



SATURDAY, March 28, 2009 VIGIL: Fifth Sunday of Lent
 4:00 PM †James Kennedy req by Theresa St Mary
 †Edward Dougal req by the Grady Family

SUNDAY, March 29, 2009 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM †Bryan Birchfield Family req by Bob & Elizabeth Pelott
 10:30 AM †Elizabeth Hennessy 6th ann, Marjorie Dull & Joan Griffin req by the family
 †David Hennessy Birthday Remembrance req by the family

MONDAY, March 30, 2009
 8:00 AM †Nickie Pagano req by Felicia & Bob Stanton

TUESDAY, March 31, 2009
 8:00 AM †Eileen Mulrine req by Felicia & Bob Stanton

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2009
 8:00 AM †Mitchell & Sally Gonet, Stanley & Mary Czaprowski
 6:00 PM †Stations of the Cross
 6:30 PM †The People of the Parish

THURSDAY, April 2, 2009
 8:00 AM †For all Fr, Vern's intentions req by Rita Gallagher
 †Catherine O'Donnell Birthday Remembrance req by the family

FRIDAY, April 3, 2009 First Friday
 8:00 AM †Joanne Albert Rowland 2nd ann req by her parents

SATURDAY, April 4, 2009 VIGIL: Palm Sunday
 8:00 AM †All Souls in Purgatory req by Mary Yando
 †Theresa Bombard, Linda Hicks Fish req by Arleeda Hickey
 4:00 PM †Gasper DeSantis, Sr req by his family
 †Pauline Mei req by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Allard

SUNDAY, April 5, 2009 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
 8:00 AM †Justin Martin req by John & Charlotte Cook
 10:30 AM †Wanda Adamczyk 1st ann req by Dan & Linda Drewniak
 †Michelle Kowalski req by the Racicot Family



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." –

Jn 12:23-24

Religious Vocations Corner – Blessed are those who come in the Name of the LORD. Blessed are they who live their lives in the Name of the LORD! If you feel God is giving you the blessing of a call to a Church vocation, Call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: g.dailey@diospringfield.org.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-Our parish was truly blessed by the presence of Fr. Bill McCarthy for our Annual Parish Mission; the large turn out was most gratifying. I pray that many have found a much deeper and personal relationship with the Lord through his inspirational talks. We thank the Lord for the many graces that have been received.

-As reported last week, sign-up times are available in the church gathering space for our forthcoming new parish directory. It has been five years since our last one was done and we are sincerely hoping for a record participation from our membership. There is no obligation to purchase a photo package. If you participate, however, you will receive a free 8-10" photo and a copy of the directory. Also, from all the photos that are taken, a special collage will be made in the image of St. Francis to be placed in the church entry area. Come and be a part of this special opportunity. My deep thanks to the members of our Communications Commission for overseeing this project.

-For those of you who are reading "The Shack", note that our discussion on it will be on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 8th following the 6:30pm Mass rather than on Tuesday, April 7th as previously indicated. We will meet in the church for this discussion.

-Easter letters with the parish schedule for Holy Week will be going out to our members this week. Note that we will have our annual Holy Thursday Pot Luck Supper with a special invitation to all our "adorers" to attend. Be sure to sign up if you plan to attend this dinner which starts at 5:30PM in the Pine Room.

-We have almost 20 of our Teens who wish to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference this coming fall. Please continue your support of their many fund raising efforts as they seek to raise the funds to cover their transportation, housing and conference costs. There will be a Pasta Supper on April 18th for this purpose and tickets are available in the gathering space.

-Last week four additional plaques were added to our Founding Tree in the gathering space; I believe it is now corrected and up to date. If you have not found your plaque there please let me know. As we move forward with our building project, I pray that other members of the parish, particularly our new ones, will participate in our fund raising efforts through the Founding Tree. Each leaf represents a donation of \$2,000. This is a wonderful way to be remembered by future generations or to memorialize loved ones who have gone before us; so many of our visitors for celebrations here in the church comment on the beauty of this memorial tree. Contact the rectory office for more information. Note that this donation may be made as a monthly pledge over a period of time.

God bless you this week and always! Fr. Vern

Pro Life Corner – "The Christian tradition from the earliest days reveals a firm antiabortion attitude. From apostolic times, the Christian tradition overwhelmingly held that abortion was grievously evil."

Charles Chaput, OFM Cap Archbishop of Denver

*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 21-22 was..... \$6,231.89
Weekly Sunday Average..... 6,324.45
Weekly Sunday Goal..... 6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for March 1-22..... 5,920.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal.....6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion March Shortfall.....80.00
Bishops Overseas Appeal.....1,531.48

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.. Hours of Adoration are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. **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.**

Mortgage & Expansion Collection

The Monthly Collection for the Mortgage & Expansion Fund will be a second collection at all masses next weekend April 4th & 5th. The loan payment is a monthly obligation which our parish must fulfill just as any family does. Our goal is \$6,000.00 per month and all contributions above the goal will be retained for mortgage and expansion needs.

