**Mass Intentions**

***February 26, 2012– First Sunday of Lent***

**8:00A.M. +** Richard Degnan by son Francis Degnan & daughter-in-law

Therese Spalla

**9:30A.M.** + Rocco Puopolo by Darlene

**11:00A.M. Mandarin Mass**

+ Jung-Tsu John Tien by Yi-Ning & Tsui-O An

***MON. Feb. 27th Lenten Weekday***

**8:00A.M.** + Boon Man Lee by Rose Lee & Children

***TUE. Feb. 28th Lenten Weekday***

**8:00A.M.** + Catherine Spina by Zito Family

***WED. Feb. 29th Lenten Weekday***

**8:00 A.M. +** Catherine Spina by Briglio Family

+ Elmer Krohe—4th Anniversary by Roger Krohe

***THU. March 1st Lenten Weekday***

**8:00 A.M.**  In Honor of St. Joseph by Anna Marie Caponigri

***FRI. March 2nd Lenten Weekday***

**8:00A.M.** In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

+ Catherine Gurgone by Daughter

+ Jeanette Moy by Family

+ Ralph LoCoCo by Lucille Salerno

***SAT. March 3rd Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin***

**8:00A.M.** In Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

+ Matthew Zavala by Linda & Michele Young

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

Sacred Heart of Jesus for Michele

**+** Mickey Rose Nardi by Mary Kay Ungarelli

+ Anthony Spalla– Birthday Remembrance by son Louis “Sonny”

Spalla & Family

+ Mary Andriacchi by Nick and Ellen Andriacchi & Family

**From the Desk of Fr. Francis**

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

**Thanks**

Thanks to Chris Lowe for generously donating $500.00 to St. Therese Church. As an employee of Verizon, this amount will be matched by the Verizon Foundation.

Thanks to Nick Andriacci for giving the oral report on our parish’s last six months financial status this past weekend and to other members of the finance council: Rose Lau, Paul Lau, George Lee, Lily May, and Wendy Sin for their expertise. I assure you that we will continue to be frugal and transparent. If you missed the report, extra copies are available at the church entrance table.

Thanks to all who helped to put away our Lunar New Year decorations last Sunday and redecorated our church for this Lenten season. Your involvement was truly needed and is really appreciated!

**First Sunday of Lent**

The Holy Father’s Lenten message this year is based on Hebrews 10:24: “**Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works**.” One of the main points that the Holy Father stresses is concern for others. He said: “what hinders this humane and loving gaze towards our brothers and sisters? Often it is the possession of material riches and a sense of sufficiency, but it can also be the tendency to put own interests and problems above all else.” Our daily problems come from self-centered living. ***Lent offers us a time to consciously turn to God and others needs.***

Our community offers quite few Lenten prayer opportunities and outreach activities. A detailed schedule is included in this bulletin. I invite you to make some efforts to participate in as many as possible. Below are things you can do this week:

 ***Take a rice bowl home this Sunday and begin to fill it up Take some time to pray for our RCIA candidates: Frank, Ronnie, Meagan, Lin Yan and Ada. They will celebrate the Rite of Election this Sunday afternoon at Holy Name Cathedral.***

 ***Join the Stations of the Cross this Friday March 3rd and Benediction afterward in Church.***

Our parish theme of the year is “***Renew Our Lives in Christ***.” We might be wondering: why do we need to renew our lives and how do we do it? At our last parish pastoral council, members of our parish leaders recommended two things in particular that we can do during this Lenten season in order to remind ourselves of the need to renew our lives in Christ.

 After each invocation for the Prayer of the Faithful, we respond with these words: ***Lord, hear us and renew our lives.***

 Each of our parish organizations will be invited to share few paragraphs on their understanding of the theme and possible ways of achieving it. This will appear in our weekly bulletin. I hope that they will enlighten the rest of us for renewing our lives in Christ.

