seek salvation.

Penance is especially important for this upcoming Lenten Season (February 26) when the Church asks us to reflect on our baptism, acknowledge our sins and return to the Lord.

More than a set of mechanical actions, penance is a matter of the heart. This interior conversion or desire to reorient one's life toward God and away from sin seeks outward expression in various forms of penance. The church recommends fasting, prayer, donations and works of charity, helping others, which express conversion in relation to ourselves, God and others.

PENANCE IS AN ACTION - A particular penance may be given by the priest as part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Penances are also actions we choose ourselves in order to express our sorrow for sin and our desire to share more fully in the life of Christ.

PENANCE IS AN ATTITUDE - Sorrow for our sins and a determination to turn to God and away from sin. An attitude of interior conversion, penance helps us recognize and be sorry for our sins.

PENANCE IS A SACRAMENT - which the bishop or priest acts for the Church in the place of Christ to forgive sins. It is necessary to confess mortal sins and small faults (venial sins) as a means of spiritual growth and experience the healing power of Christ.

† PARISH FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY †

- Sunday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward Nycz, offered by family
Sunday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m. +Jennie Kolba, offered by family
Sunday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. +Richard & Barbara Plahanski, offered by family
Sunday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. +Frank, Edward, Steve & Ray Szczepanski, offered by a friend
Sunday, February 16 at 9:00 a.m. +Bishop Francis Hodur
Sunday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m. Emil Kotasek, offered by Michael/Beverly Kotasek & Anna/Bill Lenkiewicz
Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday - Services at 9 am and 7 pm

I acknowledge the following who have given of themselves in time, labor and material offerings to our parish:

- ☺ to Robert & Hallie Kovey for their \$1,000.00 church donation
- ☺ to Rob and Debbie Benzi for their time and labor helping around the parish complex
- ☺ to our Men's Society for treating the parish family at a social evening at Jonathan's.
- ☺ readers are needed for the evening service of Ash Wednesday on February 26
- ☺ be sure to read and review our parish by-laws in this month's newsletter
- ☺ to our Men's Society for donating \$200.00 to Mercy House for the terminally ill.
- ☺ your personal 2019 offering statement will be available on Sunday, February 2.



I would like to express my profound appreciation to our parish council and parish family for the generous gift given to me on the occasion of my 50th Anniversary of Ordination (January 8) at the end of mass on January 6.

I did not publicize the anniversary but to some it was a milestone that should be acknowledged - Thank You!

So now, I will begin to work on the next twenty five years, toward seventy five years. taking it a little at a time toward the next plateau.

Once again thank you and God Bless . FDR

Please remember the following in your prayers, with a card or call:

Florence Ottman at Ideal Living Center

Christina Dyman

Edward Ambrose

Mike Cushner

Dolores Butora Duke

Peter Dyman III

Alice Spach

Dave Kelley

Mae Raychel at St. Louise Manor

Wanda Raychel Broczkowski

Ed Samuelson

Privacy laws do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to inform priests of admission. Family members must make this notification to the priest upon admission and discharge.





Lay readers are needed for the Ash Wednesday evening service on Wednesday, February 26, Stations of the Cross, I would like to recruit now four [4] adult/teenage readers for the service. Each reader would read the two narratives of the station assigned to them from the church pulpit. Please contact Fr. Ruda as soon as possible if you would like to participate.



Valentine's Day

Why are love letters signed with an "X" for a kiss? The custom dates back to the Christian era when a cross mark or X symbolized a sworn oath. The cross was a religious symbol, referring to the cross of Calvary. It is also the first letter of the Greek word for Christ.

People who could not write could use the X as a legal signature. Those who could write placed the cross after their signature to show good faith and honesty. To emphasize their sincerity in a formal agreement, the person was required to kiss the mark {as the Bible was frequently kissed when an oath was sworn upon it.} This practice of writing the letter X led to its becoming a symbol for a kiss.

As a courtesy, umbrellas are available in the church vestibule for those moments when rain unexpectedly arrives while you are in the church. However, these umbrellas are slowly disappearing. If by chance you have used one - please on your next visit to the church return it so others might be able to benefit from it if the need arises.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

The Holy Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26, with Ash Wednesday. It is a forty day period of self-renewal and sacrifice. Also during this time we should refrain from eating meat products on Wednesdays and Fridays as a part of fasting.

