

Please Pray for...

All who have died this past week especially Benjamin Gleason, Styles, Juan Miranda and Gloria Bosse. We offer our sympathy and our prayers to their families and pray that they will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Fr. Martin Donahue, Peter Lacroix, Jean Wheeler, Pat Monfette, Al Shedyak, Max Sandberg, Paul Provencher, Bob Peluso, Bill Keyes, Diane Cyr, Theresa Cassavant, Laurie Gablaski, Ann Gablaski, Addison Lacaire, Elizabeth Lemerise, Dawn McDonald, Pat Benoit, Gloria Butler, Joyce Frigon, Hannah Laythe, Laura Wynn, Carey Dubois, Raymond Brodeur, Michael Kady, Bonnie Sheldon, Fr. Chet Devlin, Heather Lech, Joseph Nisel, Joseph Siauris, Cheryl Branham, Judy Wilson, Pauline Penhallow, Pauline Casavant

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS FEBRUARY 18 & 19

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| Envelopes | \$ 5,172.00 |
| Loose | \$ 1,220.90 |
| Total collection | \$ 6,392.90 |
| Number of envelopes | 195 |
| Mass Attendance | 403 |

Thank you for your generous gifts this past weekend which enable us to continue to do God's work. May God bless you all. Please consider weekly or monthly online giving. For more information check out our website for the link to online giving.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK Roll or Muffin Mix for Easter Food Baskets

Women's Bible Study

"Follow Me, Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" continues on Tuesday's 6:30-8pm in the church hall.

17th Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at Assumption College. Men of all ages, including teens and college students are invited to this important annual Conference, being held on Saturday, April 1. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online, you can also call Jim Pervier, the parish co-ordinator at 508-885-4517. Come hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders:

Starting Wed. March 1st (**Ash Wednesday**) we will be holding weekly **Lenten Meals** to be hosted by some of the ministries of our parish. Our first meal will be Corn Chowder and Clam Chowder with salad, bread, dessert and beverage. This week the time will be 5:00 - 6:30 pm in between the two later masses.

Food and Fuel calendar raffle will start to be pulled on Wednesday, March 1st, get your entries in as soon as possible..Additional calendars at the doors of the church or in the office

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00-5:00 Contact Judi at 508-885-3111 x 105 or jbrennan@parishmail.com

Schedule this week:

Sunday 9:00 - 10:00 am Grades K - 6
Sunday 5:30 - 7:00 pm High School classes
Tuesday 7:00 - 8:15 pm Grades 6 - 8 (Drop-in @ 6:30)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends will be happening March 12 - 19 South Kingston, RI. and June 10 - 11 in Medway, MA. For more information please call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit www.WWMEMA.org

Pastoral Council: We will be having a Parish Meeting to further explore starting a Pastoral Council. Meeting will be held Sunday, March 5th at 4:00 pm. We will try very hard to keep this meeting to one hour. Meeting in the church hall.

Boy Scout Troop 201 SPAGHETTI DINNER.....

Saturday, February 25th in the church hall. 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Tickets ADVANCE PRICE: Adults \$12.00, Sr.'s and 10yrs and under \$10.00. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Save the Date!!!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Saturday, March 18th in the hall.
More info to come, tickets on sale beginning in March.....
We will be looking for people to help cook, decorate, set up, serve and clean up.....please call the office to volunteer...

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!! We are looking to make a list of volunteers that we can call on to help us with some projects in the office during the year. This might include things like stuffing envelopes, putting stamps on things, making copies. Please call the office and let us know if you want to be on this list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Wednesday, March 1 in the Benton Room after the Ash Wednesday Mass.

Parish Mission: St. Joseph & St. John's will be holding a parish mission at St. Joseph's Church in North Brookfield on Thursday, March 9th and Friday March 10th at 6:30 pm. Thursday will be a Mass and Friday will be a Healing Service with Fr. Francisco Anzoategue "Fr. Paco" Pastor of St. Stephen's Parish Framingham, Presider, Homilist, Healing Service Leader. This will be held as part of St. Josephs 150th Anniversary Celebration Series.



