

Ste. Rose de Lima Church, 600 Grattan St., Chicopee, MA
Tel. 413-536-4558 ~~~~~ Pastor: Rev. William A. Tourigny

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First Sunday of Lent

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February 21, 2021

Readings: + Genesis 9:8-15 +1 Peter 3:18-22 +Mark 1:12-15

STE. ROSE de LIMA MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Feb 20 – Saturday	4:00 PM Sylvio Carrier (25 th Ann) by his family
Feb 21 – Sunday	7:30 AM Marietta Chapdelaine by Mildred Chapdelaine
First Sunday of Lent	9:00 AM Jeannette & Henry Labonte (Ann rem) by their daughter, Denise 11:00 AM For the intentions of Fr. Bill (B'day) the DiSanti & Stec families 4:00 PM Denise Picard by her daughter, Lisa & Jim
Feb 22– Monday	7:00 AM Anita Barillari by Rita & Jim O'Dell
Feb 23 - Tuesday	7:00 AM Helen Osetek by Louise & Edward Osetek
Feb 24 – Wednesday	7:00 AM Elizabeth Thomas by her family
Feb 25 – Thursday	7:00 AM Pauline Godin by the Prayer & Knit Group
Feb 26 - Friday	7:00 AM Shirley Scoville by Denise & Norm Lussier
Feb 27 – Saturday	4:00 PM Lucille Dietrich (1 st Ann) by her daughters
Feb 28 – Sunday	7:30 AM Sylvia DiTommaso Nielsen by David Rosinski
Second Sunday of Lent	9:00 AM Simone Bienvenue by her husband, Richard 11:00 AM Richard Couture by Helen Carrier 4:00 PM Noe Tisdell by the family

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 2/14/21 Offertory \$ 7,450.00 ~~~ Thank you!

SJA BOOSTER CLUB Winner for 2/14/2021 #90 Dave Brault

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the souls and families of Yvon Dion, June Landa, Gregory Granger and Therese Mathieu. May they rest in God's eternal peace!

Dear Parishioner...Around & About Ste. Rose,

Window Replacement at Pastoral Center

The window replacement project for the main floor of the Pastoral Center has begun. Most of the double-hung windows are installed; the large windows at the far left of the building are soon to be installed as well as the large picture window in the kitchen. The existing windows are/were the original windows installed at the time of the construction of "the convent" which was the residence of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. These windows were terribly inefficient by the standards of a modern window system. Eventually the wood sills will be wrapped in aluminum which will eliminate the need of maintenance. Next year the second and third floor windows will be replaced. That will complete the window replacement project. Also included was the replacement of the two back doors to the building with new hardware as well. A few years ago, all the basement windows were replaced. With the completion of this replacement window project next year, the Pastoral Center

will be set with energy efficient windows for years to come. The brand that was installed are “Harvey” windows.

Ste. Rose de Lima Cemetery

Effective February 18, 2021 Ste. Rose de Lima Cemetery has a new manager. His name is Mark Dion. He is most welcome to this position. He has a massive clean-up operation to accomplish; also, please give him the needed time to become familiar with the cemetery and its day-to-day operation. He is willing to listen and to be helpful to all our families in their time of bereavement or in purchasing burial plots. Welcome Mark!

St. Joan of Arc School

Congratulations to SJA School for having been featured in *The Republican* on Thursday, February 18, 2021 as a successful “in-session school” on the FRONT PAGE! With the efforts of so many dedicated persons, SJA has surpassed all standards to keep COVID 19 out of the school building. To all staff and faculty: Thanks for your great work!

And finally,

As the Lenten season is now upon us, I pray that this season of Lent be a time of joy filled preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mysteries this year. Last year, the Churches were all closed for half of Lent including for the services of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. If we can all do our share to keep COVID 19 “in-check,” I have all the confidence that Holy Week and Easter 2021 will be a wonderful spiritual experience.

With admiration and peace,

Fr Bill

PS: I received the Pfizer vaccine shot on February 4th and will receive the 2nd vaccine March 4th.

A REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

David Cloutier reflects on the readings for February 21, 2021.

The first Sunday of Lent is like an emergency alert on the radio or your phone. It’s an alarm bell going off. We hear the first words of Jesus’ ministry, “*This is the time of fulfillment.*” In other years, we hear St. Paul telling us, “*Now is the day of salvation.*” We know what a phone alert or an alarm means: They tell us to do something.

