**Mass Intentions**

***February 5, 2012– Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

 **8:00A.M. +** Benny Chan by Children and Grandson

 + Yuen Sau Park by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

 **9:30A.M.** Thanksgiving for Favor Granted by Gabriella

 + Benny Chan by Darlene & Nicole

 + Moy Got by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

***MON. Feb. 6th Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs***

 **8:00A.M.** + Peter C. Lau by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

 + Jung-Tsu John Tien by Maria Wang

***TUE. Feb. 7th Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.** + Wai Sun Lau by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

 +

***WED. Feb. 8th Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin***

 **8:00 A.M. +** David Jarzyna—Birthday Remembrance by Wife Cookie

 + John Nudo Sr. by Son Tony

 + Poor Souls in Purgatory by Dominic Barbaro

***THU. Feb. 9th Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M.**  + Wei Fei Lew by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

 + William R. Caponigri by Family

***FRI. Feb. 10th Saint Scholastica, Virgin***

**8:00A.M.** Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

 + Yuen Sau Park by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

***SAT. Feb.11th Our Lady of Lourdes; BVM***

 **8:00A.M.** + Moy Got by Paul and Cindy Lau & Family

 **5:00 P.M. Friends and Parishioners of St. Therese**

 **From the Desk of Fr. Francis**

 **Greetings of Christ’s Peace and Joy! Hope you all had a blessed week.**

 **Thank You and Welcome!**

**Our Lunar New Year celebration last Sunday was both uplifting and joy-filled. It was awesome to see our church packed, even the choir loft was filled with people. Some of our parishioners shared with me that this was definitely one of the most attended celebrations at our parish. We had a lot of visitors. Quite a few of them remarked to me how beautifully decorated our church was and how welcoming our parishioners were. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have our church packed like that every Sunday?**

**Many thanks again to all who helped with the celebration. From liturgical planning to stuffing the red envelopes, from decorating to cooking, from dancing to venerating ancestors, our leaders and volunteers did a very impressive job. In a special way, we want to thank our CCD children, our school dancers and choir, and the Indonesian, Mandarin and Cantonese choirs. Their participation and angelic voices added much to our prayer experiences. Million thanks also to our photographers: Jay McMahon, Kien Chai, Mr. Ouda and Mr. Martino. They took hundreds of pictures, some of which are in today’s bulletin.**



**Thanks to Al Difranco for donating to our parish a beautiful panoramic-framed picture with a view of the top of our church, parts of Chinatown and US cellular field. It is hung up on the east wall next to our TV in the Community Room. It undoubtedly adds more beauty to our newly painted and decorated Community Room.**

***Fr. Christopher Ciomek* and *Chicago seminarians from Mundelein Seminary* are visiting and celebrating the Eucharist with us today. Please extend St. Therese’s warm hospitality and welcome to them!**

**Blessings**

 **In honor of St. Blaise whose feast we celebrated this past Friday, we will bless throats after all masses this weekend. As the legendary story says, when a child had a fish bone caught in his throat, his mother didn’t know what to do other than bring him to Bishop Blaise. St. Blaise prayed and blessed the child’s throat and threw out the fish bone. This is why we have our throats blessed today and we pray that through the intercessions of St. Blaise, we might be free of throat and other illnesses.**

 **Blessing is important to us as Catholics. We have our houses, cars, boats, holy metals blessed. We ask God for blessings; we ask our priests for blessings; we bless ourselves, children and others. We want to be blessed and be a blessing for others. We count on God’s blessing on our journey of faith. Rabbi Abraham Heschel wisely says that “*Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy*.”**

 **In the Gospel, we continue to hear stories of healing from Mark. Jesus prayed and blessed Simon’s mother-in-law; she was cured. Then the whole town came to Jesus and wanted Jesus to bless them. The power of God was made manifest through the blessings of Jesus.**

 **Let us strive to be a blessing and to be blessed in our daily lives! Knowing our blessings helps us to be grateful and joyful. William Pen describes this beautifully by saying: “*The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles.*”**

