**Mass Intentions**

***March 25, 2012– Fifth Sunday of Lent***

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

 **+** Jennie Caponigri by Family

 + Louis Vittori by sons Bart, James & Louis & Familes

 **9:30A.M.** + Mrs. Cho by Rose Lee

 + John Ying Law & Deceased Family by Jimmy & Loretta Yu

 + Birthday Remembrance for George Lee by Agnes Lee

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

***MON. March 26th The Annunciation of the Lord***

 **8:00A.M.** + Rosemary Young by Linda & Michele

 + Lawrence Lee by Patti Lee

***TUE. March 27th Lenten Weekday***

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

 + K. Gee Yong by Mei Fung Yong

***WED. March 28th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M. +** Barry Yong by Mom June Moy

***THU. March 29th Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00 A.M.**  + Ping Woon Yue & Deceased Family by Jimmy & Loretta Yu

 + Birthday Remembrance for Henry Lee by wife Agnes Lee

***FRI. March 30th Lenten Weekday***

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

 + Henry Lee by Patti Lee

***SAT. March 31st Lenten Weekday***

 **8:00A.M.**

 **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.**



### Congratulations and Thank You!

Congratulations to twelve of St. Therese School and CCD students who celebrated their ***First* *Reconciliation*** on March 17th. Thanks to their teachers, catechists, parents, and all who prepared them for the day. Thanks to all who helped with the reception that followed.

Thanks to our CCD children, their parents, catechists and all who assisted with buying, cooking, and serving the successful pancake breakfast last Sunday. They raised over $300.00 to help the needy Sacred Heart Orphanage in Myanmar!

Thanks to our school family for their kind expressions of care and love on the occasion of my new appointment as pastor of St. Therese. I really enjoy reading the creative and thoughtful cards that our children made and the messages they wrote for me.

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter mailing. It went out this past Wednesday.

**“Renew Our Lives in Christ” through *Reconciliation***

I have been enjoying reading the articles on *“Renew Our Lives in Christ”* in our weekly bulletin written by different representatives of our parish organizations. It is apparent that there are rich wisdom and practical spiritual exercises in our people. I hope that you do take few minutes each week to read these short messages.

Another indispensable way for us to “Renew Our Lives in Christ” is through the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is sadly being viewed by some people as “out of date.” It is not a popular Sacrament. There are misconceptions and misunderstandings about Reconciliation. The fact of the matter is that we all need reconciliation and self-examination in our lives. I believe that this is a good time for us to rediscover the meaning of the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, which is also known as *Confession*. Confession emphasizes on our actions---what we do in the Sacrament. On the other hand, Reconciliation focuses on the work of God---what God does in the Sacrament, which are forgiveness of sins and bestowing of grace. In Reconciliation, God makes room in us for something better.

This Saturday, March 31st, our parish *Lenten Retreat* will take place from 10:00am to 2:30pm, followed by a Communal Reconciliation at 2:30pm in the Church. You are encouraged to take advantage of these services or of course, you may choose to celebrate Reconciliation in another local parish too.

###

 ***Peace~***

***Fr. Francis***

 **Renew Our Lives in Christ…**

**For me, we need renewal because it is tied to spiritual growth.  Being stagnant or not trying to grow allows us to forget God and what He has done for us. Cooking is a way of serving our parish’s elderly (as well as the others). It is also a way of sharing my gifts with others. Hospitality in particular makes sure that I think about God and service several times a week.  It isn't just about showing up on Sunday and calling it a day.  I make sure that we have groceries the weeks I cook, that we have enough food to share.  I think about the feasts we prepare and how they are alike and unlike various bible stories.  (Particularly Martha and Mary - I don't want any of us to be swept away with preparations so that we forget about listening).**

**Ultimately, for me, hospitality is about striving to be Christ’s heart, hands and feet every day. *By Anne Chaote ~ Hospitality Ministry***

