



SATURDAY, February 7, 2009 VIGIL: Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM †All souls in Purgatory req by Mary Yando

4:00 PM †David Barrett req by his family

†Pauline Mei req by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Allard

SUNDAY, February 8, 2009 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM †Thomas O'Donnell 12th ann req by his family

†Diane Wilcox 13th ann req by her family

10:30 AM †Peter Baltren 9th ann req by his family

†Denis Godbout req by Frances Godbout & family

MONDAY, February 9, 2009

8:00 AM †For our Seminarians and a continuing increase in vocations in the Springfield Diocese req by Rita Gallagher

TUESDAY, February 10, 2009

8:00 AM †Raymond Sabourin req by Kathy & Len Abraham

WEDNESDAY, February 11, 2009

8:00 AM †Mark Swank 4th ann

THURSDAY, February 12, 2009

8:00 AM †Morning Prayer

FRIDAY, February 13, 2009

8:00 AM †Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, February 14, 2009 VIGIL: Sixth Ordinary Sunday

4:00 PM †Gaston Dupont 2nd ann req by his wife and family

†Hector Tetrault 1st ann req by his family

SUNDAY, February 15, 2009 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM †Luke Rivers req by M/M Walter Miffitt

10:30 AM †Peter Kowal 3rd ann req by Fred & Alice

Piechota

†Deceased members of the Stanley Kowal family req by Fred & Alice Piechota



He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

- Mk 1:38-39

Readings for February 14-15, 2009

Lev13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Religious Vocations Corner – Jesus created much excitement in His day through His preaching, teaching and healing. Today, the Church communicates that same wonder and grace by those active in priesthood, religious life and lay ministries. If you think that God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or email: g.dailey@diospringfield.org web site www.my.vocation.com.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-As we approach Valentine's Weekend I hope you had the chance to notice the "Marriage Encounter" display in the church gathering space. Many couples in the parish have made this very special weekend and their relationship has deepened as they grow in appreciation for each other and in their ability to communicate. Having made this "Encounter" many years ago, I highly recommend it and encourage our couples to give to each other the gift of a weekend to grow together. Information dates and registration forms are available at the display board.

-This week, Bishop McDonnell will officially launch our Annual Catholic Appeal. At the recommendation of the Pastor's Advisory Board, the time of this Appeal has been moved to the Lenten Season rather than springtime. As this is the 50th Anniversary of this Appeal it offers us a time to reflect on all the good that has been accomplished through the great generosity of the people of our Diocese. Since I have received my information and request for a donation, I believe many of you have likewise. Do take the time to reflect on the "people," real people who receive "real" help through the many agencies that benefit from the funds that are raised. In these challenging financial times, give some thought to making a pledge over the next eight months since the requests for help and assistance are likewise on the increase by those who are looking for help. For those who may not have received the mailing, there is information and envelopes available in the church gathering space.

-All men of the parish 16 and up are invited to attend the 7th **Annual Catholic Men's Conference** on Saturday, March 21st at Cathedral High School, Spfld. Joining Cardinal O'Malley of Boston, will be some very powerful speakers including Tony Melendez who entertained Pope John Paul II. Tony was born without arms but plays the guitar and gives a powerful message about overcoming obstacles in order to give glory to God. The day starts at 8:30 and ends with Mass at 4PM. Confessions will be heard and lunch included. Brochures are available in the gathering space which includes a registration form. I cannot think of a better activity to do for Lent than this one. Think about giving God a few hours and you will be amazed what He will give back to you!

-Next weekend our NCYC youth will be offering red and pink carnations in honor of Valentines Day. Help them raise funds to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference and make your "special love" feel special!

-Denise Baran of the parish is hosting a "Tupperware Fundraiser" for our building fund. 40% of all proceeds will benefit the parish. Stop by her table in the gathering space and pick up a brochure and think about placing an order.

-Finally, our Social Justice Workshop will begin this Friday evening at 7PM in the Pine Room. Come and acquire a new way of thought and appreciation for those who so struggle to survive. "If you want peace, work for justice."

-This week we celebrated the Funeral Liturgy for Michelle Kowalski, wife and mother of three wonderful daughters. Michelle courageously battled with cancer but remained a strong and compassionate woman of Faith and an inspiration to us all. Our prayers go out to her husband Richard and to Monica, Lisa and Joanna. May she rest in the Lord's peace.

God bless and keep us all in the palm of His hand! Fr. Vern

*In Gratitude to God for His many gifts,
the members of this parish have returned
the following resources in support of the parish
and its ministries...*

The Sunday Collection for January 31-February 1..... \$7,782.00
 Weekly Sunday Average 6,267.16
 Weekly Sunday Goal..... 6,500.00
 Mortgage & Expansion Collection for February 3,129.00
 Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal 6,000.00
 Monthly Mortgage & Expansion February Shortfall..... 2,871.00

Eucharistic Adoration and Visitation - The Adoration Info Line number is 323-6272 Extension 6. Please, always call just before coming in for your hour to see if Adoration has been closed due to extreme cold or bad weather. The Adoration Chapel (entrance around the rear of the church) is open to all parishioners for a visit before the Blessed Sacrament. Hours of Adoration are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you would like to be a part of our Adoration program, either as an assigned adorer or substitute, please call Pam at 323-7416. **The following hours are in need of an Adorer: Monday 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Tuesday 12 Noon – 1:00 PM and Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM.**

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of February 14-15, 2009

Lectors

4:00 PM Brawner
 8:00 AM Fontaine
 10:30 AM Dell'Olio

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Abraham, Yvon, Beaupre, Carney, Couture, Lemire, Vanasse
 8:00 AM Dubois, McGinnis, Miffitt, Ricardi, Tovet, Crosby, Fontaine
 10:30 AM Belanger, Fedora, Lattrell, Letendre, Adams, Rose, Desilets

