

Mass Intentions

Saturday 4:00 PM	March 5 Monsignor Thomas Finnegan
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	March 6 Donald Warren Sherwood—1st Anniv. Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues Parishioners
Monday 12:10 PM	March 7 T. Claire Riley (living)
Tuesday 12:10 PM	March 8 Joan & Samuel Taylor
Wednesday 8:00 AM 12:10 PM 5:15 PM	March 9 — Ash Wednesday
Thursday 12:10 PM	March 10 Open Hearts Memorial Guild
Friday 12:10 PM	March 11 Terese Aucoin
Saturday 4:00 PM	March 12
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	March 13—First Sunday of Lent Salvatore J. Intravaia—Memorial, Birthday Parishioners

OUR PARISH SUPPORT

Offertory - February 27

\$3,059



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and our Lenten Journey will begin. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during the 8:00AM, 12:10PM and 5:15PM Masses.



LENTEEN REGULATIONS

On Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent, abstinence is required for all those over the age of 14, i.e., meat may not be used. Fasting is required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those between the ages of 18 and 60.

CATHOLIC APPEAL—Kick Off This Weekend

Through the Appeal we have an opportunity to help our brothers and sisters all throughout our Archdiocese. Giving is a way of “Offering Hope by Sharing God’s Gifts.” By doing so, we are not only helping to renew the strength and vitality of our Church, but recognizing a need within ourselves to sacrifice for the Lord. A gift is important, not so much for how much it is, but because of what we become through the act of giving. In this spirit, please prayerfully consider a 2011 Catholic Appeal gift.

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The downturn in the housing market has taken its toll on plenty of people. From real estate agents to developers, from mortgage bankers to members of the construction trades, the lack of home building has severely curtailed economic activity in all of these employment sectors. The questionable practices of bundling, repackaging, and trading mortgage assets by various financial institutions as well as outright fraud on the part of some buyers and sellers led to a banking crisis that threatened to swamp the financial industry and destroy it, much like the house that was built on sand that is described in today's Gospel. Many smaller banks and credit unions, which continued to own the mortgages they wrote, found themselves in the enviable position of having solid assets. They were never in any danger of failing despite the buffets of the economic storm.

For the most part, the financial institutions that avoided trouble during the crisis lived by strong values that had been inculcated into the fiber of their existence. The boards of directors of these institutions were not going to go out on a limb and try to find quick, easy money. They may not have been glamorous investments, but their worth was proven over time. These are the banks and credit unions that more easily survived.

Holding on to solid values in life can help individuals survive as well. In the Gospel, Jesus talks about those who hear his words and then put them into practice. Taking the values that Jesus teaches and making them a part of everyday life ensures our connection to him. When we think or act with the values of Jesus in the forefront of our minds we build a firm foundation as a structure for our lives. Forgiveness, love, a strong faith, compassion toward others, patience, a desire for justice, mercy, and spirit of prayer are strong foundation blocks for a holy life.



**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

Many years ago an elderly priest would pause as he came into the sanctuary to offer Mass. His short prayer had special meaning. He spoke to the Virgin, Mother of the Son of God. We offer the Hail Mary so often that, no matter what our status in life, we become too familiar and lose the depth of a great prayer to which we can become too accustomed.

The woman whom we and any practicing Catholic call the Blessed Mother came to be and is intimately closer to God than any other person whom God chose to be in our world. Simple words speak of priceless wonders. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (to be continued)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came last weekend at the end of their vacation week.

Religious Education sessions will be held this Sunday, March 6. Sessions begin at 10:00 am. Our next class will be March 27 which will also be the Family Mass at 11:30 am. The sign up sheet for Mass participation will be on the table by the door.

Ash Wednesday is March 9. The Family Mass will be held at 5:15 pm. Please plan to attend.

Altar Server meeting March 13 at 10:15 am in the Parish Hall.

Preschool Drop-In Program – March 13, 9-11:30 am in the Parish Hall.

Our Family Mass – March 27, April 17 at 11:30 am Mass

Religious Education – March 6, March 27 at 10:00 am

CATHOLICS COME HOME

The readings we will hear on Wednesday couldn't be any clearer. The prophet Joel tells us: "Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart ... and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment."

Saint Paul tells the Corinthians, *and us*, "We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God... Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

On Wednesday, when the ashes are placed on our foreheads, we have a choice to make. We can be ambassadors for Christ and share our personal experience of our God who is rich in kindness, or we can remain silent. Now is a very acceptable time to invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who have been away from the Catholic Church to come home.

LENT AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH

LENTEN REGULATIONS

On Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent, Abstinence is required for all those over the age of 14. On days of Abstinence, meat may not be used. Fasting is required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those between the ages of 18 and 60.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS

As we prepare for Lent Little Black Books will be available on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. The six minute meditations will focus on the Passion and contains a variety of timely thoughts, information and quotes. A donation for the Little Black Book is \$2.00 each.

LENTEN NOVENA

Join us each **Wednesdays** during the 12:10pm Mass to pray the Lenten Novena. The Novena has had a long history in our Catholic tradition and is an important prayer of thanksgiving and supplication.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are a powerful way to contemplate and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. It takes the reflection on the passions out of our heads, and makes it an imaginative exercise. It involves our senses, experiences and emotions. Come join us each Friday during Lent following the 12:10PM Mass.

EVENINGS OF RECONCILIATION

"**The Light is on For You**" Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Wednesday during Lent 6:30pm -8:00pm, starting March 16.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH MARY

March 19—Saturday morning 10:00am
Followed by a social in parish hall with coffee/tea and "Zeppolles" to celebrate her husband our patron - St. Joseph whose feast day is March 19th.

LENTEN HOLY HOURS

On Saturday, March 26 at 2:45pm and Sunday, April 10 at 3:45pm we will come together before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer. In March we will pray that through the Catholics Come Home Campaign many hearts may return to the Lord and His Church. In April we will pray for peace in our world that through His gift of grace the Lord's peace may reign.

THE AT HOME RETREAT

As a parish we will celebrate the *Consoled by Christ Retreat* which is based on the Seven Last words of Jesus. During the days from March 20th to March 26th we are invited to pray these words that we might continue to walk with Him into Easter Joy. The prayer books will be distributed at the masses the weekend of March 19-20.