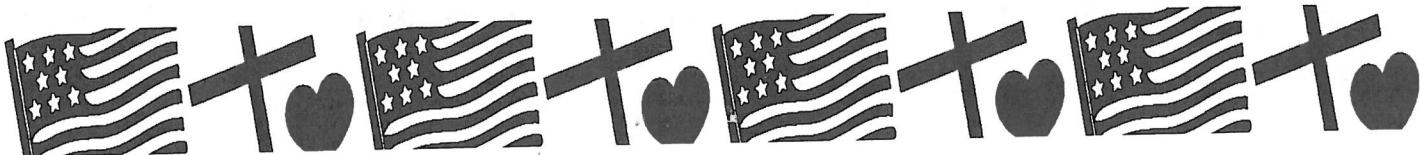
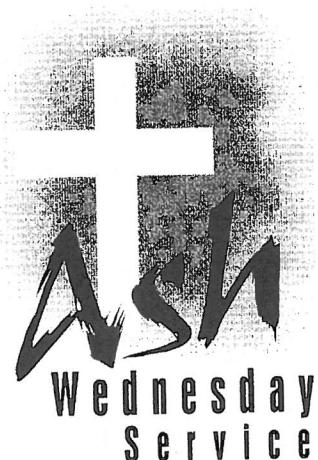
The following services have been scheduled for Ash Wednesday for your spiritual benefit:

Wednesday, February 26 at 9:00 a.m. - Stations of the Cross, Blessing of Ashes and marking of foreheads.

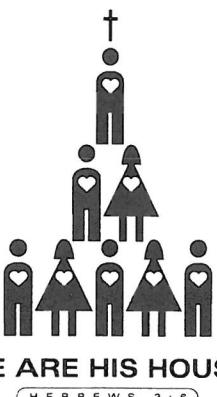
Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross with marking of foreheads.



ASH WEDNESDAY



YOU ARE THE CHURCH



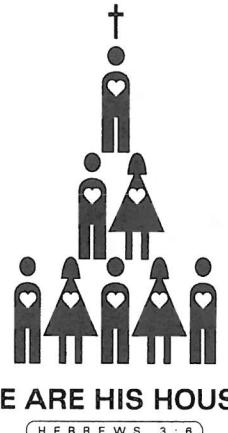
WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6

The bricks and mortar, the pews, and all that goes to make the building are not the church.

The Church is YOU! You are the Church. Its strength and its weaknesses are revealed in you. What you are, the church is also.

You are the Church, The power of its devotion to God, truth and humanity is the measure of your devotion. *You are the church. Yours is its faith. Its worship is expressed through you.* No one can take your place



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6

"I will praise the Name of God with a song" - Psalms 69:30

Our weekly choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:45 PM. We welcome anyone who would like to join us! If you like to sing for God and can carry a tune, just come to a rehearsal. Comfortable seats - good view!

The adult choir has been rehearsing music for the rapidly approaching Lenten season and all the way through the end of the school year. We have many new and inspiring (and exciting) anthems for the congregation to enjoy! You may listen to most of our Sunday anthems at www.jwpepper.com.



Our Sunday School students have been enthusiastically rehearsing for their performances with the adult choir on February 23, and for Sunday School Closing on April 26.

Our thanks to Theresa Borkowski for her \$25 donation for a beautiful rendition of "The Old Rugged Cross", in honor of her late husband Joseph on the occasion of what would have been his 100th birthday on April 2. The anthem will be sung on March 29.

I would like to remind parents of their responsibility of sending their children and teens of the ages 8 to 15 years who have received their First Communion to monthly confession on the first Sunday of each month.

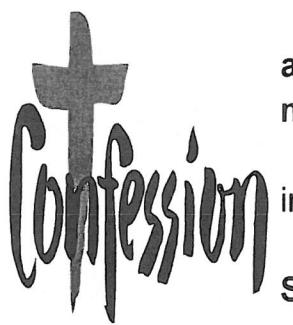
Church law states that these communicants must go to monthly confession in order to worthily receive Communion.

Private confessions are heard from 8:30 a.m. until 8:55 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

The winter weather again has caused many uneven sections of our sidewalks and black top areas around the parish complex.

Please be careful and watch out for uneven or sunken parts, especially in the parking lot.

