**Mass Intentions**

***March 4, 2012– Second Sunday of Lent***

 **8:00A.M. +** Phillip Rizza by Marion Roti

 **9:30A.M.** + Deceased Parishioners of St. Therese Church

***MON. March 5th Lenten Weekday***

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

***TUE. March 6th Lenten Weekday***

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

***WED. March 7th Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs***

 **8:00 A.M.** In Honor of the Infant of Prague by Anna Marie Caponigri

***THU. March 8th Saint John of God, Religious***

 **8:00 A.M.**  In Honor of Mother Cabrini by Anna Marie Caponigri

 + Joseph Spina by Zito Family

 + Darlene Ray by Francesco & Vincent Barbaro

***FRI. March 9th Saint Frances of Rome, Religious***

**8:00A.M.** For a Special Intention by Anna Marie Caponigri

+ Joseph Spina and Rose Marie Thome by Briglio Family

 + Catherine Barbaro by Family

***SAT. March 10th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.**

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

 **+** Loving Memory of Hazel & Mickey Rose

 by Frank & Sophie Nardi

 + Clare Capecci by Frank & Sophie Nardi

 + Anthony Di Vittorio by Family

 + Deceased Family Members of Dominic Barbaro

 **From the Desk of Fr. Francis**

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

**Thank You**

Thanks to Rose Cho for making another Lent banner for our parish. It is hanging up inside the east church entrance door.

Thanks to all who participated in last Friday’s Stations and Sharing on the story of Bartimaeus. People enjoyed the sharing. Please consider joining us next Friday!



Thanks to our RCIA catechists: Rose Marie Lau for teaching our English RCIA and a few Chinese priests, Religious and CCA members for teaching our Mandarin RCIA. Thanks to their sponsors for accompanying them on this journey. Five of our catechumens celebrated the Rite of Election last Sunday at Holy Name Cathedral. They were officially chosen to continue their journey toward Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at the upcoming Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Appointment from Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.**

I am humbled to share with you that our Cardinal recently named me ***Pastor of St. Therese Church***. In his official letter dated on Feb. 22, 2012, Cardinal Francis George stated: ***“I am pleased to appoint you Pastor of Saint Therese Chinese Catholic Church, 218 West Alexander Street, Illinois, effective immediately. In accordance with Canon 969, you are granted the appropriate faculties of the Archdiocese of Chicago for the duration of your assignment at Saint Therese Chinese Catholic Church.”*** Then the Cardinal assured me of the willingness to assist on the part of the agencies of the Archdiocese. This new appointment does not change my commitment to St. Therese nor will it alleviate my workloads here. However, it does show the Cardinal’s care for our parish; it does offer a sense of stability to our community; and it helps us to make longer terms of planning for the ministry and mission of our parish.

In the last year and half of my life at St. Therese, I have been amazed by your faith and involvement. St. Therese is not just a place we worship; it is truly a second “home” for most of us. I thank you and I ask you continue to take care of God’s house and our “home.”

While I am not in to titles, as a priest, I know that my life is about God’s mission, the term ‘pastor’ does have a deeper theological meaning. Pastor has its root in the metaphor of a good shepherd in the Scriptures. Jesus is our good shepherd and He calls His pastors to know the voice of their people and give their life for the good of their people. Please be assured that I am honored to have this privilege of serving you for the next few years and I will do my best to carry on Jesus’ Mission for this local community.

Please keep our Church, parish, and me in your prayers as I do the same for you.

 ***Peace~ Fr. Francis***

 **Renewing our lives in Christ…**

 **♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

 **March 4, 2012 (Cantonese Mass) Second Sunday of Lent**

 **(Chinese Service Music)**

**Chinese Hymnal - P. 131,  # 204   - Glory to God**

**Acclamation: # 59 – Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Chinese Hymnal - P.  32, # 81  - Lord, the Almighty**

**Chinese Hymnal - P. 125, # 196 – By the Blood That Flowed from Thee**

**Chinese Hymnal - P. 127, # 198 – Light in the Darkness**

 ***News and Events***

**Second Collection next Sunday, March 11th for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** This Collection supports Catholic organizations that provide food, shelter, medical care, catechesis, and companionship for the lonely in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. Your donations help to restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously to the Collection next week.

**Finance Committee Meeting** will be on Monday, March 5th at 7pm.



**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 are participating 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.  ***Please take a Rice Bowl for the Lenten Season—you can pick one up at the church entrance table. It is a great way of giving during Lent!***

**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.

**Message of Gratitude from Catholic Campaign for Human Development** We received a letter from CCHD thanking us for our generous donation of $694 last November. The donations serve projects working with issues of affordable housing, safer neighborhoods, economic development and the improvement of life for the elderly, immigrants & disabled in Cook & Lake Counties. Director, Carol Smith extends her personal prayers of gratitude to each of us and on

behalf of all those whose lives we touched through our kindness.

 ***Hospitality Schedule for March 11, 2012***

**GREETERS: Regina Cheong, Tim Tie, Gemma Wong**

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS: Anne**

 **Cause for Hope: *Almsgiving***

When we started the new Liturgical Year, we set out to “Renew our Lives in Christ.”  And in part, we hoped to accomplish this by praying, attending mass, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and trusting in the healing power of God’s grace and mercy.  Although we are now in the Lenten season, in which the notable three marks are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we should not lose sight of our liturgical theme.  Rather, by allowing ourselves to be renewed by the love of Christ, we can truly focus on making this Lent a powerful and moving experience, especially as we contemplate the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  To facilitate this, we tend to engage in more frequent prayer, self-imposed fasting, and almsgiving.  Of course, praying, fasting, and even attendance at daily mass are probably the first things we are drawn to.  They are traditional and meditative; they open our hearts and connect us to Christ.  So what about almsgiving?  Almsgiving is equally important – maybe even more important.  Consider this, “Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness … It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life" (Tob 12:8-9).  However, even with scriptural reinforcement, Mike Aguilina of the Catholic Education Resource Center contends that for many “almsgiving is surely the most neglected” ([CatholicEducation.org](http://CatholicEducation.org)).  Therefore, during this Lenten season, let us find ways to give alms to those in need?  Are we up to the challenge?

**To support and encourage almsgiving this Lent, our parish is participating in the following events:**

***Thursday, March 8****:* The Young Adult Ministry will be cleaning St. Therese Church.  Help will be needed to clean the pews, Church and community room!  If you’re available, consider being part of a night of fellowship and service. For additional information, please see the flyer by the Church entrance.

***Saturday, March 10****:* Volunteers will be needed to help out at the St. James Food Pantry.  Here’s a great way to make a difference at the grassroots level, so please join us in our efforts to help the poor and needy.  More information, including a sign-up sheet, is available by the Church entrance.

Trusting in Christ, may this Lenten season open our hearts, minds, and souls to love, prayer and renewal!

*Peace, Christian Shiu*

***“Sometimes all we can give is a smile, but sometimes that is the greatest sacrifice, the greatest prayer, and indeed the most generous and most sacrificial alms.” –*** *Mike Aguilina*

**Weekly Offering:**

Collection for February 26, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $1,429

Sunday Loose $ 201 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $69,306

Total Collection $1,630 July1-To -Present (Budget): $68,250

Weekly Budget: $1,950 % of Budget Attained: 101%

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

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

**Mandarin Mass of February 26, 2012: $491 Thank You!**

 **Lent 2012—Updated**

*“****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**

 ***Service***

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

asked to wear **GREEN** in honor of St. Patrick! Please sign up at church entrance table.

 **RCIA**

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

 **CCD**

\*Reconciliation will take place on Sunday, March 11th after the 9:30A.M. Mass.

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

\***The second part of the first class on *Revelation though Scripture and Tradition* for catechists will take place on Saturday March 10th from 9:00A.M. to 2:30P.M. in the Community Room. All are welcome!**

**SCHOOL**

\* Reconciliation for 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders on Wednesday, March 21st, 8:40 A.M.

