



Mass Intentions for the Week

February 27 - March 7
Second Sunday in Lent
Saturday

5:00 Semosky Family
RB David & Mary Ann Semosky

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

Monday

8:00 Patricia Brady
RB Michael Capasso

5:30 Clara Beaudoin Murphy
RB Florence & Clint Orton

Tuesday

8:00 Angelina Rajotte
RB Daughters

5:30 Presentacion Gilo
RB Margaret Devine

Wednesday

8:00 Eileen White & Family

5:30 Leonard Gentile
RB Angela & Domenico Gugliotti

Thursday

8:00 Patty Buckley
RB Larizza Family

5:30 Arline Schauwecker O'Day
RB Henetz Family

Friday

8:00 Joseph DeSabella
RB Thomas & Loretta Foley

5:30 Robert D'Louhy
RB Choir

Saturday

8:00 Anthony Steffany
RB Wife

5:00 Patricia Hefferon
RB Family

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday

7:30 Helen Peason
RB Husband

9:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

10:30 Christine Bedford
RB Daughter

12:00 Amoroso Family
RB Children

**The readings for this Sunday may be found in:
Catholic Community Hymnal in
Section 507/ Second Sunday in Lent/C**

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 with Bishop Lori and a luncheon will follow at the Marriott on Hawley Lane at 1:30 PM. Reservations are required for the lunch; please reserve early using the flyer in today's bulletin.

Diocesan Lenten Confession Campaign

St. Mark will join all the parishes in the Diocese for Tuesday evening confessions during Lent; a priest will be available for 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.

First Friday Holy Hour with Deacon Paul Kurmay on Friday, March 5th at **6:30 PM**. The Holy Hour will consist of Exposition, Prayer, Silent Adoration, the Rosary & Benediction. All are welcome.

Men for Christ Early Risers Men's Group on Saturday, March 6th, in the Upper Room from 7:00 to 7:55 AM. FYI - please call Joe Koletar 380-1594.

First Saturday Devotion in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This devotion will continue on Saturday, March 6th, after the 8:00 AM Mass in the Church.

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.

Parishioner Thomas Fekete Receives the Ministry of Reader:

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to our own Tom Fekete, a second year student in the Diocese' Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. On Saturday, February 20th, Tom and his classmates were instituted in the Ministry of Reader during the 4:00 PM Mass at the Cathedral of St. Augustine, presided over by Bishop Lori. Institution to Reader is one of three canonical steps that precede a man's ordination to the diaconate. Each step requires academic preparation along with demonstration of readiness to serve in the ministry. Tom and his wife, Diane, and their daughter, Nicole, have been long time parishioners of St. Mark's Church and usually attend the 10:30 Mass together. Please remember Tom and his family in your prayers as he continues his studies.

From Our Pastor, Fr. Don... *Jesus Defeats the Ancient Enemy*

On the First Sunday of Lent, we learn a great deal about our adversary, Satan. His method in warring against you and me is simple, but cunning. It is called "temptation." The attraction is always something that appears to be good; it promises to give us some pleasure or reward, but it is really a hidden poison for the soul. We know from personal experience that temptations are a real part of our daily lives. The real temptations are about the *gut issues of life*...the gut issue of whether or not you are living the way God wants you to live. Because temptation will be our common lot until we die, Jesus allowed himself to be tempted by the Devil and He shows us how to defeat this enemy. Keep in mind that Jesus could not sin. He was tempted in his human nature, but Jesus also has a divine nature and He is a divine Person (God the Son), so it was not possible for God to sin against Himself. He allowed Himself to be tempted to teach us an example.

First, notice the setting. Like so many temptations, they occurred while Jesus was alone – in the desert – just as we are often tempted when we are alone with our thoughts, dreams, and desires. They come when we are trying to pray and are bombarded with distractions; they come when we lie down to sleep and angry, resentful, bitter or lustful thoughts assault our minds.

The first temptation was based upon the fact that our Lord had fasted 40 days and nights and was hungry. Satan sought to induce our Lord to use His divine power to change stones into bread. We learn a lesson right from this. Satan studies every person to size up our weak spots. He then preys upon our personal weakness and strikes when we are most vulnerable. If we have a bad temper, he will try to provoke us to anger; if we are prone to pride, he will prey upon our vanity; if we struggle with impurity, he will flood our minds with lustful thoughts and desires, and so forth. He is a predator who knows our weakness and hits us right there, just as he struck our Lord when he was hungry and most vulnerable.

How did Jesus respond? Notice that His replies to Satan are very brief. He does not enter into a lengthy debate or conversation with the enemy. Jesus knows that would be futile. Satan cannot be redeemed; he is forever confirmed in rebellion and hatred for God and men. Jesus also knows that it is dangerous to dialogue with temptation. Eve did that in the Garden of Eden and it was her undoing. Satan is the "father of lies" and mixes the truth with lies to deceive and attack us. So Jesus keeps his responses brief and to the point. He answers every temptation with a quote from scripture: "It is written, *One does not live on bread alone.*" When we are tempted, it is important to utterly renounce and reject it immediately and never to enter into a conversation in our minds with it. Temptation is designed to lead us into sin and if we toy with it, we are drawn in, as Eve was, and can get trapped. Reject it quickly with the word of God or a prayer to Jesus or Mary.