These problems usually correct themselves once the frost is out of the ground.



All Saints National Catholic Church
42 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City, NY 13790

PARISH BYLAWS

INTRODUCTION

Every true Christian should be an active Christian, taking an active part in the life of the Church, participating in its services of worship, listening to the preaching of the Word of God, sharing its good news with others in the community, partaking in the Sacraments of the Church, heeding the precepts of the Church, and laboring for the establishment of God's Church on earth.

The motto of the National Catholic Church is "**By Truth, Work and Struggle, We Shall Be Victorious**". The aim of the National Catholic Church is not to dominate the people but to serve, to help, to lead onward and upward toward the ultimate realization of God's Church on earth.

SPIRITUAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE PARISH

1. Each member of the Church (parish) is required to receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance at least twice a year, but especially during the Advent and Lenten seasons.
2. It is the duty of a parish family member who knows of any parish family member who is ill, or who desires to receive Holy Communion, to bring it to the attention of the pastor or a member of the Parish Council.
3. It is the duty of all member parents to raise their children in the light of Christian principles. A main way of fulfilling this duty is to urge the child or adolescent to attend the School of Christian Living (Sunday School) and all religious services and programs offered by the church. This also will maintain a closer relationship between child and parent.

MATERIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE PARISH

1. Membership fees are set by the Parish Council and congregation during the yearly congregational meeting held in January. A family unit (husband and wife) and a single unit (widow, widower, and single) must pay these membership fees to be parish family members in good standing. A single person must become a member when financially independent.
2. Every adult member is required to have offering envelopes (or an assigned number) and use them. This helps to meet the current expenses of the parish. It is suggested that every member donate a minimum of \$3.00 per week in their envelopes, if possible, for the upkeep of the church, rectory, and parish center.
3. Other contributions and donations for various projects and needs may be given of the member's own free will.
4. **If a member fails to meet the parish financial obligations without a reason acceptable to the Parish Council, membership in the parish will be canceled. If, however, the delinquent obligations are satisfied, membership, with its rights and privileges, will be restored.**
5. Every member fulfilling the required obligations shares in the rights and privileges guaranteed by these Bylaws.

(Over)

6. **Burial in the parish cemetery is reserved for members in good financial standing with this PARISH or any NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH.** A person who leaves the Church, neglecting the material obligations to the parish, will not be considered a member in good standing. The parish has the right to withdraw the cemetery deed, burial lot, and rights. If the deceased person's family is willing to satisfy the delinquent financial obligations, the right of burial in the cemetery will be reinstated, with the concurrence of the Parish Council. To satisfy the financial obligations (*as voted on and approved by the Parish Council on March 29, 1978*), "delinquent parish dues must be paid at the current rate up to a maximum of five years and \$3.00* a week per envelope for 52 weeks for each year. This situation can occur only once; if it occurs a second time, fees must be paid as far back as they are delinquent. If the individual cannot pay, arrangements can be made through the Parish Council for payment."
- * The amount will be reviewed by the Parish Council annually and amended, if necessary, to adjust to the rate of inflation.

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Members of the National Catholic Church are expected to appreciate the brotherhood of their church fellowship by becoming members of the various organizations and to respect and understand the aims and goals of the societies for the betterment of our National Catholic Church.

Our parish has many organizations for its members: Young Men's Society of Resurrection, Women's Society of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday School PTA, Christian Youth Group, altar servers, parish choir, Polish National Union of America Branch 73.

Bylaws were adopted on May 6, 1970.

Revisions to the Bylaws were made and passed on June 3, 1984, and January 21, 1996.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE PARISH FAMILY OF ALL SAINTS????



What makes you a member of the Christian Community? What makes Christian members of a Church? What makes you a member of your Church? **Support, Cooperation and Attendance** seem to be the most appropriate terms to use when measuring our membership in anything.

Either by birth or by your own conviction, you might think you are a member of All Saints Church, but are you a **registered and supporting member?** a. Do you regularly attend church to worship God? b. Are you willing to be helpful and work for the good of this parish? c. Are you willing to contribute to the support of the church with your participation and attendance?
d. Are you really concerned with the welfare and well-being of the parish?

If you do not support the church, who will? If you do not cooperate with your church, who will? If you do not take part in the services and activities of your church, then who?