Altar Servers

4:00 PM H. Rakouskas, G. & B. Stone
 8:00 AM J. & J. Holdsworth
 10:30 AM R. & D. Racicot, C. & N. Drewniak

Fundraiser – There will be a Tupperware fundraiser to benefit the St. Francis Expansion fund. 40% of all proceeds will go immediately to St. Francis following the fundraiser. This does not require anyone to have a party. Someone will be available at the table in the gathering space after all Masses from February 7th to February 22. Anyone who would like to participate can pick up an envelope with all necessary information to take home. It is easy and fun! Just show the special enclosed catalogue to family and friends. There is also a need for volunteers to give out envelopes after the Masses. There will be a table and chair available. Contact person is Denise Baran 413-323-6288.



Brick Corner – We would like to thank the following parishioners who have “purchased a brick” for our new church, either in their name or in the name of a loved one:

Mary Austin – One Brick in Memory of Robert Rondeau.

Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can “buy a brick”. They are only \$10.00 each.

“To Love and Serve,” Social Justice Workshop – This Lenten season, the Faith Development Commission is sponsoring a free Social Justice Workshop in conjunction with the Diocesan Catholic Charities Office. The program begins *next Friday night, Feb. 13th*. So don’t delay in registering! The seven-week experience can be attended in part if some of the Friday night dates are difficult for your schedule. The experience will provide a good introduction into the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Dates are Feb. 13, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and the last class will be on April 3. Sessions are from 7-9 PM in the Pine Room of the parish Social Center. For more information and registration forms, please contact Faith Development co-chair Mary Ann at 323-6012.

Catholic Issues - Holy Cross Parish in Holyoke will host a series on “Catholic Issues” as a follow-up to its annual **ALPHA** Courses on Thursdays from 7 to 8:45 PM in the Parish hall. The sessions will be held on Feb. 25; March 5, 12, 19 & 26; April 2, 15 & 23, 2009. Topics to be presented through a combination of videos and live speakers are: God’s Love, forgiveness, Divine Mercy, Our Lady, Mass/Eucharist, the Church, Ways God Speaks to Us, and the Holy Spirit. Childcare is available. A dessert/coffee break will be held each evening. Registration is mandatory before Feb. 15th, spaces fill up quickly. To register call Mary Riel at 413-533-7660, or Dan O’Driscoll at 413-535-2216. There is no charge.

Bereavement Ministry

If you have lost a spouse, family member or someone close to you, the Bereavement Group at St. Francis is a place of quiet confidential discussion among others who have suffered loss. Come tell us, share your loss or just sit and listen. There are no requirements or dues. Everyone is welcome. It is a special, non-judgmental place where people listen and care. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7PM in the Tovet Room at the church.

The Widow And Widowers Social Group’s next meeting is Thursday February 12th at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining us, please call Beth at 323-5910 for more information.

Cancer Support Group’s next meeting is Monday, February 9th at 5:30 PM, in the Tovet Room. If you are newly diagnosed or presently undergoing cancer treatment and would like to join our group, please call Beth at 323-5910 for more information.

Married Couples – “if today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.” When we hear about ways to enrich our marriage, do we harden our heart so that we do not have to listen? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in New England is March 6-8 & March 20-22.

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From January 26 through February 2, 2009, the following intentions were added to our already long list of requests for prayers. Won't you please join us in praying for them all?

That Melinda will find courage and support as she undergoes cancer treatment.

Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Mike O.

Successful treatment for a man diagnosed with cancer.

Healing for a man.

Healing for Paula.

Successful surgery and healing for Steven 11/27.

Thanksgiving for a safe trip home from Houston for a man.

Special intention for a change of jobs for Joey B.

For Kirk, successful treatment and healing of a cancer that has metastasized.

Good medical test results for B.L.

For Frances Trudeau, healing after a fall.

Prayers are asked for successful surgery for Irene 2/5.

For a young woman to return to the Church.

Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Russell, continued prayers for healing after surgery and for other serious health issues.

Renewed intention for Val who has cancer and healing for a fractured spine.

Renewed intention for Gloria Slate.

Thanksgiving for the life of Michael Sinowski. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his family and friends in their bereavement.

Thanksgiving for all God's Graces and His answers to the requests of the prayer line. If you would like to have the prayer line members pray for you or a loved one, please call Chris McGinnis, 323-6622, Louise Groux, 323-4046 or Marion Masse, 323-7169.

7th Annual Catholic Men's Conference: On March 21st at Cathedral High School the Office of Men's Ministry for the Diocese of Springfield will hold its 7th Annual Catholic Men's Conference. All men of the diocese are encouraged to attend. This year, we have the renowned Tony Melendez who entertained Pope John Paul II. Tony, born without arms, plays the guitar and witnesses to us of overcoming obstacles in order to give glory to God. The day starts at 8:30 and will end by 5 PM. Other speakers are coming – keep watch for more announcements in the bulletin. For information call 413-452-0811.

Living God's Grace – The second annual Catholic Women's Conference will be held Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Cathedral High School, 260 Surrey Rd., Springfield. Talks by Msgr. Swetland, Camille Lewis Brown and Jill Ker Conway. Afternoon music concert. \$30. For info call 413-452-0535.



Prayer Shawl Ministry – If you know of someone who is ill or is mourning the loss of a loved one and would appreciate prayer, support and the gift of a homemade shawl, please call Pat Antonovitch at 323-7735 or Judy Dudek at 323-4339.

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of snack foods such as pretzels, cookies/crackers, popcorn and raisins. Thank you to all who continually remember the needs of the Pantry.