

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent **+++** **March 14, 2021**
Readings: **+2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 +Ephesians 2:4-10 +John 3:14-21**

STE. ROSE de LIMA MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mar 13 – Saturday	4:00 PM Ronald F Przybycien (22 nd Ann) by Kathy (resked 3/14/20)
Mar 14 – Sunday	7:30 AM Umberto Manno by Angelina Manno & family
Fourth Sunday of Lent	9:00 AM Rena Cote (B'day rem) by her children
	11:00 AM Donna Gagnon Brunelle (16 th Ann) by Diane Duval (resked 3/15/20)
	4:00 PM Rejean Vanasse by his sister, Helene (resked 3/15/20)
Mar 15– Monday	7:00 AM Yvonne & Henry Lepage by their family
Mar 16 - Tuesday	7:00 AM Anita Barillari by Rita & Jim O'Dell
Mar 17 – Wednesday	7:00 AM Roger Archambault (B'day rem) by his sister, Linda
Mar 18 – Thursday	7:00 AM Roland Lussier (B'day rem) by Normand & Denise
Mar 19 - Friday	7:00 AM Anita Barillari by Real & Maria Mercier
Mar 20 – Saturday	4:00 PM Patrick Justice (7 th Ann) by his mother, Lorraine
Mar 21 – Sunday	7:30 AM Lionel Remillard (B'day rem) by Irene, Lisa & Caleb
Fifth Sunday of Lent	9:00 AM Pauline Leblond (5 th Ann) by Joanne Leblond
	11:00 AM Joanne Dunigan by her husband, Bruce & children (resked 3/22/20)
	4:00 PM Jacqueline Lapierre by her husband, Arthur (resked 3/22/20)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 3/07/21 Offertory: \$11,636.00 ~~~~ Thank you!
SJA BOOSTER CLUB Winner for 3/07/2021 #124 Geraldine Bresnahan

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the souls and families of: Joseph & Carolyn Berthiaume, William Hewes, Barbara Kane, Mark Trowsdale, Lillian Darcy, Alida (St Sauveur) Senosk, Rosemary Waitekus, Wayne Lancto, and Richard Champagne. May they rest in God's eternal peace.

THE STE. ROSE DE LIMA MEMORIAL FUND is grateful for a \$100.00 gift in loving memory of Therese. Mathieu. Thank you very much!

**Dear Parishioner...Around & About Ste. Rose,
Sacrificial Offering**

The Sacrificial Offering for Sunday, March 7, 2021 was \$11,626. Thank you for your generosity to your parish during this time of pandemic. Your dedication and both spiritual and financial support are edifying!

Pastoral Center Window Project

Work resumed this past week on the replacement window project at the Pastoral Center. 80% of the new windows have been installed as well as the aluminum trim encasing all the original exterior wood trim. All are now maintenance free! As soon as the remaining 20% of the windows are delivered, installed, and aluminum trim are completed, this column will update you. Also, new doors were installed on the

back side of the building including new hardware. Next year the remainder of the windows will be replaced: the second floor and attic windows.

Emergency Lighting

The City of Chicopee inspected the emergency lighting system for the hall and church. While there is existing emergency lighting in the basement of the church – though it is “outdated” – the church “proper” is woefully out of code. There is only one emergency light which is in the foyer. The plan is to update the existing lighting to LED equipment in the hall and to install emergency lighting to be “up to code” in the church “proper.” Upon installation beginning this week, the City of Chicopee will re-inspect both systems and then be granted a certificate of inspection. The cost is approximately \$5,300.00. To be honest, this ought to have been accomplished years ago; it is for the safety of all who enter our building. Should there have been a power outage during an evening Mass, the safety of all persons would have been jeopardized. I am grateful for Mark Morin who worked closely with the city inspector to be sure “we get it right.”

And finally,

The global community has observed the one-year anniversary of the “global shutdown” due to the pandemic of coronavirus. Our lives have all been impacted one way or another: illness, death, isolation, quarantine, job loss, food insecurity, schooling at home etc. From a psychological perspective, many persons have experienced depression due to the lack of familiar social events. There has been an increase in domestic violence, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, and overeating, just to mention a few. Now that vaccines are being “rolled-out” there is hope that a “new normal” will soon emerge. I encourage every member of Ste. Rose de Lima Parish to do all they can to get vaccinated. The CDC suggests that at least 80% of the population needs to be vaccinated. Once vaccinated please continue to follow the well-known protocols of facial coverings, social distancing, and the washing of hands often. Together we can help bring an end to this dreaded virus. Once fully vaccinated and a two-week incubation period is observed, fully vaccinated persons can resume a more social way of life – but not a return to the pre-pandemic era. Please stay safe!

