

Pastor:
Rev. Vernon P. Decoteau

Deacon:
Deacon Bill Brawner

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Rectory:
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SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m.
or by appointment

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:00 Noon.

Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents is held on a monthly basis and class size is limited. You must register with the Rectory office and you are encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of your baby.

MARRIAGE

Please make arrangements at least one year in advance to allow for adequate preparation.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members and ask that you make an appointment to meet with the Pastor by calling the Rectory.

BULLETIN

Copy deadline is Monday at 10:00 a.m.
Copy must be submitted in writing.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Belchertown, MA

2010 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27
4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, March 28
PALM SUNDAY
Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
2:00 PM Parish Reconciliation

Monday, March 29
8:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Chrism Mass
(St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield)

Tuesday, March 30
8:00 AM Mass

Wednesday, March 31
8:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross
6:30 PM Mass

Thursday, April 1
HOLY THURSDAY
8:00 AM Mass
5:30 PM Potluck Supper (Pine Room)
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 2
GOOD FRIDAY
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross for Children
3:00 PM & 7:00 PM Veneration of the Cross with
Communion

Saturday, April 3
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 4
EASTER
Mass at 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, and 10:30 AM



SATURDAY, March 20, 2010 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 4:00 PM ✠Fred Piechota req by Chris McGinnis
 ✠Kenneth Slate req by Gloria Slate
 SUNDAY, March 21, 2010 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 AM ✠Keith O'Connor 3rd ann req by his parents
 10:30 AM ✠Yvonne Ushinski req by Johanna Menard
 MONDAY, March 22, 2010
 8:00 AM ✠Anna & Andrew Fedora req by their son Joseph
 TUESDAY, March 23, 2010
 8:00 AM ✠Paul, John, Andrew, Ann, Margaret, Theodore &
 Walter Fedora req by their brother Joseph
 WEDNESDAY, March 24, 2010
 8:00 AM ✠Elizabeth Pelott req by Bob Pelott
 6:00 PM ✠Stations of the Cross
 6:30 PM ✠Daniel Giordano req by the Spiritual Life
 Commission
 THURSDAY, March 25, 2010
 8:00 AM ✠Anna, Albert & Gerard Langevin req by Agnes
 Rhodes
 FRIDAY, March 26, 2010
 8:00 AM ✠Morning Prayer
 SATURDAY, March 27, 2010 VIGIL: Palm Sunday
 4:00 PM ✠Fred Piechota req by Chris McGinnis
 ✠Mary Johnson req by Stan & Joyce Wyman
 SUNDAY, March 28, 2010 Palm Sunday
 8:00 AM ✠Marty Martel req by Chris McGinnis
 10:30 AM ✠Fred Piechota req by the Soroka family
 ✠Robert Riley 5th ann req by Sandy, Laura, Jim &
 Amy



Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Jn 8:6b-7

*Scripture Readings for March 27-28, 2010
 Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56*

Religious Vocation Corner – God continues to open a way for us. How is God doing something new in your life? Perhaps God is inviting you to be a priest or religious. (Isaiah 43:16-21) If you think God is calling you, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: g.dailey@diospringfield.org. **Please take home our Vocation Cross, God will bless you.**

Please pray for the grace to be open to God's invitation to follow.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-This weekend we are delighted to welcome our First Communion Candidates in a special way to our 4 PM and 10:30 AM Masses. We thank all of our members who participated in our Generations of Faith Program on the "Eucharist" and wrote such beautiful and meaningful letters to our First Communicants. We look forward to our First Communion celebrations in May.

-Regarding the "Eucharist," our Parish Mission starts this Sunday evening and the theme is one of "Understanding and Appreciating the Holy Eucharist." Please review the insert regarding our Mission in this bulletin and do make a special effort to attend; you will never take the Eucharist or the Mass for granted if you do. Do extend an invitation to family and friends to join us, particularly for Tuesday evening's presentation on the "Holy Shroud of Turin."

-Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and our Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring a traditional Easter egg roll and hunt for the children of the parish with a visit from the Easter Bunny. The hunt will follow the celebration of the 10:30 AM Mass and all are invited to attend. This was a great success last year and a good deal of fun.

-At 2 PM next Sunday, Palm Sunday, we will celebrate our Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service. Several priests will be joining us and you are encouraged to take this opportunity to come to confession, prepare yourself for the celebration of Easter and the reception of Holy Communion during the Easter Season and complete your Easter duties.

-There are just a few more weeks for our *Annual Catholic Appeal* which runs through the Lenten Season. We thank everyone who has participated and strongly encourage those who have not to consider making a real difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate right here in our communities. At present, 12.8% (158) of our membership of 1,400 has given \$22,787 for which we are indeed grateful. If only 25% participated we could more than reach our parish goal of some \$35,000. For more information go to www.diospringfield.org

Attention Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors and those who would like to be one!

The Office of Lay Ministry will offer a series of training programs at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Granby. These sessions will be held on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30 PM. See dates and the schedule of classes on the bulletin board in the gathering space and for more information. If you would like to attend please contact Fr. Vern.

-Our first meeting of Teams of Our Lady was held last Sunday evening with 7 couples from the parish attending. Everyone was more than impressed with the concept of "Teams" and the support and friendship that was shared. This wonderful and enriching experience is open to all couples, no matter how young or old. If you would like to grow in your personal relationship, experience and expand your Faith understanding and derive support as you meet the challenges of the Vocation of Christian Marriage, consider joining "Teams." We have couples waiting for other couples to join so a second "Team" may be formed. For more information call Paula Moran at 323-4240.

Continued on the next page

FIFTH 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 13-14 was..... \$6,063.54
Weekly Sunday Average 6,245.71
Weekly Sunday Goal 6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for March 6-14..... 4,931.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion March Shortfall1,029.00
American Bishop's Overseas Appeal1,388.71

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: Tuesday 4:00-5:00 PM, and Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM.**

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of March 28-29, 2010

Lectors

4:00 PM Campbell & McKeon
8:00 AM Crosby & Viglione
10:30 AM Schmidt, W. & C.

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Pat A., Beaupre, Lemire, Racine, Vadnais, R. & L. Zlotnik
8:00 AM McGinnis, Moran, Ricardi, Fontaine, Lund, Miffitt, Barrett
10:30 AM Belanger, Desilets, Groux, Lamoureux, Letendre, Rose, Tyler

Altar Servers

4:00 PM T. & R. Lewis, T. & J. Mazza
8:00 AM S. & R. Forrest
10:30 AM C. & S. Grady, A. Young

Pro Life Corner – “I just want the truth to be told: that abortion does hurt women. They tell you that it doesn't, [that] it's a simple procedure and that you can get on with your life. Well, you do momentarily, but you spend your whole life trying to forget it.” Leslie Brunolli, abortion survivor/participant in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign: *the Southern Cross*, November, 2009

St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of powdered drinks, juices and ice tea. We gratefully accept and appreciate all donations.



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 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.

Stations of the Cross for Children – Good Friday: We are offering an opportunity for children to gather in the church, at noon, on Good Friday to experience the Church's tradition of the Stations of the Cross. This event provides a simple teaching, child appropriate Stations, and the making of a cross craft in the Pine Room following the service. Any student in grade 6 or above, who would like to help with this event, please call Judy Trickey for more details – 323-6272 x2.

Palm Sunday First Grade Mass - First grade students will be joining Fr. Vern in the Entrance Procession at the March 27th Saturday 4 PM Mass for Palm Sunday. They will carry hand made palms that express their love for Jesus. We delight in their joy at celebrating this event with our parish.

Prayer Sponsors for First Communion Candidates – The First Communion of children in our parish is an event of great joy for our whole community. We are offering special ways for you to support the children with your gift of prayer. Simply take a numbered bookmark each child has prepared and sign your name. When you sponsor a child you will be making a commitment to remember that particular child in your prayers until they receive Jesus in Communion at their ceremony in May. Bookmarks will be available the weekend of March 20/21.

