Dear Parishioners of St Mary’s,

This year Lent begins on February the fourteenth and may it be a holy Lent for each and every one of you. Not infrequently well-meaning Christians are plunged into gloom at the very thought of the opening of another Lent, yet Lent can be a very happy season.

It is true that during Lent we do withdraw more from the world and its pleasures (though innocent) than at any other season in the Christian year. We also more fervently practise self-denial and self-discipline. We do make sacrifices which are not ordinarily part of our daily life. This is why Lent represents a series of don’ts to the average Christian who dreads what he considers to be a negative existence. However, these don’ts are adhered to for a positive purpose and this, that our religion may be put to work.

Now the happy Christian is he who is working hard at his religion. During Lent he sets himself free from much that the world offers that he may have more time and energy and means to spend on his religion. He puts into practical operation our blessed Lord’s injunction “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”. And when a Christian puts first things first, he becomes a radiantly happy Christian.

Thus may Lent be a very happy season for you as you put your religion to work in better fashion than ever before. May you know God better through sermons, instructions, meditations and spiritual reading! May you love God better through your attendance at the holy Mass, your visits to the Blessed Sacrament, your prayers, your self-surrender! May you serve God better through your almsgiving and your kindly dealings with those with whom you live,
work and worship, realizing full well the truth of our blessed Lord's statement "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me"! Knowing, loving and serving God better during a well-kept Lent, may you come to the joy of an Easter Day on which you find yourself on a higher and happier spiritual plane, one from which you would fain depart during the rest of your earthly pilgrimage.

Affectionately,

W. Taber

WE are asked each year for suggestions toward keeping a good Lent. All need a Lenten rule as a guide for working hard at being a Christian. Perhaps all or part of the following suggestions may well be incorporated into your Lenten rule:

1. Receive Holy Communion at least once a week.
2. Make your confession on Shrove Tuesday and again just before Easter Day.
3. Be present at one weekday Mass in addition to attendance at Mass each Sunday.
4. Attend Stations of the Cross every Friday evening.
5. Deny yourself some pet pleasure and add the money you would thus have spent to your Easter Offering.
6. Observe Wednesdays as well as Fridays as days of abstinence from meat.
7. Spend at least thirty minutes each day on Bible reading, meditation and spiritual reading.
8. Be generous in your praying and in the number of your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.
9. Try to bring someone with you into loving communion with our blessed Lord.

THAT the faithful may begin Lent with the removal of the barrier of their sins by a most merciful Saviour, the Sacrament of Holy Penance will be administered on Shrove Tuesday, February the thirteenth. The confession schedule follows:

Father Taber .... 11-1, 2-3, 8-9
Father Craven .... 12-1, 4-5, 7-8
Father Funk .... 11-12, 3-4, 5-6
Father Bruce .... 3-4

ON Ash Wednesday, February the fourteenth, Low Masses will be celebrated at 7, 8, 9:30, and 12:10. A High Mass with sermon will be celebrated at eleven. Imposition of ashes will precede each Mass.

LENTEN Mite Boxes were distributed on the last Sunday in January in order that the members of the congregation may accumulate small offerings day by day before Palm Sunday as an introduction to the Easter Offering. It is hoped that every parishioner will take a Mite Box and busily fill it between now and Palm Sunday when all Mite Boxes will be called in.

The boys and girls of the Church School will also have special Lenten Mite Boxes, the contents of which will be given on Easter Day for the missionary work of Holy Church.

FRIDAY, February the second, is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Candlemas Day. On this Festival the candles to be used at our altars during the coming year will be blessed before the first Mass of the day. Members of the congregation who would like the privilege of giving as memorials or thank offerings altar candles or those used in the Sanctuary lamps will kindly send their contributions to the Rector.

THE Sacrament of Holy Confirmation is that Sacrament wherein by the laying on of the bishop's hands upon the head of any baptized person and by the anointing with holy oil, the Holy
Ghost is given for the strengthening of the soul for the battle of life. The new life given in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament of Holy Confirmation. In other words, Confirmation is the arming of the Christian soldier for the fight under the banner of the Cross. It is only by the power of the Holy Ghost that any Christian would dare go into battle with the hosts of evil, or into training for Christian living. No baptized Christian should neglect to be confirmed for by Confirmation the Holy Spirit will teach him how to do the work of a Christian and will strengthen him to persevere in this work until his life's end. Very young boys and girls as soon as they are conscious of life's battle should be confirmed and adults who have delayed to be confirmed should delay no longer lest they be overwhelmed by the powers of evil.

