

Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

March 2025

5180 West Taft Rd, North Syracuse NY 13212

cnymariancenter@gmail.com

Hours: Mon. — Fri 9am– 5pm Phone (315) 452– 4698

Website: cnymariancenter.com

Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 33rd year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: January 25, 2025

“Dear children! In this year of grace, I am calling you to conversion. Put God, dear children, in the center of your living and the fruits will be love towards neighbor and joy of witnessing; and the holiness of your life will become a true witness of faith. 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 great anticipation as we start the season of **Lent**, on our journey to Easter morning and the fulfillment of the message of **“Eternal Salvation”!!!**

As we continue our journey "up to Jerusalem" during the month of March, three prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, baptism, and penance.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. And if you are Irish (who isn't), St. Patrick's feast is another cause for a joyful celebration. The feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25.

The month of March is dedicated to **St. Joseph**. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of **Lent** which is represented by the liturgical color **purple**, a

symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Memorial of St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin March 3, 2025



Katharine Drexel was born in Philadelphia in 1858. She had an excellent education and traveled widely. As a rich girl, she had a grand debut into society. But when she nursed her stepmother through a three-year terminal illness, she saw that all the Drexel money could not buy safety from pain or death, and her life took a profound turn.

She had always been interested in the plight of the Indians, having been appalled by reading Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor*. While on a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O'Connor. The pope

replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?" His answer shocked her into considering new possibilities.

Back home, she visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud and began her systematic aid to Native American missions.

She could easily have married. But after much discussion with Bishop O'Connor, she wrote in 1889, "The feast of Saint Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored." Newspaper headlines screamed "Gives Up Seven Million!"

After three and a half years of training, she and her first band of nuns (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored) opened a boarding school in Santa Fe. A string of foundations followed. By 1942 she had a system of African American Catholic schools in thirteen states, plus forty mission centers and twenty-three rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. In all, she established fifty missions for Native Americans in sixteen states.

Two saints met when she was advised by Mother Cabrini about the "politics" of getting her order's rule approved in Rome. Her

crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first university in the United States for African Americans.

At seventy-seven, she suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Apparently her life was over. But now came almost twenty years of quiet, intense prayer from a small room overlooking the sanctuary. Small notebooks and slips of paper record her various prayers, ceaseless aspirations and meditation. She died at ninety-six and was canonized in 2000.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.



Ash Wednesday Lent March 5, 2025

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 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**.

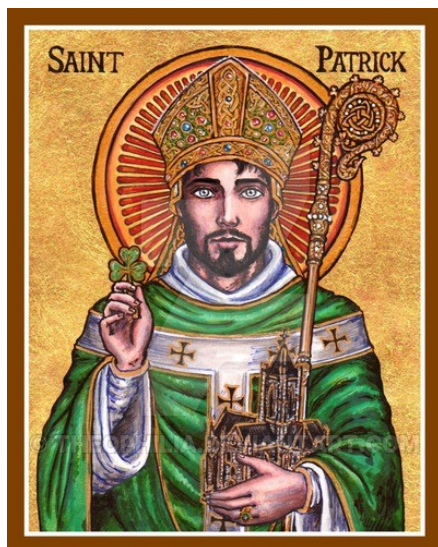
The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the **Palm Sunday** celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that **God** is gracious and merciful to 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, 2025

We are now in the beginning of three feasts of March (almost always in Lent) that are not part of the **Lenten Season**. 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**.

For Catholics who follow the Liturgical Calendar closely, deciding how to celebrate these days in Lent can be as controversial as **Sundays in Lent**. Do we stick to the austerity of Lent and change the way a solemnity is celebrated? Do we forego family celebrations or special patronal feasts (like **St. Patrick**) because they fall into Lent? Or do we accept the spirit of the day? How does the Church celebrate these feasts?

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

most popular saints. He was born in **Roman Britain** and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to **Ireland** as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, **Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God** and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote:

"The love of **God** and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. 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.

There, he converted many people eventually thousands and he began building churches across the country. He often used **shamrocks** to explain the **Holy Trinity** and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

It is believed that **Patrick** may have introduced the **Celtic cross**, which combined a native sun-worshipping symbology with that of the Christian cross.

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.

He died at **Saul**, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in **Down Cathedral, Downpatrick**. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

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

Feast Day of St. Joseph

March 19, 2025



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, accord-**

ing 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 prominence.

At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order. Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his deathbed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

The Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2025

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.

This is what Mary's **Fiat** is all about. In saying Yes to God, as Mary did, we are able to discover the path to conversion, to holiness, to authentic spirituality. Our call to embrace the **Fiat** and to make it our own is not a formula for easy spiritual growth, nor is it the first in a series of steps that lead to solving the problems of life. The spiritual life is a path, a Way, and it involves a continuing, ongoing walk with the **Lord**.





Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

5180 West Taft Road

North Syracuse, NY 13212

Phone: (315)452-4698

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.

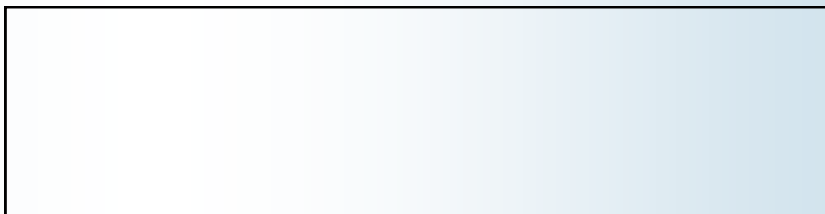
U.S. Postage

PAID

Syracuse, NY

13220

Permit No. 1817



CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

Want to know more about us? Check out our website or email us to receive our weekly EMailChimp with events and activities at the Marian Center and other venues.

Please join us in praying 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: Email: cnymariancenter@gmail.com; cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Central New York Marian Center, 5180 West Taft Road, North Syracuse 13212

Important Notice to Our Readers

March Newsletter Contribution Form

With our addition of rosary making and distribution we have expanded our evangelization. We thank volunteers who help now and invite others to learn rosary making or help in varied ways. Thank you to all those who have notified us of address changes, deletions or email-preferred. ***If you are receiving this and wish to be removed or receive by email, please contact us at 315-452-4698 or email cnymariancenter@gmail.com.*** You can also receive the newsletter on our weekly EmailChimp. We are a 501C3 Non Profit organization and appreciate your support. We are in the process of updating our website with a donation field for your convenience. We hope you will stop in soon and visit.

Name _____

Address _____

Thank you for your prayers and help to spread the Gospel through Our Lady's Messages and the Rosary.

March 2025 Please check one: New Subscription Renewal Phone #