

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 16

4:30pm Mass for the People

Sunday, February 17

8:00am Special Intention for
Olivia Lyon

Requested by Gerri & Al Marsocci

10:00am Walter Johansen

Req. by the Becker & Paull family

12:00nn Mass for the People

Monday, February 18

7:00am James Cavanaugh

Requested by Jean McGair

Tuesday, February 19

7:00am Connie Egerton

Requested by Rose Gink

Wednesday, February 20

7:00am Sheela Mahabirsingh

Requested by Tom and Karen Clark

Thursday, February 21

7:00am Robert Keenan

Requested by William Keenan

Friday, February 22

7:00am Margie Brennan

Requested by Boyle family

Saturday, February 23

4:30pm Robert Wilson

Requested by Concetta

Sunday, February 24

8:00am Walter Johansen

Requested by Bob and Jude

10:00am Florence Carmen

Requested by a family friend

12NN Neal Fiorio

Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 17

10am David & Virginia Monaghan and
William & Madeline Monaghan

Requested by family

Sunday, February 24

10:00am Grace and John Carpinelli

Requested by family



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Tara Higgins.

FOOD & COMMODITY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Macaroni & cheese and laundry detergent. Your donations may be placed in one of the baskets in the vestibule of the church or at the chapel. Thank you in advance for remembering those in need.

BIBLE STUDY

The Parish Bible Study on St. Paul's *Letter to the Hebrews* will continue Tuesday evening, February 19th in Father Greenan Center from 7-8:30PM. All are welcome. **Mark your calendars** and plan on joining us for the viewing of **Catholicism DVD Series Episode 2** with discussion to follow on Tuesday evenings, **March 12th & 19th at 7pm in Greenan Center**. Topics: **The Beattitudes (Mt 5)** on the 12th and **Matthew 25 – "What you do for the least of my brethren you do for me..."** on the 19th. Discussions lead by Jane Brockman, Mary Vitiello, Vicki Montani and Jeff DiMillio.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT:

Thought for the Week

"To live in Jesus, sums up and facilitates everything, places the Christian in regular correspondence and communication with God, helps him to realize his vocation which may be fully expressed in these few brief words: by Jesus to enter into relations of intimacy with God our Father in the Holy Spirit, who is subsistent and eternal Love." -M.V. Bernadot, O.P.

this week in prayer:

What does it mean to "live" in Jesus?

*Do I make it a goal to live my life "in regular
correspondence and communication with God"?*

PARISH SUPPORT

Due to the snowstorm last weekend, resulting in the loss of power at the church and rectory, the Feb 10th collection was not only very low but it was not counted as of this printing. The offerings for February 10th and 17th will be listed in next weekend's bulletin. Thank you for making up your budgets. We rely on your weekly contributions to operate the parish.

This weekend's second offering is the Ongoing Maintenance Fund Offering. As always, **thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.**

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

From the Pastor...

I hope that everyone survived the **Blizzard of 2013**...we had no electricity in the rectory from Friday evening until Monday evening. I'm sure many of you had the same experience. We had partial power in the church, but unfortunately the heat was the part that wasn't working. It was very unpleasant, but we survived.

We were planning to speak about the **Catholic Charity Fund** at all the Masses last weekend. The annual diocesan appeal has been around for a long time, so I am confident that you already know what it is about. Suffice to say that it assists many people throughout the state of Rhode Island. Our parish has been very generous in responding to the appeal and I trust that you will even outdo yourselves this year by your pledges and contributions. This weekend the envelopes are in the pews. You can make your pledge or contribution immediately and place it in the basket, or you can take it home and place it in the collection any time in the next few weeks. As always, we would appreciate your donation as soon as possible so that we can wrap up the campaign and make our parish goal. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

We have begun the season of Lent and I hope that you will check the **Parish Lenten Calendar** for the various opportunities for prayer and devotion. Also, the booklets are available with daily reflections for this season.

The **Bible Study Team** will be offering a special two-session program on the **Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes**. These will be held on **Tuesday, March 12 and March 19 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Father Greenan Hall**. Each session will begin with a 30 minute video presentation taken from the **Catholicism Series**. After the video, the Bible Study Team will lead group discussions over a cup of coffee or tea. The first session will focus on the theme **"Happy are we..." – the Beatitudes and the second session will be based on Matthew 25 – "What you do for the least of my brethren you do for me..."** Please consider joining with other parishioners for these opportunities for Lenten Scriptural reflection and discussion.

Also, a reminder that our **Parish Library** is located in Father Greenan Center. It is open on Sunday mornings during religious education if anyone would like to go in and peruse the books or spend quiet time reading while the children are in class. The list of books available in our library is also listed at our parish website.

