



Mass Intentions for the Week

February 13 - February 21 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Saturday**
5:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased
- Sunday**
7:30 William Jankovsky
RB Family
9:00 Victor Pettinella, 9th Anniversary
RB Wife
10:30 Urbanowicz & Dembowski Families
RB Family
12:00 Bogdan Czaplinski, 1st Anniversary
RB Renee DiMatteo
- Monday**
8:00 Matthew McMahon
RB Judy Mulligan
- Tuesday**
8:00 Angie Masso
RB Lynette & Bob Baroni
- Wednesday**
8:00 Adia Dubis
RB Family
5:30 Special Intention of Katie Collins
RB Parents
- Thursday**
8:00 Matthew McMahon
RB Gerard & Margaret Mohyde
5:30 Bogdan Czaplinski
RB Family
- Friday**
8:00 Barbara Mastroianni
RB Maura Nichle
5:30 James Quinn
RB Fortuna & Silva Families
- Saturday**
8:00 Honor Christensen & Nora Seaman
RB Children
5:00 Alfred Breton & Daniel Breton
RB Family
- First Sunday in Lent**
Sunday
7:30 Santo Conforti
RB Family
9:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased
10:30 Joseph Godlewski, 25th Anniversary
RB Elizabeth Godlewski
12:00 Julia & Frank Poniatowski
RB Family

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Ashes will be distributed during Masses at 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM and during Prayer Services at 12 Noon and 3:00 PM.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All Catholics age 14 and older are obliged to abstain from eating meat. All Catholics in good health between the ages of 18 and 59 are also obliged to fast. Fasting means having one full meal and two light meals that day. Eating between meals is not permitted, although drinking liquids is allowed.

The Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. On Fridays, all Catholics age 14 and older are obliged to abstain from eating meat. **Good Friday**, April 2nd, is a day of fast and abstinence.

Diocesan Lenten Confession Campaign

St. Mark will join all the parishes in the Diocese for Tuesday evening confessions during Lent starting February 23rd. One of our priests will be available to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Church from 7 - 9 PM on Tuesday evenings.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Fridays during Lent starting February 19th. All are welcome.

The Guild of Our Lady will be holding their meeting on **Monday, March 8th**, with a speaker from **Bigelow Tea** present. The speaker will discuss health benefits and history of tea at the meeting. All present will receive a "goodie bag"; please RSVP 203-375-0206, so we can have a count for total Bigelow Goodie Bags needed. Men are also welcome to join us and learn about tea. Executive board will meet at 6:30 p.m. – followed by regular business meeting at 7:00 and speaker at 7:30 p.m. in the upper room. Come and enjoy – refreshments will be served.

Life in the Spirit Journey to awaken the joy of your faith - beginning on Thursday, March 4th, from 7-9 PM in the Church and continuing until April 22nd. The program covers the basic Gospel message, accompanied by daily scripture meditations, a weekly talk and small group discussions led by a team member. The primary purpose of the program is to deepen a personal relationship with Our Lord. The high point of Life in the Spirit is a special Mass known as the "*Baptism in the Holy Spirit*". All are welcome!

Ride to Mass: The Parish Office has had a request from a parishioner, who lives in the Paradise Green area, and no longer drives, for a ride to Mass on weekends. If you can help, please call Susan 203-377-0444.

**The readings for this Sunday may be found in:
Catholic Community Hymnal in
Section 595/**

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/C

From Our Pastor, Fr. Don...

Called to "Higher Things"

We are going to meet three men this morning who also had their lives radically changed by God – Isaiah, Paul, and Peter. The first of these encounters was a very painful moment of **self-discovery**. Isaiah had been a member of a wealthy, privileged class, maybe a member of the royal family and then he encountered God. “Woe to me!” cried Isaiah, “I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Now Isaiah was a good man, a righteous man. But suddenly, in the presence of God, he saw himself as he really was. The experience caused him to question where he was in his life and where he wanted and needed to go. He became one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament.

As for St. Paul, he also had a different name before he met the resurrected Christ. He was Saul, the dreaded persecutor of the early Christian community. What a radical change took place in his life the day he met the Master! Suddenly he was aware of just how misguided, how cruel, how vindictive his previous life had been. It’s hard to believe that Saul the persecutor could become Paul, the author of I Corinthians 13 the greatest living document in literature on the subject of love. Only Christ could make that change in a person. And what does Paul say about himself? “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle but by the grace of God, I am what I am.”

