

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent March 18 & 19, 2017

## Lenten Mass Responses *Mass of Saint Francis Cabrini* Missal # 902 – 911

### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday

5:00 PM For Elizabeth Bercen by her daughters

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving for Denise and Robert on their Wedding Anniversary

10:00 AM

For Joseph Tessier, Jr. – Birthday Remembrance by his mother, Roseanne

#### Monday

7:30 AM For Richard Rochon by his Brother – 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### Next Saturday

5:00 PM For Anna DiStephano by Peggi & Peter LaTorre – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

#### Next Sunday

8:00 AM For the Parishioners of St. Brigid's

10:00 AM

For Dominic & Anthony Nardolillo by their Family

### **MASS STORM POLICY**

Mass will be cancelled in the event of a snowstorm when there is a parking ban in Johnston and/or no school in Johnston. This is due to a safety issue and insurance protection.

### **Parish Stewardship**

Weekend of March 11 & 12, 2017

Budget Collection	\$2,019.00
March Monthly to Date	\$ 875.00
Fuel Collection to date	\$1997.00
# of Budget Envelopes Used	97

### **Lenten Responsorial Psalm**

***With the Lord, there is mercy  
And the fullness of redemption,  
Call to Him in your trials,  
He will answer whenever you call.***

### **Religious Education News**

Religious Education Classes continue this week on Tuesday: Grades 1 – 5 meet from 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Grades 6 – 9 will meet from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

### **Blood Pressure Clinic**

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

### **2017 Catholic Charity Appeal**

#### **“Faith and Good Works”**

Once again this weekend our parish joins all the parishes in our diocese in having the second of two “in-pew” collections for the Catholic Charity Appeal. Envelopes and pencils are in each pew to enable you to fill out the information and place it in the collection basket as it comes around a second time. Please feel free to take an envelope home to fill out and return it next weekend with your pledge and/or donation.

Donations to the Catholic Charity Appeal as of March 3<sup>rd</sup> are **\$2,795.00** toward our \$13,500.00 goal. Only \$10,705.00 left to reach our goal. Please help us to reach our goal this year.

### **20-Week Club Winners**

The 20-Week Club winner for week 19, March 12<sup>th</sup> were Susan Belliveau # 141 and Frank Schiavulli # 243.

### **Daily Prayer Book for Lent**

This Prayer Book for Lent is still available *free* in the foyer of the church. It is meant to encourage taking five minutes a day for prayer and reflection during the Lenten Season. Please pick one up for yourself, your family members, and/or your friends and continue a past Lenten tradition or start a new one.

## ***Father Bob's Ramblings***

On this Third Weekend of Lent, our liturgy begins to focus on the theme of Christian Initiation or Baptism. We turn to the Gospel of St. John who will lead us for the next three weeks. Today, we focus the first of the Johannine "initiation" passages, the encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. The place of their meeting, Jacob's well, turns our attention to water and its role in initiation. Today we acknowledge Jesus as *living water*, "a spring, welling up to eternal life."

Much of the rest of the liturgy echoes the Gospel passage. The Preface adds another dimension to our understanding of the Gospel passage, "the fire of divine love" that Christ awakened in the Samaritan woman. After all, in the Bible wells are places of romance, and in Jesus, the woman finds at last her heart's desire, to receive forgiveness and begin a life centered on God.

Lent's theme of repentance for those already baptized is not, of course, absent from today's liturgy. The Opening Prayer speaks of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer as means of overcoming sin. The Prayer over the Gifts reminds us that "we who beseech pardon" must "take care to forgive our neighbor."

As we continue on our Lenten Journey, we are reminded that it is Baptism that incorporates us into the Body of Christ and makes us Children of God. May we continue to walk on this Journey by doing the things that help us to become more holy as God's Children.

In the next column of this page, there is an announcement of a new ministry the diocese is setting up to train people to visit lonely, elderly residents in nursing homes. It is called "***Mixed Blessings***." The first home to institute this ministry in the diocese is Cherry Hill Nursing Facility. I hope we can have some parishioners attend this first information night at St. Robert's. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about this most important ministry.

## **Do you Want to Fast this Lent?**

### ***In the words of Pope Francis***

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

## **"Mixed Blessings" of Longevity**

At a time when our country is experiencing an unprecedented life span, we often struggle to provide most basic companionship for elders in Nursing Facilities. Come join your fellow neighbors and parishioners to talk about a new approach to this long-standing challenge.

"***Mixed Blessings***" is a new ministry being set up to accompany our nursing home residents. It will be explained on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 1804 Atwood Avenue.

This brief meeting offers an opportunity to learn about a visiting ministry beginning at Cherry Hill Nursing Facility in Johnston. Come to hear how you can make a real difference in the lives of elders. For more information, contact Kathy McKeon at Catholic Social Services of RI, 401.278.2506.

## **St. Mary School Open House**

St. Mary School, 85 Chester St., Cranston, will have an open house on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Come and see what makes St. Mary School so special. Meet the faculty, parents

and students, Visit the classrooms, book fair and  
enjoy a sundae at their ice cream social.