



Mass Intentions for the Week

February 20 - February 28

First Sunday in Lent

Saturday

5:00 Alfred Breton & Daniel Breton
RB Family

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

Monday

8:00 Erin Babineau
RB Parents
5:30 Clara Beaudoin Murphy
RB Fortuna & Silva Families

Tuesday

8:00 Charles Lavin
RB Eugene & Agnes Lavin
5:30 Mary Skelly
RB Sid & Miriam Madwed

Wednesday

8:00 Carmella Robstock
RB Brother
5:30 Kathleen Pruzinsky
RB Family

Thursday

8:00 Alfred & Joyce Michael
RB Anne & Jim Garrity
5:30 Beverly DeGirolamo
RB Zawadski Family

Friday

8:00 George Freeman
RB Divine Family
5:30 Collective Intention

Saturday

8:00 Eileen Kaeser
RB Husband
5:00 Semosky Family
RB David & Mary Ann Semosky

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday

7:30 All Parishioners Living and Deceased
9:00 Joseph & Irene Zdrodowski
RB Bob & Marie Sadowski
10:30 Chriss Sullivan
RB Sister
12:00 Florence Martello
RB Anthony Martello

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. Please take a copy of Bishop Lori's letter regarding the confession campaign which is at the doors of the church this weekend.

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.

St. Mark 50th Anniversary - On Sunday, *April 18, 2010*, St. Mark will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a parish. The Noon Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Lori and a luncheon will follow at the Marriott on Hawley Lane at 1:30 PM.

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!

We are happy to welcome Jordon Nancy-Lynne Waterbury baptized last weekend to the community of the Church and to a new, loving relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 504/
First Sunday in Lent/C**

From Our Pastor, Fr. Don...

Trust in God

The people who put their trust in their God are likened to a strong, fruitful tree. The waters by which this tree is planted continues to provide life, even in times of drought. A tree that was planted beside these waters would be able to spread out its roots along the banks and grow strong and tall. They are rooted. The Greek word “rooted” means: to render firm; to fix, establish or cause a person or thing to be thoroughly grounded. And grounded means: to lay the foundation, to make stable. So the person who is rooted in Christ, has established himself or grounded himself in the Lord as a sure and stable foundation. For such a person God provides an endless source of blessing and strength, flowing all the time, no matter what happens in life. Even during a very dry seasons in our lives, God provides and sees us through. Just as the tree can grow roots to reach along the banks, so such a person can develop spiritual roots to reach out and receive all the blessings that God wants to give them, so much so that those blessings brim over and touch the lives of others.

Now, the key to becoming rooted or grounded in God is trust. Let’s take a closer look at that word, “trust,” because it is so important in the spiritual life. When we trust, we have confidence in something or someone. We place our security and our future in the hands of that someone, knowing that it is safe in their hands. My dear people, today’s scriptures are a clarion call to you and me to place all our trust, and all our hope in God, no matter what we may have to face in life.

The renowned Baptist preacher, S. M. Lockridge (born Shadrach Meshach Lockridge) once presented a powerful sermon about our God and who He is, and why we can trust Him:

“He’s the one who made us. It is He who made us and not we ourselves. No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He is enduringly strong and entirely sincere. He is eternally steadfast and immortally graceful. He is imperially powerful and He is impartially merciful. He is the greatest phenomena that has ever crossed the horizon of this world. He is the sinner’s Savior. He is the centerpiece of civilization. I’m trying to tell you today, Church, you can trust Him!

He does not have to call for help, and you can’t confuse Him. He doesn’t need you and He doesn’t need me. He stands alone in the solitude of Himself. He’s august and He’s unique. He’s unparalleled and unprecedented. He’s supreme and He’s preeminent. He is the miracle of the age. He’s the superlative of everything good that you can call Him. I’m trying to tell you, Church, you can trust Him!

He can satisfy all your needs, and He can do it instantaneously. He supplies strength for the weak and He’s available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He sees. He guards and He guides. He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent. He beautifies the meek. I’m trying to tell you, Church, you can trust Him!

He is the key to knowledge. He is the wellspring of wisdom. He is the doorway of deliverance; He is the pathway of peace. He is the roadway of righteousness. He is the highway of holiness. He is the gateway of glory. He is the Master of the mighty. He is the captor of the conquerors. He is the head of heroes. He is the leader of legislators. He is the governor of the governors. He is the prince of princes and He is the King of kings. He is the Lord of lords. You can trust Him!

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His life is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy; His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him for you. He is indescribable because He is incomprehensible. He is irresistible because He is invincible. You can’t get Him off your hands. You can’t get Him off your mind. You can’t outlive Him, and you can’t live without Him. You can trust Him!

There was nobody before Him and there will be nobody after Him. He had no predecessor. He will have no successor. He is all things. He is the giver of life. He is the joy out of every sorrow. He is the light out of every darkness. He’s the peace that surpasses all understanding. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. You can trust Him!

There is no God before Him. There will be none after Him. He is the first. He is the last. He is preeminent. There is no other God! Hallelujah! You can trust Him!”

Hallelujah! When we feel weak, God is our strength. When we are pressured by life, God is our relief. When we need security, God is our refuge. The full resources of God are at our disposal when we place our trust in Him! He will enter your body and soul today, so you can become rooted, grounded, and established in Him as a stable and eternally secure foundation – like a mighty and majestic Cedar of Lebanon – tall and strong and blessed – now and forevermore! AMEN.



Our Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for this Week	\$12,000.
Sunday, February 14, 2010	\$ 8,741.
Sunday, February 15, 2009	\$10,029.
Monthly, February 14, 2010	\$ 3,080.
Monthly, February 8, 2009	\$ 3,008.
Annual thru February 14, 2010	\$35,491.
Annual, 2009	\$68,250.

“I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me.” - Deuteronomy 26:10

This simple line from the Old Testament presents us with two challenges. First, do we bring God our first fruits – the best that we have to offer? Second, do we remember that everything we have has been given to us by God? We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing from it. So why not share what we have while we are here?



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 Recupero, Jim Garrity, Gail Kotalick, Daniel Marzella, Yolanda Arkilander, Gail Sullivan, Marcella Barr, James Conway, Bernice Buchmir, Shirley Esposito, Quinn Faerdy.

(Parishioners are reminded to call the Parish Office at 377-0444 to let us know when to take a name off the prayer list. Thank you!)



Readings for the Week of February 21

Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

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 available for viewing in the parish office.

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.

One last word ... the Lenten Confession Campaign will allow Catholics to avail themselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Tuesday night in Lent. The campaign will begin Tuesday, February 23, and every Tuesday every parish in our Diocese will be open from 7 PM to 9 PM. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. If you have been hesitant to come to the Sacrament or have been away from the Sacrament, this is a good time to reconnect with Christ and His Church. Pope Benedict tells us that this Sacrament is a "personal meeting with God, Father of goodness and mercy." So if you have been away from this Sacrament, come, "be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Acct # 04-0152

Saint Mark Church
Stratford, CT.

04-0152 wk# 13c
Sunday, February 21
tom@hitekracing.com
Questions: Call Susan
203-377-0444

