

1st Week of Lent

February 17 & 18, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday

5:00 PM For Katherine Marro by her daughter,
Ann Marie

Sunday

9:00 AM For Louis R. Maccarone, Sr. by his
Family – 30th Anniversary

Next Saturday

5:00 PM For Anna Richard by Peggi & Peter
LaTorre – Birthday Remembrance

Next Sunday

9:00 AM For Gerry Helfrich by his daughter,
Bridgette Casalino – 1st Anniversary

Weekend Mass Schedule

The weekend Mass Schedule will return to **5:00 PM** on Saturdays and **8:00 and 10:00 AM** on Sundays beginning the weekend of March 3rd and 4th.

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE REGULATIONS

Church law requires abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older). In addition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are **fast days**: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious reasons such as one's health can excuse a person from these rules.

Parish Stewardship

Weekend of February 10 & 11, 2018

Budget Collection	\$1,509.00
Fuel Collection to Date	\$ 778.00
February Monthly to Date	\$ 681.00
Annual Collection to Date	\$9,792.00
# of Budget Envelopes Used	73

Religious Education News

There will be no classes this week, February 20th due to school Winter Break. Classes will resume on February 27th.

2018 20-Week Club

There will be a person collecting on the 1st weekend of every month from December to April. All other weeks you can use the 20-Week Club payment envelope found on the ushers' tables.

2018 20-Week Winner

➤ February 11th – Russell Boehm # 253

Health Reminder

We all know that there are many germs floating around these days. Just a reminder, that if you have a cold or are recuperating from the flu or other viruses, please do not receive from the chalice and/or if you are a Eucharistic minister, please ask someone else to take your place. This may help stop some germs from spreading around.

Blood Pressure Clinic

The Parish Nurses will hold their monthly Blood Pressure Clinic after all masses this weekend in the sacristy of the church.

Lenten Daily Prayer Books

During this Lenten Time, please take a few minutes a day, maybe five minutes, and use *The Word Among Us - Five Minutes with The Word* to grow closer to the Lord throughout Lent. Spending just a few minutes using this small prayer book helps us as we journey through Lent.

The prayer books are **FREE** and are available in the foyer of the church. Feel free to take one for yourself and anyone else you may think will find the book helpful - family members, friends or co-workers. It is one way to get to know the Lord a little better.

Father Bob's Ramblings

This past Wednesday, we joined with Christians throughout the world and marked the beginning of Lent. As we presented ourselves for ashes, we heard the words, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." As we gather on this First Sunday of Lent, the readings remind us that even though we humans continue to turn away from God, God continues to keep His Covenant of Love; the Promise that He will always be faithful to us, no matter what!

The theme of our weekend Lenten scripture readings this year is about the *gift* God's Covenant of love with us, His People. Each weekend we will hear one of the Covenant stories from the Old Testament, where God reiterates His Promise of faithfulness and love.

Today we hear the Covenant with Noah. Although the Noah story may seem to be merely a part of a children's story, its purpose in the Bible is very serious. The Covenant God made with Noah is one of the primary Covenants God makes with His people. It is the touchstone of God's ongoing, beneficent relationship with the created world and peoples of the earth.

Have you ever thought of Lent as a *gift*? I don't think that *gift* is the first word that comes to mind when I think about Lent which is characterized by a theme of repentance and practices of sacrifice and self-denial.

But, Lent is a *gift* from the Lord. It is a sign of his love. Lent's *gift* is time – a long time – forty days - for us to focus on, to think over, and to make any changes that are needed in our lives.

Another Lenten *gift* is a time when God speaks to our heart. He invites us to set right not only the wrongs we have done, but the good we have failed to do. It's a time do the things we have neglected to make our lives complete.

During this Lenten Time, maybe we can take time in our prayer to reflect on the *gifts* of the Covenant of Love that God has made with each one of us. And, let us try to be more faithful in living it out.

Special Raffle

The 20 Week Club Committee is offering a number of items at its special raffle this year. The raffle will be held at our luncheon on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at the Alpine Country Club. Tickets will go on sale in the foyer of the church beginning on the weekend of February 24th & 25th.

1st Prize: **\$500 gift card** to Target; 2nd Prize: **\$500 gift card** to Stop & Shop; 3rd Prize: A **Framed Patriots Picture** (valued at \$200), which is on display in the foyer of the church, and 4th Prize: **\$150 gift card** to Spirito's Restaurant in Providence.

Ticket prices are: 1 for \$5.00---3 for \$10.00 and 7 for \$15.00. Winners do not have to be present.

Please consider purchasing tickets and selling them to family and friends to help us defray our expenses as well as supporting our parish.

For more information or to purchase tickets please call: Rich at 641-3048 or Louisa at 942-0576. Thank you for your cooperation and God Bless!

Catholic Charity Appeal "Faith and Good Works" Case Statement for the Catholic Charity Appeal

Our in-pew solicitation will take place on the weekends of February 24/25 and March 3/4. Our parish goal is **\$13,500**. Please prayerfully consider a *PLEDGE DONATION* rather than simply a one-time cash only donation. Making a pledge allows you to make a larger donation and spread out your payments through a ten-month period.

Your gift to the 2018 Catholic Charity Appeal reaches out to countless people in need throughout our diocese. No matter where you turn, you find someone who will benefit from your kindness. Please consider pledging your support to this worthwhile endeavor.