



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 2 Vol. 7 | March 1, 2022 | Staff/BOT Edition

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Remember that Ash Wednesday and Lent are not just about putting away bad things. It is more about creating good things, and helping the poor and needy, being kind to people and much more."*

Jacob Winters

### CATHOLIC Q&A

A Catholic history of Lent.

click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

- 03/01: Maha Shivaratri - *Hindu*
- 03/01: Shrove Tuesday - *Christian*
- 03/02: Ash Wednesday - *Christian*
- 03/02: Lent begins - *Christian*
- 03/07: Great Lent/Clean Monday - *Orthodox Christians*
- 03/07: Lent begins - *Orthodox Christians*
- 03/17: St. Patrick's Day - *Christian*
- 03/17: Purim - *Judaism*
- 03/18: Holi - *Hindu*
- 03/19: Saint Joseph's Day - *Christian*
- 03/20: Vernal Equinox - *Neo-Pagan*
- 03/21: Norooz (New Year) - *Zoroastrian*
- 03/21: Naw-Ru'z (New Year) - *Baha'i*
- 03/30: Magha Puja Day - *Buddhism*

### ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT AT VILLA MARIA COLLEGE

#### Calendar of Events

- March 2: Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 11:15 am in college chapel.
- March 7: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00am-9:10am.
- March 7: Student-led Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- March 14: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00 am to 9:10 am.
- March 21: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00 am to 9:10 am.
- March 28: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00 am to 9:10 am.
- March 31: Reconciliation Prayer Service at 11:15 am in lobby of Main Building.
- April 4: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00 am to 9:10 am.
- April 4: Student-led Bible Study at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office.
- April 11: Monday Morning Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom (watch emails for invite) from 9:00 am to 9:10 am.
- April 21: Resurrection Prayer Service at 11:15 am in lobby of main Building.



### SLOW DOWN: HOW TO FIND BALANCE IN AN ACCELERATED WORLD

By Teresa Blythe

We need to work on slowing down. Everything moves faster than it used to, and that affects how we find balance and connection in our spiritual life. Last week, I attempted simple maintenance on one of our older computers and was horrified at how slow it ran compared to my newer, more powerful desktop. It challenged my patience to have to wait minutes rather than seconds for it to pull up a program or a file. Technology creates a hurried world where we expect more of ourselves, and everyone around us.

All this is fine until we need to slow down. And we all need to slow down, at least at certain times of the day or for periods of rest such as vacation, retreats or personal days.

The spiritual path is rarely speedy. The Spirit works on a timetable that isn't affected by how fast we want the Spirit to work. Throughout history, mystics have spoken about God showing up in silence, in space and in mysterious ways. We can't boot God up like we do our computers. And we can't speed-pray. Being intentional about connecting with the Divine takes a calm mind.

How do we do this? Click [here](#) to learn how.



## OUR CORE VALUES

Justice and Peace

Transformation

**RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY**

Compassion

Solidarity with People in Need

2021-2022 Focus

## A "Respect for Human Dignity" Reflection:

### "What can I do to address the crime of human trafficking?"

- Educate yourself about human trafficking. Many educational resources are available on websites to help people understand what human trafficking is and how prevalent it is in our world and country today. Use these resources and visit websites often to stay informed on current news and actions you can take to address this issue.
- Read books, watch DVDs, and participate in webinars on human trafficking.
- Be a responsible consumer! Support socially responsible businesses that are active in the fight against human trafficking (e.g. hotels that have signed the ECPAT Code, organizations that sell fair trade/slave-free goods, etc.).
- Become politically active! Encourage lawmakers to introduce, support and enact effective, well-funded laws that will address all forms of human trafficking.
- Learn the signs of human trafficking. Knowing the red flags and indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need. Click link below.
- If you believe you have information about a potential trafficking situation, report it! Do NOT approach a trafficker or attempt to rescue a victim. Follow these guidelines to safely report a potential trafficking situation: Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or Text 233733 ("BeFree"): Specialists are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking. All reports are confidential and you may remain anonymous. Interpreters are available. Submit a tip online through the anonymous online reporting form below. For immediate assistance or to speak directly with an NHTRC Call Specialist, please contact us 24/7 at 1-888-373-7888. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately.
- Offer your financial support to local and national survivor services. To see our list of Survivor Resources: Click link below
- Support/join local groups working to address human trafficking issues in your community.

For more information: Click [here](#) for more information.

## Who Was The Real Saint Patrick?



St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture—namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name—his life remains somewhat of a mystery.

Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

Click [here](#) for the full story.

## National Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14, 2022

Catholic Sisters Week began in 2015 as a part of National Women's History Month. It is now an official component of Women's History Month. It was authorized by Molly Murphy MacGregor, co-founder of National Women's History Project, who was educated and deeply influenced by Catholic sisters. In 1981, Women's History Month launched as a single week. By 1987, U.S. Congress formally expanded it to the full month of March. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Felician Sisters who founded our college.



Memorial Prayer Service for Dr. Rochelle Marx-Asher

**Memorial Prayer Service**  
Thursday, March 3. Auditorium I  
11:15am - 11:45am. Please join us as we commemorate and celebrate the life of OTA instructor Dr. Rochelle Marx-Asher. Dr. Marx-Asher passed away on February 4, 2022 after a brief illness. All are welcome to attend. Masks will be required for those in attendance.

### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

### The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more information

### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click [here](#) for more information and resources

### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Serving staff & students  
[Ichinn@villa.edu](mailto:Ichinn@villa.edu)  
716-961-2858



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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