But what? And why? The rest of Jesus’ statement answers those questions. The “what” is clear: repent and believe. Turn and trust.

The notion of “repentance” is weightier than simply acknowledging this or that sin. It is really a matter of changing our minds and hearts. When we give something up for Lent, we ought to consider turning away from some way of being that has taken control of us, captivating our daily lives, flooding us, drawing us ever more tightly into the less important. Such turning is likely hard, but the goal is not self-improvement through willpower. The goal is reached through the other part: trusting. It comes from seeing the rainbow and really believing that the news God brings is good. It is not about me as an individual becoming a better person (although let’s hope that happens!); It’s about opening myself in trust to the signs of what God is doing in me, but even more importantly, in the world.

And why is “now” the time to turn and trust? One way to understand this week’s readings is because it’s time for the flood. When Jesus arrives on the scene, he announces the Kingdom of God is at hand. The waiting of dozens of generations of God’s people is over. The old sinful order is going to be wiped out because the new order is arriving. It’s important to understand that all this is first and foremost God’s doing, not ours. Once we hear the news, the first task is to be like Noah: Get the ark ready to ride it out.

Jesus is, of course, a different kind of flood. God promises that the decisive triumph over sin, evil, and death will not be literally a flood or the drowning of Pharaoh’s chariots in the Red Sea. But it will be *like* that: the utter defeat of those who live in the ways of the world.

We should be troubled by the image of the flood, for it is double-edged. On the one hand, it is death and destruction—God promises not to do it again. On the other hand, as the second reading says, it is baptism—a total cleansing, a power washing.

When we pray for God’s will to be done, we should remember that it will likely look double-edged. It will clean things up—but at a price. God calls us to repentance and new life, freely, and God pays the price. But only if we are prepared to go into the floodwaters of baptism ourselves. To turn and trust. Will we?

An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FOCUS: *If we go into the desert with Jesus this Lent, his grace will move us forward in our life of faith.*

Lent isn't an end unto itself; we go into the desert with Jesus in order to advance in holiness and in our spiritual life. All the blessings and trials in our lives are not closed events. They're precursors to more: greater trust in God, deeper union with him, and a greater sense of our mission to proclaim the kingdom of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, God establishes a covenant with Noah and his sons, promising never to flood the earth again. In the second reading, Peter writes to his community about those *in the days of Noah who were saved through water*. This prefigured baptism, which is what saves them now. In the Gospel, Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert. He then goes to Galilee to begin his public ministry.

From the Daily Universal Prayer and Commentary

THE REV. FRANCIS SHANNON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available to members of Ste. Rose de Lima Parish high school graduates or college students who wish to further their education. The applications are available at the Ste. Rose de Lima Pastoral Center or from Mary Rider, Chairperson at 413-533-2437. The Scholarship is a one-time grant. Completed applications must be returned to the Chairperson by May 15, 2021 with an official transcript of high school or college grades and a letter from their Pastor stating that the applicant is an active and participating member of the parish. Students who are former members of St. Mary's Parish in Willimansett and were enrolled in their CCD program at the time the church was closed may also apply.

O.L. BLESSED SACRAMENT WESTFIELD VIRTUAL LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

This year the Speaker Series will be 'virtual,' available on YouTube, with a great line-up of speakers – beginning with our new **Bishop William Byrne!** Our theme for this year's Speaker Series is: '**KEEPING FAITH DURING THE PANDEMIC - GOD'S GOT THIS!**' *An opportunity to find the blessings during this challenging time of the Pandemic, with our eyes set on Easter Joy!* Other speakers will include author, speaker, radio show host – **Gary Zimak** - who will touch on many themes of his book - '*Give Up Worry for Lent*' (available through the OLBS Parish Office for \$10.00). Additional speakers include - **Sr. Bethany Madonna, Fr. Mike Schmitz, April Helenek, and Fr. Chris Alar.** Join us each **Wednesday of Lent, beginning February 24 through March 31, at 6:30 pm**, or watch the video any time after that on YouTube. There is no cost for this Series! **Options to access the Series online: (1) Go to Youtube.com and type in the search field 'OLBS Westfield Lent' or (2) Go to either diospringfield.org OR diospringfield.org/olbs and click on the link.** For additional information, contact the OLBS Parish Office at 413-562-3450.