Simon Peter probably thought he had it made too. After all, he owned his own fishing boat. He was a successful small businessman. He had his work, his family, his health. What more could anyone ask? Peter didn’t know the answer to that until that fateful day when he crossed paths with Jesus of Nazareth. Notice his response when he realizes just who Jesus is, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Like Isaiah, Simon Peter suddenly realized just how empty and meaningless his life had really been. His complacency was shattered the day he met the Master and discovered the truth not only about Christ, but about himself. All three of these men, when confronted with divine power and perfection, suddenly saw themselves as they really were - sinners in need of God’s grace, but loved by God and chosen for “higher things.” And by “higher things,” I do not necessarily mean a vocation to the priesthood or monastic life. By “higher things” I mean a deeper personal relationship with the Lord that can lead to a life-changing encounter with Him. Jesus refers to these “higher things” when he told Peter “to put out into deep water.” To live “higher” means to go deeper and to go deeper is to live a more satisfying life because it is the life God has intended for us from all creation. To find that life is to find inner peace and happiness. It was only when Peter put out into deep water that he discovered the “higher” life God destined for him. If we are honest with ourselves, we are often afraid of that higher calling. We fear what God might ask of us; we fear our own inadequacies; or we are content with where we are. That is why most people live only on the surface of life. I wonder what would have happened if Isaiah, Paul or Peter had run away from what God asked them to do. No doubt God would have found someone else, but these three men would have been poorer for it and we certainly would not be speaking about them 2000 years later.

Let me share one more story. Some of you older folks may remember film star Betty Hutton. Betty made 19 movies in the 1940’s-50’s and her greatest triumph came with the movie *Annie Get Your Gun*. But in spite of all her success, Betty’s personal life was in a shambles. She suffered from drug and alcohol addiction; she had four failed marriages; she went bankrupt and she had a nervous breakdown. It was during that period of suffering that she heard the voice of God calling her to something “higher.” At this point in her life, a Catholic priest named Father Peter Maguire befriended her and she credits him with helping her turn her life around. Hutton converted to the Catholic faith and took a job as a cook at a rectory in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. From there Betty – a 9th grade drop out - went on to earn a Master’s degree at Salve Regina College and later received an honorary doctorate from the same college. She “put out into the deep” and was called to “higher things,” – as a rectory cook, an honorary doctorate, and a devout Catholic who died in God’s grace in 1986. So much for fame and fortune.

My friends, each of us needs to see ourselves as we really are if we are going to become what God has called us to be. In the very midst of our trials and sufferings, God reaches out to us. He invites us to a personal, life-changing encounter. He calls you and me to “put out into the deep”, to aspire to “higher things.” This is the deepest desire of every pastor for his parish too. Allow me to invite you to participate in a program that will begin on March 4th and will continue through April 22. It is called the Life in the Spirit Journey. Meeting in the church every Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00, its purpose is to foster the very thing our scriptures are about this morning. It is an invitation by Jesus Himself “to put out into the deep,” to aspire to “higher things,” to “come and follow me” more closely. Only God knows what a life-changing adventure that might prove to be. AMEN.



Our Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for this Week	\$12,000.
Sunday, February 7, 2010	\$10,789.
Sunday, February 8, 2009	\$10,571.
Special Collection for Haiti, 2/7	\$ 265.
Annual, February 7, 2010	\$28,540.
Annual, 2009	\$68,250.

“Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” - Luke 6:24

Jesus’ words to the crowd can seem harsh to all of us who enjoy the many blessings of living in one of the richest countries of the world. Yet, in reality the sin is not in being rich. The sin is in failing to share our blessings. When was the last time you looked at your income and determined what percentage you were giving to those who had less than you? Remember the Bible teaches us to give 10%. How close are you to that level of giving?

The Monthly Collection which helps toward the extraordinary expenses of the parish will be taken up this weekend. Thank you for your generosity!



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Lorraine Studley, Bob Haborak, Fedare Hrinak, Jeff Mastroni, Barbara Manning, Arlene Liscinsky, Julie Koloules, Bob Wargo, Mark Burry, Jose Millet, Kathy Skinner, Diane Vanderwaylan, Matthew Freetas, Caroline DiRiusso, Toni Stabile, Kathleen Hampton, Shirley Fenn, Michael Howard, Katie Bleekrod, Mary King, Christina Alterio, Evelyn Garafolo, Andy Yankowski, Carol Gay, Elaine Hauge, David Gallo, Eugene Greytak, Julia Sellers, Julie Porzio, Lawrence & Emma Cannon, Mary Kahanec, James Whelan, Lillian Butler, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Rachel Maietto, Joan Watkins, Marilyn Lonzenski, Carl Blumenthal, Mark Bensen, Florence Steele, Yvonne Wilson, Henry Pawley, Marie Pfrommer, Bea Fiocca, Martha Reynolds, George Fountain, Samantha Frattarola, Claire Hromjak, Eddie Corcoran, Mary Hovan, Constance Papp, Bette Stumpp, Nancy LaGanga, Bill Maloney, Mike Czech, Kevin Collins, Arlene Zayas, Spencer Grady, Joan Shannon, Raphaella Gaglione, Eleanor Cornese, Carol Curcio, Lee Everetts, Frank Vitucci, Sr., Terri Nardone, Cayden Morin, Felizardo Cipriano, Connie Dezso, Mary Ann Scioscia, Ann Vanicky, Gail Bergers, Chelsea Wheeler, Thomas D. Smith, Joan Green, Andrea Timchak, William Flynn, Paul Iwanoski, Mark Morreale, Charles Petrino, Patricia Lembo, Sharon Gotch, Michael McLoughlin, Gary Iadarola, Charles Falzone, Donna Bizak, John Semosky, Joanne McCormick, Maureen Siuzdak, Alex Convertito, Edward Recuperero, Jim Garrity, Gail Kotalick, Daniel Marzella, Yolanda Arkilander, Gail Sullivan, Marcella Barr, James Conway, Bernice Buchmir, Shirley Esposito, Quinn Faerdy.

