



SATURDAY, February 28, 2009 VIGIL: First Sunday of Lent
 4:00 PM †Harry Shakarian req by Jennie, Eileen & Family
 †Michael Angers req by the Fortin family

SUNDAY, March 1, 2009 First Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM †David Barrett req by his family
 †Peter Kowal req by his family
 10:30 AM †Michelle Kowalski req by Daniel & Joyce Eder
 †Emil Nowak req by Wesley Nowak & family

MONDAY, March 2, 2009
 8:00 AM †For all Fr. Vern's intentions req by Rita Gallagher

TUESDAY, March 3, 2009
 8:00 AM †Donna Potvin req by Everett Tovet

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2009
 8:00 AM †For the People of the Parish
 6:30 PM †Raymond Horta req by Rachele Rushford

THURSDAY, March 5, 2009
 8:00 AM †Ellen Gerhard req by Kathy & Len Abraham
 †Michael Oberly req by the family

FRIDAY, March 6, 2009 First Friday
 8:00 AM †Gordon Benoit req by his sister Mary Yando
 †Barbara Williams 1st ann req by family

SATURDAY, March 7, 2009 VIGIL: Second Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM †All Souls in Purgatory req by Mary Yando
 4:00 PM †Thomas Buczko Birthday Remembrance req by
 the Buczko family
 † Pauline Mei req by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Allard

SUNDAY, March 8, 2009 Second Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM †Ed Wallace req by his family
 †Agnes & Wasyl Romonezyk req by the Kowal
 Family
 10:30 AM †Stanley Borowski 13th ann & Gary Borowski req
 by Dan & Linda Drowniak family
 † Doris Ryan req by her son Kevin



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." –

Mk 1:14-15

Religious Vocations Corner – Lent: the Springtime of the soul... is a time to make a new covenant with God; develop new signs of your relationship with your Creator; invite God into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you. If you think that God could be 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...

-Here we are in the Lenten Season which will prepare us for the glory of Easter. The mood of the church and liturgy has changed in that the altars are draped in purple and we enter and leave the Mass in reflective silence. In a similar way the waters of our Baptistry are silent as we await the new, refreshing and life giving waters of Easter.

The traditional "practices" for Lent are *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. For *prayer* may I suggest that you might consider joining us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM for the Stations of the Cross and for Mass at 6:30PM. For *fasting*, though the abstinence from, and limiting of food, is a noble practice you may likewise consider *fasting* from TV and computer time and other activities that would afford you time to visit the sick, elderly and family members. Regarding *almsgiving* you may consider our Annual Appeal which has been purposely moved into the season of charity and giving or even the Rice Bowl in support of those who live in great poverty. In all, do not let these next few weeks be like all the other weeks of the year, embrace them and make a change towards God and your Easter will find you with a heart filled with joy.

-Just to let you know, our Parish Mission this Lent will begin the weekend of March 21st and continue through to Wednesday evening March 25th. We are pleased to welcome back Fr. Bill McCarthy from MY FATHER'S HOUSE RETREAT CENTER in Moodus, CT. Fr Bill was last with us in 2004.

-Our future Deacon, Mr. Bill Brawner will begin to be present, assisting me at the altar for some of our weekend liturgies. Like Mark Glover who was with us, Bill will exercise his ministry of Acolyte which allows him to prepare the altar, bring the ciborium from the tabernacle to the altar, assist with communion and do the purification of vessels following communion or later. Bill will be ordained to the Diaconate on May 9, 2009 at the Cathedral.

-It has been five years since our last parish album/directory was produced. I am pleased to let you know that we will do so once again this spring. Like in the past, those who wish to participate, (I hope many will) will be asked to sign up for a photo session during the seven days that "Life Touch" will be here. The possible dates are April 21st through the 25th and May 5-6th. This will take place in the Pine Room. Everyone who participates will receive a free photo and a directory; there is no obligation to purchase a photo package unless you choose to. This is a great opportunity for family and individual photos at a reasonable price. You will be asked to make your reservations on the weekend of March 21st so give this some thought. The more that participate the better our album will be. More information will be coming under the direction of our Communications Commission.

May the Lord bless you and all those you love!

A blessed Lent, Fr. Vern

Grateful thanks: I am very grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality I experienced here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish while covering for Fr. Vern while he was away in search of the "perfect palm" to bring back to you for Palm Sunday. You truly manifested a wonderful and vital spirit that has helped to create this beautiful parish in Belchertown.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

—Fr. Roach

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*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 21-22 was..... \$5,175.12
Weekly Sunday Average 6,268.31
Weekly Sunday Goal..... 6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for February 1- 22..... 6,206.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal6,000.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion February Overage206.00

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 March 7-8, 2009

Lectors

4:00 PM Patel
8:00 AM Viglione & Rumanowski
10:30 AM Hume

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Buczko, Carney, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas
Lemire, Racine
8:00 AM Miffitt, Moran, Ricardi, Tovet, Waniewski, Barrett,
Dubois
10:30 AM Lattrell, Belanger, Dell'Olio, Desilets, Fedora,
Groux, Adams

Altar Servers

4:00 PM A. Beaupre, M. & A. Patel
8:00 AM B. Patel & D. Nauman
10:30 AM C. & S. Grady, A. Young, H. Lussier

The Lector and Eucharistic Minister schedule is now available on our Parish Web site at www.stfrancistown.org. You can access this through the link provided on the "Current Mass Schedule" page or on the "What's New" page.

