

Journeying Together

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ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE  
Watkins Glen, NY  
ST. BENEDICT'S  
Odessa, NY



Dear parishioners,

January 30, 2024

Do you realize that Easter falls on March 31st this year? That means Ash Wednesday is February 14th. (Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstaining from meat so make your Valentine's Day plans accordingly!)

Lent will begin just two weeks after this letter is mailed. Have you thought about what you will do for Lent? I encourage you to give this some thought. Jesus died on the Cross for you. What are you willing to do for him? Are you going to give something up? Then, make sure you give up something important to you to make it a true sacrifice. I suggest you consider giving up a non-church activity to make some time for the Lord. If you don't come to Mass every Sunday, this would be a good time to start. If you do not normally attend daily Mass, perhaps this is the time to start, maybe one day a week or all four (daily Mass is at 8 am at St. Mary's of the Lake on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays). How about attending our Lenten Holy Hours? Would you consider attending one of my presentations (see below)?

You will find our schedule for Ash Wednesday and Fr. Jeff's presentations at the bottom of this page. On the back side of this letter, you will find the rest of our schedule for Lent and Easter through Divine Mercy Sunday. The Lord will be there. When will you join him?

Peace,

Fr. Jeff

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

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### Two New Presentations by Fr. Jeff

Following the Second Vatican Council there was a significant falloff in both frequency of confession and Mass attendance. If you didn't go to Confession, then you didn't receive Communion. Since Vatican II many people seldom, if ever go to confession. Vatican II did not change the teaching on the frequency of confession or Mass attendance.

Fr. Jeff will be offering a presentation on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> entitled ***Why Should I Go to Confession?***. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, he will offer one entitled ***Why Should I Go to Mass?***. He will talk about the obligation for both confession and Mass. He will focus on ***why we should want to go*** to confession and Mass.

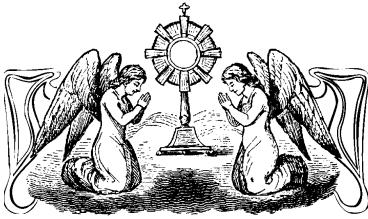
If you would like to attend in person at St. Benedict's at 1:30 pm, please let Fr. Jeff know by either calling the office or emailing him at [fr.jeffrey.tunncliff@dor.org](mailto:fr.jeffrey.tunncliff@dor.org). If you would like to attend via the webinar at 6:30 pm, please email Fr. Jeff and he will send you the link to register.

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> —Ash Wednesday—Masses with the Distribution of Ashes

St. Mary's of the Lake  
8:00 am and 12:05 pm



St. Benedict's  
6:30 pm



**Spend Friday Evenings with Jesus**  
**Same Time and Place—7:00 pm St. Mary's of the**  
**Lake but with a New Format**

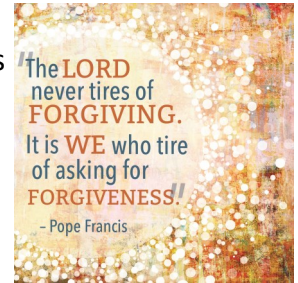
We will begin with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. After we complete the Stations of the Cross, there will be Eucharistic Adoration until 8:00 pm..



On March 1<sup>st</sup> we will have First Friday private Adoration from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm (time subject to change if there is a funeral). At 7:30 pm we will end Adoration with Benediction. We will then have Stations of the Cross.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- Every Saturday afternoon (except March 30<sup>th</sup>) - 3:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Benedict's
- Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Mary's
- Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's
- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Benedict's
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Mary's
- Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's



**Holy Week Schedule**

- Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>—We will be distributing palms at all Masses (normal Sunday schedule)
- Daily Masses will be as normal (8:00 am) on Monday & Wednesday
- Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>—at 6:00 pm—Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral (time TBA contact Rose for carpooling)
- Holy Thursday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm (at St. Mary's) followed by Adoration until 10:00 pm
- Good Friday (March 29<sup>th</sup>)
  - 3:00 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion (at St. Mary's) - Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion)
  - 5:00 pm—Divine Mercy Novena at St. Mary's
  - 7:00 pm—Seven Last Words Service at St. Benedict's
- Holy Saturday (March 30<sup>th</sup>)
  - 11:00 am Easter Food Blessing—For this year, we are going to resume our tradition of hosting an Easter Food Blessing in the link. This is based on a Polish tradition of bringing some of the food for your Easter meal to be blessed.
  - 7:30 pm—The Easter Vigil (at St. Mary's) —the highest liturgy of the year (Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>))
- Easter Sunday Morning
  - 6:00 am at St. Benedict's followed by breakfast
  - 8:00 am and 10:00 at St. Mary's of the Lake



**Divine Mercy Novena at St. Mary's of the Lake**

- Good Friday (March 29<sup>th</sup>) - 5:00 pm
- Holy Saturday (March 30<sup>th</sup>) - 8:00 am
- Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>) - 6:00 pm
- Monday—Friday (April 1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup>) - 3:00 pm
- Saturday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) - 8:00 am



**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter (April 7<sup>th</sup>, normal Sunday Mass schedule). There will be a Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Adoration from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.