

We are **Church of the Presentation**,
a welcoming Catholic community leading people
into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
through **Word, Worship, and Outreach.**

March 30, 2025 / Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)



Centering Prayer Retreat Day Saturday, April 5 (9:45am-3pm)

Join us for a special day of renewal as we reflect on our lives with Centering Prayer, scripture reading, and healing meditation. Come as we shed all that keeps us from our living in peace in the present. We will meet in the Jerusalem Room. Please bring a bagged lunch.



Celebrate the Grace-Filled Sacrament of Reconciliation During Lent



Priests are always available by appointment & will also be available for Confession at the following times with no appointment necessary:

† **Weekdays** after 9:00am Mass.

† **Saturdays** from 3:30pm-4:45pm.

† **“Reconciliation Day” - Next Saturday, April 5** - Come to the church anytime between 9:30am & 3:00pm.

† **Tuesday, April 15, 7:00pm** - Our communal Pardon & Peace service ends with an opportunity to receive Confession. All are welcome!

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support

Our **Support Group** is virtual on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30pm-8pm. The group will meet next on **April 30**.

Facilitated by Debby Montone, RN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, & Certified Dementia Support Group Facilitator from the Greater NJ Alzheimer's Assn. To receive the Zoom link, email Michele at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org

SPECIAL PROGRAM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 10

10am in the Jerusalem Room or via Zoom

Debby Montone will be hosting a program for caregivers on **Having Difficult Conversations**. You may attend in person or join via Zoom. Please RSVP to Michele at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org or ext. 847 & let her know whether you'll be attending in person or via Zoom. She'll send you the Zoom link.

Easter Sharing

- † Take a slip or two from the **“Sharing Board”** located in the Narthex.
- † Contributing **supermarket gift cards**; please bring them to the gift box in the Narthex.
- † **Tuesday, April 15**, at 10:00am: Sorting, packing, assembling food & carving hams (*RSVP to 201-327-1313 ext. 844. You **WILL NOT** get a call back.*)
- † **Holy Saturday morning, April 19**: Delivering food to three of our soup kitchens (*RSVP to 201-327-1313 ext. 871 & you **WILL** get a confirmation call back.*)
- † **Easter Sunday, April 20** at 7:30am: Serving meals in our Bronx soup kitchen. (*RSVP to 201-327-1313 ext. 871 & you **WILL** get a confirmation call back.*)

IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Save the date for the celebration of **Fr. Bob's retirement & 50th Anniversary of his Ordination** on Sunday, June 1 at the 11:30 mass, with a picnic on the back lawn to follow. We'll have food, a beer/wine tent, and live music by Group Therapy! Keep an eye out for information on how to RSVP for the picnic (which is free of charge). We'll just need a head count to help with our planning. Volunteers needed to help with the picnic. Visit the [parish website](http://parishwebsite.org) to sign up to volunteer!

Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday Parking Help Needed!

Men & women high school age or older - we need you! If you can help, please contact Barry Ervin at 201-819-0891 (cell).



"Play-'n-Worship"

Our Sunday School for ages 3 through Kindergarten during 10am Mass in the Gathering Room.



Parents, you can now have a more meaningful worship experience with fewer interruptions, while your children learn about our faith in a fun environment with games, crafts & songs.

Parent(s) must to sign their children in and out of the program, sign-in time starts at 9:45am.

Questions? Email Catzel catzel@churchofpresentation.org

Youth Ministry Happenings

churchofpresentation.org/youthministry

YM Gathering - April 6 after 6:30pm Mass. The parent meeting is at the same time the teens are gathering..

Parent Meeting: All parents are welcome to attend!! Join us!

April 6: Reg Grant & Dr. Gautam Bhasin will be speaking on "Longevity."

IGNITE is back! Are you looking to grow in your relationship with the Lord with a deeper "youth group" connection? Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm in the Antioch Rm. Come once, often, or weekly!

Green Thumb Ministry-Tuesdays at 8am

Our winter break ends on April 1

Help us maintain the outside grounds of the church, i.e. by gardening, weeding etc. Bring whatever basic garden tools you may have. Come when you can. No commitment necessary. We meet in the parking lot opposite Mary's Grotto.

Questions? Email Michele Baron at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org

Holy Week Schedule

(begins Palm Sunday, April 13)

Palm Sunday: Regular Sunday mass schedule. Weather permitting, mass will begin on the front lawn - Easter Flower Sale weekend.

