

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 7

4:30pm Ann Walsh

Req. by Tom and Margaret Keenan

Sunday, March 8

8:00am Marion Maggio

Requested by family

10:00am Elizabeth "Betty" Steward

Requested by parish family

12:00nn Mary Grace "Kelly" Sullivan

Monday, March 9

7:00am Hugh McGee

Requested by Boyle family

Tuesday, March 10

7:00am Gloria Carney

Requested by Jeff and Kathleen

Wednesday, March 11

7:00am Irving P. Mason, Jr.

Requested by friends

Thursday, March 12

7:00am Carol A. Meenan

Requested by Viola Card

Friday, March 13

7:00am Susan Marchand

Requested by family

Saturday, March 14

4:30pm Robert C. Wilson and

Thomas McGair

Requested by their families

Sunday, March 15

8:00am Mary Pendergast

Requested by Kathleen and Jeff Carney

10:00am Anne Plante

Requested by family

12:00NN Mass for the People



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 8

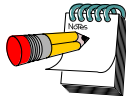
10:00am Jean Boynton

Requested by Maggie Cote

Sunday, March 15

10:00am Joe and Deloris Clark

Requested by Tencher & Clark families



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish support for March 1st was Budget—\$7,837; Monthly—\$3,276. Next weekend's second offering will be the Ongoing Maintenance fund offering. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Gloria Carney. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns for all persecuted Christians around the world.

WINTER FOOD DRIVE

The Social Outreach Committee is again sponsoring a food drive to benefit The Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale's Vacation Breakfast and Lunch Program. The food drive will be running for two weekends from March 14 & 15 thru March 21 & 22. **Foods being requested are juice boxes, jelly, cereal, peanut butter and tuna fish.** This program benefits clients: children who participate in school nutrition assistance programs. Your generous donations will go toward helping these children enjoy healthy meals and snacks throughout their school vacations and their entire summer break. Please place donations in receptacles by the St. Francis statue in the church and by the front entrance at St. Romuald Chapel. Our St. Francis of Assisi parish family has always been generous when called upon to help those in need and we thank you for your continued generosity.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL

The rehearsal for the sacrament of Confirmation is on Thursday, March 26th at 6pm in the main church. Sponsors and candidates need to be present. Confirmation will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 10am. It has come to my attention that several families did not receive a mailing that was sent out in late October detailing this information. Also, sponsors should have received a mailing in late January. Please check with your sponsor and contact the religious education office if they did not receive it.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Please join Bishop Tobin in prayer for vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Providence as he presides at the monthly Holy Hour for Vocations on **Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM at St. Theresa Church, 265 Stafford Road, Tiverton.** Let us unite in prayer that many more men will respond to God's call to the priesthood in the Diocese of Providence.

SAVE THE DATE ... SUNDAY, MARCH 22 AT 3PM

A concert of sacred music will be presented by the South County Chamber Singers in St. Francis Church. More to come next week.

MARCH 8, 2015

From the Pastor

As of this writing—Wednesday morning—the mission has been a great success. Although last night's attendance was down a little bit because of the snow, there was a surprisingly good crowd and six priests were kept busy hearing confessions for over an hour. Fr. Nick's theme of being a Catholic in the contemporary world has been very timely as he dwelt with us on the things that anchor our faith: the Eucharist, prayer, the sacrament of penance. Fr. Nick has used the acronym CPR to help us remember his admonitions. It stands for Challenge (the theme of the first evening), Penance, (the second evening), and Resurrection (tonight's focus.) We pray that his efforts bear much fruit for the continued spiritual health of our parish.

Elsewhere in the news: we have had people in to assess what should be done with the parking lot and the apron in front of the Father Greenan Center, which have been sadly misshapen by frost heaves. As has been pointed out on many occasions: if it's not one thing, it's two things.

Fr. Bodah

"Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles ... For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." ~ 1 Corinthians 1:22-25



TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE **TONIGHT!**

On Sunday, March 8th, at 6:30PM, cantors and musicians will lead a **TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE** in Saint Francis Church. Those who've attended a Taizé Prayer Service in the past can tell you it's a service unlike anything you've experienced before!

Using light and darkness, gentle song and silence, we will lift up our hearts to God in contemplative prayer! Candles, sacred images, scripture, and repetitive, easily-singable songs will be a part of this special gathering!

So invite your friends, family...everyone you know to join us tonight. Take a seat in your favorite pew or get comfortable on the sanctuary floor! **You won't want to miss this!**



Religious Education

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 8th

8:50-9:50am GRADES 1 & 2 (FGC)

GRADE 7 (FGC)

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

GRADE 8 (FGC)

9:15 Final Eucharist Parent Mtg (HBH)

Monday, March 9th

7-8:30 Confirmation I (FGC)

Wednesday, March 11th

4:00-5:00 Classes GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

Step Up Close to Jesus, Stations of the Cross during class

7-8:15 Classes GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)

Saturday, March 14th

7:30am Depart from church parking lot for Diocesan Faith Formation Convocation at Bryant University.



