



February 28–March 1, 2009

First Sunday of Lent

"This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 28th

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Special Intention
4:00 PM George E. Mahoney
Requested by M/M Vincenzo Salamone

Sunday, March 1st

First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Jim Pandiscio
Requested by his wife & children

10:30 AM Sr. Elisa Brasili, MPV
Requested by her family

Monday, March 2nd

7:00 AM Parishioners of St. Anthony Parish
5:30 PM Luigi Carbone
Requested by his wife Anna & daughters

Tuesday, March 3rd

St. Katharine Drexel, virgin

7:00 AM Alice Posco (6th Anniversary)
Requested by her daughter Debra Posco
5:30 PM Marie Murphy
Requested by Sam & Sharon Cetrano

Wednesday, March 4th

St. Casimir

7:00 AM Rev. Rocco DiLorenzo
5:30 PM Filippo & Lena Costa
Requested by their children

Thursday, March 5th

7:00 AM For Vocations
5:30 PM Orazio & Immacolata DePiano
(Anniversary)
Requested by the Pennetti Family

Friday, March 6th

7:00 AM Robert & Dorothy Bruso
5:30 PM Joseph & Maria Perrone
Requested by John & Gina Fanelli

Saturday March 7th

8:00 AM Elena Pasciuto
Requested by her friends Elena & Rita

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Peter Michaelian (Anniversary)
Requested by his wife Maryann

Sunday, March 8th

Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 AM Nicola Volpe (Anniversary)
Requested by her family
10:30 AM Nick Macchio
Requested by his family

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10-13,15-18
Second Reading: Romans 8:31b – 34
Gospel: Mark 9:2– 10

PREVIOUS WEEK OFFERINGS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Needed to Meet Budget | \$4,889.00 |
| Sunday Offering | \$3,926.50 |
| Children's Collection (\$13.00) | \$13.00 |
| DEFICIT this week | \$949.50 |
| DEFICIT Year to Date | \$4,105.50 |

Today's Women in Faith meets Monday, March 2nd @ 6:30 in hall.
Parish Council meets Tuesday, March 3rd @ 7:00 PM in hall.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES THIS LENT FOR ADULTS TO GROW IN FAITH

Thursdays in Lent Beginning March 5th

7:00 PM in the Church Hall

Adult Discussion Group

"The Ten Things Pope Benedict Wants You to Know."

Each week we discuss two of the ten items that the Holy Father has written about, his message of hope for the Twenty First Century. We will be using an easy to read booklet produced for the purpose.

Fridays in Lent Beginning March 13th

7:00 PM in the Church Hall

Movie Series

We reprise last year's successful series of films, watching a different group of contemporary movies and reflecting on what they have to share as values for our lives. Plenty of popcorn, bring a drink. These films are for adult audiences.

OPERATION RICE BOWL HAS BEGUN

This is the Lenten solidarity program of Catholic Relief Services. We join in the traditional practices of Lent and **pray** as a community, **fast** in solidarity with those who are hungry, **learn** about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world, and **give** concrete assistance to those most in need. 75% of your contributions to Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief services' development projects overseas and Lenten education activities in the United States. 25% of your contributions remain in your diocese to fund local hunger and poverty alleviation programs. Visit www.orb.crs.org to learn how the 25% is used in your diocese. Please keep this Rice Bowl in a highly visible place. Return at the end of Lent to the school office (if you have children there) or to the church office. Thank you.

2008 Church Contribution Tax Information

If you would like an Annual Contribution Report for money given during the 2008 year you must call the office to request one. You may call the office @ 978-342-4706 during regular office hours. Please do not call the rectory.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Michael J. Pandiscio
who died this past week. May he rest in peace.

Dear Friends,

A rainbow in the sky – we haven't seen one of them for a few months! After the great flood, the rainbow became the sign of God's Covenant with His people. What could be a more perfect symbol of God's never ending love for us? After the rain comes the rainbow. No matter how much we may not look forward to rainy days, it is the rain which guarantees life for our planet. No matter how much we try to "get through" Lent or avoid it entirely, it is our faithful observance of the discipline of Lent which allows us to experience the new life of Easter in the most profound sense.

Calvary is not a dead end. Calvary leads to the Resurrection and new life. Lent is not a dead end, either. Lent leads us to renewal and life in the Spirit. Therefore, Lent is always a hopeful time. It is "spring training" for the soul. Like any form of training and self discipline, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.