A message from Fr. Bill

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer, as such it is an important day in the liturgical calendar. The ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting included the wearing of ashes on the head just as the Ninevites did in the story of Jonah. The ashes (made from burning palms from last year Palm Sunday) symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." or "Repent and believe in the Gospel." It is not required that a person wears the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening. Many Catholics keep the entire day holy by avoiding eating out or shopping as well as avoiding any type of celebrating. However you and your family observe Ash Wednesday, remember it is a day of prayer, fasting, and abstinence. We also abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. As we begin Lent this week, let us pray for each other and the world that we may arrive at Easter Sunday at least one step further along in our spiritual journey.

Peace, Fr. Bill

FIRST SATURDAY EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION MARCH 5, 2017 8:30AM - 4:00 PM

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00am. Confessions following mass. Exposition will be starting at the end of mass and continuing throughout the day until 4:00 pm. Confessions 3:00 – 3:50 pm. Benediction 4:00 pm. If you wish to participate there is a sign-up sheet in the sacristy.

Open Houses

Notre Dame Academy is inviting all current seventh grade and transfer students to spend an academic day at NDA through May 1st. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Admissions at 508-757-6200, Ext. 229 or email admissions@nda-worc.org. NDA is the only Catholic, college preparatory school for young women in Central Massachusetts. Please visit the website at www.nda-worc.org to learn more.

AREA EVENTS:

Sterling Theater will be presenting a **20th Reunion Show** highlighting the shows they have done over the last 20 years, on February 25 at 7:30 & 26 at 2:00 at the First Church in Sterling, tickets are \$22.00 in Advance, go to www.sterlingtheatre.com..... You might even see a familiar face as part of the show.

Celtic Celebration with Salisbury Singers at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center in Worcester, 34 Boynton St. on Saturday March 4th at 7:30 pm. A cabaret-style concert will feature a wide range of Irish folk tunes and tenor Brendan Carroll.. visit www.salisburysingers.com to learn more.

Discernment Retreat with Bishop McManus. Have you ever thought of a Vocation to the priesthood? Come and learn more. The Diocese of Worcester's annual discernment retreat, will be held on April 7 & 8, Beginning at 6:00 pm Friday and ending at 6:00 pm Saturday. Retreat held at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. There is no cost, and transportation is provided if needed. Visit worcestervocations.com for more info or contact Fr. Jim Mazzone At jmazzone@charter.net or phone him at 508-340-5788.



Mass Schedule

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| Saturday, February 25 4:30 pm Clients of the Food Pantry |
| Sunday, February 26 8:00 am For the People of the Parish 10:15 am Thomas J. Hicks by Ralph & Tina 7:00 pm |
| Monday, February 27 8:00 am Alice Benoit by the Food Pantry |
| Tuesday, February 28 8:00 am Edward Dobosz by His Family |
| Ash Wednesday, March 1 8:00 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Joanne Shedyak by Al Shedyak |
| Thursday, March 2 8:00 am Romeo & Jeanette Allaire by Suzanne |
| Friday, March 3 8:00 am No Mass Today |
| Saturday, March 4 4:30 pm William Gablaski (18 th Anniv) & Helen Siplas(10 th Anniv) By Their Family |
| Sunday, March 5 8:00 am For the People of the Parish 10:15 am Christina Wilson (35 th Anniv) by Her parents 7:00 pm Raymond W. Champagne by Barbara Mahoney |

Calendar of Events

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| Sunday, February 26 9:00 am 10:15 am 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Coffee Shop Open Faith Formation Grades K – 6 Children's Liturgy of the Word Faith Formation – High School |
| Monday, February 27 10:00 am 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Food Pantry OPEN Altar Server Training |
| Tuesday, February 28 6:30 pm 6:30 – 8:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Drop In Women's Bible Study 10 th Grade Bowl – a - thon Faith Formation Grades 6 – 8 |
| Wednesday, March 1 5:00 – 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Lenten Meal – Chowder Night Prayer Shawl meeting |
| Thursday, March 2 10:00 am | Food Pantry OPEN |
| Friday, March 3 | |
| Saturday, March 4 3:30 pm | COFFEE SHOP OPEN Confessions |
| Sunday, March 5 9:00 am 10:15 am 4:00 pm 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Coffee Shop Open Faith Formation Grades K – 6 Children's Liturgy of the Word PARISH MEETING Faith Formation Grades 9 & 10 |