Daily Mass: Mon-Wed: 9:00am

Tuesday Evening: Pardon & Peace, 7pm

Holy Thursday: 9am Prayer Service / Mass at 7:30pm / Eucharistic Adoration until 11pm

Good Friday: 9am Prayer Service / Labyrinth Walk (after Prayer Service) / Passion at 3:00pm / Youth Ministry Living Stations of the Cross 7:30pm

Holy Saturday: 9am Prayer Service / Easter Egg Hunt 10am (weather permitting) / Easter Vigil, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday Masses:
8:00am, 10am, 11:30am, 1:00pm

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Our Wedding Anniversary Celebration held **here at the parish** for those celebrating one of the "fives" in 2025 is **Saturday, June 7**. Registration forms are available in the Narthex & may be downloaded & printed from the [parish website](http://parishwebsite.org). Deadline to sign up is May 18.



5, 25 & 50-Year Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark

All couples who will be celebrating **5, 25 & 50 years** of Christian marriage in **2025** are invited to participate in an anniversary mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on **Sunday, June 1 at 3:00pm**.

RSVP FOR THE NEWARK MASS by May 8
to Nancy at ext. 839 or nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Today's Gospel is the classic story of the **Prodigal Son**. I'm sure that at some point in all of our lives, we've been able to identify with all three characters...the impetuous son who winds up in a pigsty, the older son with his smoldering resentment and jealousy, and the anxious father who finally gets an opportunity to forgive - a difficult story, but oh so human!

The Scrutinies always take place on the 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of Lent, and we celebrate the Second Scrutiny at the 10:00am Mass today. These are for the new folks coming into the Church, but also for ourselves to do a self-examination and offer repentance during our Lenten "Spring Cleaning."

On Sunday afternoon this weekend, our young people in our **First Eucharist preparation program** will be on retreat. Let's keep them and their families in our prayers.

Reconciliation is a major theme during the Lenten Season; we are celebrating "**Reconciliation Day**" **next Saturday**, April 5, and priests will be in the church from 9:30am-3:00pm. Feel free to drop by for Confession. It's a great way to prepare for the holiest week of the year. Tuesday evening of Holy Week is **Pardon & Peace**, which starts at 7:00pm. If you miss Reconciliation Day, we'll have outside priests for Confession available at the end of the service. You're also welcome to schedule an appointment with me or Fr. Rich for Confession, and we welcome the opportunity.

Our **Foundations in Faith** series continues on Thursday morning & evening. Dr. Marilyn Kravatz-Toolan will be speaking on *The Beatitudes* and what it means to live a "beatitudinal life."

The **2025 Annual Appeal** has raised \$159,000 by 280 households so far; over 80% of our \$196,624 goal. This is such a worthwhile way to participate in Lenten almsgiving.

Fr. Bob

NEW! Free Blood Pressure screening after the 10am & 11:30am Masses on the first Sunday of the month in Maureen Murphy's office (beginning next Sunday, April 6).



Notes to our Elect & Candidates

We invite our parish community to write notes of affirmation, hope, prayer or support as they anticipate celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil (by Holy Thurs. please). The box for your notes is in the Narthex.

Charles August, Linda Babcock, Benjamin Brady, Layla Crosby, Bradley Gutman, Molly Kalb, Tiffany Maher, Kiley Mont, Deborah Montone, Margaret Osei, Chloe Quinn, Lucas Ruocco, Danielle Schnapp, Peter Schnapp

Foundations in Faith

This is a series of seven lectures on the basic tenets & expressions of our faith. Join us for any or all of the sessions! Please sign up on the [parish website](#).

The next session is: **Thursday, April 3**
9:30-11:30am or 7:30-9pm in the Community Rm.
The Beatitudes in Human Experience
presented by Dr. Marilyn Kravatz-Toolan

Upcoming sessions (see our website for details):

- + Praying the Psalms - April 10
- + Embrace Your Spiritual Gifts - April 24
- + Synodality & the Synod - May 1

The **CAREER MANAGEMENT GROUP's** next session is on **Monday, April 14 at 7:30pm in the Jerusalem Rm.** The topic is **Career Q&A: Bring Your Career & Job Search Questions.**

Our experienced volunteers are there to provide:

- ◆ Support with networking and contacts, resumes, interviews, job-related social media, AI tools, etc.
- ◆ One-on-one follow-up time for assistance.

All are welcome! If you **wish to join** our Career Management network, or have questions at any time, just email presentation.cmm@gmail.com with your name and a brief introduction and we will be happy to assist.