The Our Lady of the Angels S.F.O. will be having an information session for those interested in learning more about the SFO, as well as having their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:00PM in the Tovet Room of the church. All are welcome. For those with questions, call Lynn Carney at 323-5537, or Kathy Riccardi at 323-9023.



They are only \$10.00 each.

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: No bricks were purchased during this time. Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can “buy a brick.”

7th Annual Catholic Men’s Conference: Bishop McDonnell invites all men from ages 16 and up to come to the Annual Catholic Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 21st at Cathedral High School. All men are encouraged to attend and hear the powerful words of some renowned speakers: Tony Melendez, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Sean Forrest and Robert Rogers. Confession, adoration and healing procession will lift your heart and minds to God – not to mention a good lunch as well to nurture the body. You don’t want to miss this day! Invite your friends. We invite all the Hispanic men of the diocese to join us for a special talk by Tony Melendez and Cardinal Sean in Spanish. Pick up a brochure in the gathering space and sign up. For more information you can call the Office of men’s ministry at 413-452-0811. A great way to enter into the Lenten Season!

St. Patrick’s Dinner March 14th – the St. Francis Council, Knights of Columbus will serve a corned beef dinner in the Pine Room of the Parish Social Center at 5:30 PM on Saturday, March 14th. Take out dinners will be available at 5:15 PM. The menu is corned beef, potato, carrots, cabbage, bread, dessert, and hot & cold beverages. There will be door prizes and a sing-a-long of favorite Irish tunes. This event is always a sell out and seating space is limited. Don’t procrastinate. Obtain your tickets early. Tickets will not be available at the door. Tickets will be available after the weekend Masses February 28, March 1, 7 and 8th. Or call Stan at 323-4842. Donations are adults: \$10; children 5 to 12 years of age: \$5, and children under 5 are free.

Family Life – The next meeting of the widow and widowers group will be Thursday, March 12th at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining us, please call Beth at 323-5910

-The next meeting of the cancer support group is Monday, March 9th at 5:30 PM in the Tovet Room. If you have been newly diagnosed with cancer or are presently in treatment and would like more information, please call Beth at 323-5910.

Bereavement Group – 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. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7PM in the Tovet Room at the church.

Living God’s Grace – the 2nd Annual Catholic Women’s Conference: Sat. April 25, 2009, at Cathedral High School, 260 Surrey Rd. Springfield. The day features talks by Msgr. Stuart Swetland, Camille Lewis Brown and Jill Ker Conway. Sarah Hart, a contemporary Catholic singer and songwriter will perform an afternoon concert and sing at the closing Mass. Fee: \$30. Info: 413-452-0535 or www.diospringfield.org/womensconf.html.

MARCH 1, 2009

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From February 16 through February 23, 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.

For Chris Armini for peace and for guidance during his job search.

For Tom to find peace in an uncertain job situation.

Healing for a man who has had a fall.

For Mike C. who has cancer.

Success for Hal in his new job.

Healing of cancer for Beth and for the emotional support she will need.

A safe trip home from Iowa for a family.

Prayers are asked for a man rushed to the hospital Thursday.

That a man with an alcohol problem will get the help he needs.

For Kathy Kehoe to get good results from a consultation

That Conrad D. will have a good surgical outcome.

Healing of a spinal injury for Denise.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Irene Malin, James Sheehan, Christopher George and Justin Martin. 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.



40 Days for Life – Christians throughout Western Massachusetts are invited to take part in the national 40 Days for Life effort from February 25 through April 5. In addition to volunteering, to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts office at 3550 Main Street in Springfield, MA for one or more hours during the 40 days, and spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. All are welcome! For more information visit www.40daysforlife.com/springfield.

Pro Life Corner - . "One day...our nation will...look back on what we have been doing to innocent human beings within their mothers as a crime no less heinous than what was approved by the Supreme Court in the 'Dred Scott case' in the 19th century, and no less heinous than what was perpetrated by Hitler and Stalin in the 20th".

Cardinal Edward Egan in Catholic New York, October 23 2008.

Please pray for a greater commitment to the defense of innocent human life.



Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome into our parish family:

Owen Christopher Laurenzo

May their parents and godparents, by word and example, bring them up to know, love and serve God in this life, so they may be happy with Him forever in the life to come.