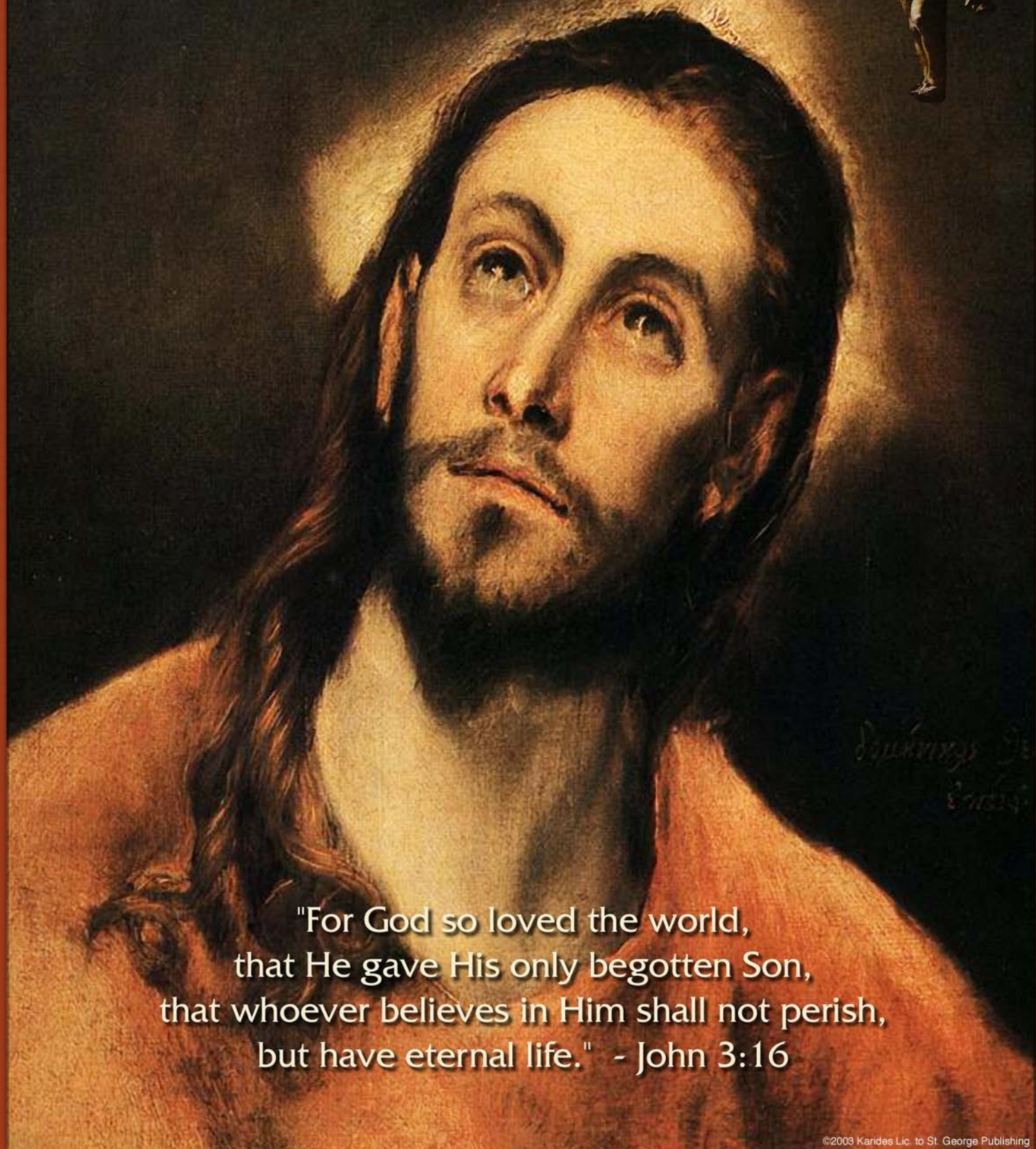


Saint George Church
A Community of Ministries
Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 22, 2009



"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life." - John 3:16

Parish Information

40 Brattle Street, Worcester, MA 01606

phone: 508-853-0183 fax: 508-854-0864 email: office@ saintgeo.com Website: www.saintgeo.com

Eucharist Schedule: Vigil (Saturday): 4:00 PM Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM
Monday through Friday at 8:00 AM.