If you are experienced in this field and would like to contribute some time to work **with us as a volunteer**, please contact us at our email address listed above and let us know. Help is always appreciated!

the 2025 Annual Appeal

In addition to supporting the Catholic Church's mission in our Archdiocese, reaching this year's goal of \$196,624 will also result in a benefit to Presentation. If we meet our goal by June 30, our assessments to the Archdiocese will be lowered and we'll receive a rebate which greatly helps our annual budget. We have a donation link on our [parish website](#).

Order of Christian Initiation Inquiry Gatherings

This is for those interested in learning about the Catholic faith, or those wishing to convert to Catholicism &/or those interested in receiving Sacraments they have "missed." Call Diane Carr at ext. 831 for more info.



"Keeping in Balance"

A Walking With Purpose Women's 9-Week Scripture Study

Join us on:

Tuesday mornings, 9:30am-11:30am on
April 29 through June 24 in the Gathering Rooms.
Visit the [parish website](#) for more info & to register.

Monday Stations of the Cross March 31 & April 7



Join us at 7pm to pray the Stations
which are led by our various ministries.



Labyrinth Walk on Good Friday
Meeting Jesus the Foot of the Cross
After the 9am Prayer Service

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday
Youth Ministry's Living Stations at 7:30pm.

EASTER FLOWER SALE

Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas, Hyacinths, &
Palm Crosses will be sold after the
Masses on Palm Sunday weekend
(April 12-13) to benefit our Youth
Ministry mission trip.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

We Return

God our Father,
your compassion knows no bounds.
You hear us cry out to you
and you save us from distress.
We have sinned against you
and no longer deserve your mercy;
we find ourselves lost,
yet we return to you.
Grant us strength to repent, to return
to you,
and to share with others the
everlasting joy
of your mercy and forgiveness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 30, 2025 The Lord Hears



Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (33). When reflecting on today's Gospel, we are often encouraged to consider the loving father's unconditional love for both of his sons. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance and foolishly wastes it, inevitably finding himself in dire need. He decides to return home and apologize to his father, expecting to be treated like one of his father's hired workers. Despite the younger son's selfish recklessness, his father is "filled with compassion" upon his return. His father rejoices, dresses him in fine clothes, and prepares a feast. Certainly, Jesus is encouraging us to return to God, who has unending love and mercy for us despite our sinfulness.

Having experienced God's goodness and boundless mercy, we rejoice. Joining the psalmist, we sing: "When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, / and from all his distress he saved him." It is important, though, to reflect on both the times we find ourselves living as the younger son and the older son. When have you found yourself acting selfishly, unsettled in worldly desires and neglecting those in your community? When have you found yourself acting out of jealousy, comparing your blessings and actions to another's? Spend time praying with today's parable, trying to approach it free of judgment. What can you do when you find yourself acting like either of the sons? How can you call out to the Lord and return to God? How can you resolve to do better?



Monday & Wednesday Yoga Classes

at 9:30am. Wear loose clothing, and bring a mat, towel & water. Donations welcome.

Women's Morning Group:

Thursdays at 7:30am via Zoom

All women are invited to join us every Thursday morning at 7:30am for an hour. Weekly attendance not required, but you are most welcome! Email Kathleen at kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org for the Zoom link. Let's share the gift of faith together!

Presentation Seniors

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, April 1 (9:45am)**
It's no April Fool - the meeting IS on April 1!
Patrick Perone, Elvis Impersonator, will present "A Tribute to Elvis." Put on your Blue Suede Shoes, Hoop Skirt, Beehive Hairdo, and a smile - get ready to Rock 'n Roll! **Great fun!**

Thursday, April 24 trip: "**Dreamgirls**" at the White Plains Performing Arts Center and lunch at Chazz Palminteri's Restaurant. Cost \$130.00. Reservations will be taken at the April 1 meeting, beginning at 9:30am.

Wednesday, May 14 trip: "**Swing**", the Tony-nominated musical at the Hunterdon Playhouse. Enjoy the music & dancing of the big bands era & a full menu of luncheon choices including a roomful of desserts. Cost \$99. Tickets available at the April 1 meeting or call Barbara Salmieri 978-335-2233.



Our Compost Bins Are Open!

Our compost bins are located next to the parish garden. Composting is a way of returning to the land what has come from the land.

The following are compostable:

- ◆ all fresh fruits and vegetables
- ◆ coffee grinds (paper filters are also OK)
- ◆ egg shells and nutshells
- ◆ grass clippings from un-pesticide-treated grass (no bags please)
- ◆ paper towels
- ◆ leaves of any kind (fresh green, Fall brown, and even leaves from gutters)
- ◆ flowers (fresh, dried, or dead)
- ◆ saw dust and wood ash
- ◆ chopped twigs and chopped branches only

Please **NO** fats, oil, dairy or meat scraps; large branches, lumber, or invasive weeds.