Bishop Manning has appointed the evening of the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March the eleventh, for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation here at St Mary’s. Instructions for adults and older boys and girls will be given in place of the sermon at the regular Sunday evening service at eight on the five Sunday evenings preceding the date of Confirmation, beginning with Sunday evening, February the fourth. By inviting your friends who have no Church home to accompany you to these Sunday night instructions you can happily have a share in bringing others to the joys of the Catholic life. These Sunday night instructions will, of course, be supplemented by much individual instruction. The clergy and the Sisters of the Holy Nativity will arrange instructions also for younger boys and girls according to a definite schedule. May we remind godparents that they have promised to bring their godchildren to the Bishop to be confirmed by him. It is their solemn duty to plan to send their godchildren for regular instruction before Confirmation.

A CHRISTIAN goes into training for a definite purpose, namely, the service of God. He who would attain happily to this service practises discipline, or goes into training, in order to make himself capable of doing God's will. The Collect for the First Sunday in Lent states this holy purpose in a most telling manner, "O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory".

We all know full well that our human nature is made up of two factors, flesh and spirit. If we are truly to serve God who is Spirit, our spirit must have control over our flesh. Such control presents innumerable difficulties for as blessed Paul the Apostle reminds us, "The flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would". Yes, no matter how much we want to honor God, we can do so only when harmony is produced between the spirit and the flesh, and this harmony can be effected only through training.
Now one form of training is fasting and abstinence, concerning which much misunderstanding is found among us Episcopalians. After all, the American Church has not clearly defined the terms fast and abstinence. Yet in our Book of Common Prayer, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are named as Fasts while the Forty Days of Lent, the Ember Days, and all Fridays in the Year (except Christmas Day, and The Epiphany, or any Friday which may intervene between these Feasts) are named as ‘Days of Fasting on which the Church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion’. We Episcopalians are required to fast in some measure but what does this requirement really mean?

Recently the American Church Union, that organization which represents all Catholic-minded Episcopalians and to which all such should belong, has clarified the issue concerning fasting and abstinence. If we would go into training not as individualists but as members of the whole Church Catholic, we should observe the following rules:

1. Abstinence from flesh meat on Fridays throughout the year (except those falling on Christmas or Epiphany or between these Feasts).
2. Fasting, usually meaning not more than a light breakfast, one full meal, and one half meal, on the forty days of Lent.
3. Fasting with abstinence on Ember Days, on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent, and on Easter Even up to noon.

The fast before Holy Communion, a fast of homage to our blessed Lord, is a strict fast from both food and drink from midnight.

The Vigils of Christmas, Pentecost and All Saints may well be observed by fasting and abstinence.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as the two most solemn Fast Days of the Christian Year may well be observed by going beyond the minimum rule for fast and abstinence on the Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent. Often these days are observed with an extremely light breakfast, no other food being taken until the evening meal.

Those under seven years of age are excused from the rules of abstinence. The rules for fasting (save the fast before Holy Communion) are not held to bind strictly before the age of twenty-one or after the fifty-ninth birthday. The sick, the infirm, expectant mothers, and those engaged in heavy manual work are excused from fast and abstinence if there is doubt as to the wisdom of such fast and abstinence. Those who cannot choose their food (soldiers, sailors, certain employees, etc.) should eat what is set before them, welcoming however, the opportunity to observe abstinence. Certain others may be dispensed from rules of fasting and abstinence by the Bishop, the parish priest or the confessor, but no private individuals may dispense themselves from the rules of fasting and abstinence.

The faithful will appreciate this clarification by the American Church Union of the Church’s requirement concerning fasting and abstinence. They will delight to observe the rules so that they may go into training for a more generous keeping of God’s holy will.

FEBRUARY 1

The biting observation that, on the occasion of a funeral oration, there is one man lying in his coffin and another in the pulpit may contain some truth. But the obituaries that are written in disinterested encyclopedias are usually worthy of attention. In one such, notice is taken of St Ignatius of Antioch and the too brief article concludes thus: “They (referring to his epistles) also present a fine picture of Ignatius as one of the best examples of ancient Christianity, notable alike for charity, patience, and unflagging zeal.”