Baptism: Once a month at 12:30 PM. Call Ruth Viens, Baptism Coordinator at 508-852-5658 to make arrangements.

Penance: Saturday - 3:15 to 3:45 PM or by appointment.

Marriage: Saturday mornings or Sundays after 2:00 PM. Arrangements must be made one year in advance with a priest. One of the couple must have been a registered member of the Parish for at least six months.

Anointing of the Sick and Communion Calls: Members of the family should notify the Rectory whenever a parishioner becomes confined at home, in a nursing home, a hospice or in the hospital.

Registration: New parishioners are always welcome! Please call Annie Doyle at the Rectory to register.

Coffee Shop: Sunday after every Mass in the Church Hall.

Pastoral Staff: *Rev. Ronald G. Falco*, Pastor; *Norbert H. Archibald*, Deacon

Safe Environment Coordinator: *Margaret Moynahan*

Church Office: *Joan Koppenal*, Secretary

Parish Outreach: *Ann R. Doyle*, Coordinator

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, closed Fridays and holidays

Religious Education: 508-852-1784 - **Elementary:** *Margaret Moynahan*, Coordinator;

Junior High:

Senior High: Christopher O'Neill, Coordinator

Confirmation: *Susan Pacek*, Coordinator

CYC Youth Group:

Music Ministry: *Michael Lizotte*, Director 508-854-0459

Weekly Bulletin Editor: *Anne Good*, 508-869-9982

Newsletter Editor: *Ruth Viens*, 508-852-5658

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of Saint George, celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives.

Central to our identity and together with the universal Catholic Church, we are nourished and sustained through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. We are inspired by the proclamation of the Word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

As Catholic Christians, we continually seek to grow in a deeper understanding of our faith, to respect the sanctity of human life, and to respond to what Jesus asks of us in our time by sharing our gifts and participating in parish activities.

Eucharist and Prayers for the Sick

Members of the family or friends are requested to either call the Rectory or add the name to the Prayer Basket, which is located in the Mary Chapel.

Please: Call to let us know if a family member or neighbor is hospitalized, homebound or ill. We can arrange to visit and bring Eucharist.

Remember that due to HIPAA regulations, unless you allow the hospital or health care institution to release information and list St. George's as your religious affiliation, we are not told that you are a patient. We call the area hospitals each week to see if any of our parishioners are hospitalized. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Coffee Shop Captain

April 5, 2009: Joe Toomey: 508-791-2843

Please join us in the Hall after Mass on Sunday for coffee, donuts and fellowship!

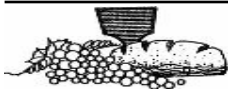
Financial Information

March 7 March 8

4:00 PM: \$1771.50	Repair Fund
105 envelopes	\$691.00
7:30 AM: \$1015.00	47 envelopes
51 envelopes	Fuel (to date)
9:00 AM: \$1259.50	\$1135.00
57 envelopes	46envelopes
11:00 AM: \$1508.00	Easter Flowers
64 envelopes	\$115.00
Mail: \$717.00	4 envelope
35 envelopes	
Weekly Total:	Why not dedicate the
\$6269.00	first hour of your fami-
312 envelopes and cash	lies' work week to God?

