

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 26

5:30pm Special Intention for
Fern and Larry Ferreira
Requested by family friend

Sunday, March 27

8:00am Reinaldo "Ray" Flores
Requested by Holly

10:00am Rita Travis
Requested by family

12NN Raymond Francis Kells, Jr.
Requested by family

Monday, March 28

7:00am Reinaldo "Ray" Flores
Requested by Holly

Tuesday, March 29

7:00am Ned Carney
Requested by Jeff and Kathie

Wednesday, March 30

7:00am Posillo Brothers
Requested by family

Thursday, March 31

7:00am Margaret & Fred Robinson
Req. by Fred & Arlene Robinson

Friday, April 1

7am Emily, Arthur & Marcelle Tonner
Req. by Fred & Arlene Robinson

Saturday, April 2

5:30pm For the Parish

Sunday, April 3

8:00am Masumeh Ghandaharian
Requested by family

10:00am Joseph Mahoney
Requested by wife

12:00pm Lena, John Sr. and John
Iacobbo, Jr.
Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 27

10:00am Zena Brown
Requested by family

Sunday, April 3

10:00am Earle Simmons
Requested by wife Eleanor



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for March 13th was Budget—\$8,321.50; Ongoing Maintenance—\$2,972. Next weekend's second offering will be the monthly offering for April. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

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

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.

BUSY LENT?

Check out the **CD rack** for some **Spirituality on the Go**. Listen to **top notch presenters on Lenten themes** on your way to work, between running errands or simply in the comfort of your own home. The CD rack is located on the wall by handicapped door through the exit to the right of the tabernacle.

AN INVITATION TO RETURN

Lent is a time to respond to God's invitation to return. Consider returning to God's healing love in the sacrament of confession. Pamphlets have been placed at the doors of the church which will help you prepare for a good confession. The sacrament is celebrated on Saturday afternoons in the confessional in St. Francis Church at 4:30PM. Otherwise, an appointment can be made with one of the priests by calling the rectory (783-4411).

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE WRAP-UP

This past Sunday, our church was transformed through candlelight, incense, sacred images, scripture and song. The Taize Prayer Service received rave reviews: "peaceful," "uplifting," "relaxing," "just what I needed," "absolutely beautiful," "so prayerful." Many thanks to Deacon Paul for the use of his original icons in our worship space, and to Sr. Barbara for participating as a reader. Thanks are especially due to the Saint Francis Choir for leading us in song (especially in light of their workload for Lent and Holy Week!), to Gina our talented flautist, and last, but certainly not least, to Mimi Battey for pulling it all together with grace and skill. We hope to have another service in the near future! Let us know what you thought!

FOOD DRIVE

The Social Outreach Committee is sponsoring their annual food drive to benefit the Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale on the weekend of April 9 & 10. Please look for the bulletin insert as a reminder. Place donated items by the statue of St. Francis in the church and inside front entrance to St. Romuald Chapel. Thank you for your ongoing generous support.

MARCH 27, 2011



**REMINDER!
WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER**

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..."*.

THE CATHOLIC CHARITY FUND APPEAL

Last weekend we had In-pew solicitation for the Catholic Charity Fund Appeal. Thank you to all who responded. Received: \$ 48,620
Goal: \$104,000



Come, Rain or Shine to ...

St. Francis of Assisi's
Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 16th
10-11:00AM**

Fr. Greenan Parish Center

Toddlers to Second Graders Welcome.

Donations of candy and plastic eggs gratefully accepted.

Collection box located at the entrance to the church.

Thank you for your support.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED...

...that during the Season of Lent, we depart Mass in sacred silence as a sign of penitence.



LOCAL CHURCHES COME TO AID OF JAPAN

Harumi Johnston of North Kingstown has asked local churches and other agencies to help come to the aid of the victims of Japan's earthquake and tsunami. Her parents are in Tokyo and she's concerned for their being elderly and having to stand in long lines for food and commodities. She's hoping to get donations of organic carrots, apples, potatoes, short grain rice, bottles of water, dried seaweed, Kombu, and Wakanie to ship to Japan. In addition to donations, she's looking to start a letter writing campaign to show support for our brothers and sisters in need. 20% of the families in her home parish are still not accounted for. For more information, please call Harumi at 295-9360.



**Religious
Education**

Grades K-6—Sunday Classes see below.

Wednesday Classes Gr. 3-6—Meet from 4-5pm in Father Greenan Parish Center.

Grades 7 & 8—Meet from 7-8:30pm in Father Greenan Parish Center.