New American Bibles, purchased for the blessing of Bibles, may be missing some pages. Check your copy to see if you are missing from page 1267-1331. If so, contact Judy for a replacement. 323-6272 x2.

Lighthouse Media CD Highlight: *The Battle for Souls: Christ's Redemption.* Before becoming a priest, Fr. John Corapi achieved world fame and fortune and then lost it all. His current series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church is used throughout the world. In this stirring talk, you will learn about the cosmic warfare going on for the battle of souls and hear an incredible meditation on Holy Thursday when Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Holy Thursday Pot Luck Supper will be held April 1st, in the Pine Room, at 5:30. Please, sign up in the church gathering space or call Pam Letendre at 323-7416.

Father's column continued:

-Bethlehem House's waiting list has reached a significant level of young mothers and expectant mothers looking for assistance and supplies. **They are in desperate need** of cribs, crib mattresses, pack 'n plays and bassinets. All clean, please no musty smells. If you have these items please call Pam at 262-8517.

May the Lord continue to bless you during your Lenten journey to Easter!

Fr. Vern

MARCH 21, 2010

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From March 8th through March 15th, 2010, 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.

Prayers asked for Mimi Botti for a healthy outcome.

Prayers for Arleeda for good results from medical tests.

Peace of mind for a woman and God's will be done.

A successful back operation for Ray C.

Graces for Paul in coping with a diagnosis of Lou Gehrig's disease.

A safe trip for Kris S. driving to California, and a successful job change.

For Myron to have strength and courage for the weeks ahead.

A safe trip to and from Taiwan for Stephen 3/11-3/17.

Healing for Mel who has pneumonia.

Successful hip surgery and complete healing for Jeanine Remillard.

Prayers for healing for Evelyn Roberge who has fallen, broken her nose and dislocated her hip.

Successful surgery for Peter Naranjo and complete healing.

Prayers asked for Edward P. for healing of pneumonia.

In your kindness, please pray for the souls of Billy and his mother.

Healing for Minnie Haley.

Prayers for healing for Margaret Dexter who is hospitalized.

Successful cataract surgery for Bill G. 3/16 and complete healing.

Healing for Alice.

Healing for Augustine.

Prayers are asked for J.K. who has very serious medical problems.

For Chris T. successful treatment of recurring breast cancer.

Prayers are asked for Meri Lea who will undergo extensive surgery 3/19.

Prayers for Michele who is concerned about symptoms, for a speedy diagnosis and prompt treatment.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Janet Minney, Loretta Gay, Robert Coletti, and Imelda Swank. 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, Marion Masse, 323-7169 or Gloria Cartelli, 323-7400 or email cmcginnis6622@verizon.net.

Annual Catholic Appeal – Be part of a great 51 year tradition of “neighbor Helping Neighbor” through the 2010 *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Thanks to all who have already donated! But we need everyone's help if we are to assist the less fortunate right here in our communities. Learn more about how your donation makes a real difference, view videos and then make your gift through our safe and convenient on-line donor center accessible through www.diospringfield.org. On behalf of all our neighbors in need – thank you.

Canadian Shrines Pilgrimage – August 9th through August 13th, 2010. Visit Sacred Heart Shrine of Beauvoir, Our Lady of the Cape, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, St. Anne de Beaupre, Quebec City, St. Joseph's Oratory & Notre Dame in Montreal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Francis Xavier Shrine on Chaunawaga Indian Reservation, St. Anne at Isle de la Motte in Vermont. 5 days 4 nights. \$469-\$559, depending on occupancy, includes 11 meals, all accommodations and bus travel. Informational meeting at St. Christopher Parish, Rte 20, Brimfield, 7 PM, March 24th. For more information call Valerie or Jerry Bernier at 245-9461. Passports required.

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