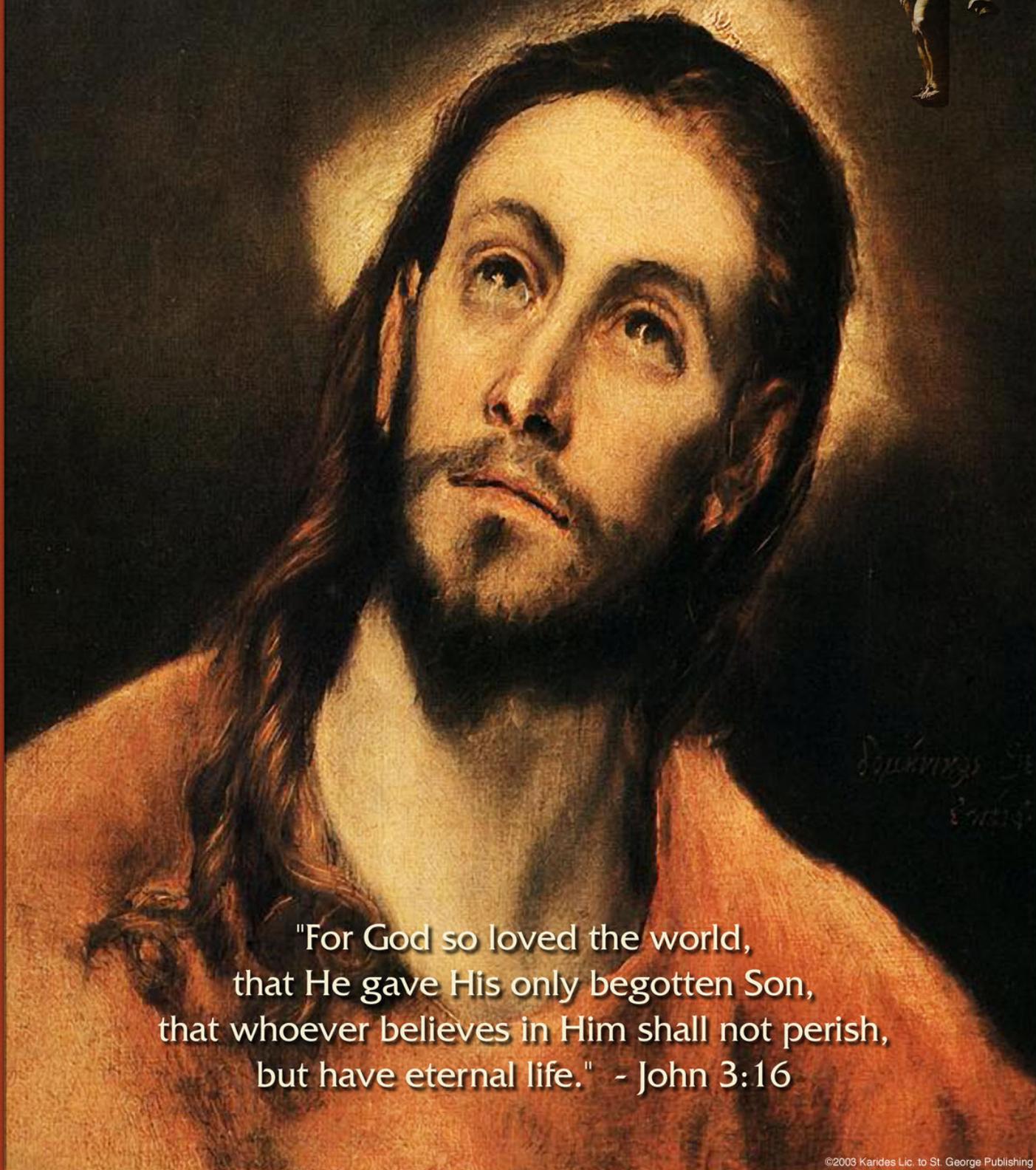


OUR LADY OF THE CROSS PARISH
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 11, 2018



"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life." - John 3:16

PARISH STAFF**Pastor**

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Mater Dolorosa School Principal

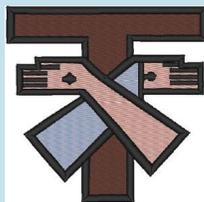
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Fr. Stanley Sobiech, OFM Conv.

