

*Journeying Together*

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



Dear Parishioners,

February 3, 2026

On February 18<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Ash Wednesday to begin our season of Lent.

This year, during the fourth week of Lent, on March 19th, we will celebrate the installation of Bishop John Bonnici as the Tenth Bishop of Rochester. We pray for him and that he will be a great shepherd for us, helping us to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

What are you going to do this Lent to show Jesus gratitude for all He has done for you? You will find the schedule for Ash Wednesday Masses at the bottom of this page with the rest of the schedule for the coming celebrations on the back side of this letter.

- Will you give some time to Jesus by spending one hour with him Friday nights during Lent at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's for Stations of the Cross and Adoration?
- If you don't already, how about coming to Mass every Sunday? How about a weekday Mass every week?

Lent is a time when we are called to examine our conscience. If we find that we have sinned, we can confess them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have not gone to confession in a long time, you can find guidance on my website at <https://renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation/>.

When Holy Week comes, I offer you strong encouragement to attend a liturgy each day of the Easter Triduum. It is a very sacred time. On Holy Thursday we celebrate Jesus giving us the Eucharist and the priesthood. On Good Friday, we celebrate Jesus' sacrificing his life *for* us. Then, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection as Jesus shows us that death has no power over him.

Peace,

**Save the Date—Eucharistic Procession  
on Corpus Christi, June 7<sup>th</sup> following  
the 10 am Mass**

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.

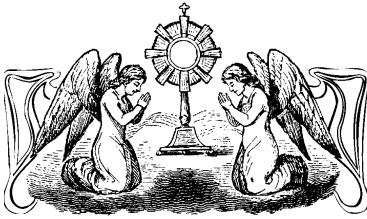
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Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> —Ash Wednesday—Masses with the Distribution of Ashes

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

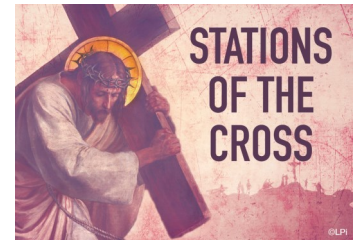


St. Benedict's  
6:30 pm



### Spend Friday Evenings with Jesus 7:00 pm at St. Mary's

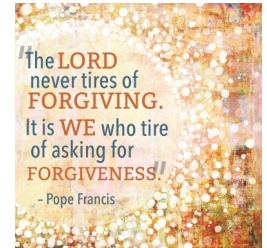
We will begin with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. After we complete the Stations of the Cross, there will be Eucharistic Adoration until 8:00 pm.



On March 6<sup>th</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 and begin the Stations of the Cross.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Every Saturday afternoon (except April 4<sup>th</sup>) - 3:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Benedict's
- Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, at - 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Mary's
- Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's
- Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Mary's
- Diocesan Day of Penance—March 24<sup>th</sup> — 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm at St. Mary's
- Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's



**Seder Supper at St. Benedict's on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (corrected date!), following the 5:00 pm Mass. Please RSVP to the parish office at 607-535-2786 by March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Our Seder Supper honors our Jewish Ancestry of the Passover. It includes readings, prayers, telling stories, eating special foods and other Passover traditions. Following the Seder, a shared meal is served for all who attend.

### Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday, March 29<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
- Holy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm (at St. Mary's) followed by Adoration until 10:00 pm
- Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</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 (April 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - 11:00 am Easter Food Blessing (in St. Mary's Link) - This is based on a Polish tradition of bringing some of the food for your Easter meal to be blessed.
  - 8:00 pm—The Easter Vigil (at St. Mary's) —the highest liturgy of the year
- Easter Sunday Morning (April 5<sup>th</sup>)
  - 6:00 am at St. Benedict's followed by a dish-to-pass breakfast
  - 8:00 am and 10:00 am at St. Mary's of the Lake



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

- Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) - 5:00 pm
- Holy Saturday (April 4<sup>th</sup>) - 8:00 am
- Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>) - 6:00 pm
- Monday—Friday (April 6<sup>th</sup>—10<sup>th</sup>) - 3:00 pm
- Saturday (April 11<sup>th</sup>) - 8:00 am



### Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter (April 12<sup>th</sup>, normal Sunday Mass schedule). There will be a Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Adoration from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.