

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 21, 2021

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Aaron Foster and Robert Bates, may they rest in peace, Amen.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURES

Monday: 1 Pt 5, 1-4; Mt 16: 13-19

The Chair of St. Peter

Tuesday: Is 55,10-11; Mt 6, 7-15

St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Wednesday: Jon 3, 1-10; Lk 11:29-39

Thursday: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:19-26; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2. 9a, 10-13,15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

ST. POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

St. Polycarp was a second generation apostle who had personal contact with the Twelve and he was appointed bishop of Smyrna by St. John. Because he refused to worship the emperor, he was condemned to death. Polycarp did not flinch at the threat of the wild animals or of being burnt alive, but Polycarp submitted peacefully to his death. Witnesses later reported that something miraculous happened to the flames, which: *bellying out like a ship's sail in the wind, formed into the shape of a vault and thus surrounded the martyr's body as with a wall and he was within it not as burning flesh but rather as bread being baked or like gold and silver being purified in a smelting furnace.* Since the fire did not kill Polycarp, the governor had one of his men plunge a dagger into him. His feast is celebrated on February 23.

-Voices of the Saints

2020 TAX REPORTS

If you would like a letter, for tax purposes, of your 2020 contributions to the Church, please contact Katherine during St. Peter's office hours, at 746-2503 or stpetersdelhiny@gmail.com, or Teresa during St. John's office hours, at stjohnthebaptistwalton@gmail.com or 865-7394. Did you know that this year, you can receive your letter sooner by having it emailed to you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross at every Friday at 6:00 pm during Lent beginning Friday, February 26 at St. Peter's and St. John the Baptist.

ASCENSION PRESS

Ascension's "Bible in a Year" podcast, hosted by Father Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Father Mike Schmitz, and a guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in His Word. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's Word! Listen at Ascensionpress.com or your favorite podcast app.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SOULS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PASSING

- Feb 22 Kathleen Wright, Rose B. Dow, Anna Jobbonski, Douglas Lane
Feb 23 Samuel Bolles
Feb 26 David Birdsall
Feb 27 Anna Mapes, John Nault, Lois Federice
Feb 28 Helen Asti, Florence Grogan, Manny Echevarria

RICE BOWLS

CRS Rice Bowls is one way Catholics can enhance their Lenten fasting practice by giving up meals and donating the cost of these meals to Catholic Relief Services in order to help those who do not have enough to eat. Rice Bowls are available at the entrance of each Church.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

What do Valentine's Day, President's Day and Ash Wednesday have in common? We are all called to love; but no one, even a President, is perfect. Being human, we each have our faults. Ash Wednesday calls us to purify our love through self-sacrifice.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF PRAYER

Henry and Mary Tassitano, Mary Hunter, Barbara Coughlin, Samuel Herbert, Mark Chapat, Nancy Greene, Joanne and Jack Betwarda, Richard Uzzi, Thom Parrotti, John Meinke, Val DiGiovanni, Charles Wilberg, Bill and Teresa Amen, John Hoffman and Tim Rausch.

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory

St. John	\$1616.00
Holy Family	\$ 606.00
St. Peter	\$1625.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parishes.

FOUND

Two sets of Rosary beads were found on Mead Street in Walton, near the bridge. If these belong to you, or you know who they may belong to, please stop at St. John's office during office hours or call the office at 865-7394 and leave a message for Teresa, with your contact information.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

As a sign of our penance, we preserve for the Diocese of Albany, the custom of abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. Abstinence binds all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Fasting binds all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting calls for only one full meal per day.

By retaining these traditions for our Diocese, we do not intend that they be interpreted as laws binding under pain of sin, but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are expressions of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor.

FAITH FORMATION

The next family faith formation class will be Sunday, March 7. The topics will be the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes are 8:30 am at St. Peter's and 10:00 at St. John the Baptist. Contact Katherine at katherinegielskie@live.com for more information.

LECTORS AND SACRISTANS

Are you a lector or sacristan? Please update your contact info with the parish offices. Ministry contact lists will be provided to active ministers soon. Ministers at St. John's are reminded to please sign up for March and April.

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

For this week only, February 21 through February 27, the office at St. John the Baptist will be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. The office will be closed on Thursday, February 25.