If virtue is communicable, the charity which is ascribed to the martyr whose feast we keep on February the first may have come from St John, who won this soul for Christ and the unflagging zeal from St Peter, who consecrated him to the episcopal office, for in our minds these virtues were preeminently the possessions of these Apostles. The keen devotion to the Passion of Our Lord which St Ignatius evinced, to the point of prayerfully desiring to imitate Him even in death, marked in him the patience—passion means patience; patience means passion—with which the encyclopedist credited him.
St Peter was the first Bishop of Antioch where first the disciples were called Christians, St Ignatius the third. It was during the latter's episcopate that the famous correspondence between Pliny the Younger and the Emperor Trajan occurred. Pliny had been appointed Consul of Bithynia and found that the Church was already established there. Charges had been made against the Christians, but because nothing of a serious nature could be proven beyond an obstinate refusal to offer sacrifice to the Emperor, Pliny sought direction in how to proceed. He did mention that whatever else be done, they should be punished for this obstinacy. Trajan replied in an even-tempered letter that the Christians should not be harried by officials but that if they were informed against they should be examined and given an opportunity to recant. If they then refused, the death penalty was to follow. As a contingent result St Ignatius was condemned for his crime, worshipping Jesus and none other, and sentenced to death.

For the fulfillment of the penalty he was transported to Rome, and along the way he had opportunity to send his letters which have been preserved, six to churches and one to St Polycarp (January 26). These writings are of great importance to Church historians and apologists, for they show how firmly and distinctively the young Church was in what are known as 'subapostolic' days. For example, St Ignatius, himself a bishop yet soon to be a martyr, emphasized the absolute necessity of bishops, not only as the rulers of the Church but also of her very essence. He wrote, "See that ye all follow the bishop even as Jesus Christ does the Father. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop." His teaching on the Holy Eucharist was equally plain, and he condemned heretics on the basis of their false eucharistic doctrine.

As this saint came closer and closer to Rome and the martyr's crown he would win in the presence of the jeering and sportive throng in the Arena, his thoughts must have dwelt upon death. 'My crucified love' was his name for Jesus, and that he might imitate Him to the end was his prayer. "Let me be given to the beasts, for through them I can attain to God." *Ad leones, ad leones.* Yes, he was to be pitched to the lions,—hungry, clawing beasts. So much the more was his eagerness for martyrdom intensified. "I am God's wheat, and I am ground by the teeth of wild beasts that I may be found pure bread."

Perhaps not lions, but wolves certainly, beset the Christian's course. Pray on this day that the teeth of wild beasts may find all who venerate St Ignatius pure bread, made of a flour acceptable unto the Most Highest. Pray for our Bishop and for all bishops of the Church, that in ghostly strength they may fulfill their office. Pray also for all churches and church works dedicated to and under the patronage of St Ignatius, and especially for our neighboring and sister parish.

* FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

**RECEIVED BY CANONICAL TRANSFER**

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers."

December 1 — Blaine Speights Hollimon, Jr.

* THE Corporate Communions for the month of February are as follows:

Sunday, February 4, 9:00, The Guild of St Mary of the Cross.
Monday, February 5, 8:00 (The Mission House), Associates of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity.
Wednesday, February 7, 9:30, St Mary's Guild
Friday, February 9, 9:30, The Woman's Auxiliary.
Sunday, February 25, 9:00, The Church School. The Guild of St Mary of Nazareth.
We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions toward the expense of printing and mailing AVE: Anonymous, $1, $2, $3, $5; Mrs Ralph F. Barry, $3; Mr Robert F. Carpenter, $2; Mr John Cousins, $5; Mrs Marie Gibon, $2; Mrs Catherine Guichard, $1; T/Sgt Philip Handy, $2; Mrs William Hover, $1; Miss Constance Cody King, $5; Miss Florence Langworthy, $1; Miss Emily Long, $1; Ens. James W. Montgomery, $2; The Reverend David W. Norton, Jr., $1; Mr George W. Perkins, $2; Miss Jane Phin Rose, $1; Mrs W. Kesley Schoepf, $5; Miss Mary H. Skeuse, $1; Mr R. Garnier Streit, $5; Mrs Hilliard Wilking, $1.

AVE is published monthly (July, August and September excepted) and is sent gratis to communicants and supporters of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

It would be a great help if readers who value AVE would send an annual contribution towards the expense of its printing and circulation.

Inquiries concerning AVE should be sent to the Editor, The Rev Father Taber, 145 West 46th Street, New York 19.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.

KALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

1. Th. St Ingatius, B.M. Com. St Bride, V.
4. Su. SEXAGESIMA. Com. St Andrew Corsini, B.C., and St Gilbert of Sempringham, C.
5. M. St Agatha, V.M.
6. Tu. St Titus, B.C. Com. St Dorothy, V.M.
7. W. St Romuald, Ab.
10. Sa. St Scholastica, V.
13. Tu. St Kentigern, B.C. Requiem Mass, 8. (Shrove Tuesday.)
18. Su. LENT I. Com. St Mary Bernard Soubirous, V., and St Simeon, B.M.
25. Su. LENT II.

Days indicated by ☞ are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass. Days on which votive and requiem Masses may be said are printed in italics.
MUSIC FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4 — Sexagesima

Mass, Missa in Festis solemnibus ...................................... Kromolicki
Motet, Our Lady sings magnificat ........................................ Voynich

Evensong

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis ........................................... Anerio
Motet, Ave Maria ............................................................ Vernieri
O salutaris ................................................................. Noyon
Motet, Ave Verum .......................................................... Faure
Tantum ergo ................................................................. Boellmann

FEBRUARY 11 — Quinquagesima

Mass, Missa Sancti Lutgardis ................................................. Peeters
Motet, Salve Regina ......................................................... Monteverdi

Evensong

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis ........................................... Bachieri
Motet, Give ear unto me ................................................... Marcello
O salutaris ................................................................. Liszt
Motet, Ecce Panis .......................................................... de Brant
Tantum ergo ................................................................. Schroeder

FEBRUARY 12 — Festival for Acolytes

Mass, Missa in E .............................................................. Rehm
Motet, Salve Regina ......................................................... Monteverdi
Ego sum panis vivus ....................................................... Caldara

FEBRUARY 14 — Ash Wednesday

Mass, Missa Deus genitor alme ............................................. Plainchant

FEBRUARY 18 — Lent I

Mass, Missa Monodica ......................................................... Ghedini
Motet, O Jesu meek .......................................................... Ravenscroft

Evensing

The Litany in Procession ................................................... Plainchant
Motet, Tota pulchra es, Maria ............................................ de Ranse
O salutaris ................................................................. Waters
Motet, Jesu dulcis memoria ............................................... Victoria
Tantum ergo (No. 1) ......................................................... Kodaly

FEBRUARY 25 — Lent II

Mass, Missa Davidica ......................................................... Perosi
Motet, Ave Maria ............................................................ Verhelst

Evensong

The Litany in Procession ................................................... Plainchant
Motet, Ave Maria ............................................................ Palestrina
O salutaris ................................................................. de la Rue
Motet, Ave Verum .......................................................... Willan
Tantum ergo ................................................................. Boebide

SERVICES IN LENT

SUNDAYS

Low Mass ................................................................. 7:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer ........................................................ 7:40 a.m.
Low Mass ................................................................. 8:00 a.m.
Sung Mass ................................................................. 9:00 a.m.
Low Mass (Lady Chapel) ................................................ 10:00 a.m.
High Mass, with sermon .............................................. 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service and Benediction, with address .......... 8:00 p.m.
Litany in Procession with Instruction and Benediction .......... 8:00 p.m.

WEEK DAYS*

Mass, daily .............................................................. 7, 8, 9:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
Morning Prayer (with Litany, Fridays) ......................... 9:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer (with Litany, Wednesdays) .................... 6:00 p.m.
Special Devotions in Time of War (Wednesdays) .......... 5:10 p.m.
Exposition, Intercessions and Benediction ................. 8:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross (Fridays) ......................................... 8:00 p.m.

*Consult the Weekly Parish Leaflet for schedule of services February 1st to 13th (inclusive).

Other Services during the Week, and on Festivals, as announced on the preceding Sunday.

The Church is open daily from 6:30 a.m. till 9 p.m.

Adults or children can be prepared at any time for First Confession, Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

The Parish Secretary's office is open at the following times:

- Mondays to Fridays .......... 9:15 to 1 and 2 to 5
- Saturdays ................................................. 9:15 to 1
- Closed on legal holidays.
SACRAMENTS AND OTHER RITES

CONFESSIONS

FATHER TABER: Fridays, 12 to 1; Saturdays, 2 to 3 and 8 to 9 p.m.
FATHER CRAVEN: Thursdays, 4:30 to 5:30; Saturdays 4 to 5 and 7 to 8 p.m.
FATHER FUNK: Fridays, 7 to 8; Saturdays, 3 to 4.
FATHER BRUCE: Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Confessions will also be heard Sundays, 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.
A Priest can always be seen after any service.

