



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
 †Stephen Gossman req by the Bushey Family
 10:30 AM †Peter Kowal 3rd ann req by Fred & Alice Piechota
 †Deceased members of the Stanley Kowal family
 req by Fred & Alice Piechota

MONDAY, February 16, 2009

8:00 AM †Cyril Blouin req by Rose Zebek

TUESDAY, February 17, 2009

8:00 AM †John Barney req by Clare Oberly

WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2009

8:00 AM †Ralph Wilson req by Clare Oberly

THURSDAY, February 19, 2009

8:00 AM †People of the Parish

FRIDAY, February 20, 2009

8:00 AM †Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, February 21, 2009 VIGIL: 7th Ordinary Sunday

4:00 PM †Dorothy Roccanti, 3rd ann req by her family
 †Rev. Stephen Ptaszynski req by Ptaszynski family

SUNDAY, February 22, 2009 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM †Mary Moriarty 26th ann req by Hugh Moriarty
 †Roland King req by Denise Baran

10:30 AM †Gaspar F. DeSantis, Sr. req by his family
 †Emalienne Lapine 2nd ann req by Tom, Eileen &
 family



*A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
 "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he
 stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will
 it. Be made clean."*

- Mk 1:40-41

Readings for February 21-22, 2009

Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25/2 Cor 1:18-22:/Mk 2:1-12

Religious Vocations Corner – Today's Gospel says: "Jesus was moved with pity when He saw a leper." Are you moved with love and compassion when you see the outcast of today's society? Today, Jesus continues to call forward men and women to minister as He did. If you think 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.myvocation.com.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-As we celebrate this special Valentine's Weekend we are reminded of how special a gift love truly is; we cannot demand, purchase or force the love of another. It is a gift given and received. How precious is this gift of love. Let us remember that God so loved us that He gave us the gift of His only Son. What a Valentine!

-You might have noticed that our parish has acquired a new musical instrument: an electronic organ/key board. We received this from the parish of St. Ann's in West Springfield which was recently closed and merged. We are deeply grateful for this gift and for the efforts of Bruce Wallace, which brought this instrument to the parish. Our musicians are getting familiar with the instrument but I am sure we will all appreciate the traditional sounds of a church organ. This is not meant to replace our piano but rather to complement our musical program.

-I am so pleased to say that all the window and special memorial plaques have been corrected and added throughout the church. This has taken some four years to accomplish due to complications and I am so grateful for your patience. In a similar way, most of the names have been added to our Memorial Tree but there are still a few that are to be completed. Note that the tree has been expanded so that we can accommodate the addition of new donors who wish to remember their deceased loved ones in this way; or who would like to be counted as founding members or friends of St. Francis' new parish complex. The memorial leaves are \$2,000 and you can contact the rectory office for more information. It is my hope that our memorial book of names of those who donated bricks will soon be on permanent display in the gathering space.

-This weekend I addressed the community regarding this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. For 50 years the people of our Diocese have responded with great generosity so as to respond to the many that look to our church for help and assistance. Last year, the Diocese received 262 individual donations from our parish which amounted to \$29,689.00. These are indeed difficult financial times. So, please consider making a donation over several months so that together we can respond with even greater charity. The needs of our brothers and sisters here in Western Massachusetts have never been greater.

-I will be taking a second week of winter vacation this week. I am pleased to say that Fr. Jack Roach, former pastor of St. Bridget's in Amherst and St. Joseph's in Shelburne Falls, now retired, will be covering the parish. I will return to be with you for Ash Wednesday. Can you believe that Lent is just around the corner?

God bless you and all those you love this Valentine's Weekend!
Fr. Vern

Saint Mary's School in Ware invites new students for the 2009-2010 School Year. A quality and affordable Catholic Education. Preschool and Kindergarten registration: February 25-26, 8:30 AM – 1PM; grades 1-8 registration: February 27-28, 8:30 AM-1 PM. Call 413-967-9936 for additional information. St. Mary's School is accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

*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 February 7-8 was..... \$7,450.75
Weekly Sunday Average 6,304.15
Weekly Sunday Goal..... 6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for February 1-8..... 4,964.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal6,000.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion February Shortfall.....1,036.00
Catholic Communications949.13

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 21-22, 2009

Lectors

4:00 PM Campbell
8:00 AM Forrest
10:30 AM Abuselmi & Roux

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Symanczyk, Buczko, Racine, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas, Pat A.
8:00 AM Kielbasa, Moran, Waniewski, Barrett, Coty, Dubois, McGinnis
10:30 AM Groux, Lawrence, Gary & Linda Racicot, Belanger, Tyler, Fedora

Altar Servers

4:00 PM A. Muraczewski, J. Mazza, G. Terry
8:00 AM S. & R. Forrest
10:30 AM C. Grady, M. & F. Hegarty

Pro Life Corner – There is a nationwide effort to pass laws requiring abortion providers to offer a woman the opportunity to view an ultrasound image of her unborn child. One physician states: “Allowing a patient to view her ultrasound examination implies respect for the dignity and autonomy of the patient and her ability to participate wisely in her own plan of care.”

