**Mass Intentions**

***March 18, 2012– Fourth Sunday of Lent***

 **8:00A.M.** In Honor of St. Rita

 **+** Brandon Landau by Priscilla Moy

 + David Jarzyna by wife Cookie

 + Geneieve Vittori by sons Bart, James & Louis & Families

 **9:30A.M.** Thanksgiving for favor granted by Gabriella

 Thanksgiving by Jimmy & Loretta Yu

 **+** Tracey A. Gannon by Darlene Chan-Lowe

***MON. March 19th Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

 **8:00A.M.** Thanksgiving for Fred Moy by Judy Moy

 + In Honor of St. Joseph for Joseph Briglio and Joseph Spina

 By Briglio Family

***TUE. March 20th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.** + Rita Lee by Family

***WED. March 21st Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M. +** Mrs. Cho by Rose Lee

***THU. March 22nd Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M.**  + Cary Moy by Lucy Moy & Family

***FRI. March 23rd Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo, Bishop***

**8:00A.M. +** Mrs. Cho by Judy Moy

***SAT. March 24th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.** + Deceased Family Members & Friends of Dominic Barbaro

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

Speedy Recovery of Bonnie Mead by Nick Andriacchi

 **From the Desk of Fr. Francis**

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

### Thank You!

Thanks to Thomas Lam, son of Monica Lam and brother of Sheila Lin, for donating and installing a microphone, a CD player, and a control panel for our church sound system. Our system was over ten years old, so the update and replacement was needed. You can hear the difference that the new MIC on the east side of the church makes for our gatherings.

Thanks to all young adults who came to clean our church and Community Room on Thursday, March 8th, especially to Anne Choate for organizing the event. As they said that service begins at home, we truly appreciate that they took the evening to make our facility cleaner. If the saying---*cleanliness is next to Godliness*---is true, I hope that the activity also helped them to become more aware of their blessings, gifts, and relationships with God and others during this season of Lent.

**Do You Have a Bible?**

For the past two Saturdays, March 3rd and 10th, seven of our catechists and two other catechists from neighboring parishes and two of our parishioners took the first class toward their certification. The class was entitled: *Revelation through Scripture and Tradition*. I had the privilege of teaching the class. I must say that they were one of the best groups I ever had. They were not only attentive in the class, but more importantly they were eager to learn more for the sake of children. They deserve our gratitude. Even though no words can adequately express it, we do want to say: “Thanks, Catechists, for handing down our faith to our children; Christine Delfin, for arranging the hospitality; and Joe Delfin, for being our Site Coordinator”.

In preparing and teaching the class, I was reminded again of the richness of our Bible and Tradition. We believe that the Bible is not a history book, but it is the Word of God. St. Augustine wisely said: “*Ignorance of the Word of God is ignorance of Christ*.” From the letter to 2 Timothy, we are told that “all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work (3: 16-17).” So the Word of God has power to transform our lives. Unfortunately, for a very long time in our history, Catholics were not encouraged to read the Bible. We primarily depended on the Magisterium for the interpretation of the Bible. It was Vatican II council that urged ordinary believers to know more about our Bible. Forty some years later, the spirit of the Vatican II still needs to be lived out in many corners of the World.

Do you have a Bible? How often do you use your Bible?

###

 ***Peace~***

***Fr. Francis***

  **♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

 **March 18, 2012 –Fourth Sunday of Lent**

    **PROCESSIONAL: #388 - THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS**

    **OFFERTORY: #387 – HEAR US, ALMIGHTY LORD**

    **COMMUNION: # 399 – DEEP WITHIN**

 **Meditation song: Panis Angelicus (soloist: Kimberly Chin + Choir)**

    **RECESSIONAL: #626 – THERE’S A WIDENESS IN GOD’S MERCY**

 ***(There will be Choir Practice on Tuesday, March 20th from 7-9pm.)***



**Renew Our Lives in Christ…**

I find the challenge to “*renew my life in Christ*” to be a guideline, or something that keeps me grounded. I’m growing up in a world full of temptation and peer pressure to do what’s wrong. I’m surrounded by a good amount of people who don’t know what shame is, who don’t believe in privacy, and who are willing to try practically anything be it right or wrong. My generation is so disconnected from reality and sensibility. There are so many traps I could fall into, but through Christ, I’ve kept myself grounded. The message my generation sends is *‘have no fear or respect and try it while you’re young’.* As tempting as that sounds, it can lead to harsh consequences. In my head I’ve made Christ a promise to stay true to myself and to not let these worldly temptations get in the way. Honestly, social media and the temptations I’ve faced have brought me closer to Christ. *He is my guiding light*, and I think today’s youth could benefit from his guidance as well. It’s helped me make the most of my life and I’m living happily and safely because of Him. ***By Bella Pon ~ Youth Ministry***

 **Groups Sharing on the Conversion Story of St. Matthew on Friday March 9th**

  ***News and Events***

**Wednesday, March 21st at 7pm PPC Meeting**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**

**Congratulations to our students who received their first reconciliation on Saturday, March 17th**

**Please keep them in your prayers:**

**Zachary Chen Cameran Moy**

**Jacob Fong Jodi Moy**

**Halsted Barton Kaci Moy**

**Campbell Culen Tristan Novak**

**Anya Haynes John Plebanski**

**Olivia McDonald Soleil Reyes**

**YAM *(Young Adult Ministry)* YAM** is busy planning and during Lent, we are going to focus on service.

On **Saturday, April 14th from 9 am - 12 pm**  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 & 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

**Come, Prepare for the Holiest Week of the Year!** On March 31st a ***RETREAT DAY*** will be held here at St. Therese. It will begin at 9:45 A.M. with coffee and gathering. At 10:00 A.M., WE WILL BEGIN our time of preparation, reflection, sharing and prayer. Lunch will be served. We will end our time together at 2:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to participate in the Communal Reconciliation Service immediately following the retreat. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can prepare materials and lunch.

**Do you need a 24-hour break to reconnect with God?**

**Young Adult Lenten Overnight Retreat ~ Saturday noon *thru* Sunday noon, March 24 to 25, 2012**

**Feeling lost or overwhelmed?  Wondering which way to go?** Join us for a special **Lenten Retreat** for spiritual seekers in their 20s & 30s like you. Take a much-needed break with us.

**St. Charles Borromeo Retreat Center** *101 W. Airport Rd., Romeoville, Illinois* **Register online**: go to [www.charisministries.org/seekers\_joliet](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1109426276692&s=67&e=001h8SP3FCK2ADiWQPnX8TV6me_NA0rqit1MmybjlJKpIEI7579KxR4CDWCmgUTB7lTOLiuc-YZ1ZnJttDQ5gsEX6jcy076WF5C0xGvBsCAKQdKHJeCRmBiWJxH_iLhJXM58BqO-mFaA3E=) It's a retreat for young adults, by young adults, supported by the Diocese of Joliet Young Adult Ministry Office with the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph. For more info, contact John at jmeyer@ccreonline.com

**WAY OF THE CROSS
THROUGH DOWNTOWN CHICAGO**

Good Friday, April 6th, 2012, with an introduction by His Eminence Francis Cardinal George.
Gathering at 9:00 a.m. at Daley Center Plaza
(Dearborn/Washington). Ending by 12:00 noon at Holy Name Cathedral (State/Superior).
Walking in silence following the Cross, with five stops for songs, meditations and readings from the Passion. Everyone is welcome.

***"“Will you forsake him then for other love?”***

More info at: [www.wayofthecrosschicago.org](http://www.wayofthecrosschicago.org/) .

**PRAYERS**
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dominick Vaccarello, who was buried through St. Therese this past Monday.

***Hospitality Schedule for March 25, 2012***

**GREETERS: Darlene Chan, George Lee, Steve Lee**

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS: Nancy, Jean Wong**

**————————————————————————————**

**Cause for Hope: Lost and Found**

***Issue****:*

During this Lenten season, have we spent time in silence, putting aside our distractions? Have we spent time praying, being aware of God's loving presence within us? Have we spent time with those we love and care about, being mindful of how precious life is? Sometimes, it's so easy to get caught up in the moment of things. We all have busy lives: our job can take us away from home, we may not be able to spend a lot of time with friends, and I'm sure we occasionally feel stressed, alone, even a little lost. Can you relate to such a scenario, or at least parts of it? Without question, we live in a fast-paced society. In fact, it seems as if the ideas of materialism and individualism get more attention than virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Instead of caring for others and respecting the dignity of the human person, some choose greed, violence, and corruption. Instead of hearing and believing the truth that is Christ, some choose to reject it. Clearly, when we put God aside for *something else*, that's when we'll go astray; that's when we'll be lost. And if we find ourselves in this predicament, how do we bring God back to the forefront of our lives? How can we be found again?

***Response****:*

To answer that, let's first ask ourselves these questions: How do we get to know God? What brings us closer to Him? Is it through the Mass, praying, almsgiving? Are we doing things that separate us from Christ, and if so, how can we renew our lives in Him? Sometimes we think that, in order to please God and make it up to Him, we have to do something extravagant. Yet all it takes is to follow your heart: to believe and trust in Him. Often, we experience and feel God's presence through "small" deeds: helping another, treating someone with compassion and respect, volunteering your services to those in need, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and praying. Basically, we are *found* again by doing the work of God -- using the life, gift, and talents God has given us to serve Him and others! We should also remember that "even when we are lost to ourselves, we are always in God's sight" (Loyola Press). So with this in mind, prayerfully reflect upon the things in your life that are not worth keeping. What in your life is not worth losing? Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you seek me constantly. Grace me with a heart that can hold on to your will for me and discard my self-agenda. Amen. **- Christian Shiu**

**"*He was lost and has been found*."**

**- Luke 15:32**

 **Weekly Offering:**

Collection for March 11, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $2,165

Sunday Loose $ 194 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $73,721

Total Collection $2,359 July1-To -Present (Budget): $72,150

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—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***

 **SISTERHOUSE.** On the late afternoon of Sunday, March 25th members of St. Therese parish are again going to SISTERHOUSE. Sisterhouse is a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Women participating in a continuing rehabilitation program reside there. Their goal is health and healing. Our members will teach the women simple meal preparation and cooking techniques of Chinese cooking. If you are free, would like to help or want to tag along for support, please contact George Lee or Sister Caritas.

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

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

**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.

 ***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, Palm Sunday, Passion of the Lord at the 9:30A.M. Mass with Fr. Nick Nguyen

**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.

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

# *Jesus, the Light, sent out of the Father’s love, acts to save the world, not to condemn it.*

#

# “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.” We proclaim those words at most liturgies, but how often do we really pray them? During Lent at our parish, we sing the Greek translation—”*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*.” We’re literally begging our God to be merciful to us; unfortunately, I’m uncertain how much intention and purpose we place behind those words. Do we really know what we’re asking God and what God asks in return?

#  Today’s readings describe the richness of God’s mercy and compassion. We’re reminded that God’s sending Jesus and his promise of eternal life are merciful gifts to us sinners. Do any of us deserve the gift of Jesus or the gift of resurrection? Certainly not– but God gives to us anyway. Mercy is given to the undeserving—those who deserve justice but instead are given compassion.

#  Our earthly lives are sustained by God’s mercy, but how merciful are we in return? How many of us vehemently support the death penalty? De we celebrate when a terrorist is maimed or killed? God’s mercy extends to all– we sinners and those we consider to be even worse sinners. Sometimes it’s a simpler matter: When someone cuts us off in traffic, perhaps we feel entitled to speed past and cut him off in return. Sure the driver “deserves” justice, but mercy is what we’re expected to give. How can we beg God for mercy on us each week at Mass if we’re not willing to extend that same mercy to all God’s children—both close to home and far away?

#  Be the mercy of God this week—and experience God’s mercy poured out on you.

#

#  ~Janel Esker

# *Why did Jesus die for us?*

#  *I’ve heard Baptist preachers say that Jesus’ death was payment for our sins. Does the Church teach this? If not, what is the meaning of his death on the cross?*

#  ~Russ Dear Russ,

#  Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life “as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus’ death was payment for our sins doesn’t mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, and the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life.

#  “It is love ‘to the end’ (John 13:1) that confers on Christ’s sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus’ death was a payment– not one to be exacted– but a unique sacrifice “that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices,” when “the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself,” and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father “in reparation for our disobedience” (CCC14).

#  Christ “bore our sins in his body upon the cross...By his wounds you have been healed” (1Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ’s death has meaning in eternal life’s triumph over sin.

#   ~Byron Miller, 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 Elaine Sin

Lan Ying Yee Barbara Maung

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

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**Palm Sunday Procession**

**(April 1st)**

*“****Behold, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious. He is humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass****."* (Zech 9:9)

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to fulfill his mission-the *Paschal Mystery*. Riding on an ass, huge crowds preceded and followed Jesus into the city. The people carried palms and cried out “Hosanna” (save us). Mass today begins with the blessing of the palms. This year, we invite the assembly to gather at the Church entrance area, behind the last pew of the Church, shortly before Mass starts. Palm branches will be blessed and distributed. All of you are invited to carry your palms and join in the entrance procession down the center aisle, bow at the altar steps and then return to your pews through the side aisles. Your cooperation ensures us to have a meaningful and orderly procession.