 **Photos …**

 **♪♫ Choir Corner ♫♪**

 **March 25, 2012 – 5th Sunday of Lent**

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

    **OFFERTORY: #881 – REMEMBER YOUR LOVE**

    **COMMUNION: # 399 – DEEP WITHIN**

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

 ***(There will be Choir Practice on Tuesday, March 27th from 7-9pm.)***

***News and Events***

**Rice Bowl Box Reminder**

**Please turn in your Rice Bowl Box donations *on or before April 1st, Palm Sunday*. Thank you for your participation & generosity!**

**Come, Prepare for the Holiest Week of the Year! On Saturday, 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. ***The theme will be the Triduum celebrations– service, suffering and the resurrection.*** We will discuss the meaning of the major themes of this service. This is a great way to prepare ourselves for Easter celebrations. 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 TODAY at the church entrance table.***

**HOLY THURSDAY, April 5th~ Visitation of Churches**

On Holy Thursday, we will participate in the tradition of the Visitation of the Churches, moving prayerfully between seven churches as we remember our Lord’s night of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will board a bus in front of St. Therese Church right after Holy Thursday Mass. We will spend about 10-15 minutes at each of the following churches to pray and tour the church. Our tentative schedule is: St. Therese, St. Michael in Old Town, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Andrew, St. Josaphat, St. Clement, St. Alphonsis.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet at the entrance of the church. Any questions, please see or contact Steve Cottam at: cottam.s@gmail.

***Washing of the Feet– Holy Thursday***

Traditionally we imitate the act of Jesus’ example of the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. *This is an act of humility and a great example of service*. We need twelve people to participate, so if you can, please sign up on the sheet at the church entrance table.

**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/) .

**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

 ***Hospitality Schedule for April 1, 2012***

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

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS: Agnes & Kien**

**————————————————————————————**

**Cause for Hope: *Sometimes God Has a Kid’s Face***

***Issue****:*

*"“Dear God, I just want someone to love me, someone to talk to when I need to talk. Someone to cry on when I need to cry. Most of all someone to love me and walk as far as they wish through my life. Amen."* - A prayer written by a kid at the Covenant House Chapel.

Tragically, there are "literally a million innocent, homeless American kids ... lost and alone and sometimes dying on America's streets," says Kevin Ryan (President of Covenant House). With this cold, startling fact, our hearts become heavy as we contemplate the pain, agony, and suffering these kids must be going through: the love, the sense of security, the friendship, the tactility of a hug and of being wanted that they so desperately need, but don't have. These kids often come from broken-down families and suffer abuse at the hands of their parents or other family members. Eventually, they end up fending for themselves on America's streets (either because they were kicked out of the house or chose to run-away). Sadly, the horror doesn't end there as new hardships arise, coupled with the ultimate struggle of trying to stay alive. While seeking shelter in alleys and park benches, these kids must negotiate a life filled with hunger, violence, and sexual exploitation. But that's where Covenant House steps in. Covenant House is a crisis shelter for homeless and runaway kids, providing them with food, clothing, medicine, and a warm bed. And although more than 70,000 homeless kids were served by Covenant House in 16 U.S. cities, countless more are wandering the streets lost, alone, and in desperate need of help. However, as the societal breakdown of the family unit continues -- in addition to the deterioration of neighborhoods and community associations -- the continuation of this vicious cycle seems to be inevitable. Is there hope left for these kids? How about the ones who are left unaided?

***Response****:*

Sister Mary Rose McGeady, former President of Covenant House, always reiterated the importance of praying for these kids. So let us actively keep them in our thoughts and prayers -- that God may touch their lives and bring them to safety. For those kids who are currently receiving help, we pray (as does Sister Mary Rose) that they will be able to move forward in life. Although the past cannot be altered or taken away -- no matter how grisly -- we trust that God will give them the strength and courage to persevere, to live their lives to the fullest. We should also pray for the religious and organizations like Covenant House who work tirelessly to save as many homeless kids as possible. Public awareness is also essential in this fight, and if we can serve as a catalyst to people and organizations -- garnering support and resources -- a difference can be made. Lastly, as Kevin Ryan asserts, the survival of the family is essential to mitigating abuse and neglect at the household (which is often where the problem starts). Therefore, let us pray for all families, that through the intercession of St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother, they will remain strong and loving, endeavoring to appreciate, care for, and protect all human life.