Above mentioned are a few possible ways for us individually and collectively to live out our calls as Christians. We may differ in the HOWs, but we should agree on the WHYs. Let me conclude by quoting again the words of the Holy Father: **“in a world which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works.”**

***Peace~ Fr. Francis Li***

**Renewing our lives in Christ…**

**When I think about how I can renew myself in Christ, the answer that keeps formulating in my heart is just the simple act of volunteering. The act of helping others does not have to be a grand gesture, but rather can be little acts of kindness. With this mentality, I feel motivated because I am able to share the talents that God has given me with others, and hopefully encouraging others to do the same. Happiness, because I was able to bring a smile to others; that with this smile I feel as though God is looking down upon us and smiling. Lastly and importantly, I feel renewed because by serving others I am serving God. Another instance my life is renewed in Christ is when I am in prayer. That during prayer, and conversations with God, I truly feel that he is speaking to me in my heart and listening.**

**So I ask you now, *how can you renew your life in Christ?* Is there a need for some sort of action to take place before you can feel that renewal? Why do we need to renew our lives? How can you help others in renewing their lives in Christ?**

**~~ Jade Yee —Parish Pastoral Council**



Are you in search of quality adult faith formation?

Are you interested in serving as a catechist?

**The OFFICE for CATECHESIS and YOUTH MINISTRY invites you to**

**Fostering Faith Catechist Formation**

*Fostering Faith* provides quality adult faith formation in the Catholic tradition for those who work toward catechist certification and anybody who wishes to deepen his/her faith.

**Classes will be held at St. Therese Church in the Community Room on Saturday, March 3rd & 10th from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. *Free for any parishioner!* If you can attend, please sign up at the church entrance table.**

***Topic to be discussed: Revelations through Scripture and Tradition.***

**♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

**February 26, 2012—First Sunday of Lent**

**(service music: Mass of Light)**

**PROCESSIONAL: # 577 - COME, MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE**

**OFFERTORY: # 507 – I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT**

**COMMUNION: # 604 – YOU ARE NEAR**

**RECESSIONAL: # 590 – WE WALK BY FAITH**

***News and Events***

**Six Month Financial Report** Extra copies are available at the entrance of the church**.**

**The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed:**

***Abstinence*** from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years & older.

***Fasting*** is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

***During Lent***, the Church encourages attendance at daily Mass, self-imposed times of fasting, and generosity to local, national, and worldwide programs of sharing.

**Operation Rice Bowl 2012** We will once again participate in this excellent Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services. Operation Rice Bowl is a great way to connect with the sustainable development work by CRS in much needed countries. **After all the Masses, Rice Bowls will be distributed. *Please take a Rice Bowl for the Lenten Season. It is a great way of giving during Lent!***

**A Major Conference on Theology of Body**

***Blessed John Paull II’s Anthropological Vision***

Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 7:30am to 4:00pm at Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, 1401 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL. At 8:00am, *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Celebrated by Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.* This Conference is open to all who desire a deeper knowledge of *Respect Life Issues.* Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago Respect Life Office, Office for Peace & Justice and the Diocese of Joliet Respect Life Office**. For more info: call 312-534-5355 Email: dcabezas@archchicago.org**

**YAM *(Young Adult Ministry)***

**YAM** is busy planning and during Lent, we are going to focus on service.

On **Thursday, March 8th from 7-10 pm** Community service starts at home.  Let's clean up the pews, polish, dust, vacuum, and mop the Church and community rooms. Dinner will be provided and we will brainstorm other young adults to join us in the future! On **Saturday, April 14th from 9 am - 12 pm** (times to be confirmed). We are giving back to the community!  CASL has two events that morning - a tea for the elderly and a legal clinic.  Volunteers who speak Mandarin, Cantonese or are lawyers will be assigned to the clinic and our other volunteers will be able to serve a tea to the elderly.

During these months, we are going to ask that all YAM members get Virtus training!  We want to connect more with our youth to keep them involved as they become teens and young adults. To help with that, we are planning a Saturday Summer Camp.  It should be an amazing opportunity for all involved. If you have questions, please talk to Anne or email her at [annechoate@gmail.com](mailto:annechoate@gmail.com).

**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.**

**Weekly Offering:**

Collection for February 19, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $1,787

Sunday Loose $ 215 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $67,676

Total Collection $2,002 July1-To -Present (Budget): $66,300

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!***



**2012**

*“****Renew Our Lives in Christ****”*

***Stations of the Cross***

**Fridays at 7:00P.M. in Church preceded by dinner in the Community Room at 6:00 P.M.**

***Sharing on Biblical Conversion Stories***

**Fridays at 7:45P.M. following the Stations of the Cross in the Community Room, except the**

**1st Friday in March, when BENEDICTION will take place instead of the sharing.**

***First Sunday of Lent***

Operation Rice Bowls will be distributed after each Mass.

