

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 12

5:30pm Clara Latowski

Requested by family

Sunday, March 13

8:00am Mary Pendergast

Requested by Carney family

10:00am Sarah McClarnon

Requested by grandparents

12:00pm Sarah Ferendo

Requested by Riccio family

Monday, March 14

7:00am Victor Signorelli

Requested by family

Tuesday, March 15

7:00am Olive Osborne

Requested by brother

Wednesday, March 16

7:00am John MacLane

Requested by Kathleen and Jeff

Thursday, March 17

7:00am Una Cunningham

Requested by The Byrne family

Friday, March 18

7:00am Christopher Meehan

Req. by Jim & Susan Meehan

Saturday, March 19

5:30pm Special Intention

Sunday, March 20

8:00am Aldora, Joao, Alberto

DeSousa and Francesco
Luongo

Requested by DaSilva family

10:00am Donald Ford

Requested by Betty Ann Hogan

12:00pm Nat Turco

Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 13

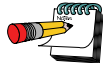
10:00am Special Intention for
healing of Loretta Whitesides

Requested by Ron Ayre

Sunday, March 20

10:00am John & Grace Carpinelli

Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for March 6th was Budget—\$7,969.50; Monthly—\$3,345. Next weekend's second offering will be the ongoing maintenance fund offering for March. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Gloria Carney.



RETURN THROUGH ART: LORD, I WANT TO SEE!

TONIGHT (Sunday) March 13TH at 7:00PM in Upper Father Greenan Center, for a presentation on prayer and sacred art by Deacon Paul who has studied the theology and craft of iconography. Come to hear their story! Call the rectory to sign up.

MONSIGNOR CLARKE PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 27th 11am-1pm—Offering 3 & 5 day programs for 4 year olds (must be 4 by 12/31/2011). NEASC accreditation, with age appropriate curriculum taught by certified teachers. If you can't make the open house, please call for a personal tour 789-0860.

PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA TO VISIT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY

On Wednesday, March 16 all are welcome to visit Immaculate Conception Academy, 4780 Tower Hill Rd. Wakefield, RI 02879 between 4-7pm for veneration of the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima. There will be activities for children and parents from 4-5pm. The guardian will speak at 4:30pm followed by a time of veneration of Our Lady. At 6pm, a solemn rosary will be prayed and will conclude with the crowning of Mary and a good-bye procession. For more information, contact Carolyn Hawkesworth wakefield@inteducators.org 401-782-6200.



PIZZA WITH PADRE: TWO EVENINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Calling all parishioners in their 20's and 30's, singles and couples! *Pizza with Padre*, hosted by Fr. Joe, is an opportunity for young adults in our parish to network with one another, learn more about their Catholic faith, and spend some time thinking about the bigger questions of life. Lent is the perfect time to set aside a few hours for faith-based discussion and community. Each evening will consist of a brief teaching and discussion, and of course, Fr. Joe's featured pizza (no Domino's allowed)! Beer, wine and beverages will be provided as well. If there is sufficient interest, we would like to see a long-term young adult group form in the spring. Bring a friend along! Details about each gathering are below. Call the rectory to register (783-4411).

✠ **Wednesday, March 23, 7:00PM - "Faith and Science: Friends or Foes?"** Featured Pizza: *Puttanesca*

✠ **Wednesday, April 13, 7:00PM - "Why the Church: Help or Hindrance?"** - Featured Pizza: *Chicken Pesto*

MARCH 13, 2011



LENT 2011: LONGING TO RETURN

"Let us receive these Lenten days with joy, recalling Adam's broken fast, the fruit which parted us from paradise, but left us longing to return at last."

Our first parents were exiled from paradise because they chose their will over God's (see Genesis 3). Isn't that what we really mean by sin? Sin, choosing our will over God's, always leads to isolation and exile: exile from God, from others, and from our true selves. Lent is a time to *return*. A tree caused our first parents to sin; God willed that the tree of the cross should bring us back to friendship with him! Christ, the new Adam, offers the fruit of forgiveness and reconciliation from the tree on which he was crucified. He awakens in us a longing to return! Our parish theme for Lent 2011 is **"LONGING TO RETURN."** This rich expression will guide our praying, learning, and even singing during this holy season. May God's grace reawaken in us a longing to return to a deeper, life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ!



OUR BULLETIN COVER

Take a moment to examine our Lenten bulletin cover: the tree, the serpent, the fruit, the "old Adam" who brought death, and the "new Adam" (Christ) who brings life! There are truly rich images and symbols to contemplate during this holy season! May they awaken our longing to return!



LONGING TO RETURN: A PRAYER FOR LENT 2011

God of compassion, you await the sinner's return and spread a feast to welcome home the lost. Though we drift into exile, lost in the isolation of sin and selfishness, your grace stirs in us a longing to return. Save us from the temptations that lead us away from you, and draw us back through the power of the cross, the tree of life. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.



AWAKE, MY SOUL!

MORNING PRAYER DURING LENT

Every Wednesday during Lent, immediately following the 7:00AM Mass, we will pray *Morning Prayer* in Saint Francis Church. Morning Prayer is a simple liturgical celebration based on the praying of psalms. It is a brief service intended to lift up our hearts in gratitude to God at the beginning of the day, and to consecrate the work and activities of the day to his glory. The texts will be provided for you, all you need to do is stick around after the 7AM Mass on Wednesday's. What a great way to start the day! A "two-fer" special: Mass and Morning Prayer! *"In the morning, let me know your love..."*



Religious Education

Grades K-6—Sunday Classes see below.