Our Weekly Financial Goal is \$7,750

This week we achieved 80.9 % of our goal .
Our shortfall is \$1,481.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 21: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Josephine Sisti by family

Sunday, March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM 1st Anniversary for John Donnelly by his wife
 9:00 AM 1st Anniversary for Frances White by family
 6th Anniversary for Edward, Gregory & Doreen Needham by family
 11:00 AM 4th Anniversary for Denis Reen by his wife Theresa

Monday, March 23: Toribio de Mogrovejo
 8:00 AM Memorial for Lucy Scappaticci by Ben & Nancy Scappaticci

Tuesday, March 24:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Ruth Holston by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sanford

Wednesday, March 25: Annunciation of the Lord
 8:00 AM Memorial for Paul Puris Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sanford

Thursday, March 26:
 8:00 AM Memorial for Marie Courtney by the Toole family

Friday, March 27:
 8:00 AM For our young adults preparing for Confirmation

Saturday, March 28: Vigil
 4:00 PM Memorial for Ruth Feeley by Vin & Kathleen DiBenedetto

Sunday, March 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM For the homeless
 9:00 AM Memorial for Harry & Ann Dapper by family
Altar Server Installation
 11:00 AM Memorial for Andy & Sophie Astrella by family
 Memorial for George B. White by George J. White

Scripture for March 22- March 29, 2009

22	Sun	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21
23	Mon	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
24	Tue	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
25	Wed	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/ Lk 1:26-38
26	Thu	Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
27	Fri	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
28	Sat	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
29	Sun	Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 (35)

Second Collection

The annual collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up at all Masses this weekend. Please be as generous as you always are.

Parish Calendar

Saturday, March 21:
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 22:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove
 12:00 PM Confirmation Retreat Hall/Church
 6:00 PM Gr. 9 & 10 Religious Ed Center

Monday, March 23:
 4:00 PM Gr.1 & 2 Religious Ed Center
 6:30 PM Gr. 7 & 8 Religious Ed Center

Tuesday, March 24:
 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Conf. Room
 4:00 PM Gr. 3 & 4 Religious Ed Center
 4:15 PM Stations of the Cross Church
 5:30 PM Crime Watch Meeting Hall
 6:30 PM Weight Loss Group Center
 7:00 PM Reconciliation Service Church

Wednesday, March 25:
 4:00 PM Gr. 5 & 6 Religious Ed Center
 7:00 PM Widow / Widowers Center

Thursday, March 26:
 6:30 PM Family Prayer Night Church
 6:45 PM Boy Scouts Center
 7:00 PM Paul Rogers Hall

Friday, March 27:
 Saturday, March 28:
 9:00 AM Lectio Divinia Conf. Room
 8:00 PM AA Hall

Sunday, March 29:
 8:00 AM Coffee Shop Hall
 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy Conf. Room
 9:00 AM Toddler Liturgy Hall Alcove
 10:15 AM Toddler Sing-a-long Conf. Room
 4:00 PM Senior High Retreat Church/Hall
 7:00 PM Confirmation Class Hall

We Commend to your Prayers

*Katherine Welsh, our parishioner; wife of our parishioner Bill Welsh and
 Lena Barton, mother of our parishioners
 Donna and Edward Saucier
 May the Angels lead them into Paradise*

Bulletin Deadlines

<u>Weekend of</u>	<u>Due to the parish office</u>
April 4/5	Wednesday, March 25
April 11/12	Wednesday, April 1
April 18/19	Wednesday, April 8

Please submit bulletin items by 5:00 PM on the due date. Items can be mailed or faxed to the Rectory or e-mailed to office@saintgeo.com. If you have any questions please call Joan Koppenal at the Rectory (508-853-0183).



Religious Education

CCD classes will continue to be held as previously scheduled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 year. CCD teachers will be in their classes at the regularly scheduled times. We understand that some students may be late arriving at class and want you to know that they are welcome at any time. Teachers have said that late arrivals are acceptable given the circumstances.

First Reconciliation

Our Second Graders will celebrate Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM at the Parish Reconciliation Service. Please plan on joining us.

