

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 19

5:30pm Joseph Cavanaugh
Requested by wife

Sunday, February 20

8:00am Chi Thi Anna Tran &
Thanh John Ha
Requested by family

10:00am Arlene Hauck
Req. by Carolyn and Paul Perkins

12:00pm Corinne Bertrand &
Mark Potter

Requested by Barbara Potter

Monday, February 21

7:00am James McNamee
Requested by Soltysiak family

Tuesday, February 22

7:00am Robert Archambault
Requested by a friend

Wednesday, February 23

7:00am James O'Grady

Thursday, February 24

7:00am Dennis Tierney
Requested by wife

Friday, February 25

7:00am James Flynn
Requested by family

Saturday, February 26

5:30pm Special Intention for the
Healing of Eliza Giallongo
Requested by Marie Monahan

Sunday, February 27

8:00am Donald Ford
Requested by friends

10:00am Walter Vachon
Requested by family

12:00pm Mary and Manuel
Caetano
Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 20

10:00am Ronald Jean Ayre
Requested by Ron Ayre

Sunday, February 27

10:00am Lynne Kasper
Requested by Ron Ayre



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for February 13th was Budget—\$8,926. This weekend's second offering is the ongoing maintenance fund offering. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of James Flynn.

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Soup, Cereal, Baked Beans, Macaroni & Cheese and Spaghetti Sauce.

BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Hendricken High School will hold an Open House on Sunday, March 6th from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Prospective young men and their families are invited to meet students, faculty and coaches as well as current families. Information on the academics, college placement, athletic and extracurricular activities will be available.

Entrance exam for prospective freshmen and sophomore transfers will be held Saturday, March 19th at 8:30 AM. For more information or to pre-register, call the Admissions Office at 739-3450 x 162.

WILLS

Making a will isn't expensive but not having may cost your family a great deal. For more information on how to include St. Francis of Assisi Parish in your will, please contact Father Nick (783-4411) or Andrea Krupp at the Catholic Foundation (277-2121).

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IRISH

- You have no idea how to make a long story short;
- You're strangely poetic after a few beers;
- You think you sing very well.

THE CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks about the need to love our enemies. The Church, in response to the Lord's command, has always maintained a fervent commitment to peace and nonviolence. Consider these words from paragraphs 2304 and 2305 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity...Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the *peace of Christ*, the messianic 'Prince of Peace.' By the blood of his Cross, 'in his own person he killed the hostility,' he reconciled men with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God. 'He is our peace.' He has declared: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'" Help us, Lord, to become peacemakers, to turn *away* from violence and destruction and to turn *toward* solidarity and love!

FEBRUARY 20, 2011

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Following a nice chat with Bishop Tobin, and a more formal communication by letter, I'm announcing to the parish family today that I will retire as Pastor from St. Francis of Assisi Parish effective July 1st, 2011, after having served here 14 years. At retirement time I will be 46 years a priest and, at this writing, intend to live at St. John Vianney Residence for Priests, on Mount Pleasant Avenue in Providence.

I came to Rhode Island on August 29th 1965, fresh and raw, knowing it all and knowing absolutely nothing, while still wet with the oils of ordination on June 20th that year at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin.

My first assignment was to the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul in Providence, where I got my first taste of American city life and an initial introduction to hospital chaplaincy at Rhode Island Hospital. From 1966 to 1971, I served as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary of the Bay Parish in Warren, getting to know wonderful people, and being there for the building and opening of the New Church and Parish Center.

The next eighteen plus years found me at St. Joseph's Hospital, first at the Peace Street Campus and then Our Lady of Fatima in North Providence. I loved being a Chaplain and Director of Pastoral Care, and my hospital experiences stood me well for the rest of my priesthood.

Parish life beckoned again in 1989 and I was appointed Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in North Kingstown. Even though the people dearly loved their pastor who had been reassigned, they welcomed me with open arms and great hospitality.

Bishop Gelineau invited me to come here in 1997. The blessings that came with that we can talk about at another time. Suffice it to say that I've always considered myself a fortunate man, not only for God's call to the priesthood, but also for the life-journey on which the priesthood itself lead me; and St. Francis of Assisi capped it all. There's a part of me that wishes all this could be different, and I'll deal with that as best I can. But overwhelming is my conviction that it's right, and that it's time for this great parish to have new direction and life. After four knee operations and a significant heart attack, the signals of limitation and slowing down demonstrate themselves now more often and more fully.

Somewhere out there in the State of Rhode Island is a priest – we don't know who he is yet – whose heart will leap for joy when he gets the word that he'll be the new pastor here. And well it should! It'll leap for joy even more when he gets to know you.

I'm determined that the next four months will not fall into any lame duck category; determined also to balance the solemn and the serious with those occasions that call for a twinkle in the eye and a hearty laugh. Please help me with that!

