



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 Romanezyk req by the Kowal Family
 10:30 AM ☩ Stanley Borowski 13th ann & Gary Borowski req by Dan & Linda Drewniak and family
 ☩ Doris Ryan req by her son Kevin

MONDAY, March 9, 2009

- 8:00 AM ☩ For our Seminarians and an increase in vocations in the Springfield Diocese req by Rita Gallagher

TUESDAY, March 10, 2009

- 8:00 AM ☩ Matilda Lomanno req by the Spiritual Life Commission

WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2009

- 8:00 AM ☩ Theresa Doyle req by Felicia & Bob Stanton
 6:00 PM ☩ Stations
 6:30 PM ☩ The People of the Parish

THURSDAY, March 12, 2009

- 8:00 AM ☩ Morning Prayer

FRIDAY, March 13, 2009

- 8:00 AM ☩ Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, March 14, 2009 VIGIL: Third Sunday of Lent

- 4:00 PM ☩ Michelle Kowalski req by the Ryan family
 ☩ Raymond Bushey req by his wife and family

SUNDAY, March 15, 2009 Third Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 AM ☩ Nancy Daly 3rd ann req by Mr. & Mrs. J. Luke Ross and family
 ☩ Romanick Brothers: Joseph, Floyd & Bernard req by the Kowal family
 10:30 AM ☩ Gasper DeSantis, Sr. req by his family
 ☩ Florence Forkey & Emma Groux req by Bill & Louise Groux



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. –

Mk 9:7-8

Readings for March 15-16, 2009

Ex20:1-17,1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

Religious Vocation Corner – If you need examples of persons responding to God's call, look at Abraham and Sarah – called in old age to leave their country and have a child. Then Abraham was asked to sacrifice that child. What faith! Answering God's call to be a priest, brother, sister or deacon is also taking a great risk. If you are willing and think that God is calling you to a Church vocation, please call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: g.dailey@diospringfield.org; Website: www.myvocation.com

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-Thank you for all the wonderful warm greetings I received upon my return from vacation. As always, it is good to be home and spring is not far away!

-Many members of the parish participate in "Operation Rice Bowl" during the Lenten Season as an ongoing way to practice sacrifice and charity. Seventy-five percent of these funds are sent to Catholic Relief Services and provide much needed financial support for development projects in more than 40 countries. Twenty-five percent remain here in our diocese and support local agencies that provide food and fuel assistance. At the end of Lent we ask that those who are participating, to please count these funds at home and then write a check for this amount, made out to St. Francis. We will then make a check for all the funds received and forward it to the Diocese. We ask that you do this because we really do not have the staff to count and roll all the change that is often received. Thanks for your help and assistance.

-I hope many will support our local K of C Council by participating in their annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day next Saturday evening. The traditional meal and entertainment is always a great time for the parish. Remember they do "take out" so don't miss out on the corned beef and cabbage!

-Perhaps many of you do not know that our parish gladly sponsors a Cub Scout Pack, #4507. They meet on the third Thursday of the month and are always open to welcoming new members. If there are any young boys who would like to participate in this parish youth activity, please call Gloria Fortunato at 323-0966.

-Our Parish Trip to NYC to see "South Pacific" will happen on April 22nd. At this time we do have 5 tickets available for the show; the cost of an orchestra seat ticket and bus transport is \$160. Also, if anyone would like to take the bus to NYC with us and then do your thing (possibly get a discount ticket for another show at the outlet at Time Square; shopping, sightseeing, etc.) we will have 10 open seats. Give me a call if you have an interest. The cost for just the bus is \$40 round-trip. Those who have already signed-up are asked to complete their payment by March 22nd.

-I mentioned on Ash Wednesday at the evening Mass that while I was on vacation I had read "The Shack" by William P. Young which has been on the NY Times bestsellers list for some 39 week with over 3 million copies sold. This is quite a thought provoking book about great tragedies in life and where God is to be found, let alone how God is to be understood. I recommend this to you for Lenten reading and will host a discussion of this book on Tuesday evening of Holy Week at 7pm in the Pine Room. Believe me you are in for quite a story and be sure some of it will show up in a homily or two!