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Ext. 203

Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.

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Parish Office Address

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Phone Number

(413) 532-5661

Fax Line

(413) 532-7889

Website

www.ourladyofthecross.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Mass Schedule

Monday - Saturday: 8:30 am
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am,
9:00 am (Polish), 10:30 am

Confessions

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am
Saturday: 3:15 pm
Sunday: 11:30 am

Devotions

Monday - Saturday:
7:50 am - Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:05 am - Rosary

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm



March 17 & 18

Lector

4:00 Pauline Symasko

7:30 Michael McKenna

10:30 Jason George

Eucharistic Ministers

Stan Czerwiec, Jane Shepard,
Shelley Whelihan **Choir:** Rosalie Pratt
Dorothy Skibel, Walter Gonet,
James Brunault, **Choir:** Beth Szymonik
Anne Cote, Aldea Forest, Sharon Flynn,
James Murphy **Choir:** Robert Forest

Altar Servers

4:00 Ann Bouthiette, Brian Chamberlain

7:30 Emma Skibel, Kaily Godek, Vanessa Antil

10:30 Madelyn McArdle, Kate McArdle

MUSIC FOR WEEKEND MASSES

(All selections found in Seasonal Missalette)

Processional: 304 - Amazing Grace

Kyrie: 2, page 6

Gospel Acclamation:



Glory and praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ.

Offertory: 217 - What Wondrous Love

Holy, Holy: People's Mass: 152, page 187

Acclamation B: 154

Amen: 156

Lamb of God: 183 (page 202) - Chant

Communion: 281 - I Received the Living God

Recessional: 209 - From Ashes to the Living Font,
verse 3 for 4th Sunday of Lent

We sit beside the road and plead, "Come, save us, David's Son!"
Now with your vision heal our eyes, the world's true light alone.



Dear Parishioners,

Where's the Purple: The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is translated "rejoice," and sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery. Thus, the reason for the rose colored vestments today instead of purple. We are half way through the season of Lent and our celebration of Easter will soon take place. Today might be a good day to take a look at our Lenten practices so far. Have we been taking some extra time to pray? Have we been able to fast from something that we enjoy? How we contributed any alms to the needy or done any acts of charity? If so, let us continue! If not, there is still plenty of time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving!

We Need Your Help: I am looking for Eucharistic Ministers to take Communion to the residents of Loomis House. In the past, this has taken place on Sundays but this is open to change. The frequency will depend on how many volunteers come forward. If you are able to help, please contact me as soon as possible.

Final Report: Last Fall our parish participated in an Increase Offertory Campaign and in December I gave you an update on the results. Since that time some other parishioners responded so now I would like to share with you the final results:

735	Families/Households were asked to participate
252	Parishioners responded
164	Parishioners increased their contributions
65	Contributions will remain the same
6	No monetary amount was provided
9	Only the new amount was furnished
8	Donations made

Based on a computer analysis of the response envelopes that were returned, we will see **an increase of approximately \$848.00 per week or \$44,000.00 per year** in our collections. This is a substantial increase for which I am extremely grateful. Of course, this all depends on parishioners remaining faithful and consistent in their giving. Obviously when the weather is bad or individuals are sick, people do not come to church. When this occurs, it is very helpful when you return your offertory envelopes the following week or mail them to the office.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all those who participated in our Increase Offertory Campaign. I wish to thank those who were able to increase your contributions. It will make a tremendous difference for the financial health of our parish. To those who were unable to increase your contributions, I understand the financial challenges that you face and I appreciate whatever support you can give to the parish.

I have said it many times before and I will say it again ~ I find the parishioners of Our Lady of the Cross who use their offertory envelopes to be very generous. You understand that we have bills to pay and are willing to do what you can to help the parish. Be assured of my gratitude.

