

Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages **February/March 2022**

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 29th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: January 25, 2022

“Dear children! Today I am calling you to return to personal prayer. Little children, do not forget that Satan is strong and that he wants to attract all the more souls to himself. That is why, you be vigilant in prayer and resolute in the good. I am with you and am blessing all of you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call. ”



See a rose Pray a Rosary!



BISHOP LUCIA NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC www.syrdio.org:

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HEAVEN CALLS—IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with joy as we celebrate the Holy Family? Between the events which marked **Christmas** and the beginning of **Christ's** public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family. That we may become holy too?

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2022

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of **Jesus** and is also known as **Candlemas** day. The Presentation or **Our Lord** bridges the two seasons, Christmas and Easter! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramental that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes February 11, 2022

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three

years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to **Bernadette Soubirous**. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "**I am the Immaculate Conception.**"

The pilgrimage of Lourdes is founded on the apparitions of the **Blessed Virgin** to a poor, fourteen-year-old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous**. The first apparition occurred February 11, 1858. There were eighteen in all; the last took place July 16, of the same year. Bernadette often fell into an ecstasy. The mysterious vision she saw in the hollow of the rock Massabielle was that of a young and beautiful lady. "Lovelier than I have ever seen" said the child. But the girl was the only one who saw the vision, although sometimes many stood there with her. Now and then the apparition spoke to the seer who also was the only one who heard the voice. Thus, she one day told her to drink of a mysterious fountain, in the grotto itself, the existence of which was unknown, and of which there was no sign, but which immediately gushed forth. On another occasion the apparition bade Bernadette go and tell the priests she wished a chapel to be built on the spot and processions to be made to the grotto. At first the clergy were incredulous. It was only four years later, in 1862, that the bishop of the diocese declared the faithful "justified in believing the reality of the apparition". A **basilica** was

built upon the rock of Massabielle by M. Peyramale, the parish priest. In 1873 the great "national" French pilgrimages were inaugurated. Three years later the basilica was consecrated and the statue solemnly crowned. In 1883 the foundation stone of another church was laid, as the first was no longer large enough. It was built at the foot of the basilica and was consecrated in



1901 and called the **Church of the Rosary**. **Pope Leo XIII** authorized a special office and a Mass, in commemoration of the apparition, and in 1907 **Pius X** extended the observance of this feast to the entire Church; it is now observed on February 11.

Through that humble girl, **Mary** revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the significance of **Our Lady of Lourdes** for the diocese. The **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907**.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of **Jesus' healing miracles** now performed at the intercession of His mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film **The Song of Bernadette**: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, located in Syracuse, are currently leading virtual pilgrimages. (www.lourdesvolunteers.org)

Bernadette was born on January 7th 1844, into a loving and devoted family. As a young 14 year old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous had 18 visions of the Blessed Lady** in a grotto in the outskirts of Lourdes. She died in 1879 at the Convent at Nevers. She received Beatification in 1925 and Canonization in 1933 under **Pope Pius XI**, not so much for the content of her visions, but rather for her simplicity and holiness of her life. 30 years after her death, **St. Bernadette's** body was exhumed and found to be intact. Since 1925, the body of **St. Bernadette** is preserved in a shrine in the chapel of the Convent of St. Gildard of Nevers.

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter February 22, 2022

This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by **Christ** on **Peter**, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present **Pope**. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined **ex cathedra**



dra, and to all the acts of the ordinary **Magisterium**.

"We shall find in the Gospel that **Jesus** to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church. **Christ**, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; among the twelve He chose one. The first, Simon, who is called Peter. Here, in a second separation, **St. Peter** is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which **Jesus Christ**,' says **St. Mark**, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which **Jesus Christ** imparts to him. It is to him that **Christ** speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. To prepare him for that honor **Jesus Christ**, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**. By that bold preaching of the faith he draws strength."

Do our hearts ring out with great anticipation as we start the season of **Lent**, on our journey to Easter morning and the fulfillment of the message of **"Eternal Salvation"!!!**

Ash Wednesday Lent March 2, 2022

The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the **Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum)**. Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent

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in the desert in fasting and prayer (CC 540,1095, 1438).

The season of Lent is the time the church gives us to re-examine our lives in the light of the word and the call of **Jesus: "Be converted and believe in the Gospel"** and in the light of **Our Lady's** messages of prayer, penance and sacrifice given to us for many years.