High School Retreat

A retreat for Grades 9 and 10 will take place on Sunday, March 29 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please keep our teens in your prayers.

Grade 5 and 6 Class Mass

Will be on Palm Sunday, April 5 at the 9:00 AM Mass.

Confirmation Retreat



This year's retreat will be held this Sunday. Therefore there will be *no Coffee Shop after the 11:00 AM Mass*. Coffee Shop will be held as usual after the 7:00 and 9:00 AM Masses. Please keep our young adults, their

sponsors and team participating in the retreat in your prayers today and until they are confirmed.

Catholic Free Press

Our parish is assessed 319 copies of the Catholic Free Press; a total of \$7,337.00. To date, we have only 61 paid subscriptions. This means that \$5.934 of general parish funds will need to be used to meet our obligation.

Please consider renewing or subscribing to the Free Press. Each subscription is only \$23.00 and the paper will be delivered weekly to your home.

As always, thank you for your support of our parish. It is greatly appreciated.

Toddler Sing Along!



For toddlers and preschoolers will meet next **Sunday, March 29** from 10:15-10:45 AM in the Conference Room. For more information call Sharon Krug 508-853-1660.

Pastoral Reflections

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is commonly referred to as Laetare Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, because Easter is approaching, the feast of our Salvation. We hear St. Paul in our second reading today proclaim, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ - by grace you have been saved." The Gospel according to John declares in today's reading, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." We have much to rejoice in indeed!

My friends, as Holy Thursday approaches we continue our preparation for the visit of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Arinze. Cardinal Arinze will be the celebrant and homilist at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening. As we prepare for Cardinal Arinze's arrival in our parish, let us also continue in these days of Lent to prepare to receive the Lord Jesus by works of charity, by prayer and fasting. Let us ready our hearts to receive the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood especially on that day when the Church commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Holy Thursday. We recall in celebration too that at that same evening meal the Lord instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priesthood, when Jesus gave us his body and his blood saying, "do this in memory of me." We will pray with the Church throughout the world on Holy Thursday in the words of that Mass's responsorial psalm, Psalm 116, 'How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.'

Fr. Ron

Lenten Reflection Question

30 days with Jesus, a Bible reading plan

Take time this week to reflect on the following question. Write your reflections on paper and place the paper in the basket at the foot of the cross in the sanctuary near the altar.

How has our parish Lenten theme, The Word by Name Is Jesus Christ, affected your Lenten prayer and reflection? How have the person of Jesus and teaching of Jesus brought you to a closer relationship with the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?





Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

The Adorers of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel wish to thank Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for these favors:

1. For healing of my daughter.
2. For my husband getting a job.

The Chapel of the Perpetual Eucharist Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament needs additional adorers. Call Deacon Archie at 508-847-3710 or 508-853-8169. to sign up or if you have any questions.



Parish Outreach

Annie Doyle - 508-853-0183 x12
Office hours Mon-Tue-Wed 9-5

Food Pantry

Non-perishable food items are needed for the St. John's Food Pantry which is now located at the Unitarian Church on Shore Drive. Cold cereal and laundry detergent are this month's special needs.

Stewardship during Lent

Please consider choosing a "Mini Ministry" by selecting an item from jars located at each church exit (beside the bulletins). Most take only minutes. Religious Ed teachers might want to involve their class in one of the projects.

Presentation by Paul Rogers

Thursday, March 26, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Co-sponsored by the Men's Club and Women's Guild. The first day of Spring this year is Friday, March 20 Bring your Spring gardening questions. Paul is a renowned Horticulturist in Worcester County and beyond, is a noted columnist for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, a radio talk show host on WTAG, a horticultural consultant and teacher at the Landscape Institution at Harvard University. Please join us and BRING A FRIEND. There will be time for questions. The program is free - a good will offering will be appreciated. Refreshments will be served. *All are Welcome.*

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast



The Men's Club invites you all to attend our annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. The Breakfast will be served after each Palm Sunday Mass and consists of pancakes (all you can eat), breakfast sausage, ham, coffee (all you want to drink), milk and juice. Tickets will be sold the day of the breakfast **ONLY**. Tickets are \$2.00 for children under 12 years of age. Adult tickets are \$5.00 each or two for \$9.00. Please help support your Men's Club as we support our Parish.