The only troubling part of the Increase Offertory Campaign is that 500 families/households did not even bother to respond. Obviously some of these parishioners may be elderly, on fixed incomes or in nursing facilities. I would dare say, however, that the majority of those parishioners who did not respond rarely attend Mass and thus rarely give any monetary support. Clearly, this is an issue that needs to be addressed. This is not just a problem for our parish. The fact that many Catholics seldom or never attend Mass is an issue for parishes everywhere.

A number of individuals expressed an interest in on-line giving so this is something that I will pursue with the Finance Council.

Just to summarize: our Increase Offertory Campaign was well received, resulting in a substantial increase in our collections. Thank you for responding to my request to consider your level of giving to Our Lady of the Cross!

Help Needed: The annual St. Patrick's Road Race will take place on Saturday, March 17. As a way to raise funds for MD School, we charge participants/spectators to park their cars in the Social Center parking lot. This year we will also charge individuals to use the lot on Friday evening. In case we do not have enough school parents to staff the parking lot, I am asking parishioners to consider volunteering. If you are able to help on Friday evening or Saturday morning, please see me and I will provide you with more details.

Peace,

FR. ALBERT

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays ~ after the 8:30 am Mass
Fridays at Noon & 6:00 pm (Polish)

Confessions

Sundays: 11:30 am - Noon
Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am
Saturdays: 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Or, by appointment with any of our Friars

Penance Service

Monday, March 19: 7:00 pm

Gorzkie Zale

(Polish Lamentations)
Sundays: 4:00 pm

*"All crosses in our lives are
meaningful;
but none as meaningful as
Jesus Christ's."*

Penance Service

On Monday, **March 19** at 7:00 pm we will have our Lenten Penance Service. After a brief prayer service, there will be the opportunity for confessions. In addition to the Friars, several priests from local parishes will also be available. If you have not taken the time to make a confession during Lent, please consider coming to the Penance Service. This is the perfect opportunity for you to experience the mercy of God!



Stations & Soup

On Friday, **March 23** at **12 Noon**, you are invited to join us for Stations of the Cross followed by a Soup Lunch in the parish hall (across from the church). There is no charge for lunch but a free will offering will be accepted. We hope to see you there!

Abstinence from Meat

The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at fourteen (14) years of age. Although Catholics may excuse themselves for a just cause from this penitential practice, there is an obligation to substitute another penance.

A Letter from the Bishop

Dear Friends,

I think back to the day I was installed as your bishop here in the Diocese of Springfield. At that installation I said I wanted to listen to you and I am resolute in continuing to do so. As Bishop, I work to foster unity amongst the priests through listening to one another and I am also seeking that same unity for the people of the Diocese. To that end, I would invite you to join me in listening sessions that will allow the efforts of a Pastoral Synod to take effect.

All sessions will take place from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and will consist of three (3) questions with an allotted thirty (30) minutes for each. Each person who chooses to verbally participate will be given up to one (1) minute to voice their opinion.

The word synod means 'together on a journey' and my goal, through these sessions, is to take the time to listen and continue walking together on this journey with renewed commitment and vigor to the many needs of the Diocesan Community. I look forward to being with you and hearing from you on how we can continue to 'serve the Lord with gladness.'

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski

Listening Sessions With Bishop Rozanski

What does the Catholic Church do well? Where is improvement needed? And what should our faith community be doing, that we currently don't do?

These are three questions that Bishop Mitchell Rozanski has put forth to be addressed at diocesan wide Listening Sessions being held over the coming weeks. These 90 minute sessions are open to all and will be held regionally. All sessions begin at 7pm.

The goal is for the Bishop to hear your thoughts and concerns, so that we can continue walking together on the journey of faith, with renewed commitment to the many needs of our diocesan community.

Please make every effort to participate. Invite family members and friends to join you.