Fr. Bill

Commented [WT1]:

Fourth Sunday of Lent; Laetare Sunday

This Sunday is called "Laetare Sunday" in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite since its mood and theme is one of hope and rejoicing that Easter is near. In the Ordinary Form this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare" and the vestments worn by the celebrant are rose-colored, not violet. The day is important

because it is the day of the second scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Chronicles 2 Chron:36:14-16, 19-23. It refers to the edict of Cyrus, the king of Persia, permitting the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, which had been burned by the Chaldeans as a punishment from God for the infidelities of the Chosen People.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10. In today's extract St. Paul is emphasizing the gratuitousness of the gift of faith which the Ephesian converts have received. This gift which God gave them, *even when they were sinners*, had united them to Christ, and has given them the right to share in His glorious resurrection and inherit heaven with Him and through Him.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 3:14-21. This man Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.



Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—

would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? There are Catholic men who would like to, and should, go much more often to Holy Communion but are afraid of what their fellow-parishioners, who receive but rarely, would think of them. There are many, far too many, Christians who will not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked in their place of work or in a saloon. There are Christians who stand idly by, and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. These and many more like them are Christian types of Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and their own eternal welfare.

Nicodemus probably thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. What value, however, had that work of mercy for one of his frame of mind? There are amongst us today, humanists, most of them ex-Christians, men and women who make assisting their neighbor, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbor receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual or religious value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Savior Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbor to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbor because he is a son of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbor from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a wife one has deliberately deserted.

Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through him that we have been made sons of God. It is through him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because all men are God's sons also, and our brothers in Christ, we will gladly help them whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbor the workmanship of the almighty Creator, and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Savior, as well.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday during Lent at 6:00PM. The next service will be held Friday, March 19, 2021 at 6:00PM in the Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT LORRAINE'S SOUP KITCHEN: Ste. Rose has a team of volunteers who prepare and package the dinner meal at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen on the third Thursday of each month. We are currently in need of volunteers. Please contact Louise King at 413-313-3685 for more information. Thank you!

THE EASTER EGG HUNT IS ON!!! We're pleased to announce that we will hold our traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Morning following the 9AM Mass. Anyone wishing to donate **individually wrapped candy** for this event is requested to drop off your donation at the Pastoral Center Mon-Fri 9-5PM. If it's easier to just make a donation toward the purchase of the candy, please place your donation in an envelope marked Easter Egg Hunt Candy and send it or drop it off at the Pastoral Center, 15 Chapel St., Chicopee, MA. Hopefully, we're on our way back to some form of normalcy and look forward to re-instating our traditions. Thank you for your generosity. We're anxious to greet our little ones on Easter morning with this "Eggciting" activity!

DRIVE-UP IRISH DINNER TO GO! The Fairview Knights of Columbus 4044 on Memorial Drive, Chicopee is holding a drive-up Irish Dinner to go on Saturday evening, March 20th. The meal includes Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potato, and Carrots. Orders must be received by 5PM Friday, March 19th. Call Elaine at (413) 533-3620 or (413) 530-9594. Pick up is under canopy between 4 and 6PM. \$10 per meal – cash or check.

BISHOP BYRNE WANT TO MEET YOU! He invites all men open to discerning a vocation to the priesthood to a special mass and holy hour on March 25th from 6:30PM-8PM at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield. Come pray with Bishop Byrne and spend some time with our Lord.

SAVE THE DATE! After 3 successful years, the SJA PTO will be holding our **Savers FUNDrive** again this Spring. Think of us when doing your spring cleaning. We will be accepting bags of gently used clothes, bath, and linen items at the Ste. Rose Rectory garage on May 15th 2021 (9-1PM) to raise money for the St. Joan of Arc School. (No furniture or books) *More details to follow.

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.

"SOWING THE SEEDS", this year's theme for the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, calls on each of us to spread the love of God, the gospel, and our faith. Through our contributions, together we shelter the homeless, respect life from conception to death, feed the hungry, comfort those who mourn, and educate others in our faith. May our seeds of faith fall on fertile ground- especially for those most in need. You can make your contribution to the *Annual Catholic Appeal*: online at www.diospringfield.org/aca. Or by calling: 413-452-0670. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

ANNUAL VERMONT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: Saturday, March 27th, 2021 9:00AM – Noon via Zoom. The Keynote speaker is retired Air Force Captain, Guy Gruters. Guy is a decorated Vietnam War veteran who spent 5 ½ years as a POW in Vietnam, and a lifetime Catholic. Other speakers will include Bishop Coyne & Msgr. John McDermott. The cost is free, but registration is necessary. Registration and more info at: www.vermontcatholic.org/men Call John Morin for more info (802) 885-3946

**OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, WESTFIELD
IS SPONSORING A 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](https://www.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.

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.