Lent (the word "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten", Meaning "springtime") lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Vespers of Holy Saturday - forty days and six Sundays. The Latin name for Lent, **Quadragesima**, means forty and refers to the forty days Christ spent in the desert which is the origin of the Season. The last two weeks of Lent are known as **"Passiontide," made up of Passion Week and Holy Week. The last three days of Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - are known as the "Sacred Triduum."**

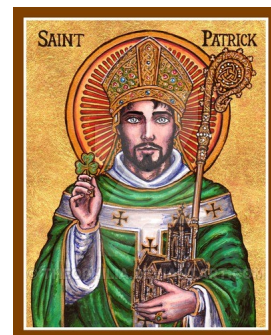
The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament times. Ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."** Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from **God**.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the **Palm Sunday** celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that **God** is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

Feast Day of St. Patrick

March 17, 2022

We are now in the beginning of three feasts of March (almost always in Lent) that are not part of the **Lenten Season**. Two are included in the Sanctoral (saint) Calendar, and only one is integral to the **Temporal Cal-**



endar (following the life of Christ). These are stand-alone feasts that provide a little refreshment and celebration in Lent: March 17—St. Patrick, March 19—St. Joseph, and March 25—the Annunciation.

He was ordained by **St. Germanus**, the **Bishop of Auxerre**, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to **Ireland**. **Patrick** was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for **God** in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival.

Feast Day of St. Joseph March 19, 2022



St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, was probably born in Bethlehem and probably died in Nazareth. His important mission in God's plan of salvation was "to legally insert Jesus Christ into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Messiah would be born, and to act as his father and guardian" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*). Most of our information about **St. Joseph** comes from the opening

two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel. No words of his are recorded in the Gospels; he was the "silent" man. We find no devotion to **St. Joseph** in the early Church. It was the will of God that the Virgin Birth of Our Lord be first firmly impressed upon the minds of the faithful. He was later venerated by the great saints of the Middle Ages. **Pius IX** (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church.

March is the month of devotion to **St. Joseph**, whose feast falls on March 19th. The date of the solemnity of **St. Joseph** dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to **St. Joseph** became part of tradition.

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "**Foster-father of Jesus.**" About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man—an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: **Joseph** was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.

Of **St. Joseph's** death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of **St. Joseph** began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Sts. Brigid of Sweden and Bernadine of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.

The Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2022

The feast of the **Annunciation of the Lord**



celebrates the angel **Gabriel's** appearance to the **Virgin Mary** (**Luke 1:26-38**), his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the mother of **Our Lord**, and **Mary's fiat**—her willing acceptance of **God's** holy plan.

Originally a feast of our Lord, but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the **Feast of the Annunciation** dates back at least to the fifth century, and the date of the feast, which is determined by the date of **Christmas**, was set at March 25 by the seventh century.

March 25 is the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord** in the Roman Catholic Liturgical Calendar. The mystery of Mary's cooperation in God's plan has inspired some of the most profound reflection in the Christian tradition. As well it should.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, *What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.* (**CCC#487**) Years ago a reflective book entitled *The Prayer of Mary: Living the Surrendered Life*.

Mary's "Yes" is called the **Fiat**: in Latin, "**Let it be done.**" Mary's Fiat was spoken from a heart filled with love for God. In a Biblical context, "heart" is a word that means much more than the fleshy organ at the center of our chest cavity. It refers to our center, the core of each of us, the place where our deepest identity is rooted, and from which our fundamental choices about life are made.



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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

To prepare our readers for the upcoming Liturgical season of Lent, the February newsletter is being combined with March. All future newsletters will contain information in preparation for the upcoming month. Mary's monthly message from Medjugorje will be one month behind but will be available on our website and Facebook page.

We ask for your prayers for the Marian Center: Holy Mary, "chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother"; Jesus gave you to us at the Cross. We pray for your intercession that the mission given by God to the Central New York Marian Center will be fulfilled. May we, your children, give our Fiat for His Will to be done. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Queen of Peace, Queen of Divine Mercy,** pray for us. Amen. *spoken by Our Lady in her February 2, 2020 message **From 12/31/19 homily of Archbishop Luigi Pezzuti.*

For more information: www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Email: cnymariancenter@gmail.com
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Important Notice to Our Readers

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