***Peace, Fr. Francis***

 **♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

 **Sunday, February 5, 2012—Cantonese Mass**

 **PROCESSIONAL: Chinese hymnal - p. 25, # 73 – Before God**

 **OFFERTORY: Chinese hymnal - p. 33, # 83 – Lord Almighty**

 **COMMUNION: Chinese hymnal - p. 44, # 98 – O Lord, I Am Not Worthy**

 **RECESSIONAL: Chinese hymnal - p. 50, # 107 – Sun for All Hearts**

**——————————————————————————————————————————**

 **Chinese Service Music**

 **- Gloria #310 (pink book p6)**

 **- Sanctus #335 (pink book p22)**

 **- Memorial Acclamation #67 (blue book p24)**

 **- Lamb of God  #364 (pink book p38)**

***News and Events***

**Annual Catholic Appeal The announcement is this weekend. The commitment weekend will be Feb. 11th & 12th.**

**Finance Council Meeting**

**Is Monday, Feb. 6th, at 7pm.**

**February Family Mass**

**Is next Sunday at 9:30am.**

**Blessing of the Throat Traditionally the *blessing of the throat* is on the Feast of Saint Blaise, which is Friday, Feb. 3rd. This year the blessing of the throat will take place after the 8:00 am Mass on Feb. 3rd; 5:00 pm Mass on Feb. 4th; and the 8:00 am & 9:30 am Masses on Feb. 5th.**



**Sacraments Meeting for School Parents**

**Will take place on Monday Feb. 13th from 6pm to 7:30pm in the Community Room.**

**Liturgy Committee Meeting will be held on Feb. 13th at 7pm in the St. Therese Room.**

**PPC Meeting is Feb. 15th at 7pm.**

**Tax Exempt Letter If you are a registered parishioner and would like to receive a year end tax exempt letter, please contact our parish office at 312-842-6777.**

***North American Chinese Catholic Cursillos in Christianity*** will gather in Houston this year from **March 15th to 18th**. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Fr. Francis. More information in Chinese can be found at the church entrance table.

**LEADERSHIP DAY** The Annual Leadership Day will be held Saturday, February 18th. This is a day of formation for parish members involved in ministries of leadership. This year the workshop will be held at Loyola Academy in Wilmette. The day goes from 8:30 A.M. to 3:45. At 4:00 P.M., Mass will be celebrated and Cardinal George will preach as well as be a presenter of a workshop.

Some interesting workshops include titles such as: *Revitalizing Your Parish Pastoral Council, A Teen-Friendly Parish, It’s Not Too Late to Connect Young Adults to Your Parish…, Taking Justice in Your Own Hands, Viewing the Liturgy through the Cultural Lens of Music, The Church Needs You…What Would Jesus Facebook?*

**We encourage everyone who can, to participate in this wonderful day of formation. Please sign up at the entrance of the church!** For further information talk with Father Li or Sister Caritas. See also the Leadership Website on the Archdiocese of Chicago Website.

**CATHOLICISM—*Journey Around the World & Deep into the Faith* A 12 Week Study.**  Saturdays10:30am to noon EVERY Saturday of each month starting Feb. 25th– May 12, 2012 at Pauline Books & Media, 172 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. For more info, please see fliers on the table of the church entrance.

**TOTAL Christmas Donations to date: $24,989 Thank YOU!**

***Hospitality Schedule for February 12, 2012***

**GREETERS: Jean Ng, Tim Tie, Teresa Moy**

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS: Kien, Agnes, Lushia**

**————————————————————————————**

**The *Cause For Hope* Column Will Return Next Week!**

**Weekly Offering:**

Collection for January 29, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $3,070

Sunday Loose $ 841 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $61,909

Total Collection $3,911 July1-To -Present (Budget): $60,450

Weekly Budget: $1,950 % of Budget Attained: 102%

Please consider giving one hour of your weekly salary as your contribution.

***May God bless your generosity! Thank You!***

#  *Trusting in God’s Care & Love for us as Job Did*

#

# *Job speaks for all of us.*

#

#  Ok, well, most of us. Certainly anyone who’s struggled with insomnia resonates with Job’s being “filled with restlessness until the dawn.” But most of us share with Job the experience of suffering. Some people have suffered beyond comprehension; others have known only “regular” suffering — illness, death, disability, tragedy — although it’s never regular when it happens to *us*. We’ve all felt the frightening despair of which Job speaks.

#  Some fortunate souls haven’t experienced such challenges. During a talk I gave several years ago, I asked the audience to recall their own suffering. An older couple admitted they hadn’t experienced significant suffering. Their children were healthy, their parents died at a ripe old age, and life had been fairly easy for them.

