

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 5

5:30pm Frank Signorelli
Requested by wife

Sunday, February 6

8:00am Sarah & Jake Folcarelli
Requested by family

10:00am Angela DeSista
Req. by Kelli

12:00pm Mark Potter
Requested by Lisa and Anita Fiore

Monday, February 7

7:00am Robert Cote
Requested by family

Tuesday, February 8

7:00am Matilda Coppolino
Requested by family

Wednesday, February 9

7:00am Rev. Francis Tuite,
95th Anniversary, 2nd Pastor of St. Francis

Thursday, February 10

7:00am Vivian Palazzo
Requested by Caitlin Kavanagh

Friday, February 11

7:00am Angela DeSista
Requested by Posillo family

Saturday, February 12

5:30pm Rev. John A. O'Rourke
74th Anniversary, 8th Pastor of St. Francis

Sunday, February 13

8:00am Reale Family &
Edward Cranshaw

10:00am William Shawn Murphy
Requested by The McElkenny family

12:00pm Walter O'Leary and
Mary Ellen Cavanaugh
Requested by Joan Cavanaugh



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 6

10:00am Judy Plasse Joyce
Requested by family

Sunday, February 13

10:00am John & Grace Carpinelli
Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for January 30th was Budget—\$6,970; Church in Latin America—\$2,343.50. This weekend's second offering is the Monthly offering for February. Next weekend we ask that you return your subscription envelopes for the RI Catholic and place them in the collection basket with your budget envelope. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis Church burns for a Special Intention for Chi Thi Anna Tran and Thanh John Ha.

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Soup, Cereal, Baked Beans, Macaroni & Cheese and Spaghetti Sauce.

PRAYER SHAWLS ...

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began at St. Francis in October 2008. Next weekend several completed, blessed shawls will be on display near the baptismal font at St. Francis. Watch for more information in next week's bulletin.

WHERE DID YOU GO?

On occasion, some need to leave Mass early (i.e., immediately after receiving communion), for a good reason. Perhaps a spouse or a child is sick at home, perhaps the clock is ticking on a work schedule. These reasons are certainly understandable. Lately, however, it seems that large numbers of people are making their way to the exits right from the communion lines. Without a good reason to do so, this is simply inexcusable. Getting to the parking lot to avoid the rush is not a good reason! Please consider spending some time after Mass in prayer and thanksgiving for the great gift received in the Eucharist. Under normal circumstances, a person wouldn't dare walk out on their host at a dinner party or other gathering before the event was concluded. The same courtesy should be extended to the Lord Jesus who spreads the banquet of the Eucharist before us!

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

There's no doubt that occupying the children during Mass can be rather difficult. Parents, rather than giving your children something to *occupy* them during Mass, consider taking the extra time to teach them *what to expect* and *why it's so important*. That's certainly no easy task, but Fr. Joe recently acquired some wonderful religious books for children from the Stella Maris bookstore right here in town. Among them is a "Missal for Children," a book which helps children follow along with the Mass. These books are available for the asking, just see Fr. Joe if you're interested.

SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE ... meets on the first Monday of each month and will be meeting on February 7th at 7:00pm in the rectory conference room. All are welcome to attend.

FEBRUARY 6, 2011

God Rejects No One—The Church Rejects No One

Last April, Pope Benedict XVI visited the small island-nation of Malta. Continuing the tradition of Pope John Paul II, Benedict held a meeting with youth, mostly high-school and college-aged young adults. One of the young men present asked the Holy Father a very important question, one which gets to the heart of much confusion and division in the Church today.

The young man said, "I wish to speak on behalf of those young people who, like me, feel they are on the outskirts of the Church. We are the ones who do not fit comfortably into stereo-typed roles...all of us in some way or another have encountered experiences that have estranged us from the Church...We feel that not even the Church herself recognizes our worth...we feel that we should be treated with more compassion—without being judged and with more love. We are made to feel that we are living in error. How can we believe that God accepts us unconditionally when the Church rejects us?"

The young man's painful question expresses the tension experienced by many people who feel a call from the Lord to follow him more deeply, and yet are still attached to attitudes and behaviors which are at odds with that call. One can imagine that the ever-widening group of those who do not fit into "stereotyped roles" includes those who struggle with homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, abortion, and contraception. There are certainly others. Sometimes it is easy for those who struggle with these obstacles to feel as though they have been rejected by the Church.

In a separate address during his visit to Malta, Pope Benedict provided an answer for that young man, and for us. He said, "Every personal encounter with Jesus is an overwhelming experience of love. Maybe some of you will say to me, the Church is often severe in her teachings. How can we say that the Church is spreading a message of love? My answer is this. God loves every one of us with a depth and intensity that we can hardly begin to imagine. And he knows us intimately, he knows all our strengths and all our faults. Because he loves us so much, *he wants to purify us of our faults and build up our virtues* so that we can have life in abundance. When he challenges us because something in our lives is displeasing to him, he is not *rejecting us, but he is asking us to change and become more perfect*. God rejects no one. And the Church rejects no one. Yet in his great love, God challenges all of us to *change* and to *become more perfect*."

The next time you hear the oft-repeated claim that the Church callously rejects those with whom she disagrees, please reconsider. The Church, which speaks for Christ, challenges us in love to let go of the attachments which prevent us from flourishing as human persons and as children of God. The Church, like a good mother, deeply loves all her children, but challenges them to the abundance of life that Christ has promised.



Religious Education

Grades K-6—Classes as below.

Wednesday Classes—Grades 3-6 meet from 4-5pm in Father Greenan Center.

Grades 7 & 8—Classes on Wednesday from 7-8:15pm.

Confirmation I & II—Classes on Monday from 7-8:30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word—during the 10am Mass.



This Week

Sunday, February 6

8:50-9:50 Gr. 1 & 2 FGC

10:50-11:50 Gr 3,4 5 FGC

Gr 6

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, February 7

7-8:30pm Conf. I & II Class

Tuesday, February 8

6:30-7:30pm RCIA (MCCR)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, February 9

4-5:00pm Class Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm Class Gr. 7 & 8

Thursday, February 10

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.

POPE BENEDICT'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Join the Holy Father this month in praying for the following intentions:

- That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.

- That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.

Catholic School Assistance

Parents,

Now is the time to turn in tuition assistance applications for the 2011-2012 school year. If you have not yet received your forms from the school, please call and inquire about them.

Regarding Catholic School Assistance:

The Diocese of Providence urges all parishes to support Catholic Schools by giving aid, as far as possible, when parents request it. As a believer in the value of Catholic Schools, I am happy to do that, both to the fullest extent allowable, and to the extent that the parish can afford.

Some things to note, however! Eligibility for consideration requires that families are:

1. Registered members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish;
2. Contributing members for at least a one year period;
3. Attend church and are actively involved;
4. All applications are turned in to the parish office, whether your child has been accepted yet or not, by March 30.

So, assistance is based on the assumption that there is a *need*, and that the family would not be able to afford sending a child without it. Also, as mandated by the Diocese, the parish only assists students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

If you haven't already done so, please get your tuition applications into the parish office so that we can begin to look at our budget for F/Y 11-12. Thank you.

Reflections on Matrimony: The Sacrament of Enduring Love

Married, engaged and dating couples are invited to attend a special presentation on Saturday, March 12, 2011 from 12:30-4:00pm at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI. The Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment along with the Office of Religious Education will host: *Reflections on Matrimony: The Sacrament of Enduring Love*. Nationally known speakers on marriage, Steve & Kari Collela and David & Angela Franks, from the Archdiocese of Boston, will be there for the afternoon. Steve & Kari's presentation: *Three Practical Tools for Great Marriages: Faith, Communication and Spirituality*, will allow you to reflect on key priorities in daily married life. David & Angela Frank's presentation: *Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love* will highlight the spiritual and sacramental richness of married love. Take the time to share together, and with other couples, the joys and challenges of living out a marriage commitment in today's secular world. For more info: www.dioceseofprovidence.org under Office of Religious Education. Cost-\$22/couple or \$15/person. Make checks payable to: Office of Religious Education, One Cathedral Sq, Providence, RI 02903.

Host Families Needed

Our parish will be hosting NET Ministries for the Confirmation Retreats this coming April. The NET Teams travel all over the country evangelizing young Catholics and challenging them to love Christ.

The team that will be visiting us here at St. Francis is made up of young adults (all have graduated high school and are between the ages of 19-25).

We need families in the parish to open your home to 2 or 3 team members for 3-7 nights...April 5-11th. We need you to provide a roof to sleep under and a hot shower (they travel with their own sleeping bags so a living room floor would suffice for a bed); and simple breakfasts and lunches for 3-7 days.

If this is something you are interested in doing or would like more information before committing please contact Diane at the Religious Education Office (792-8684). We would like each team member to have a host family by March 26th.



SAINT FAUSTINA & The DIVINE MERCY CENACLE

"My Jesus, You see that Your holy will is everything to me. It makes no difference to me what You do with me. You command me to set to work-and I begin calmly, although I know that I am incapable of it; through Your representatives,

*You order me to wait so I wait patiently; You fill my soul with enthusiasm but You do not make it possible for me to act; You attract me to yourself in heaven-and You leave me in this world; You pour into my soul a great yearning for yourself-and You hide yourself from me. **I am dying of the desire to be united with You forever, and You do not let death come near me.** O will of God, you are the nourishment and delight of my soul. When I submit to the holy will of my God, a deep peace floods my soul."* (Saint Faustina, Diary, 952).

Come learn more about this incredible saint. Let her writings touch your heart and give you a burning desire for God's love. Saint Faustina and the Message of Divine Mercy is for all of us. The cenacle meets next Monday, Feb. 14th from 11-12pm in the church and next Thursday from 7-8:30pm at Saint Romuald Chapel in Matunuck.

Open your hearts and be changed forever.