Msgr. Theroux



Religious Ed. Notes

NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 17TH... SCHOOL VACATION.



This Week

Sunday, February 17

NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

5:30-7pm **PRAISE!** Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm **AA** (HBH)

Monday, February 18

PRESIDENTS' DAY

ALL PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday, February 19

6:30pm **NO RCIA TONIGHT**

7:00pm **Bible Study** (FGC)

7:00pm **Choir Rehearsal** (loft)

Saturday, February 23

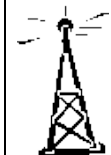
4:30pm Fr. John Reutemann to preach at Church Masses on the Parish Mission

5:30pm **Youth Group Movie Night**

***Come, Holy Spirit—
Guide our Church in transition!***

We meet Pope Benedict XVI's extraordinary resignation later this month with gratitude for his love & leadership, dismay for this loss, and confidence that the Holy Spirit is in charge.

Relevant Radio is more than your faithful and professional Catholic news source. We live the vocation of family dialogue and prayer—and our "Papa" is our universal family concern. You won't get this approach from a secular outlet, so join the family now!



Providence 550 AM

Listen online at:
www.relevantradio.com

Lent

LENT 2013 THEME:

LET ME FIND MY LIFE IN YOU

Throughout the season of Lent, we will pray and reflect together on our parish theme, "Let me find my life in you." The song, "O Beauty Ever Ancient, Ever New," from which we drew our Lenten theme, will be sung throughout the season and is based on a famous passage from the *Confessions* of Saint Augustine. One of the best known converts in Christendom, Saint Augustine reflected honestly on his search for happiness in all the wrong places until his famous realization: "*Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee, O God!*" He had sought fulfillment in created things, but failed to find his true life in the Creator. Perhaps Lent 2013 will prove to be a turning point toward a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church. Apart from them, there is no life! May the words of Saint Paul guide us on our Lenten journey: "*Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*"

THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF LENT

Our worship spaces will soon reflect the starkness of the Lenten season. Flowers and greens will have no place by the altar and even unbleached candles—used in centuries gone by throughout the penitential seasons—will make an appearance in the sanctuaries of our church and chapel. At St. Francis Church, a special crucifix will accompany us throughout Lent and will be venerated by our parish community on Good Friday. Even our singing will reflect the solemn tone of the season. These signs, sounds and symbols are meant to foster a deeper sense of prayer and conversion as we find our life more deeply in Christ.

LENTEN CALENDAR

In today's bulletin, you will find our 2013 Lenten Calendar. Please keep the calendar on hand throughout the season; perhaps you could even make room on your refrigerator! Our parish staff has planned a number of enriching opportunities for prayer and education throughout the season and we hope you will take advantage of all that will be going on!

THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

The Lenten Season is characterized by an emphasis on three elements of the Christian life: PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING.

- **PRAYER**—During Lent, consider spending some extra time each day reading from Sacred Scripture (the daily Mass readings are a good place to start and can be accessed at www.usccb.org) or simply making yourself available to *listen* to God. Resolve to attend Mass on at least one weekday. Try to recite our parish Lenten prayer everyday throughout Lent.
- **FASTING**—This pillar concerns not only the fast days of the season (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) but also voluntarily refraining from something to foster self-control. For example, perhaps you could fast from television or from the internet for a set period of time each day. Talk to your friends about what you plan on "giving up" for Lent; perhaps they have (or need) ideas as well!
- **ALMSGIVING**—Lent is a time to share our treasure with others. Operation Rice Bowl is an annual fundraiser which benefits Catholic Relief Services. Place it in a prominent place in your home and let the whole family contribute to it. Another possibility is to contribute some additional food to the basket at the church entrance.

SAVE THE DATE: LENTEN MISSION

Our 2013 Lenten Mission is based on the *sacramental life of the Church* and will be presented by Fr. John Reutemann of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. Please consider joining us as we enter into the Lenten season, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24—Weekend Mass
Mission Kick-Off

Monday, February 25—7PM Mission Service with
Benediction

Tuesday, February 26—7PM Penance Service with
Mission Homily

Wednesday, February 27—7PM Celebration of Mass

WHAT IS A LENTEN MISSION?

Traditionally, a Lenten Mission serves as an opportunity for a parish community to come together for prayer, reflection and learning in anticipation of the Easter Season. Lent provides the context for a "spring cleaning" of the soul! A Lenten Mission is meant to help in that endeavor. With engaging talks, extra time for prayer, the opportunity for Confession, and communal worship, the traditional Lenten Mission has been a source of grace for parish communities year after year. If you've never been, consider joining us this year! Come to any or all of the nights! And bring a friend along!