

SAINT CLEMENT PARISH

Offices: 579 Boston Ave., Medford, MA 02155
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www.saintclementcatholicparish.org



Satan as a serpent enters Paradise in search of Adam and Eve
Illustration by Gustave Dore for Milton's Paradise Lost

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man, the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteousness.” - Romans 5: 19

Daily Mass:
7:00 AM

Saturday Vigil Mass:
4:00 PM

Sunday Mass:
7:00 AM
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday - 5:30 PM
followed by Mass
at 6:30 PM

Parish Administrator
Fr. Stefano Colombo FSCB

Assistant
Fr. Paolo Cumin FSCB

In Residence
Fr. Luca Brancolini FSCB
Fr. Michele Benetti FSCB

Parish Secretaries
Mrs. Mary Daley
Mrs. Diane Abramson
Ms. Jacquelyn Hazle
secretarystclement@outlook.com

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00-4:30 PM

Religious Education
Please contact the Parish office
(781) 396-3112

Our offices are in the former
high school building.
Entrance in the alley between the
church and the high school

MASS INTENTIONS

In this week’s Eucharist Celebrations we will pray for:

- Tuesday, March 3 ~ 7:00 AM:** Joanne Sullivan
- Thursday, March 5 ~ 7:00 AM:** The Anniversary of Armando Federico
- Friday, March 6 ~ 7:00 AM:** The Holy Souls of Purgatory and the Anniversary of Carmillo Donatelli
- Saturday, March 7 ~ 4:00 PM:** The Anniversary of Anna Rose Nardella
- Sunday, March 8 ~ 7:00 AM:** The Parishioners of St. Clement
- **9:00 AM:** The Anniversary of Assunta Rossetti and in memory of James Pinto
- **11:00 AM:** The Anniversary of Antonio Sacco and Michael & Antonia Cecere

Please pray for repose for the souls of **Rita A. Corrado, Elizabeth Hamilton, Luciano Ferrari** and **Gerald T. Tucker**, who were buried from St. Clement this week.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal classes are held every 1st Sunday and Baptisms, every 3rd Sunday of each month, both following the 11:00 AM Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday’s from 3:00pm ~ 4:00pm
 During Lent: Wednesday’s from 6:00pm ~ 8:00pm,
 or by appointment. *Please call the office to schedule.*



For the month of March, the **Sanctuary Candle** will burn in loving memory of **Mafalda Abruzese**, given by her children, **Patricia Johnston** and **Robert Abruzese**.



Weekly Prayer Column

This week, please pray for the strength and well-being of **Charlotte Zachary, Marie Lahue** and **Jessica Benton**.

⚓ **FROM FR. STEFANO** ⚓

I am Italian and my country, the place where I was born, my family are being exposed to something we haven’t seen in generations; lock downs, quarantines, public life suspended, all because of the Corona Virus; probably the most recent term of comparison is the Spanish Flu, a century ago: nobody alive has a personal recollection of what it was like, we lack the experience, the language to describe such a thing; I barely remember my “nonna” talking about it, she was a child when it happened. As we lack personal experience, we the are exposed to the constant flow of information, images, and communication. A hundred years ago it was not there. Today I can be on the phone with my friends and family and hear the preoccupation in their voices; many of my friends are doctors, nurses, my sister in law is a pharmacist, daily in touch with sick people. Lent teaches us to be prepared and to remember the real point of our life: a time of trial, even when it’s sunny and we are on the beach at the Cape, sipping a cold one. Life is a serious enterprise, it’s our only chance to spend it the right way and, as much as I love Sinatra, the right way may not coincide with “My Way”. Instead we are all called to conversion, which literally means to invert course, to turn around. The story of the Fall, Adam and Eve committing the first sin, is a fundamental metaphor that explains what goes wrong when we sin, and why. The original sin is pride and presumption and accepting a lie: you can be like God. Without God.