#  This isn’t the experience of most of us, however. Even if we’ve moved past such moments of pain and suffering, we can recall feeling as Job did — that life was misery, that hope was difficult to find.

#  There certainly are no easy solutions to the problem of suffering. But in the Gospel today we see Jesus in his healing ministry, reaching out to so many in need. Aren’t we, in our times of suffering, among the crowds gathered at Jesus’ door, begging for healing and mercy?

#  Jesus is persistent in his healing — he doesn’t let exhaustion or weariness stop him. He reaches out, grasps hands, and is present to those who are hurting.

#  Jesus is this persistent presence of healing to us too. He sees us in the crowd, he grasps our hand, and he promises to stay with us always. ~ Janel Esker

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# *What does a Parish Council do?*

#

# *I’ve been an active member of our parish council for ten years. Our diocesan guidelines say that parish councils are advisory groups for the pastor, but they don’t say he has to take our advice. He isn’t addressing people’s needs, and my parish is losing members. My friends on other parish councils have the same problem. What can we do?* ~Isabelle

#

# Dear Isabelle,

#

#  You certainly understand the nature of parish pastoral councils: “A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote *only* and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop” (Code of Canon Law, 536.2).

#  The question is, what constitutes consultation? Canon 536.1 says the pastor presides over the pastoral council, in which the “Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.” Consultation, then, is “assist[ing] in fostering pastoral activity” in the parish.

#  The *Code* is clear: The diocesan bishop establishes norms regarding pastoral councils, so if you don’t have a copy of the norms, ask the chancery for them. Then ask your pastor what the council can do to “foster pastoral activity” in your parish.

#  It might be helpful if your council and your pastor attend a workshop on pastoral councils together. If your diocese doesn’t offer this and other resources to help parishes, ask the chancery to recommend one that does.

#  I applaud your commitment to making your parish more responsive to its members.

#

#  ~ Patrick Keyes, CSsR

#

#

**Please remember in your prayers those who are**

**ill, hospitalized, and homebound...**

Sarah Phillips Marie Balestri Carmella Scanlon

Natasha Chang Lucille Iasillo Carmen (Rails) Balestri

Baby Dominic Vittori Dominic Barbaro Winnie So

Barbara McElroy Barb Davis Rose Perez

Ramona Zavala Ken Barber Nicholas Tobar

Michael Howley Lauren Mandel Ruth Barone

Bernie Presto YoYo Damico Dolly Roti

Lina Andriacchi Baby Jessa Piotrowski Sister Noel Devine

Su Zhen Liao Fr. Walter Johnson, MM Fr. Anthony Chen

Sister Elizabeth Lee John Galvin Michele Young

Manuel Gore Debbie Thome Wu Wai Hing

Shirley A. Bills Roseann Gurgone

If you wish to add a name or remove your name from this list, please call the parish office.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“*Everyone is looking for you*”**

As we move closer to the time of the Oscars and the elections, we are given TV views of groups of people gathering around individuals. In some cases, gifted athletes, famous people, or politicians cannot move from place to place without being followed or surrounded by crowds. Perhaps the people close to them tell these individuals “Everyone is looking for you.” Crowd control and police protection can be part of their everyday life and that of their families.

Why does this happen? For some it is because they want to see the person or hear the person. Some come out of curiosity; some come for the sense of being part of a famous event; some come simply to be where famous people are. This enables them to say, “I was there when….”

In today’s Gospel we have the Apostles telling Jesus, “Everyone is looking for you.” People had seen Him the day before as He was healing people and driving out demons. They had heard Him preach and now they wanted to hear Him again. They wanted to be part of the group who saw miracles and heard words of authority. Why were people there? Some were there because they had come to believe. They came as an expression of their faith. They came to be nurtured and to grow.

This year we are called to “Renew our faith in Christ Jesus.” Would we be among those of whom it was said to Jesus, “Everyone is looking for you?” We come every Sunday, every Mass, looking for Jesus. Why do we come? Is it out of habit? Is it because we “have to come”? Is it because we want to be “where the *action* is”? Or do we come to grow in our faith? Do we come to pray, worship and celebrate Jesus? Can we say we are active members of the Body of Christ present here at St. Therese? Do we come with open mind and heart seriously seeking Jesus? We come, we listen, we act like Jesus, and we receive the Eucharist. Then each time and every day we *will* renew our faith. We may even be among those who bring others who are also looking for Jesus.

**~ Sister Caritas**