May the Lord bless you and your Lenten observance, Fr. Vern

Thought for the day:

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring,

He sends you a sunrise every morning.

Face it, friend, He's crazy about you!

SECOND 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	\$7,609.28
Weekly Sunday Average	6,306.62
Weekly Sunday Goal.....	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for March 1	3,688.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal	6,000.00
Monthly Mortgage & Shortage for March	2,312.00

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 14-15, 2009

Lectors

- 4:00 PM Phaneuf
- 8:00 AM Viglione & Amy
- 10:30 AM Schmidt & William

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 4:00 PM Buczko, Yvon, Abraham, Pat A., Beaupre, Couture, Sumanczyk
- 8:00 AM Coty, Fontaine, Barrett, Kielbasa, McGinnis, Miffitt, Moran
- 10:30 AM Adams, Letendre, Gary & Linda Racicot, Rose, Tyler, Lawrence

Altar Servers

- 4:00 PM H. Rakouskas, G. Stone & B. Stone
- 8:00 AM R. & N. Gousy, C. Dalton
- 10:30 AM T. Bechta, J. Bechta & M. Beaudet

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 this 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.

Elm's College will offer 8 mini-courses for adults in June 2009. For more information and topics contact Jane McCarry at 413-265-2490 or visit <http://www.elms.edu/parttime/noncredit.htm>.



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

Special Lent an Easter Page Available on our Web Site – Our special Lent and Easter page is once again available on our Web Site at www.stfrancisbtown.org. You'll find information about Mass schedules during Lent, our upcoming Parish Mission, Holy Week Schedule and links to special Lenten Web Sites for the entire family. Visit the “What's New” page and click the link provided.

Calling all Lay Ministers and those who might be considering answering the call to Lay Ministry, including (but not limited to): Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Catechists, Readers at Mass, Music Ministers, Pastoral Ministers, Counters, Greeters, Ushers and more. A new program, coming this Spring, begins March 24, 2009. This is for those who have not yet attended classes and those continuing from classes in the fall of 2008. Upon completion, this training program provides participants with a Lay Ministry Certificate in Introductory Leadership. For more information, please call the office of Lay Ministry: Michelle Laskey or Fr. Tom Lisowski at 413-452-0824.



St. Patrick's Feast

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.

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

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of canned soups. As always, thank you for keeping the pantry supplied.

MARCH 8, 2009

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From March 2 through March 9, 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.

A special intention for Irving R.

Healing of a rash for Elena.

For Julia A., God's will be done.

Thanksgiving for the safe delivery of twin boys for Beth, and continued prayers asked for their improved health.

Prayers for healing for Linda, hospitalized after a fall downstairs.

Special intention for Beck,

Special intention for Shawn.

For Del, healing from serious surgery and for his return to the faith.

Renewed intention for Kirk for successful cancer treatment.

For Maryann S., correct diagnosis, treatment and healing.

Healing of a broken bone for Denise.

Complete recovery for Joan L. who has suffered a stroke.

A safe trip to and from Ohio for a man 2/24.

Thanksgiving for a safe trip to and from Florida for a couple.

A successful course of chemo treatment for Paulette.

Prayers asked for a successful operation for Irene M. 3/5.

Prayers for recovery for Irving R. operated on 2/24.

Good test results for a man.

For a young man to get the job he has applied for.

A good outcome from a court decision.

Special intention for a young man struggling at college

Success for a young man at his first job.

For a woman to find the correct career path.

That Rick will be motivated to take a new job soon.

Thanksgiving for prayers answered for Barbara.

Improved health for Anne.

Special prayers are asked for the safety of a family.

For David, prayers are asked for good test results and improved health.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Marc Sugrue and Nora Gormally.

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.

Pro Life Corner – "To claim the right to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance, that of an absolute power over others and against others."

40 Days for Life – You are invited to take part in the National 40 Days for Life effort through April 5. Volunteer to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood League of Mass. office at 3550 Main St. in Springfield, for one or more hours during the 40 days, and spread the word. All are welcome! For more information visit www.40daysforlife.com/springfield.

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 this 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.