Family Ministry

Ruth Viens, Coordinator - 508-852-5658
Email : ruthviens@charter.net

Family Connection

THE CROSS: God, there was a time when I imagined designing my own cross, choosing the time and place I would lift it to my shoulder, and carry it about for all to see. There was a time when I had an exaggerated sense of control over myself and my life. I thought You were demanding nothing less than extraordinary heroics from me. I eventually realized that I didn't have that kind of control and that I don't have to go looking for crosses. I simply have to recognize them and face them as they come barging uninvited into my world each day. And so God, help me not to miss the importance of the cross in my life. Help me to truly understand that taking up my daily crosses in faithfulness to You marks me as a disciple of Your Son.



This Weekend's Stewardship Thought

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16) Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for such a gift? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious child, but He does ask that we make some sacrifices for Him.

Parish Leaders

Please help us keep the Parish Calendar correct. If you add, change or delete a meeting or event please e-mail Joan or send a fax to the rectory. Thank you for your cooperation. Also, if you do not submit a written item about your event for the bulletin - it will not be published.

Flower Sponsors for the Homeless Needed

The St. George Parish Flower Sale to aid homeless families will be held the weekend of Palm Sunday, April 4th – 5th. We are seeking ten families to each purchase one box of flowers for resale at this event. Each box of flowers cost fifty dollars. In these difficult economic times we recognize that fewer individuals and families than in past years may be in a position to be sponsors. However, if you are so blessed, your help will be greatly appreciated. For information please call Matt Ryan @ 508-853-5528. On behalf of homeless families, thank you for your consideration.

9th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

All parish men are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled at Worcester's DCU Center on Saturday, March 28. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Bill Wegner ("Dare to be holy"); Brian Brown ("Same-Sex Marriage vs. Religious Liberty: What Redefining Marriage means for the Church"); Monsignor Frank Lane ("Forgiveness of Sin: the Divine Mandate and the Human Experience"); Joe Klecko ("Manhood and Faith"); Guy Doud ("Why be Catholic?"). Diocesan priests and bishops will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. *Ticket prices increase on Saturday, March 14, so get them now. Visit our website - www.WorcesterCatholicMen.org or contact Deacon Archie (508-847-3710) for brochures, further information or registration.*

Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting

Please join Worcester Police Officer Gerry O'Conner in helping to raise awareness of what we can do to keep our neighborhood safe. These meetings will be a great forum to voice community concerns as well as learn more about what the WPD can do to support us. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the church hall. Please contact Kara Stein at kbstein@charter.net or 508-853-9466 if you have any questions.

This Week

Pray for all who teach young children; that by their lives and by their words they might teach the beauty and value of life..

You're Invited to join our Community of Ministers...

Our community needs more Greeters, Cantors, Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion to minister at Weekend Masses.

Contact Annie Doyle at 508-853-0183 if you are willing to be a greeter at a weekend Mass.

If you would like to cantor, please call Michael Lizotte at 978-563-1758 or see him in the choir loft after any weekend Mass. It would be helpful if you have a basic knowledge of reading music.

If you are interested in becoming a Lector please call Anne Good at 508-869-9982. If you want to be a Minister of Holy Communion please call Eileen Charbonneau (508-853-1739) or Claudette Morley (508-853-5256).

We will be making a list of anyone who is interested and then setting up classes according to your availability. There *will be* a class offered on a Saturday after Easter, date TBA.