 **- Christian Shiu**

"***I bound myself by oath, I made a covenant with you ... and you became mine***." - Ezekiel 16:8

**Weekly Offering:**

Collection for March 18, 2012

Sunday Envelopes $1,407

Sunday Loose $ 387 July 1-To-Present (Actual): $75,515

Total Collection $1,794 July1-To -Present (Budget): $74,100

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!***

 **and Triduum 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.** Late in the afternoon today, members of St. Therese parish are going to SISTERHOUSE, a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Our members will teach the women simple meal preparation and cooking techniques of Chinese cooking. If you would like to help or want to tag along for support, please see George Lee or Sister Caritas.

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

 ***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

 ***Holy Thursday—April 5th***

Mass at 7:00 P.M. and the Church will be open until 12 A.M.

 ***Good Friday—April 6th***

 a. **The Living Stations of the Cross** by school students at 3:00 P.M.

 b. **Veneration of the Cross and Communion** at 7:00 P.M.

 ***Holy Saturday—April 7th***

 **Mass** **at 7:30 P.M.** with the Baptism of our RCIA members

 ***Easter Sunday—April 8th***

 **Masses** at 8:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M.

**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 is the grain of wheat who draws all to Himself through death and resurrection.*

# When my husband and I learned I was pregnant, we felt so many wonderful emotions– joy, disbelief, anticipation. It wasn’t until the nonstop nausea occurred and the endless to-buy lists piled up that we became utterly aware of the sacrifices required. Sure, we knew about such sacrifices, but until my body and our lives began literally making room for new life, we didn’t truly comprehend what letting go meant. We were definitely dying to our previous life, like the grain of wheat that must die to produce fruit.

# But there are multiple experiences of dying to a familiar life that aren’t as joyful as pregnancy. There’s letting go of health and independence when aging or illness take hold. There’s adjusting to singlehood after divorce. There’s changing course when a rejection letter arrives from a university. Most often we don’t “choose to lose” our way of life– it’s chosen for us. It’s rarely easy.

# Today’s Gospel reveals that Jesus, too, struggled to let go of his familiar life. For him, this meant truly dying to experience eternal life. But it wasn’t easy for Jesus. We hear him say, “I am troubled now.” He talks about the dying wheat grain, perhaps not only to teach his disciples but also to reinforce to himself what he must do. Though he chooses this path freely, it’s not an easy choice. He needed courage just as we do.

# Even when losing our familiar life isn’t our choice, we can choose as Jesus chose—and trust that God has new life waiting for us beyond every death. It may not be what we planned, but it’s what God has planned. Our trust is grounded in Jesus—who felt what we feel and who waits to share with us the new life he has experienced. ~Janel Esker

# *What is the Triduum?*

#  *I’ve been Catholic my entire life and have never heard Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday referred to as the Triduum until this year. Why are they called by that name?*

#  ~Sandy

# Dear Sandy,

# The Latin word *triduum* means “three days.” Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are the paschal Triduum, the days we celebrate Christianity’s most sacred events– the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They’re the Christian high holy days.

# The paschal Triduum officially begins on Holy Thursday evening, when we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This day is also referred to as *Maundy Thursday* because Jesus gives a command (mandatum) to his followers to be an example of love and service to others. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends in somber stillness as the tabernacle is emptied and the altar stripped bare. The priests, ministers, and congregation exit in silence.

# Good Friday is a day of somber quiet as we relive the passion and death of Jesus. The service (not a Mass) centers on the solemn veneration of the cross.

# A spirit of waiting and quiet anticipation characterizes Holy Saturday until the festive Easter Vigil celebrated that evening. The Church comes alive with the new light of Christ as catechumens are joyfully received into the Eucharistic community.

#

#  ~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 Michele Young

Sister Elizabeth Lee John Galvin Wu Wai Hing

Manuel Gore Fr. Anthony Chen Barbara Maung

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.

**Palm Sunday Procession**