***March Contemporary Mass***

On Saturday March 3rd at 5:00 P.M. After the Mass, all are invited to participate in the “Lenten Justice Fast” by sharing a simple meal in the community room, similar to what the poorest people live on daily. Following will be a reflection on how we can fight poverty and injustice in our world.

***Service***

We will help out at St. James Food Pantry on Saturday March 10th. Volunteers are needed!

**RCIA**

\*Sending out Rite for Election will take place at the 9:30am Mass on the First Sunday of Lent ~ Feb. 26th.

\*The Rite of Election will be on Feb. 26th at 2:30pm at Holy Name Cathedral.

\*Scrutiny Rites will be celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent.

**CCD**

\*Reconciliation will take place on Sunday, March 4th after the 9:30A.M. Mass.

**\***Children willserve a *Pancake Breakfast* to all parishioners on Sunday March 18th

\***Catechists will take their first class on *Revelation though Scripture and Tradition* toward certification on Saturdays March 3rd & 10th from 9:00A.M. to 2:30P.M. in the Community Room. All are welcome!**

***First Reconciliation***

For CCD and School students will take place on Saturday, March 17th at 10:00am.

***Parish Retreat and Communal Reconciliation***

March 31st from 10:00A.M. to 2:30P.M. in the Community Room followed by Reconciliation (optional) in Church.

***April Cantonese Mass***

Will be on April 1st at the 9:30A.M. Mass with Fr. Nick Nguyen.

**REPENT, AND BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS!**

***Lenten Justice Fast***

# *Desert—Discovery of Self & Deeply knowing God!*

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# *Desert Time.* As a Midwesterner in the middle of winter, I must admit that thoughts of the desert are pretty appealing right now. But in Scripture, the desert isn’t a welcoming place. Mark’s description of the desert Jesus entered is characteristically succinct, but it clearly doesn’t appear to be a place of hospitality. Wild beasts, Satan, loneliness– particularly in Jesus’ day, the desert wilderness wasn’t an exotic locale for Survivor-like reality shows, but a place of profound testing and challenge.

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# Many of us have experienced desert times. In a time of career discernment, we may feel unclear about our next move. In a time of serious illness, we may question our life’s focus. In a relationship crisis, we may find our trust in a beloved companion to be shaken.

# If we survive desert time, we often emerge changed, with a deeper sense of direction. We may even have a new focus or a new mission.

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# On coming out of his desert time, Jesus’ initial words were urgent and focused: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” He emerged with a fervent commitment to spreading the news of God’s kingdom.

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# This Lent, we’re invited into the desert to reflect on how we most need God to shake us up, draw us away from sin, and call us into new ways of life. Jesus came out of the desert proclaiming the reign of God; as we come out of the desert at Easter, how will we be changed and ready to advance God’s kingdom? How might we allow God’s transforming grace to call us into a new mission? ~Janel Esker

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# *What is metanoia?*

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# *What’s the difference between metanoia and plain old repentance? ~Ralph*

# Dear Ralph,

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# Generally, when we repent, we stop doing something we believe to be wrong. The Greek word metanoia takes it a step further. Jesus begins his public ministry preaching repentance; he ends it instructing his disciples to go forth proclaiming repentance (see Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47). His message to “repent, and believe in the gospel” tells us to turn away from one thing and embrace something greater.

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# The word metanoia appears in the New Testament twenty-two times. While the Old Testament word for conversion, *shuv*, indicates a physical change of direction, metanoia suggests a change of mind so jarring that it completely changes our life. The conversion of Saint Paul from Church persecutor to Church apostle typifies this kind of complete turnaround, and images of him falling to the ground and seeing the light attest to its significance (see Acts of the Apostles 9).

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# Like Saint Paul, some people can turn away from addictive or sinful behaviors abruptly; for others, the process requires a more gradual transformation. At the beginning of Lent, the signing of ashes accompanies those first words of Jesus’ public preaching to “*repent, and be faithful to the gospel.*” Whether metanoia is abrupt or gradual, the end result is the same: a spiritual rebirth, being “*born again*” (John 3). ~Byron Miller, CSsR

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**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.

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Contemporary Mass March 3rd, 5pm