BAPTISMS.—Sundays after High Mass by arrangement with the clergy. Proper sponsors should be chosen.

MARRIAGES are solemnized only after arrangement with the clergy and after three days’ notice has been given. A certificate of Baptism should be produced by both parties. Those to be married should, if confirmed, receive Holy Communion. A nuptial Mass is suggested. It is against God’s law to marry anyone divorced, as long as the other partner is living. Marriages are not solemnized during Lent, nor on Sundays or Christmas Day.

SICK CALLS.—Holy Unction and Communion of the Sick, on application to the clergy, in person, by telephone, or by post.

BURIALS.—The clergy should always be consulted before any arrangements are made. The bodies of baptized persons may be brought to the Chantry of the church at any time before the day of the funeral. It is the usual custom at St Mary’s to have the funeral service a requiem Mass.

MUSIC.—Arrangements for music at weddings or funerals should be made directly with Mr White, the Director of Music.

PARISH GUILDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All persons who come regularly to the Church of St Mary the Virgin are urged to ally themselves with one of the Guilds and thus take their share in the work of the Church and its missionary activities. Any inquiries concerning each particular Guild may be addressed to the Chaplain, who will gladly give information.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL.—Sundays, Sung Mass and Instruction, 9 a.m. Corporate Communion, last Sunday, 9 a.m.

THE WOMAN’S AUXILIARY.—Second Fridays, Corporate Communion, 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

ST MARY’S GUILD.—For making and care of vestments. Working meetings, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., monthly business meeting, 10:30 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS.—Works for charities and for missions of the Church. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Monthly devotional meeting, third Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Craven, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF NAZARETH.—For Girls, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, last Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Funk, Chaplain.

GUILD OF HELP.—For forwarding the social service work of the Church. Meetings as announced from time to time. Father Taber, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST VINCENT.—For Altar Servers. Father Craven, Chaplain.
DEVOTIONAL GUILDS

CONFRATERNITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.—St Mary’s Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) first Fridays, 8:15 p.m.
Father Taber, Chaplain.

LIVING ROSARY OF OUR LADY AND ST DOMINIC.—St Mary’s Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) second Fridays, 8:15 p.m.
Father Funk, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ALL SOULS.—St Mary’s Ward. Meetings (Lady Chapel) third Fridays, 8:15 p.m. Father Craven, Chaplain.

SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE KING.—For young people who will keep a Catholic Rule of Life. Meetings and corporate communions as announced. Father Funk, Chaplain.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS


THE PARISH LIBRARY

WILLIAM EDWARD JONES MEMORIAL LENDING LIBRARY.—In the Sisters’ Mission House there is available a collection of books in theology, apologetics, ecclesiastical history, religious biography and devotional literature. Books may be borrowed for home-reading. Hours: Week-days, 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays, half-an-hour after High Mass and before Evensong.

REMEMBER ST MARY’S IN YOUR WILL

The following is the form of bequest:

“I hereby give, devise and bequeath to THE SOCIETY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, a corporation organized and existing under the Laws of the State of New York, and having its principal office at 145 West 46th Street, New York City, (here stating the nature or amount of the gift).”

DIRECTORY

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, 139 West 46th St.

THE RECTORY

144 West 47th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
The Rev. Father Taber
The Rev. Father Craven
The Rev. Father Funk

THE MISSION HOUSE, Sisters of the Holy Nativity
133 West 46th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-3232
The Sister Mary Josephine, S.H.N., Sister-in-Charge
The Sister Mary Louise, S.H.N.
The Sister Mary Angela, S.H.N.
The Sister Ann Fidelia, S.H.N.

THE PARISH HOUSE, 145 West 46th Street
The Rector’s Office. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
Miss Elizabeth Doremus, Secretary. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
Mr Ernest White. Telephone BRyant 9-1772
Cornelius Boothman, Jr., Funeral Director
Telephone: PLaza 3-7891—WAdsworth 7-4757

MR NEWBURY FROST READ, Parish Treasurer
30 Nassau Street, New York 5

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is supported largely by voluntary offerings through the use of weekly envelopes. Persons desiring the Duplex Envelopes for the support of the Parish and Missions are requested to apply to one of the clergy after High Mass or Evensong on Sundays, or to communicate with the Parish Secretary, Rector’s Office, 145 West 46th Street.