Paschal Candle Memorials

One of the most powerful symbols of the Easter Season is the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the risen Christ, the Light of the World. The Paschal Candle remains near the altar during the entire Easter Season, and is present for every Baptism, Confirmation and Funeral Liturgy. Each offering in memory of a loved one is \$150. Contact Kathleen Martorano at ext. 835 if interested.



Easter Memorial Flowers



We invite you to contribute an offering for Easter flowers in memory of a deceased loved one. Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office with your contribution. **Please write "Easter Flowers" on the outside of your envelope.**

Please print clearly.

In Memory of:

Your Name:

Email (phone no. if no email)

Donation: \$20. ___ \$30. ___ \$40 ___ Other: ___

LGBTQ Ministry

LGBTQ Ministry is a welcoming fellowship embracing the dignity and diversity of all Catholics by fostering a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, through Word, Worship and Outreach.

For more information or to get involved, please contact
LGBTQ@churchofpresentation.org



Eucharistic Exposition

Come anytime on Wednesdays from noon-6pm to spend time with our Lord in the Nazareth Room.



Church of the Presentation 271 West Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River NJ 07458

Phone: 201-327-1313 **Fax:** 201-760-2570

Website: www.churchofpresentation.org

Information Desk: Sun, 9am-12:45pm in the Narthex

Mass Schedule: See "Mass Intentions" on this pg.

Summer Office Hrs: (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 9:30am-4pm Mon-Thu
"Non-Summer" Office Hrs: 9:30am-5pm Mon-Thu. | 9:30am-4pm Fri.
Confession: Mon-Sat after 9am Mass, Sat 3:30pm-4:45pm, or by appt.

Email Addresses: Except as otherwise noted, all of our email addresses end with: @churchofpresentation.org

Rev. Bob Stagg, Pastor ext. 820 [bstagg@](mailto:bstagg@churchofpresentation.org)

Fr. Bob's asst.: Melanie Cheplic ext. 827 [mcheplic@](mailto:mcheplic@churchofpresentation.org)

Rev. Richard Francesco ext. 829 [rfrancesco@](mailto:rfrancesco@churchofpresentation.org)

Pastoral Council [pastoralcouncil@](mailto:pastoralcouncil@churchofpresentation.org)

Bob Rooney (Accounting, Finance, Plant Management)

ext. 818 [brooney@](mailto:brooney@churchofpresentation.org)

Catzel LaVecchia (Lifelong Learning, Junior High,

Play-n-Worship) ext. 828 [catzel@](mailto:catzel@churchofpresentation.org)

Craig Johnson (Youth Ministry, Confirmation) ext. 819

[cjohnson@](mailto:cjohnson@churchofpresentation.org)

Diane Carr (OCIA, Catholic Faith Inquiry) ext. 831 [dcarr@](mailto:dcarr@churchofpresentation.org)

Kathleen Costello (Family Faith Formation) ext. 840 [kcostello@](mailto:kcostello@churchofpresentation.org)

Kathleen Martorano (Parish Registration, Facebook, Protecting

God's Children, LGBTQ Ministry) ext. 835 [kmartorano@](mailto:kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org)

Liz Cosentino (Bulletin, Parish Website) [LizC@](mailto:LizC@churchofpresentation.org)

Marilou Tenazas (Livestreaming & Tech Support, Family

Faith Formation, FFF Website) ext. 815 [mtenazas@](mailto:mtenazas@churchofpresentation.org)

Maureen Murphy (Outreach) ext. 844 [mmurphy@](mailto:mmurphy@churchofpresentation.org)

Michele Baron (Meeting Room Reservations, Scheduling,

Volunteering) ext. 847 [mbaron@](mailto:mbaron@churchofpresentation.org)

Nancy Mierswa (Baptisms, Weddings, Worship) ext. 839

[nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Natasha Gonzalez (Music) ext. 813 [NGonzalez@](mailto:NGonzalez@churchofpresentation.org)

Patty Dodwell (First Eucharist, Family Faith Formation)

ext. 832 [pdodwell@](mailto:pdodwell@churchofpresentation.org)

Altar Server Training: Nancy Mierswa, ext. 839 [nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Bereavement Support: ext. 872

Bulletin Advertising: Bon Venture Services 800-364-0684

Celiac Communion: Nancy Mierswa ext. 839 [nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Communion Calls: Kyle Lippman ext. 879 [pastoralcare@](mailto:pastoralcare@churchofpresentation.org)