Readings for the Week of February 14

- Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
- Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 15th, for President’s Day. We will open at 9AM on Tuesday, February 16.

Chapel Snow Closings When snow or bad weather forces the closing of the Adoration Chapel, we will announce the closing on WICC 600AM radio and post the news on CTWEATHER.com (IAN closings, Public Organizations). In general, the Chapel will be closed any time the Stratford Public Schools are closed.

Adoration Chapel Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12am	X	X	O	O	O	O	C
1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	C
2am	X	X	X	X	X	X	C
3am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
4am	O	X	O	X	O	X	C
5am	O	O	O	O	X	O	C
6am	X	X	O	X	O	X	C
7am	X	X	O	X	O	O	C
8am	O		O	O		O	C
9am	O					O	C
10am	O	O	X	X	O	C	C
11am	X		O	O	O	C	C
12pm	O	O	O		X	C	C
1pm	O	O		O	O	C	C
2pm	X	O		O	O	C	C
3pm	O	X	X	O	X	C	C
4pm		O	O			C	C
5pm	O	O	O	X	O	C	C
6pm	O	X	O		X	C	O
7pm					X	C	O
8pm	O	X		X	O	C	X
9pm	O	O	O		O	C	O
10pm	O		O	O	O	C	O
11pm	O		O	O	O	C	O

ADORERS NEEDED FOR ALL “X” and “O” HOURS!

X = NO ADORER SCHEDULED

O = One Adorer Scheduled

C = Chapel CLOSED (for now)

Partial Update: Nov. 30, 2009

Please call Gary Tennyson at 203-953-1200

or Scott Goodfellow at 203-394-2248 or

Email to StMarkAdoration@comcast.net

with questions or to volunteer for an hour

Parishioners Helping Parishioners: If any parishioner is experiencing a hardship due to the current economic conditions, we may be able to offer some help. If you are interested in helping, please contact Deacon Paul at his email address: pkurmay@att.net. *If you need assistance, please call Deacon Paul at 378-8025.* The needs we receive will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Upper Room. This is a way to harness and promote Our Lord's mission of helping those in need, and it reflects the actions of the early Christian Church.

Merton House Ministry: We thank our more than 30 volunteers who assist Deacon Paul to cook 250 or more meals several times a month at Merton House. *If you would like to donate money* (each meal costs about \$500), send a check to the Parish Office payable to St. Mark Church and with Merton House written on the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping God's poor.

Father Ignatius is doing well and his trust, "Seeds for a New Start Zimbabwe," is flourishing. The funds that Father Ignatius raised here at St. Mark served as the basis for starting the trust. Father Ignatius is now running the trust out of his home, but plans in the near future to bring on additional personnel and open an office. The purpose of the trust is to offer micro assistance in the form of very small loans to individuals for starting income generating projects. The focus at this time is to raise the production of food in the region targeted by Father Ignatius. Father Ignatius will be sending some case studies highlighting success stories of individuals he has helped. Father mailed a hard copy proposal for the trust to St. Mark and it is in the parish office for anyone who would like to view it.

Circle of Friends - Widows and Widowers will meet Friday, February 26th, at 2:00 PM in the Upper Room. Guest speaker will be Attorney Charles Kurmay who will address senior citizen legal issues. Questions, please call Carmella at 203-375-7664. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Troop 177 would like to thank the parishioners who supported the Christmas wreath sale this past Christmas season.

Pierogy & Potato Pancake Dinner - The Holy Name Society of the Holy Name of Jesus Church at 1950 Barnum Avenue, Stratford, CT will sponsor a Pierogy/Potato Pancake Dinner on Friday, Feb 26, 2010 from 4:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the parish hall on College Street (Directly behind the Church).

Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport is in need of pasta sauce and breakfast cereal. Please help! For more information, please contact Mark Grasso: 203-367-9036.

Acct # 04-0152

Saint Mark Church
Stratford, CT.

04-0152 wk# 12c
Sunday, February 14
tom@hitekracing.com
Questions: Call Susan
203-377-0444