Year of St. Paul Events

OVERNIGHT VIGIL FOR YOUTH

The Mass and Youth Event scheduled for March 20 and March 21 have been cancelled. If there are any questions, please call the Office of Youth Ministry at 508-234-0346

Mass for Life

The annual Mass for Life will be celebrated by Bishop McManus on *Thursday, March 26 at 10:00 AM* at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The annual pro-life awards, given to individuals who have shown heroic witness to the intrinsic value of each human life, will also be presented on this occasion. All are welcome to attend and join in prayer with students from our Catholic Schools as we celebrate the Annunciation of the Lord.

Parish Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM

This celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an opportunity for us to prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. Our second graders will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at this service. Please join us.



“The Word by Name is Jesus Christ”

Encountering Jesus, the Living Word of God, through Sacred Scripture

Lent 2009

Theme

“The Word by Name is Jesus Christ” is our parish theme for this season of Lent. As mentioned in the bulletin a few weeks ago, the Word of God and the Bible, the Church’s sacred text, were the focus of the recent Synod in Rome. It is also the Year of St. Paul and therefore, reflection on “The Word” seems timely. Let us remember, however, that the Word of God is not merely a book, as in an object, but a person, Jesus Christ. John’s gospel tells us, “the Word became flesh”. Jesus is the Word of God, from all eternity, and He speaks the words of God in Scripture. As we encounter Jesus, the living Word of God, within the Bible, He touches our hearts by His presence and “The Word” abides in us.

An invitation

This Lent we invite you to spend time reading the Bible. Particularly, we invite you to walk with Jesus, the Word of God, by following the thirty day Scripture reading plan to be read at your own pace within the forty days of Lent. The reading plan was sent to you in the mail and is also on the bookmarks in the baskets by the church doors. Consider taking some quiet time to pray, read, reflect and allow Jesus to speak to you. Each Sunday there will be a reflection question in the bulletin and posted on the website. You might want to keep a spiritual journal at home as God speaks to you and your family while you meditate upon the readings and the weekly reflection question.

Educating and Strengthening One Another

At the foot of our Lenten cross this year, you will see a place to leave a piece of paper with a thought or an insight gained from your readings or the question posed in the bulletin. Younger members of our community might want to draw a picture. These reflections and pictures will be posted on the Lenten bulletin board downstairs in the hall so that “the Word abiding in you” might help to educate and strengthen others in our faith community.

And may God’s grace draw each of us to a closer relationship with the Word, by name, Jesus Christ.

Lenten Regulations

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) and older on Fridays of Lent.



Parish Spiritual Programs

Bible Study with Father Ron will be held the Thursday Nights of Lent 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the Hall.

Lectio Divina will take place in the Conference Room Saturday mornings in Lent from 9 - 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend one or all sessions.

Lectio Divina is a method of approaching scripture in order to listen to the depths, seeking to encounter Christ, the Word, through the power of the holy Spirit, hidden in the words of the text.

Ultimately it can be said that the goal of Lectio is an ever expanding capacity to listen with the heart to the word of God in all of life’s situations, leading to a more constant awareness of God’s presence. It is listening as a communion not so much for a particular message but for the nearness of the living God. It is therefore a listening that leads to a new way of seeing. In this sense the faithful practice of Lectio undergirds our entire life of prayer, work, and communion with others.

We hope you are able to join us for one or more of these programs!

Stations of the Cross

Stations are held each Tuesday during Lent at 4:15 PM in the Church. On Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 PM there will be an additional Stations with Benediction. We invite our Parishioners, their families and friends to join us.

Holy Week Services

Morning Mass at 8:00 AM Monday - Wednesday
 Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM Thursday - Saturday
 Evening Services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday are at 7:30 PM.

Holy Week Parish Mission

Our Lady of Good Counsel in West Boylston
 Sunday April 5 thru Wednesday April 8
 at 7:00 PM

“The emphasis of this mission is to invite Catholics into a deeper understanding of the Mass and to discover or strengthen a personal, living faith.”

For information call Terri King (508)835-3606.