

25 February 2024  
II Sunday of Lent (Both Calendars)

Sunday Mass: Anticipated Sat. 4PM/Sun. 8AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass  
Sunday 9:30 AM (Live-streamed) & 11 AM  
Confessions: Wed. & Fri. 6:30-6:55 PM/Sat. 7:30-7:55 AM  
Sat. 2:30-3:30 PM & 6:30-7:30 PM

**THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS**

Mon.	26 Feb.	St. Porphyrius of Gaza, (420), Bishop
8 AM		Ancient Rite Latin Mass For: Special Intention
Tue.	27 Feb.	St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Cleric
8 AM		For: Lorraine Armitage+ Req: Anne Johnson Holy Rosary for the Preborn & Newborn
Wed.	28 Feb.	St. Hilary, Pope/The Martyrs of Alexandri
7 PM		For: James Judge (L.) Req: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Judge
Thu.	29 Feb.	St. Oswald, Bishop
8 AM		For: Robert McCauley+ Req: Frances McCauley
Fri.	1 Mar.	St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales
8 AM		For: Beth Anderson (L.) Req: Mr & Mrs. Steven Anderson
Sat.	2 Mar.	St. Agnes of Bohemia, Abbess
8 AM		For: Special Intention
	4 PM	For: Joan Hammer Req: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Adamitis
Sun.	3 Mar.	III Sunday of Lent (Both Calendars)
8 AM		For: John Kazlauskas+ Req: The Frances Durant Family
9:30 AM		For: John Vanderhoof (L.) Req: Benjamin & Emily Vanderhoof
11 AM		For: The Parishioners of OLGCC

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Tuesday 27 Feb. Jr. High School: 7 PM Sr. High School & Adults 8 PM  
Classes are held at the Rectory.

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING: THU. 29 FEB 7 PM**

I apologize for not notifying you of this meeting sooner, but time got away from me! The meeting will be at the Rectory.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS, HOLY COMMUNION & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FRI 7PM**

Unite with our Blessed Lord in His sorrowful path to the hill of Calvary, where He lovingly offers His life for you, to atone for your sins and reopen the floodgates of mercy and grace on our world.

**FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

Friday 1 March is the First Friday of the month, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Come to Holy Mass to appease the divine justice of God.

Saturday 2 March is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She invites us to make reparation to Her most pure Heart for the sins committed today against it.

Because Stations of the Cross are held at 7 PM, the First Friday Mass will be at 8 AM.

**FINAL HOPE APPEAL FIGURES**

The office of the Foundation of the Diocese of Syracuse has released the final figures for the HOPE Appeal 2023 campaign. Now that the drive is officially over, the Diocese reports that they have fallen \$430,000 short of the goal. Individual donations may still be made to the 2023 campaign, and will be accepted until 30 June 2024.

In the letter I have received from the Executive Director of the HOPE Appeal, I was informed that the difference between our “goal” (assessment) and our donations was \$7,225.00. This we will have to remit from our savings account. To all those who contributed to the HOPE Appeal, God bless you and thank you.

**LENTEN AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION: SUN. 10 MAR.**

You will be so inspired, moved and uplifted by the beautiful voice and music of Fr. Maximillian Dean, a hermit from Pennsylvania. He will preach at all the Masses on that weekend, and on Sunday at 3 PM, he will give his reflections with some of his compositions.

“Imagine a large circle, and in the center of it rays of light that spread out to the circumference. The light in the center is God; each of us is a ray. The closer the rays are to the center, the closer the rays are to one another. The closer we live to God, the closer we are bound to our neighbor; the farther we are from God, the farther we are from one another. The more each ray departs from its center, the weaker it becomes; and the closer it gets to the center, the stronger it becomes.” (Ven. Fulton J. Sheen).

## Under Fog of War, Ukraine Cancels Presidential Elections

(By Jordan Schachtel)

The Zelensky-led government has transformed the country into a totalitarian dictatorship, as there is no semblance of a liberal democracy left in Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelensky, the leader of the war-torn country, just received approval from his parliament to extend Martial Law another 90 days. There have been many parliamentary extensions of the wartime mandate, but this one carried special significance because the 2024 presidential elections in Ukraine were scheduled for March 31, 2024, coinciding with the end of Zelensky's five-year term. Now that Martial Law is in place to cover that time. There is currently no set date for a next election, as lawmakers in the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) have failed to entertain the matter. They only agreed that elections should take place no sooner than six months after the end of the war with Russia.

While it's not particularly unreasonable to want to postpone elections during a devastating war, the case of Ukraine deserves a closer examination, given the series of events leading up to the decision to extend Martial Law.

In November, a former Zelensky advisor named Oleksiy Arestovych announced that he would be challenging Zelensky for the presidency, promising to focus on a negotiated settlement to end the war with Russia. Arestovych was fiercely critical of Zelensky's approach to the conflict, maintaining that a settlement was in the best interests of Ukrainians. Far from a pro-Moscow shill, the Russian government has an active arrest warrant out for him.

Yet, just days after his announcement, Ukraine's national police force, under the direction of the Zelensky government, launched a criminal investigation against Arestovych.

Furthermore, over the course of the devastating war, the Ukrainian government has continually centralized power to the point that no trace of a representative democracy currently exists in the country.

Zelensky has repeatedly sicced his national police on any and all current and former Ukrainian officials who depart from the accepted narrative of the war, which essentially amounts to fighting Russia to the very last Ukrainian, if necessary. Virtually, every dissident from the forever war narrative ends up on the wrong side of a corruption investigation or worse. All opposition parties have been removed from the parliament, and all non-state media has been banned from the airwaves. The paranoia-infused the government has even signed into law a measure to ban all new Russian books from being imported into the country.

Ukraine's 2024 elections served as the last means of restoring accountability for a government hellbent on advancing a strategy of geopolitical seppuku, continuing to force its countrymen to wage war against a much more powerful neighbor. Under the cover of the fog of war, the Ukrainian government has transformed into a totalitarian dictatorship, losing the moral high ground it once maintained with the public at the height of the hostilities. When the war finally ends, the Ukrainian people will have to find a way to restore some semblance of the constitutional order that has been shattered in just two years' time.