



March 14- 15, 2009

Third Sunday of Lent

"Come see a man who told me everything I have done.
Could he possibly be the Christ?"

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 14th

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Antoinette DiNatale

Requested by Rose Anne Addorisio

Sunday, March 15th

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM William V. West

Requested by his family

10:30 AM Filippo & Lucia Salamone

Requested by their three daughters & family

Monday, March 16th

7:00 AM Virginia Anderson

Requested by the Dwyer family

5:30 PM Carmella M. Caron

Requested by Eugene & Lillian Caron

Tuesday, March 17th

St. Patrick, bishop

7:00 AM Vincent & Virginia Anderson

Requested by Rob & Rita Girouard

5:30 PM Dorothy Kelleher

Requested by her daughter Erin

Wednesday, March 18th

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Peace

5:30 PM Carmela & Vincent Arena

Requested by Grace & Mario Zarrella

Thursday, March 19th

St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Gloria A. LeClair & son Francis

Requested by John & Gina Fanelli

5:30 PM Deceased Members of the

Filippo Bodanza Family

Requested by their daughter Mary

Friday, March 20th

7:00 AM Mary Celona

Requested by Anne DiPietro

5:30 PM Anne & Angelo Casella

Requested by John & Gina Fanelli

Saturday March 21st

8:00 AM Parishioners of St. Anthony Parish

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Marabello

& Thibodeau Families

Requested by the Macchio family

Sunday, March 8th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:00 AM Domenick & Jeannette Mercadante & son Vincent

Requested by their niece Connie & Tony Tessi

10:30 AM Danny Testa

Requested by Barbara Caravella

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6 - 7, 10 - 13a

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8 - 14

Gospel: John 9:1 - 41

PREVIOUS WEEK OFFERINGS

Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,889.00
Sunday Offering	\$4,588.00
Children's Collection (\$13.00)	\$13.00
DEFICIT this week	\$288.00
DEFICIT Year to Date	\$4,102.50

Collection for the Church in Latin America totaled \$1,275.00

Next Week's Collection is for **The Catholic Relief Services** which combats poverty, displacement, human trafficking, unjust policies, the effects of natural disaster and emergencies, and hunger around the world. When you donate you give hope. Please be as generous as you can.

IMPORTANT! Volunteers for the Ministry Fair Scheduled for Saturday, March 28th & Sunday, March 29th: Due to the Citywide Mission, the **informational flyer drop off** that was originally scheduled for Thursday, March 26th **has been changed to Saturday morning, March 28th with a time to be determined.**

Movie Series: This week's movie is the Gregory Peck classic film "To Kill a Mockingbird". Bring a beverage and we'll supply the popcorn. **Friday @ 7:00 PM in the church hall.**

Adult Faith Enrichment continues through April 2nd each **Thursday at 7:00 PM in the church hall.** We're discussing John Allen's book "The Ten Things That Pope Benedict Wants You To Know."

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Francis Parish has been helped by members of St. Anthony Parish for a few years now. Lent is a great time to raise awareness of the reality of family hunger right here in Fitchburg. How often have we said as we walk by the baskets in the entryways: "Oh, I keep forgetting to bring something!?" Families will be asked to bring forward to the altar at the Offertory some of the food which has been collected as a reminder of the ongoing ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and as an offering to the Lord symbolic of our sacrifices and generosity of heart.

OPERATION RICE BOWL HAS BEGUN

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.

Attention Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors: If you are on the ministry schedule and find that you can not serve on a particular day please contact Fr. Bob as he can ask Patrick O'Donnell, our intern seminarian, to cover for you. Patrick will be added to our weekly schedule in April but until then he is available for coverage.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Edith Albert & Bertha Piro
who died this past week. May they rest in peace.

Dear Friends,

When we think about the woman at the well, perhaps are thoughts are not kind. "What a loser! Five divorces! Will she ever get her act together?"

Jesus acknowledges that her life has not been what it should have been, at least to this point, but He doesn't condemn her. He offers her hope. He offers her salvation, as He offers us salvation, too.

If we are to take seriously Jesus' injunction not to judge and not to condemn, we have to be faithful to it even in the most difficult and flagrant cases. It's not for us to say, "Well, I would have never let myself get into such a predicament!" When someone calls out to us, the last thing they need is a lecture. They need help. And the greatest help they can receive is hope in themselves and hope in the promises of Jesus Christ. If I can't offer that, then maybe I should say nothing at all.

Let's read again this week's Gospel passage and see how Jesus responds with respect and with honesty, neither condoning nor condemning. Then let's see if we can't do the same, offering hope to those on the threshold of despair.

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**. If you are looking for practical answers for today's challenges; new ways to grow in your Catholic faith; a connection with over a thousand men, young and old; opportunities for local spiritual programs; and especially...if you desire a deeper union with Christ; come hear and meet our great national speakers! Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Bill Wegner, Brian Brown, Msgr. Frank Lane, Joe Klecko and Guy Doud. **Only one more week remains to purchase tickets. Don't delay!** For a Conference brochure see or call Fran Pandiscio at 978-348-1009.

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 O's, jam or jelly, canned fruit, tuna, Hamburger Helper, baked beans. 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 15th through March 21st: Rev. Thomas Hultquist; Rev. Ernest Allega; Rev. Timothy Brewer; Deacon Frederick Harkins; Rev. Tomasz Borkowski; Deacon Seven Gendron; Rev. Thomas Walsh.

The Montachusett Chorale will present a Festival of Song in the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 26 West St., Leominster on **Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 PM**. The chorale will be joined by four other area choirs. A free will offering will be taken for the Heating Assistance Program sponsored by the Mayor's Office. All are welcome.

St. Anthony School February "5-10" Club Winners

\$500 Linda DiNardo
\$100 "M. Lucky", Patty Gendron, Ed Ryan
\$50 The Walker Family, Tyler Collette, Judy Trask
The Beaulac Family
\$25 The Pappas Family, Melody Vargo

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.

Faith Discussion Group – "What Pope Benedict Wants You to Know", here at St. Anthony's in the church hall Thursdays through April 2nd @ 7:00 PM.

Movie Series – Contemporary films with a message of faith for adults, here in the church hall Fridays through April 3rd @ 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.

2008 Church Contribution Tax Information

April 15th is looming ahead. It's not too late! If you would like an Annual Tax Contribution Report for money given during the 2008 year you must call the office to request one.

During the Month of March the Youth Group and Women's Guild of **St. Camillus will be collecting items** to put in shoe boxes **to send to our men and women overseas**, including playing cards, gum, toothpaste/brush, Kleenex, disposable razors, stationary w/stamps, soap, deodorant, shampoo, batteries, phone cards, baby wipes, etc. and we need shoe boxes to send them in...no candy. Items can be left at the back of the church on the tables. For more information on these items, contact Kathy Jordan @ 978-874-5472.

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle is requested by Elena Valeri. Thank you.

Dario Joseph DiVito

was welcomed into our Christian community through baptism. May he along with his parents grow in faith, love and service to Jesus Christ.