Fr. Nick



Religious Education

NO Religious Education Classes
week of February 20-27.

Religious Education Office will be closed this week. Classes resume next Sunday, February 27th.

Children's Liturgy of the Word—
during the 10am Mass.

This Week

Sunday, February 20

6-7:30pm Praise! Rehearsal

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, February 21

NO Conf I or II Classes tonight

Tuesday, February 22

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)



MARTHA'S HELPERS: A NEW HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Martha, Martha! Poor Martha in the gospel story was burdened with the duties of hospitality (Luke 10:38-42). As a parish, we offer hospitality to our parishioners and guests on a number of occasions throughout the year, mainly following special events or liturgies. Consider giving "Martha" a hand and help us with our newly formed baking/reception committee, "**Martha's Helpers.**" Martha's Helpers will help coordinate and bake for parish receptions as needed. Please call the rectory if you have a knack for baking or hospitality and would like to help ease the burden. Members will help by baking or preparing light fare, setting-up and breaking-down, purchasing beverages, and even decorating for parish receptions. If you're looking for a small way to give back, perhaps you can be one of Martha's helpers!

A PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you call us to worship you in spirit and truth. The life-giving stream of water that gladdens our hearts is your grace at work in the church, especially in the liturgy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, bring about a renewal of worship and prayer among the people of Saint Francis and Saint Romuald. Keep us mindful of our duty to worship you with reverent love and grateful awe. May our hearts and minds always reflect what is expressed through word, song, and gesture. Help us to welcome Jesus, your Son, living among us in the Eucharist, and to foster a thriving relationship with him through personal prayer, overflowing from our communal worship. May our worship of you, the Living God, move our hearts to respond to the grace you offer us in abundance, that we may become the worshipers you desire us to be. And having worshiped your majesty on earth, may we be welcomed to the great liturgy of the heavenly kingdom, where the Lamb commands the loving gaze of his flock, the redeemed. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's first reading from the Book of Leviticus, Moses instructs the Israelites: "Be holy as the LORD your God is holy." The central goal of our parish is to make people holy! That holiness is fostered only with the help of God's grace, which we receive from our participation in the sacred liturgy. That is why the most important thing, by far, that we do as a parish family is worship our God every Sunday in the Celebration of Mass. Of course, that worship is meant to overflow in loving service to our brothers and sisters in need. But worship of our God must come first. Some questions to consider throughout the upcoming week: Is my participation in Sunday liturgy helping me to grow in holiness? Am I allowing God to transform my heart and my mind not only through the Mass but also through a period of personal prayer and reflection everyday? If I'm not getting anything "out" of the Mass, am I really bringing anything to it? "Be holy, as the LORD your God is holy." The Liturgy is our school of holiness. Are we paying attention?



Year of Liturgical and Spiritual Renewal

CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS!

Sr. Barbara Matazzaro, A.S.C.J., will be directing a group in reading *The Dumb Ox* by G.K. Chesterton. Don't be intimidated! Chesterton's little book (only eight chapters) on St. Thomas is highly readable for the average person, and tells the dynamic story not only of St. Thomas' life but also of his teaching. The group will meet in the rectory and the books will be available for only \$10.00 through the parish. We are hoping to begin the first week in March, either on Sunday afternoons or Monday evenings. Please call the rectory (783-4411) to let us know if you would like to participate and your preference for a meeting time. Please join us!



LAMB OF GOD...AGNUS DEI?

We recently introduced a new musical setting of the "Lamb of God." The new setting, which is sung alternately by the cantor and the congregation includes some phrases in Latin, the language in which our liturgical texts are written. The three phrases are "*Agnus Dei*" which means "Lamb of God," "*Miserere nobis*" which means "Have mercy on us," and "*Dona nobis pacem*" which means "Grant us peace." Singing these sacred texts in another language gives us a deeper sense of the "otherness" and transcendence of the liturgy. So join in with us at the next Mass! "*Agnus Dei ... Miserere nobis ... Dona nobis pacem!*"

TEACHING MASS WEEKEND

Next weekend at all the Masses, instead of a homily as such, the priest will explain the theological significance of the many gestures and rituals of the Liturgy. We are familiar with the celebration of Mass as a routine, but can often miss the profundity of the words and gestures. The celebrant will explain the vestments, the private prayers of the priest which are prayed throughout the Mass, and much more.

THEOLOGY UNCORKED PRESENTATION

On Friday, March 4th at 6:30 PM Fr. Joe brings his popular Theology Uncorked to South County. Fr. Jeremy Rodrigues, who holds a licentiate in Sacred Liturgy, will offer a dynamic presentation on the theology of the Mass and the reasons for the new translation in the context of a wine and cheese reception at Father Greenan Center. RSVP is required, although there is no fee to attend. Call the rectory to sign-up!