Emergencies (hospital/funeral) ext. 899

Envelopes (Parish) Kathleen Martorano ext. 835 [kmartorano@](mailto:kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org)

Funerals: ext. 899

Knights of Columbus: www.kofc6033.org [kofc6033@](mailto:kofc6033@churchofpresentation.org)

Meeting Room Setups: Cesar da Gama ext. 823

Prayer Tree Ministry: [prayertree@](mailto:prayertree@churchofpresentation.org)

This Week's Mass Intentions

Bread & Wine: Mary Romain, by Carol Perfetti
Sanctuary Light: Emmett Nulty, by Patricia & George Erdman

MONDAY, MARCH 31

9:00am Edward McDonald, by Ann & Alison McDonald & Beth Maratea

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

9:00am Emmett Nulty, by Patricia & George Erdman

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

9:00am Jane Acaster, by Dennis Avon & Lisa Setticase

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

9:00am Joyce DeMuro, by Judi Mottle

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

9:00am Kimberly McWilliams, by Dennis Avon & Lisa Setticase

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

9:00am People of the Parish

5:00pm Veronica Roy, by Ann & Ali McDonald

Bob Waring, by the "Walking With Purpose" Women

John Micich, by Maryalice Hagerty

Robert Waring, by Pat & Vince McLaughlin

Joan Orazio, by Frank & Don Partlan

John Long, by Renee & Matt Sullivan

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, APRIL 6

8:00am Alan Koski, by Paul Koski

10:00am Elena Pandolfi, by Tina & Pat Noyes

11:30am Emily Ginter, by the Tasman Family

Linda Schnavore, by Rose Lisi

Josephine DeGregorio, by the Morelli Family

Ginger McDonald, by the Santucci Family

Al Giordano, by JoAnne Giordano

Jane Reeder, by Adrienne Reilly & family

6:30pm Dolores & Francis Rover, by the Rover Family

We also pray for the following ill: Carol Latargia Blake, Holly Holland, Patricia Lamoriello, Mary Lou Murphy, Patricia Carey, Danny Lauber, Michael Donovan, Jamie Brown, Althea Gardner, Thomasina Uzzi, Richard & Monica Castiglia, Ronald Volino, Keith Brew, Guy & Marion Gaudenzi, Ellen Bellias, Clara Willey, Kimberly Berardino, Christina Grenzer, Birgit "Ana" Borgman, Bernhard Freund, Veronica, Bill Partlan, Mike O'Donnell, Bob DePellegrini, Bobby Vandal, John & Wilma Mcmuran & family, Christopher Noel Hanna, Cornelius Hanna, Doreen D., Frances Gerbino, Doug Quackenbush, Kathie McKinless, Charlie Aiello, Joyce Somers, Robert Doidge, Helga Scholton, Lucy Schneider, Jose Ruiz, Evelyn Roberts, Michael Keane, Phil Kipnis, Jose Ruiz, Elizabeth Van Nostrand, Charlie Musumeci, Jerry Crean, Margaret Taylor, Marie Egan, Phyllis Clark, Graham N., Lisa White, Joe & Judy Schneider, Baby River Budes, Marianne & Bill Hurley, Francis J. Neeson Jr., Rosemary Fuhrman, Patti Murray, Louis D'Amico, Ethan Benjamin Berkowitz, Marie Hiles, Michael Roger, Jon Rapkin, Steven Chakonis, Cathy Mostyn, Kevin Flood, Dirk & Donna Kinney, Mary Anne Nardini, Cathy Mueller, Susanne Knoepfle, Virginia Kondrat, Anne Downs, Seth Gopin, Adrienne Stephens, Karin Elliott, Frank Cirillo, John Nazzaro, Marie Kaspar, Cheyanne Emmons, Gloria Zoda, Bill Brown, Scott M. Koenig, Mary Goldberg, Thomas Doorhy, Sab Caponi, Rosemary Tocci

and recently deceased: Robert Homler, husband of Diane

To request prayers **in the bulletin** for the **ill or recently deceased**, email LizC@churchofpresentation.org. The name is not kept on the list indefinitely. If the ill person still needs prayers after their name is removed, feel free to email Liz to have their name printed again in the bulletin.

For **mass cards & mass intentions for the deceased**, call or visit the parish front office, or visit the Information Desk in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Weekdays after 9am Mass, all are welcome to stay in the church to pray the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We ask that you prayerfully consider using electronic donations through Faith Direct. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/NJ854 or the parish website to enroll or make a one-time donation. Thank you for your support!

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