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

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



This Week

Sunday, March 27

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

10am Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:50-11:50am Gr 3,4 5 (FGC)

Gr. 6 (HBH)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, March 28

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

11am Divine Mercy Cenacle (church)

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

Tuesday, March 29

6:30pm RCIA tonight (MCCR)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, March 30

7:00AM Mass followed by Morning Prayer (Church)

4-5pm Gr 3-6 (FGC)

5-6:15pm Children's Choir Reh. (loft)

7-8:15pm Gr 7 & 8 (FGC)

Thursday, March 31

PLEASE NOTE: The Men of St. Joseph Prayer Mtg. will not be taking place during Lent ... come and join us for the Bible Study on 1 Corinthians on Tuesday evenings at Fr. Greenan Parish Center.

Friday, April 1

7pm Step Up Close to Jesus Stations of the Cross presented by Grades 3-6 (church)

Saturday, April 2

5:30pm 2nd Scrutiny Mass—RCIA

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Year of Liturgical and Spiritual Renewal

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

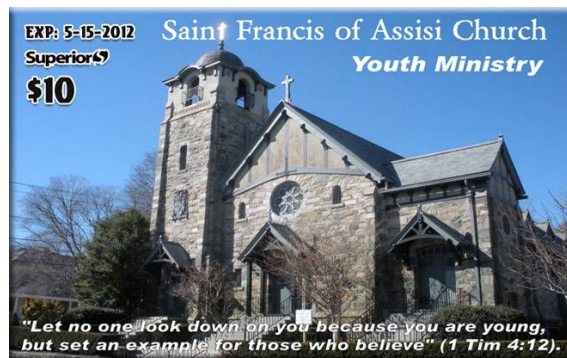
We find in today's gospel (from the fourth chapter of Saint John's gospel) one of the most striking dialogues in the entire bible. At the beginning of the dialogue, Jesus and the woman seem to be speaking on two different levels. The woman wants to talk about water in buckets while Jesus wants to talk about the water of grace he desires to shower upon her soul. When the conversation turns to the topic of authentic worship, interestingly enough, Jesus brings up the woman's past life of sin and brokenness. The implication is clear: the Father desires us to worship him in spirit and in truth, but this requires an honest inventory of our lives. We cannot authentically worship God unless we first allow his grace to heal, forgive and transform us. During this holy season of Lent, God invites us to return to his grace through the **sacrament of penance**, so that we may worship him with clear minds, hearts and consciences. Just like the woman at the well, Jesus wants to fill our souls with the water of his healing grace, but our buckets must first be emptied of anything that is preventing us from receiving that grace in abundance. Lent is a time to return: to return to authentic worship, to return to God's healing love in the sacrament of penance.

LONGING TO RETURN: THE GRACE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Confession (Reconciliation) to heal sin and to restore us to friendship with God and the Church. The Church requires that we confess our serious sins at least once a year (Canon 989) and recommends that we confess our venial sins as well (Canon 988). If you have been away from the Sacrament for some time, the Church has only one admonition for you: **do not be afraid!** Jesus is waiting to heal you, to unburden you of whatever is holding you back from experiencing a relationship with him in abundance. Lent is like Spring-cleaning for the soul! If you are unsure of what to confess or how to confess, take a copy of the pamphlet, "How to Make a Good Confession" which is available at the side door. Lent is a time for the giving up of what we are for what we might become!

THE CONFESSIONAL/RECONCILIATION ROOM...

...is located to the right of the altar in Saint Francis Church. It is equipped with a kneeler and a screen for those who wish to confess anonymously, as well as a chair for those who wish to confess face-to-face. The Act of Contrition is also available. If the door is open, the priest is available. Be certain to close the door when you enter, and to leave it open for the next person when you exit!



YOUTH MINISTRY FUND-RAISER

This year we have teamed up with Superior Cards Inc. to raise funds for future Youth Ministry activities in our parish, including but not limited to, the 2011 Steubenville East Youth Conference. How does this work? For a cost of \$10, you purchase a savings card which has a list of 15 local establishments that are willing to give you a discount. The detail discount is posted on the back of the card (i.e., 10 % discount total food purchase at the Mews). This card is good for one year and can be used repeatedly throughout the year. Sales of these cards will take place after all masses on April 2/3. Please help our fund-raiser be successful!

2011 Steubenville East Youth Conference July 22-24

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

Through your support of the Catholic Charity Appeal, 2,824 youth attended retreats from over 105 parishes and 6 schools. Thank you for your generosity.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION...

...is a useful pamphlet published by Our Sunday Visitor. They are available free of charge at the doors of the church. Lent is the perfect time to return to the sacrament of confession! Longing to return is about admitting our faults and asking God for his forgiveness in this great sacrament of mercy.