In the second temptation, Satan offers Jesus something that is not his to give: *all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant*. The kingdoms of this world do not belong to Satan, but to God who created the world. Satan is only "ruler of this world" in the sense that he dominates fallen men through the power of sin. If evil appears to be in control of this world, it is only because men in power have permitted themselves to be influenced by the enemy. Our Lord is the One who is in sovereign control of history and of nations. Our Lord offers what He truly possesses and the life which He offers is that which He has obtained at the cost of His own blood.

Still, Satan tried to offer Our Lord control, power, and authority: *All this will be yours, if you worship me*. What does this tell us? Worship is obviously important to Satan. Why? The Greek word for "worship" (*proskuneo*) means – "to prostrate oneself before, to do reverence to." Worship is an act which acknowledges that the person or thing bowed down to is greater than the worshipper. That which is worshipped is of greater worth, and has greater power and authority than the worshipper. The one who worships another must also serve him. So by getting Jesus to worship him, Satan would have made Jesus a subordinate. Jesus answered Satan very briefly with the truth: *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.*

The worship of God is constantly under satanic attack. Satan seeks to pervert our worship in two ways. First, he seeks to redirect our worship from God to virtually anything else. The Mass is the highest form of worship, so Satan wants you to miss Mass, or to reduce the number of Sundays you attend. He will tempt us to place other things or activities before worship: sports practices on Sunday mornings; Sunday brunch; laziness; or he will feed you the lie that to miss Mass once in a while is no big deal and not a mortal sin. Jesus understood worship as the end, the chief goal of man; it is our highest, most important calling, our greatest privilege, and the means by which we confirm our identity as belonging to God's people, the means by which we survive in a world hostile to God. We worship God for His own sake because we are the creature and He is our Maker! Second, if Satan cannot redirect your worship, he will seek to reduce it to less than it should be. He will get us to view worship, not as an end, but as a means. We worship God because it makes us feel good or so that we will receive a blessing. We pray, not so much to praise God, but to get something from Him that we want.

In the final temptation, the tempter suggests that Jesus put God to the test. What a lesson there is here! Sometimes people get angry at God because in their minds, God did not come through for a test they set up for Him. Jesus shows us that we are to surrender to God unconditionally, regardless of the outcome: *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*"

The account ends with these sobering words: *When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time*. Jesus lived out a life of complete obedience to God even though he was faced with temptations, not only three times in the desert, but throughout the rest of His life, right to the end. And so must anyone who follows Him as Lord.

During World War II, the Allies determined that they would make no compromises with the enemy, but would fight through to total victory. Winston Churchill said it best: "Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be...!" And so must it be with us in our battle with evil. AMEN.



Our Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for this Week	\$12,000.
Sunday, February 21, 2010	\$11,486.
Sunday, February 22, 2009	\$ 9,538.
Annual thru February 14, 2010	\$39,931.
Annual, 2009	\$68,250.

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession."
- Genesis 15:7

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether our home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do we show our gratitude to God for the home He has given us? Do we make a sacrifice of any kind? Do we return any of our finances to God, investing equally in our eternal home just as we invest in our current abode?

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, 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, Shirley Esposito, Quinn Faerdy.



*Let light eternal shine on them,
O Lord, with Your saints forever,
for You are merciful.*

**Dominic DiLieto
Marianne Farese
Thomas Johnson
James Piccirillo
Ottavia Stoops**

Readings for the Week of February 28

Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/ Lk 13:1-9

Rosary Bracelets/Novena Booklets -

The Parish Office has pearl and wood Rosary Bracelets and Mary Undoer of Knots Novena Booklets available again. Please stop in during business hours to purchase one.

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

The Walter Wright Jr. Memorial Basketball Tournament continues until March 13th and is sponsored by our Men's League. Please stop in for *delicious food and refreshments made daily in the kitchen* and *to cheer on our teams and watch some great basketball*. This is the largest fundraiser for the Men's League which supports the parish basketball program, as well as many special parish projects.

St. Mark 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 21st. The Committee needs new volunteers to help plan this fundraiser which benefits both our parish and school. If interested, please call Sue Valentine, 203-375-4873, or Bob Richard, 203-375-0606.

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. Please see the flyer in this week's bulletin for details.

Feed the Hungry We will meet in the Parish Center Kitchen on Saturday, March 6th, from 8:45 to 10:00 AM. The menu for March will be Meatloaf, Green Bean Casserole, Pound Cake and fresh fruit. You may donate fresh fruit and drop it off before 9:00 that morning. Thank you to all who support this ministry which benefits the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Questions, please call Marilyn Mucci at 612-7018.

Bottle/Can Drive: St. Mark School will be conducting their monthly Bottle & Can Redemption Drive on Saturday, March 6th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please drop off your redeemable bottles and cans in front of the Parish Center entrance. Held rain or shine. Thank you for your continued support.

Convivio is a High School Congress on March 12, 13 & 14 at Sacred Heart University that seeks to reach young people who are searching for answers to the questions: what is the meaning of life, and how can I change the world? Bishop Lori will join us for the Opening Ceremony on Friday, March 12th, at 5:00 PM, and will also celebrate the Sunday Mass at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Sacred Heart University. Cost: \$35 which includes the Congress workbook and materials, and meals. For more information: www.convivio.org/connecticut.

Diocesan Loaves & Fishes campaign continues this Lent which is a major source of funding for our soup kitchens and feeding programs. Envelopes are available at the doors of the church. Thank you for your support.

Parish Office Hours: Please note that as of Monday, March 1, the parish office hours will change to 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Acct # 04-0152

Saint Mark Church
Stratford, CT.

04-0152 wk# 14c
Sunday, February 28
tom@hitekrcing.com
Questions: Call Susan
203-377-0444