In a twisted way this is not far from what Jesus promises, but it goes in the opposite direction, if you think about it. When Eve and Adam eat the forbidden fruit their eyes are opened, but they open on their nakedness. This image is pure genius: we can realize the truth when it is too late, and we cannot do much about it. Our illusions of omnipotence are gone, we felt that we could be godlike, but we are not God, especially now that we ran away from Him. We need to turn around, go back, convert. But where do we go? “WE” is all of us. As St. Paul admonishes in this Sunday’s second reading: “*death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam*” (Rom 5:14). When Jesus talks about himself he says: “I am the Truth and the Life”, but first he calls himself “the Way”. If everybody is lost in Adam, as Paul points out, everybody is lost and no one knows where to go, we are all stranded in the desert, no tracks, no road in sight. We might strike luck but what are the odds? The real good news is someone who came to defy the desert and rescue us. That is why God in the Bible is often found in the desert: Jesus begins his work in the desert. God does not like the desert, a place that is virtually dead, but that is where we are, so Jesus goes there to get us out: then it is up to us to follow his way, or stay in our desert. Let us be prepared, let’s use this special time of Lent well, together.

Project Lent ~ Initiative of Saint Clement Parish**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 through Palm Sunday, April 5**

Our parish is collecting **non-perishable food donations** to benefit Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at Saint Raphael Parish in Medford, which serves 50-60 families weekly. Please consider donating one or more items from the list below. You may leave your donations at any door to the church. They will be picked up weekly for distribution at Saint Raphael.

Items most needed: dried or canned beans, bottled juice, pasta, tomato sauce, soup, coffee, tea, tuna, canned meat, canned fruit and vegetables, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, jam, dry cereal, sweet cereal for kids

CDA Lenten Meeting**Monday March 9 at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall**

All CDA members and women in the parish interested in our organization are cordially invited to partake in our annual **Lenten Soup and Bread Meal**. This year, we will be offering chicken soup, minestrone, salad and bread. There will be no charge for the meal however, any donation is kindly accepted. Please consider attending this event, which embodies the sacrificial journey commemorated throughout Lent.

**Protecting God's Children:
Mandatory VIRTUS Workshop****Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00pm in Parish Hall**

St. Clement will be hosting a VIRTUS workshop for **all parish staff and volunteers who are currently working at St. Clement in any capacity**, but it is open to anyone interested, as well as to our parishes, so spread the word. If you are unable to attend, ask about how to complete your training online. For any questions contact the Parish office or visit the VIRTUS website: virtusonline.org/virtus

Next St. Clement Talk on Faith - Sacred Art**Friday, March 20 at 7:00pm in Parish Hall**

Please join us for St. Clement's latest faith-based presentation on Sacred Art, given by **Father John Tokaz, OFM Cap.** Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

TAIZE EVENING PRAYER**Wednesday's, March 11 and April 1 at 7:00pm**

In addition to *The Light Is On For You*, we will offer Evening Prayer in the style of Taize in Lent, consisting of readings from scripture, meditative Taize music, and time of silent prayer. If you would like to serve as a Lector or be part of the music team, please be in touch with Joe Anderson: musicatstclement@gmail.com

Catholic Appeal: March 7-8 and 14-15

The **Catholic Appeal Campaign** begins next weekend on March 7-8, with a speaker at each Mass. The following weekend on March 14-15 is designated for **In-Pew pledges**. Please remember that the parish receives an extra percentage for donations which exceed our goal when we have a strong number of In-Pew pledges made on this weekend. Many thanks for your loving and kind support of our parish and the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Join the Choir for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

We hope to have a choir for at least two Sundays during the season of Lent, and a full choir for Palm Sunday, the Triduum and Easter Day. If you are interested in offering your musical talents, please be in touch with Joe Anderson with your availability: musicatstclement@gmail.com

Upcoming CCD Courses ~ In Parish Hall**Grades 1-5:**

Sunday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 10:00-11:00 AM

Grades 6-8:

Sunday, March 1 from 10:00-11:00 AM

Grade 9 Confirmation I

Tuesday, March 3 from 7:00-8:00 PM

Grade 10 Confirmation II:

Tuesday, March 17 - Students & Sponsors at 6:30 PM

Next Family Mass:

Sunday, March 15 at 9:00am

COLLECTION DASHBOARD

Our goal for our weekly first collection: \$ 4,000.00

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION: \$ 2,199.00

This Sunday there is no second collection.

Next Sunday's Second Collection: Quarterly Annual

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**Our Goal: **\$200,000.00**Total Collected: **\$50,533.00**Percentage Earned: **25%**