This Week

Sunday, March 8

9:15am First Communion Parent Mtg. (HBH)

10:00am Family Liturgy

11:00am Choir Rehearsal (SR)

6:30pm Taizé Prayer Service (SF)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, March 9

7:30-12:00nn Adoration

7-8:30pm Confirmation I Class & Reconciliation (FGC)

Tuesday, March 10

7:45am Finance Council Meeting (MCCR)

6:30pm Adoration & Evening Prayer (SR)

7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, March 11

12:30pm Stations of the Cross (SRC)

4-5pm Step Up Close to Jesus Stations of the Cross by Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm Gr. 7/8 Class (FGC)

Thursday, March 12

9-2 Prout Senior Retreat (↓↑FGC & SFC)

1:30pm Mass at So. Bay Manor-Fr. Bodah

5-6pm Holy Hour for Synod on the Family (SR)

6:30pm Adoration & Evening Prayer (SR)

7:00pm Divine Mercy Cenacle (SR)

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC-↓)

Friday, March 13

7:00pm Stations of the Cross (SF)

Saturday, March 14

7:30am Depart church parking lot for Bryant University—DOP Faith Formation Convocation Day

10am—1pm Sacred Art Workshop (HBH)

Lent

MORNING PRAYER

Every Wednesday during Lent, immediately following the 7AM Mass, we will pray *Morning Prayer* in Saint Francis Church. Booklets will be provided.

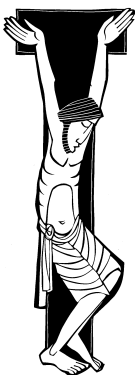


ADORATION w/EVENING PRAYER

Join us each Tuesday (except this Tuesday due to the parish mission) and Thursday evening during the Lenten Season for Adoration w/Evening Prayer at 6:30PM at Saint Romuald Chapel, Matunuck.

ROSARY—SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed each Friday morning during Lent, immediately following the 7AM Mass at St. Francis Church.



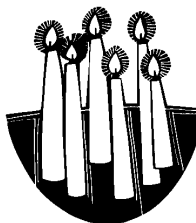
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross with Benediction will be offered on the Friday evenings of Lent at 7PM in St. Francis Church. The "Step Up Close to Jesus Stations," presented by grades 3-6, will be offered Wednesday, March 11th at 4PM at Fr. Greenan Center. All are encouraged to attend. Saint Romuald Chapel offers an afternoon opportunity to pray the Stations on Wednesdays throughout Lent at 12:30PM.

TAIZE

AN EVENING OF PRAYER & SONG

All are invited to join us for a quiet evening of TAIZÉ prayer, song and reflection TONIGHT Sunday, March 8th, at 6:30PM in St. Francis Church.



LENTEN PRAYER

Transfigure us, O Lord — Transfigure us, O Lord.
Break the chains that bind us; speak your healing word,
and where you lead we'll follow.
Transfigure us, O Lord.



March 2, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. . . . If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it." (I Cor 12: 12-26)

These words of St. Paul come quickly to mind these days as we witness the unimaginable suffering that our fellow Christians are enduring around the world — in Iraq and Syria, and in Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea and many other places as well. Every day, it seems, we hear new reports about Christians having their churches, schools and religious artifacts destroyed; we hear about the personal attacks — Christians being kidnapped, raped, tortured, crucified and beheaded, precisely and solely because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

These reports lead us to wonder how one human being could inflict such suffering and pain on another. We are tempted to give into anger, discouragement, fear and revenge. But while we rightly long for justice upon those who perpetrate these atrocities, our Christian Faith also calls us to hope, charity and prayer for those who suffer. As St. Paul teaches, *"If one part of the body suffers, all the parts of the body suffer with it."*

With the hope of promoting our awareness of the suffering of our fellow Christians around the world, and to express our spiritual solidarity with them, I am writing to invite all the members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Providence to undertake a **Month of Prayer and Sacrifice for Persecuted Christians**. This month coincides approximately with the remainder of the Lenten Season when we prepare to share in the Lord's suffering and death. We should understand that the Passion of Christ, the Suffering Servant of God, is being lived-out today in the cruel suffering visited upon our brothers and sisters.

I invite all the members of the Church to undertake some personal acts of prayer, sacrifice or charity for our suffering brothers and sisters. Perhaps you could dedicate the Lenten practices you have already begun to this specific intention. Perhaps you could undertake additional prayer, sacrifice or good works for this intention. ...

Brothers and sisters, my hope is that through our collective **Month of Prayer and Sacrifice for Persecuted Christians**, the Catholics of the Diocese of Providence will be counted among those who are standing with and praying for our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

With my prayers that the remainder of the Lenten Season will be a time of special grace and peace for all, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
(signed)
Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence