

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 22, 2009



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, February 21

5:00 p.m. **Helen Pellegrino**
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Flaherty

SUNDAY, February 22

8:00 a.m. **Peter Martinez**
r/o Rose Strohmaier

10:30 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

MONDAY, February 23

8:30 a.m. **Sharon Adams**
r/o Matt Wilmot

TUESDAY, February 24

8:30 a.m. **Elizabeth, Louis & Thomas DeBari**
r/o Angela Gross

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 25

8:30 a.m. **Pauline Yonaitis**
r/o Jim & Eileen Mattison

12 p.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore**

7 p.m. **Peter Martinez**
r/o Strohmaier Family

THURSDAY, February 26

8:30 a.m. **Souls in Purgatory**
r/o Cathleen & Don DeLorenzo

FRIDAY, February 27

7 p.m. **Stations of the Cross**

SATURDAY, February 28

5:00 p.m. **Thanksgiving for George Cote**
r/o Charlene Cote

SUNDAY, February 29

8:00 a.m. **Thecla Supple**
r/o Mary & Bill Supple

10:30 a.m. **Michael Beebe**



**Tabernacle Candle in memory of
Ann Wozowicz
By Barbara & Jim Zack**

Lawn Maintenance for St. Theodore

An area of great concern for me is the high cost of lawn maintenance of our property. Last year \$10,600 was expended for this purpose. I think you will agree that eliminating this service will be very cost-effective. My plan for reducing spending in this area is to purchase a riding mower and cut the grass myself, along with volunteers. If you would care to donate towards the purchase of a mower, I would be most grateful.

Dear Parishioners,

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. Preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. **Ashes:** Ash Wednesday liturgies are some of the best attended in the entire year. Some people suggest that is just because the Church is giving out something free, but I suspect there are deeper reasons! Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). They also remind us of our mortality ("remember that you are dust") and thus of the day when we will stand before God and be judged. This can be linked easily to the death and resurrection motif of Baptism. To prepare well for the day we die, we must die now to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Being marked with ashes at the beginning of Lent indicates our recognition of the need for deeper conversion of our lives during this season of renewal.

Giving something up: For older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. In my childhood, the standard was to give up candy, a discipline that found suitable reward in the baskets of sugary treats we received on Easter. Some of us even added to the Easter surplus by saving candy all through Lent, stockpiling what we would have eaten had we not promised to give it up.

Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ.

Blessed Theresa of Calcutta writes about our deepest hunger: The world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love; hungry to be wanted, to be loved. They're hungry to feel that presence of Christ. In many countries, people have everything except that presence, that understanding. That's why the life of prayer and sacrifice comes to give that love. Through your dedication, you are to be that presence, that bread of God to break.

Lent is a time of challenge and opportunity. Consider this season of the Church year as an invitation to come home. To address the deep hunger for God and to reconcile yourself with God, others and self through an encounter (a sacrament) called Reconciliation or Penance.

Fr Zenek



Prayers for the Sick

Margaret Glackin, Leslie Kuhn, Erin Stanton, Jasmine Lee, John Grigalunas, Mrs. Fred Logan, Mrs. Skawinska, Debbie Carmeci, Anna Saksa, Stephen Michael

Diocese of Metuchen Lenten Instructions

1. The days of **fast and abstinence** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. **All other Fridays** of Lent are **days of abstinence**.
3. From the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday** until the celebration of the **Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday**, the **Easter fast** should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to **fast** applies only to Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59**. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of **abstinence** affects all Catholics who have **reached the age of 14**. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe **any** penitential day in itself may **not be considered serious**, the failure to observe **any** penitential day at all, or a **substantial number** of them **without good cause**, would be considered a **grave matter**. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform **some other penitential act**, or to **abstain on another day**.

May all our Lenten prayers, fasting and works of mercy help prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with renewed minds and hearts.

+Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen

Statue of the Resurrection of the Lord for St. Theodore Church

The statue of the *Resurrection of the Lord* has been ordered and will be arriving shortly. I believe the presence of this statue will heighten our relationship with the risen Lord—by his Resurrection, he opens for us the path to new life. My wholehearted thanks to Lorraine & Paul Buckley, Joseph & Marjorie Dante, Robert & Kathleen Farley, Michael & Kathy Kochan, Billiemarie & John Tate, Sam & Marietta Tridente, Jim & Barbara Zack, Art & Mary Zeiss for their donations toward the purchase of this statue. May the Lord bless you for your generosity to our church.

Statue of the Dead Savior

The statue of the *Dead Savior* will intensify our awareness of the human Jesus—that he became man, suffered and died for us. Funds for the purchase of the statue of the *Dead Savior* were donated by Mary Rupell in memory of her parents, Edward and Anna Durnin. Thank you, Mary.

Our Weekly Offering

February 14 & 15, 2009 \$2,779.70
Last Year \$3,670.22

- Feb. 28/29: Second Collection is a Diocesan collection for the benefit of Native & Black American Catholic Relief Services.

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule: 8 a.m., 12 noon, and 7 p.m.

- **Fr. Zenek has granted the Religious Ed. Students a holiday from Rel. Ed. Classes on Monday, Feb. 23; however, students are required to attend one of the Masses on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25—see above schedule for times of Masses.**



Religious Education Student: Print name on the line, cut section and give to your Religious Education teacher on 3/2/09 .

For February 21/22, 2009

Thank You, Julie Chambers

For the many years of service to the church in the preparation of our bulletin, thank you very much. Your kindness, dedication and talent made it a pleasure working with you. We wish you much success in your new job, Julie!

Fr. Zenek

Job Opportunity with US Census Bureau

Temporary, part-time job opening for the 2010 Census—\$13-\$20 per hour, flexible hours—open to NJ residents, 18 yrs old or older—must have a valid Social Security #; pass a multiple choice test. US Citizens will be given preference. Questions: call Michael Daronco, Recruiting Assistance 908-684-7935; to schedule a test call: 866-861-2010.

MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS

February 28 Luke Gleba, Evan Moran

March 1 Mackenzie & Robert Mason 8 a.m.
Walter & William Gonsiewski, Justin Watt 10:30 a.m.

March 7 Carlee Moran, Auston Viotto

March 8 Robert & Juliette Capaldo 8 a- Angelica Jackson, Melissa Cairo, Melody Haag- 10:30

LECTORS

Ash Wednesday 8:30 a Mary Rupell; 12 p- Fran Licciardiello;
7p -Bob Gagliano

February 28 Jeanine Gleba

March 1 Theresa Lucas 8 a.m.
Mary Rupell 10:30 a.m.

March 7 Fran Licciardiello

March 8 Theresa Lucas 8; Helen Picht 10:30

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

February 28 Ginny Moran E, Tim Moran C, Charles Shipley C

March 1 Nadie Hill E, Monica Merkel C, Bill Supple C 8 a.m.
Helen Picht E, Mary Koskoff C, Phil Koskoff C 10:30 a.m.

March 7 J. Mattison E; Eileen Mattison C; R. Vonderheide C

March 8 Diane Keggan E; Rose Strohmaier C; Emily Cirone C 8
Joy Haag E; Tina Jackson C; Patricia Kollar C 10:30