Wednesday Classes Gr. 3-6—Meet in church for Reconciliation, 4pm.

Grades 7 & 8—Meet in church for Reconciliation, 7pm.

Confirmation I & II—Classes on Monday, from 7-8:30pm.

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

This Week

Sunday, March 13

8:50-9:50 Gr. 1 & 2 FGC

9:10am Final 1st Eucharist Parent Mtg. (HBH)

10am Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:50-11:50 Gr 3,4 5 (FGC) Gr. 6 (HBH)

5:30pm Praise! Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm Deacon Paul's Presentation on Praying with Icons & Sacred Images (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, March 14

7:30-12NN Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (church)

11am Divine Mercy Cenacle (church)

7-8:30pm Conf. I & II Class (FGC)

Tuesday, March 15

6:30pm RCIA (MCCR)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, March 16

4-5pm Gr 3-6 meet in church for Reconciliation

7-8:15pm Gr 7 & 8 meet in church for Reconciliation

Thursday, March 17

10am Mass at Brightview Commons

6:30pm Liturgical & Spiritual Life Committee

7pm St. Francis Women's Club (FGC)

7pm Men of St. Joseph Prayer Mtg. (rectory)

Friday, March 18

10am Mass at Scallop Shell Nursing Home

11am Mass at South Bay Nursing Home

6-10pm Marriage Prep. Weekend (FGC & HBH)

7:00pm Stations of the Cross (church)

Saturday, March 19

8:30-2:30 Marriage Prep. Weekend (FGC & HBH)

5:30pm RCIA First Scrutiny Mass

Food of the Month

Your donations of spaghetti sauce, juice, peanut butter, jelly, cans of chili, baked beans and rolls of paper towels may be dropped off at the entrance of the church or chapel.

We thank you in advance for your continued generosity to those who are less fortunate.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today's first reading recounts the story of our first parents' fall from grace. The decision to take for themselves what God wanted them to receive as a gift deeply wounded the relationship between God and the human community. The Jewish people would eventually be drawn into a covenant with God that would help repair that wounded relationship. It's interesting that the Jewish covenant was bound up with certain rituals and liturgical acts, like the offering of sacrifice and prayers for mercy. The high priest would present the prayers of the people to God, and beg his forgiveness on their behalf. The Jewish people understood that the damage caused to our relationship with God through original sin needed to be healed, and that healing was expressed through prayer and liturgy. For we who call Jesus Christ, "Lord," our worship achieves a similar purpose. The forgiveness and salvation we crave has already been purchased for us by the blood of Christ. As Saint Paul reminds us in our second reading, "through one righteous act [the death of Jesus] acquittal and life came to all." Our access to the righteousness of Jesus is bound up with the *liturgy*. In the liturgy, we enter into Christ's own prayer to the Father. We receive Christ's forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance, and we are made present to the sacrifice of Calvary in the Celebration of Mass. During this Lenten season, challenge yourself to see liturgy as the bridge which leads us back to paradise. The old Adam forfeited the gifts of grace given to him by God. The new Adam, Jesus, wins for us the possibility of returning to a state of friendship with God. This whole dynamic of the Christian life is encapsulated in our liturgical and spiritual life as a parish community.



Year of Liturgical and Spiritual Renewal

THEOLOGY UNCORKED: WRAP-UP

Over 75 people attended our Theology Uncorked session on March 4. Many thanks to **Fr. Jeremy Rodrigues** for an outstanding presentation on the new translation of the Roman Missal. Thanks are also due to **"Martha's Helpers,"** a team of several parishioners who helped set-up, prepare the food, and tend bar throughout the evening. Your help is greatly appreciated! And a very special thank you is owed to **Rosanna Jones**, "Martha" herself! Rosanna planned and executed an outstanding spread of food, much to the pleasure of our guests. We are deeply grateful to you and to all of your helpers for a job well-done! If you'd like to give "Martha" a hand by baking or preparing food or drink for other occasions in the parish, please call the rectory to sign-up!

BOOK CLUB REMINDER

The *Dumb Ox* book club, directed by Sr. Barbara Matazzaro, will be meeting on Sundays at 1PM in Father Greenan Center.

DID YOU KNOW?

That several adults in our parish have been preparing for the reception of the sacraments this coming Easter? Deacon Paul has been working with an RCIA group since the Fall. Throughout the Lenten Season, we will be getting to know them better! Be on the lookout for more information!



CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

Because of you and your generosity to the annual Appeal, over 14,000 students and their families are served through the Catholic School Office. Thank you for your gift.

2011 Steubenville East Youth Conference July 22-24

A dynamic weekend filled with music, inspiring speakers, Mass and Adoration. For more info check out their website:

<http://www.catholicyouthministry.com/experience/steubenville-east>

All high school youth invited! July 22-24 on the campus of URI. If you would like to be part of our group from St. Francis of Assisi please call Jacqui Bertrand at 782-3505 or the Rel. Ed. Office 792-8684.

Eucharistic Congress on April 1-2 for college students and young adults

Come and join hundreds of your peers from across Boston on April 1 and 2 for our fourth annual Archdiocese of **Boston Eucharistic Congress** for College Students and Young Adults. Meet new people, listen to dynamic speakers, pray in new ways, get involved in Christian service, celebrate Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley, enjoy delicious food catered by the Italian restaurants of the North End, and participate in an evening of Eucharistic procession. All this will be taking place at Sacred Heart and St. Leonard's Churches in the North End of Boston. For more info, visit eucharisticcongress.org.

If interested in attending call Nick Soltysiak at 499-9361 or nsoltysiak@hotmail.com. Cost—\$10.