Put your heart and soul into Lent this year. Don't try to shirk the opportunities presented for daily Mass, the Stations of the Cross, adult faith enrichment, the citywide Mission, or for a deeper personal prayer life. There's a rainbow in the sky this Lent. Reach high! Embrace the Covenant with the Lord and all of the unique blessings which Lent brings.

Pace e Bene,

Item of the Month – The Youth Group is accepting donations for Our Father's House and the Veterans' Homestead. **This month's item is shampoo & conditioner.** Items can be placed in the marked boxes at the entrances of the church. Thank you for your support.

9th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference - All parish men are invited to the annual Conference, scheduled for Worcester's DCU Center on **Saturday, March 28th**. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Bill Wegner, Brian Brown, Msgr. Frank Lane, Joe Klecko and Guy Doud. For a Conference brochure see or call Fran Pandiscio at 978-348-1009 or go to www.firstmensconf.org for more information.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Items

Please don't forget about the pantry. Items needed are: bathroom tissue, cereal, canned vegetables, beef stew & canned soups, spaghetti sauce, jam or jelly, canned fruit, tuna, macaroni & cheese, Pasta Roni, canned meat. Many people rely on this weekly service that St. Francis provides. Continue to do what you can. Thank you!

The Serra Club of Worcester North invites you to join us in offering daily prayer for priests and seminarians of our Diocese. The names for the week of March 1st through March 7th: Rev. James Callahan; Rev. Edward Michalski; Rev. Kevin Hartford; Rev. John Dwyer; Deacon Anthony Fiore; Rev. John Horgan; Deacon Richard Desjardin.

The Gospel According to John – Performed by Leonardo Defillippis. Join in this wonderful Lenten program on **Friday, March 6th, from 7:30 – 9:30 PM at Fitchburg High School**, 140 Arn-How Farm Road. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased by contacting Fran Pandiscio @ 978-348-1009 or at all I-C Federal Credit Union branch locations. A dramatic presentation of the entire Gospel brought to life in a gripping 110 minute one-man drama with a 15 minute intermission. Suitable for ages 7 and up. Families are encouraged to come. Sponsored by Serra of Worcester North.

Experience an "Encounter with Jesus" Music, Message and Adoration with Mark Mallett on Saturday, March 7th at St. Camillus Parish from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. A free will offering will be taken up in support of Mark's ministry. Sit back, relax, and soak in power-packed Catholic truths, faith-building music and the healing power of Christ. Please join us.

Attention Children's Envelope Users:

Please remember to include *your* adult envelope number on your *child's* envelopes so that we may credit and money towards the family account. If no number is given we will treat it as loose change/anonymous.

Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network is looking for volunteers to be "Office Angels". They are looking for a few people who would be willing to help staff the office on a regular basis. This will primarily be to answer phones and take messages, although there may be other requests as time goes on. There will be training at the MIHN office on Mechanic St. in Leominster on **Tuesday, March 3rd at noon.**

Please call the office at 978-840-9500 for details if you are interested.

The following is a complete list of events during Lent at area Catholic Churches in Fitchburg as of this printing:

Additional Masses: Monday – Friday @ 12:30 in the Alumni Room in the Hammond Building at Fitchburg State College as well as here at St. Anthony's @ 5:30 PM.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at St. Camillus Church @ 3:00 and also on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church.

Outdoor Way of the Cross – A citywide Christian Witness on Good Friday @ 1:00 PM with procession route to be determined.

St. John's Gospel presentation at Fitchburg High School on Friday, March 6th @ 7:30 PM.

Concert at St. Camillus, Sunday, March 7th @ 7:00 PM.

Faith Discussion Group – "What Pope Benedict Wants You to Know", here at St. Anthony's in the church hall Thursdays beginning March 5th @ 7:00 PM.

Movie Series – Contemporary films with a message of faith for adults, here in the church hall Fridays beginning March 13th @ 7:00 PM.

Citywide Lenten Mission with Sister Hilda Ponte, MPV as our Mission Preacher: here at St. Anthony's in the church on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, March 24 – 26th @ 7:00 PM.

World Famous Fish Dinners! – Every Friday in Lent at Madonna of the Holy Rosary Church beginning @ 4:30 PM. Dine in or take-out available.

More detailed information will be printed as we receive it.