



## LENT

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> ann req by Mr. & Mrs. J. Luke Ross and family  
 †Romanick Brothers: Joseph, Floyd & Bernard req by the Kowal family  
 10:30 AM †Gaspar DeSantis, Sr. req by his family  
 †Florence Forkey & Emma Groux req by Bill & Louise Groux
- MONDAY, March 16, 2009  
 8:00 AM †The People of the Parish
- TUESDAY, March 17, 2009 **St Patrick's Day**  
 8:00 AM †Mitchell & Sally Gonet, Stanley & Mary Czaporowski  
 †Donna Potvin req by Terry & Ray Couture
- WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2009  
 8:00 AM †Keith O'Connor Birthday Remembrance req by Mom & Dad  
 6:00 PM †Stations of the Cross  
 6:30 PM †The People of the Parish
- THURSDAY, March 19, 2009  
 8:00 AM †The People of the Parish
- FRIDAY, March 20, 2009  
 8:00 AM †Morning Prayer
- SATURDAY, March 21, 2009 VIGIL: Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 4:00 PM †Christopher Hannah Birthday Remembrance req by the family
- SUNDAY, March 22, 2009 Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 8:00 AM †Keith O'Connor Birthday Remembrance req by Mom & Dad  
 †Jackie Benham req by her sister  
 10:30 AM †Tom Godek req by Fred & Alice  
 †Fr. John Ayers req by Fred & Alice  
 7:00 PM †Parish Mission



*And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me."*

- Jn 2:16-17

**Religious Vocations Corner** – Jesus cleaned out the temple of moneychangers. He was angry; He was zealous; He spoke with authority. He was doing what He had to do even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a religious vocation in the Church. If you think god might be calling you to one, call: Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: [g.dailey@diospringfield.org](mailto:g.dailey@diospringfield.org). Website: [www.myvocation.com](http://www.myvocation.com)

*The Pastor's Thoughts...*

-We received a note from Fr. Lapointe who is head of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for our Diocese thanking us for our generous contribution of \$1,432.00 for World Mission Sunday. I am sure our contributions will be most welcomed by the missionaries who receive them as well as those they serve.

-We have also received a note of gratitude for our participation in the Belchertown Ecumenical Fuel Assistance Fund. Our combined ecumenical efforts raised \$3,800 to provide some relief to Belchertown residents in need. Besides the individual donations we received here in the parish, our Pastoral Council determined to give a \$500 donation to this fund from our Food Pantry Fund. Again, thanks to everyone who responded to this appeal.

-Regarding our Food Pantry, it is truly a service to our greater community here in Belchertown. We presently are serving some 42 families and out of this number 11 are members of the parish. Again, we thank all our members who work so hard in this program as our community seeks to respond to those who are in need.

-As noted, our Diocese is in the midst of the Annual Catholic Appeal during this Lenten Season. As of this date, 106 households have responded with gifts totaling \$10,757.00. This figure represents about 1/3 of our goal raised. Our parish goal for this year has been set at \$34,000. Please do give some prayerful consideration to the great needs of this Appeal.

-Next weekend, Fr. Bill McCarthy from "My Father's House" in Moodus, CT, will be joining us to begin our Annual Parish Mission. He will give the homily at all Masses and the Mission will begin next Sunday evening at 7PM and continue through Wednesday evening. The Mission will be given in the context of Mass each evening save for Sunday. There will be a special session for our elderly, who do not like to drive in the evening, on Tuesday afternoon at 3PM followed by an opportunity for reconciliation.

-As announced previously, we will be producing a new pictorial directory of our parish families in April. Registrations for photo sessions will begin shortly. Each family or individual who participates will receive a free photo and copy of the new directory. Watch for more information. The photo sessions begin April 21<sup>st</sup>.

-This past Monday I met with Bishop regarding the construction of our new rectory. He was pleased with the proposal and gave permission to present it to the Diocesan Building Commission. I have contacted the chairman and hope to meet with them the first week in April. The house will be situated behind the church with a driveway leading from the parking lot. When finished, hopefully by this fall, the present rectory will be used as an office building; giving Religious Education much needed space (there are 5 people working in one room) and moving our business manager out of the cellar. Please join me in keeping this second phase of our building project in prayer.

**God bless you during this third week of Lent,**

*Fr. Vern*

## THIRD 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 March 7-8.....	\$7,123.31
Weekly Sunday Average.....	6,329.31
Weekly Sunday Goal.....	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for March 1-8.....	5077.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal.....	6,000.0
Mortgage & Expansion March Shortfall.....	923.00
Black & Indian Mission Collection.....	1167.98

**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 adoror 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 21-22, 2009*

### Lectors

- 4:00 PM Amara & Polidoro
- 8:00 AM Fontaine
- 10:30 AM Abuselmi & Roux

### Ministers of the Eucharist

- 4:00 PM Carney, Racine, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas, Symanczyk, Lemire
- 8:00 AM Ricardi, Tovet, Waniewski, Crosby, Dubois, Coty, Fontaine
- 10:30 AM Belanger, Desilets, Fedora, Groux, Lattrell, Lawrence, Dell'Olio,