 \* Reconciliation for 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders on Friday, March 23rd at 8:40 A.M.

 ***\*Living Stations of the Cross*—**Thursday, April 5th at 1:00 P.M.

 and on Friday, April 6th at 3:00 P.M.

 ***First Reconciliation***

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

***March Mandarin Mass***

 Will be on Sunday March 25th at 11:00 A. M. followed by a Lenten presentation in Mandarin in the Community Room.

 ***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!**

#  *Wonderful things happen in places and on mountains. God Calls us there!*

# What does it mean to be “for” someone? We’re often “for” a particular sports team (mine happens to be the 2011 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals—go Redbirds!), declaring our allegiance by wearing team jerseys, sporting logo-embroidered hats, or even painting our faces or bodies. We can be “for” a specific political candidate, displaying signs in our yard. Usually when we’re “for” someone or something, we’re against someone or something else. A completion is occurring.

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# Yet when a pregnant woman monitors everything she eats, drinks, or takes into her body because it will affect her unborn child, isn’t she “for” her baby? When a tutor spends extra time ensuring a student understands his homework, isn’t he “for” this young man? There’s no competition, no race to the finish. It’s simply someone pouring forth and living selflessly for someone else.

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# So when we hear Saint Paul claim in today’s second reading that “God is for us,” we should take pause and recognize the power of this truth. The almighty God, Lord of all the universe, is *for* us. Us sinners. Us frail, broken humans. God wants to give selflessly to us and to unceasingly pour out love to us. God’s most profound gift is revealed in today’s Gospel through Jesus’ transfiguration. We, like the disciples, are awed at Jesus’ glorious nature, and we are given a glimpse of our own transfiguration in eternal life. Our God is so “for” us that he has transfored our death and given us the precious gift of eternal life.

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# With this vision of glory always before us, our LENTEN journey can be one of deep trust in God. Saint Paul said it best: *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* We truly have nothing to fear. ~Janel Esker

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# *What are the guidelines for producing a passion play?*

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# *I asked my pastor if we could have a passion play this year, and he said there are special guidelines to follow. What are they? ~Gail*

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# Dear Gail,

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# The “Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion” was issued in 1988 by the Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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# Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ’s death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks in the understanding of the role of the Jewish people in the history of salvation. The document warns that “stock ideas” unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten, interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters.” We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as “a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor.”

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# Its’ simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ’s death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the gospel portrait and of Christ’s life.

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# Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of *all*, so that *all* might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly.

#  ~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 Elaine Sin

Lan Ying Yee

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

***OPERATION RICE BOWL***

***All*** of us are children of God, our Father. This also makes us brothers and sisters with all people. When a member of our family is ill or in trouble, we are concerned and involved. This is true within our community in the world. When the people of El Salvador do not have clean water, we need to reach out and help for without clean water disease spreads and children die. With education, the people of Vietnam learn better agricultural techniques. Handicapped people are educated. Many other counties benefit from the work of Operation Rice Bowl. Please take a Rice bowl and donate what you can to better the lives of our brothers and sisters. Help, so people will not go hungry. The Rice Bowls will be collected on Palm Sunday. ***Thank you for your participation!***

**“LISTEN TO HIM.”**

This is the command of God on the transfiguration mountain. These are the words spoken from the cloud. How do we hear Jesus? Certainly we know we hear God through the words of Scripture. God speaks His Holy word. We hear God through the teachings of the Church.

Sometimes we hear Jesus speak to us in the situations of our everyday life. Illness can be one of those situations. Job loss can be such a situation. The death of loved ones is also a situation of God revealing His will.

When we pray, at Mass or privately by ourselves, we can know God’s call, action, words in our hearts and minds. God encourages us, gives us good ideas, urges us to act in a good way, and gives us His comforting presence. We follow the words of today’s Gospel, “*LISTEN TO HIM*.”

 **~ Sister Caritas**