(The Southern Cross, August 2008)

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.



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: There were no bricks purchased this week.

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

Free Chapel Concert at Providence Place – Holyoke Catholic’s a Cappella Singers will perform on Sunday, March 1, at 2:30 PM. These talented high school students will present a program rich in Sacred Church Hymns, traditional african-American Hymns, Taizé Chants, and Gospel Music. For additional information contact Runa Skar, at Providence Place: 413-534-9700.

Holyoke Catholic is holding their **Dollar\$ for Scholar\$ Raffle** again this year. There are three prizes: First: \$5,000, Second: \$2,000 and Third: \$1,000 will be awarded for *Tuition at ANY ACCREDITED* elementary, high school or college in the nation. Director Joseph Toritto is known for selecting music that celebrates life and reflects Catholic social teaching.. For tickets call Barbara Moran at 413-331-2480 x1273.

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. Women are being encouraged to plan ahead and order tickets. “We invite all women to this faith-filled day at the 2009 ‘Living God’s Grace’ Catholic Women’s Conference with a new way of seeing God’s world, God’s purpose for their life, and trust in God’s wisdom to accomplish that purpose.” The day features talks by Msgr. Stuart Swetland, Camille Lewis Brown and Jill Ker Conway. Sarah Hart, a contemporary Catholic singer and songwriter, will offer musical calls to prayer and sing at the closing Mass. She also will perform an afternoon concert. The cost of the conference is \$30. Further information is available by calling 413-452-0535 or by logging onto www.diospringfield.org/womensconf.html.

7th Annual Catholic Men’s Conference - Saturday, March 21st at Cathedral High School from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. In addition to the renowned Tony Melendez, we have Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston. Cardinal Sean will celebrate our Mass and deliver the homily. We are honored to have His Eminence with us and without doubt he will give the men an inspiring message. Keep watch for more announcements in the bulletin. Brochures are available at the doors of the church. Sign up now! This year we invite the Hispanic men of the diocese. Tony Melendez and Cardinal Sean will give a special message in Spanish. For more information, please call 413-452-0811.

St. Joan of Arc-St. George School, 587 Grattan St., Chicopee, will host an information & registration night on February 26, 2009, at 6:30 PM in the school hall. Families interested in Pre-K to Gr. 8 are invited to attend. The school offers before & after school care, hot lunch, gym, music, computer, library & French. For more information, please call: 413-533-1475.

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From February 2nd through February 9th, 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 Ruth will have success in her new job.

A special intention for Sharon

For Caroline, a successful pregnancy and a healthy baby.

Special prayers are asked for Donna and her family after a resurgence of cancer.

For Roger Archambault who is in the hospital.

Special intention for Judy R. for successful surgery 2/2 and for healing.

That Lara will get a correct diagnosis and treatment.

Renewed prayers are asked for Ted and for his family during a difficult time.

For Pat O'Shea, a good recovery from quadruple bypass surgery, and a safe trip home from Florida.

Thanksgiving for prayers answered for Everett.

Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Eileen G.

For healing of an ear ailment for John C.

A safe trip home from Florida for a couple.

Very special intention for Karen for good biopsy results.

Successful emergency heart surgery for Jerry M. 2/6.

For a woman, healing after surgery for a broken hip, and prayers for her family.

Renewed prayers for healing for Mary Yando.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Michelle Kowalski, Donna Potvin and Roger Furness.. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families 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.

A Reminder for the Tupperware Fundraiser – Several of the flyers that have been inserted in the take home envelopes have a picture of red roses on them. Those who find these roses will receive a special handcrafted gift as a bonus, even if you order for yourself. So when taking an envelope, you can pick randomly from the stack in the basket. If you find the red roses call Denise at 323-6288, and let her know. Also, anyone who sells \$250.00 or more will receive a **GRAND PRIZE!** Look for these roses.

Lenten Regulations

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed. On days of fast two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
2. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
3. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at 14 years of age.
4. The obligation to fast begins at 18 and ends at 59 years of age.
5. Although the faithful may excuse themselves for a just cause from these laws of fast and abstinence, there is an obligation to substitute another penance and no Catholic should lightly excuse himself/herself from this obligation in the Lenten season.