Liturgical Roles
Weekend of April 4-5, 2009

Lectors

4:00 PM Campbell & Phaneuf
8:00 AM Miffitt & Fontaine

10:30 AM Dell’Olio & Schmidt

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Buczko, Carney, Lemire, Racine, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas
8:00 AM Waniewski, Crosby, Dubois, Coty, Fontaine, Barrett, Kielbasa
10:30 AM Desilets, Fedora, Groux, Lattrell, Lawrence, Letendre, Dell’Olio

Altar Servers

4:00 PM T. & R. Lewis, M. & H. Sugrue
8:00 AM B. Dubois & F. Muraczewski
10:30 AM R. Racicot, L. & S. LeBlanc, A. Maggi

The Liturgical Role schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers 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.



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:

George Leclerc – One Brick In Memory of Therese Leclerc, 5th Anniversary.

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

Operation Rice Bowl – Did you know that a percentage of the proceeds from the Catholic Relief Service Program, Operation Rice Bowl, stays within our communities? Our own parish Food Pantry has been a recipient of a contribution from them in the past. The work of Catholic Relief Services is world wide providing food, education and support to countless people facing hunger, poverty, oppression and war. Please consider making a donation to the Rice Bowl this year. Collection will be at the Holy Thursday Mass.

Join us for Generations of Faith! This is a Generations of Faith weekend when 355 parish families will gather to learn together about the paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus. This session continues our study of the Creed as we prepare to participate fully in the TRIDUUM liturgies. It’s not too late to join us! We gather from 9:30 to noon and 5:30-8 PM on Sunday at the Chestnut Hill Community School. Our session will include a presentation on the Shroud of Turin by Andre Chapdelain. Cost is \$10-\$5 for Seniors.

Spaghetti Supper to Benefit NCCYC - The NCCYC Teens of St. Francis Parish will host a Spaghetti Dinner prepared by Chef Francesco Dell’Olio in the Pine Room of the St. Francis Parish Social Center on Saturday, April 18th. Proceeds will help to defray part of the cost of their attendance at the National Catholic Youth conference. Serving time for the dinner is 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Tickets will be on sale at weekend Masses through April 12 or by contacting John Coty at 413-348-3661. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Donations are Adults \$10.00, children 5-12- \$6.00 and children under 5 eat free.

The Our Lady of the Angels SFO will meet on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 PM in the Tovet Room of the church. All are welcome. For those with questions, call Lynn at 323-5537 or Kathy at 323-9023.

Easter Egg Roll – the Knights of Columbus, along with the parish’s National Catholic Youth Conference (NCCYC) members, will be sponsoring a FREE Easter Egg Roll, on the church grounds on Sunday April 5th shortly after the 10:30 Mass. Children 2 through 8 are invited to bring their Easter baskets/bags to enjoy an old fashion Easter Egg Roll. We may even be joined by a very FURRY guest celebrity who will be available for pictures! The NCCYC team will be selling some delicious refreshments and beverages during the roll to help defray costs for their upcoming 2009 conference trip. It promises to be a great hour of family fun and entertainment. For more info contact Tom Grady 323-5822 or speak with any member of the Kof C or NCCYC team.

MARCH 29, 2009

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From March 16th through March 23rd, 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.

Renewed intention for Eileen Goodrow for healing and relief of pain

Thanksgiving for successful treatment for Paulette

For Joanna, a 92 year old, who has had a severe stroke

Healing for a woman with a collapsed lung

For a woman to have a good outcome from surgery 4/8

That Lu D. will get the correct medication for her seizures

Prayers are requested for Philomena for healing of liver and kidney cancer

For healing of lung cancer for Joyce

Prayers are requested for healing for Vic K.

Prayers are requested for Gert Opalenik, in the hospital

Prayers are requested for Herb Squires who has double pneumonia

Prayers are requested for healing for Paul

Thanksgiving for successful heart procedure for Rick 3/10 and continued prayers are requested for healing

For Kathy K. to have good results from a procedure

Renewed intention for Alice E.

For successful surgery for Pat 3/25

Continued prayers are requested for a young woman for healing of breast cancer

Prayers are requested for good results from surgery for Mary Beth 3/25

For good test results for Bill B.

Renewed prayers for healing for Dolores Disque

For good MRI results for John

A special intention for a good outcome from a committee meeting

Prayers are requested for healing for Barbara C.

Thanksgiving for the life of Mickey Labroad. 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.

Pilgrimage to Honor Padre Pio & St Francis – If you have devotion to Padre Pio and/or St Francis and the secular Franciscan life of service, you may be interested in knowing more about the Catholic Communications sponsored pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, this September. E-mail Lois at Catholic Communications, ccctrips@diospringfield.org or call her at 452-0837.

The NCYC team wishes to thank the parishioners for supporting their flower fundraiser.

St. Francis food pantry is in need of Hamburger/Tuna Helper and boxed pasta dishes. We are very grateful for all who donate items to keep the Pantry supplied.