### Altar Servers

- 4:00 PM A. Muraczewski, J. Mazza, G. Terry
- 8:00 AM J. & J. Holdsworth
- 10:30 AM R. & D. Racicot, C. & N. Drewniak

**To Future graduating high school students** – As you look at countless colleges and universities, consider what kind of community each school has to offer a young Catholic student. At the U. of Mass, Amherst, the Newman Catholic Center seeks to serve a large Catholic student population. We offer ways to meet life-long friends, get involved with social outreach and grow in your faith. We would love to hear from you and answer any questions about the Newman Center or U Mass. Feel free to email Newman's Peer Ministers at [peers.newman@gmail.com](mailto:peers.newman@gmail.com) or visit us online at [www.newmanumass.org](http://www.newmanumass.org).



**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: Bill & Debby Bowen – Two Bricks as a Birthday Remembrance for William Carmody

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 and 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](http://www.stfrancisbtown.org). Visit the “What’s New” page and click the link provided.

**February Pastoral Council Executive Summary** - The Faith Development Commission announced the “To Love and to Serve” social-justice workshop, which runs for seven consecutive Fridays, beginning Friday February 13, 7-9 PM. The Family Life Commission discussed developments with its cancer support group, its support group for widows and widowers, and food pantry news. Fr. Vern reported that the Vocations Commission is considering having a seminarians’ talent show as a fundraiser for the seminarians. There was also continued discussion regarding elections to the Pastoral Council. Fr. Vern has suggested that people be nominated or volunteer for one year of service on a particular commission rather than as a chairperson. The commission would elect a chair for two years from its members and that person would represent the commission on the Pastoral Council. Stan Wyman from the Finance Committee also described upcoming and potential future fundraisers.

**Generation of Faith Upcoming Session** – On the weekend of March 28/29 our G of F families will be learning about the lines of the Creed that refer to the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The community is preparing for the experience of the Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday. The session will include a presentation on the Shroud of Turin by Andre Chapdelain and a DVD on the resurrection. If you’d like to join us please call Judy at 323-6272 x 2. Cost is \$10 - \$5 for seniors.

**Operation Rice Bowl** – This past weekend our 9<sup>th</sup> graders, as part of their Social Justice Workshop, met 2 Burundi Refugee teens who have recently been placed here in Springfield. In the telling of their story, our teens learned from them that the food of corn meal and beans that sustained them for years in the Tanzania refugee camp was provided in part by funds collected through the Operation Rice Bowl promoted by Catholic Relief Services. Please consider making a contribution to this worthwhile fund. It is making the difference between life and death for young people such as these two 17 year old boys. The donations will be collected at our Holy Thursday Mass.

**St. Francis food pantry is in need of condiments such as mayonnaise, mustard, relish, and ketchup. Once again, thank you for responding to our needs.**

**MARCH 15, 2009**

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***Michael Sweeney Prayer Line***

From March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 Jan B., God's healing of a serious illness.

Special intention for Melissa B.

Prayers for healing for A.B. who is in the hospital in critical condition.

A safe trip home from California for a couple.

For Conrad D., a successful new treatment and prayers for his family.

Healing of a rash for Eleanor K.

For Stefanie, healing of her knee and relief of pain.

Renewed intention for Beth B.

Healing for George who has had a fall.

For Luke, a student, for healing of leukemia.

A successful procedure 3/10 for Rick who has heart problems.

For Bob to make a good living adjustment, and for improved health.

For Rosa, who has cancer, prayers asked for healing.

For Joshua, correct diagnosis and healing of his many physical problems.

Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Irene and prayers for complete healing.

Good results from a biopsy for R.S. 3/9.

Renewed intention for George.

Thanksgiving for a safe return from California for a couple.

Continued prayers asked for David for healing.

Thanksgiving for the lives of John B. Curry, Jr., Donald Terry and Joyce Ferguson. 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.

**Divine Mercy is Calling You** – On Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 PM, Monsignor Homer Gosselin and the Mother of God Chapter of the Dominican Laity cordially invite you to a Sunday afternoon program entitled "Introduction to Divine Mercy." The featured speaker will be Father Anthony Gramlich, Rector of the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and the recent guest of EWTN. The day will begin at St. John the Baptist Church, 181 Hubbard St., Ludlow. Followed by a "question and answer" session with Fr. Gramlich at the Pastoral Center. Respond to God's call of Mercy as you enter into Holy Week, Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday.

**SJB Golf Tournament:** *Calling all golfers...*Please join us for the 10th Annual St. John the Baptist Golf Outing on Monday, May 11th at Ludlow Country Club. The format will be a 4-Person Scramble with a 10:00am Shotgun Start. The entrance fee is \$90. per person and includes: Golf, Cart, Lunch and Dinner. To register, please call Rich Benoit at 589-1991. The registration deadline is May 1st and all proceeds will benefit the students of St. John the Baptist School