The Listening Sessions will be held at the following churches:

March 15 – Mary, Mother of Hope Parish –
Springfield

March 19 – St. Rose de Lima Parish – Chicopee

April 2 – Blessed Sacrament Parish – Holyoke

April 12 – St. Thomas Parish – West Springfield

Date	Mass	Intentions	
Saturday, March 10	4:00 pm	+Giovanni Guidi From: Skal & Marcia Guidi & Family	
Sunday, March 11 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For the Parish +Czeslaw Sierzputowski From: Wife +Edith Dellapenna & Deceased Members of Family	
Monday, March 12	8:30 am	Souls in Purgatory	
Tuesday, March 13	8:30 am	+Val Kasprzyński From: Family +Todd Jagadowski & Lee Hawthorne From: Angelique Sheehan	
Wednesday, March 14	8:30 am	+Stanley Orzol From: Children +Edward Filipak From: Daughters & Grandchildren	
Thursday, March 15	8:30 am	+Irving Milewski From: Sister & Family	
Friday, March 16	8:30 am	+Stanislaw Sokotowski From: Gasiewski Family	
Saturday, March 17 <i>St. Patrick</i>		8:30 am 4:00 pm	+Fr. Donald Kos, OFM Conv. +Max Skypeck From: Family
Sunday, March 18 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For the Parish +Zofia & Jozef Kos From: Lewandowski Family +Nicholas Grass From: Mom & Sisters	

In Word and Deed

What good is a great story unless someone tells it? What’s a wonderful song unless someone sings it? How can an idea change the world unless someone makes it work? Ideas, songs and stories all need to be put into practice so their value will be seen, heard and known.

Jesus confronts and rebukes evil and then banishes it. People were amazed and began to ask the basic question of faith “who is this man?” The answer leads to a choice, sometimes called the leap of faith; is Jesus the Messiah? If the answer is yes, life is never the same.

Faith is not just a good idea. It must be lived and expressed, preached and accepted, taught and understood. By word and deed, Jesus shows us the power of faith: its ability to conquer sin and death, its power to change lives and its availability to everyone. In imitation of Jesus, when we reach out to others, and offer the love and mercy we have been given, faith is shown as a way of life, and an open invitation is given to everyone to hear the Good News. And our pursuit of holiness and eternal life begins.

~James Gaffney, © 2008 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- 11 SUNDAY 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
- 12 Monday Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
- 13 Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
- 14 Wednesday Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
- 15 Thursday Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
- 16 Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- 17 Saturday Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53



The Altar Candle is burning the week of March 11 for **Healing, Health & Prayers for Robert Keeler**
From Mom & Dad

Coffee Hour

Coffee and donuts will be available this Sunday after all Masses. Please join us in the Parish Hall for a cup of coffee (or juice) and fellowship!

New Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 1:30 pm

They Were My Friends

The College of Our Lady of the Elms is hosting an evening with Gerard Doherty, author of the book *They Were My Friends - Jack, Bob and Ted, my Life In and Out of Politics*, on **March 15** at 5:30 pm in Veritas Auditorium.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged. Please call 265-2448 to register or with questions. All are welcome!

A Great Thing to Do During Lent

March 16 at 7:00 pm

St. George's Church

202 East Main St. Chicopee

Mary's House of Prayer invites you to an evening of reflection on the

Stations of the Cross

including prayer, meditation & music

Presented by Fr. Don Lapointe

Doors open at 6:00 pm

All are welcome!

Is God calling you for a Retreat at the Seashore?

*Come and feel the warmth of the sun,
hear the crashing of the waves,
And listen for His voice.*

Marie Joseph Spiritual Center
Biddeford Poole, Maine

April 24 - 26

Join St. Anne Parishioners on a bus trip. There are still a few openings. A deposit of \$60.00 is due and the balance of \$200.00 to be paid by April 5. Contact Jeanne Bennis at 531-5953 or Josette Paul 532-1568 for more information.

Franciscan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima

October 9-21, 12 days

All inclusive cost:

From New York/JFK \$3,395 dbl occupancy

Single room supplement \$750.00

Under the leadership of the Franciscan Friars:

Fr. Jobe Abbass - Pilgrimage Director

Fr. James McCurry - Spiritual Guide

For more information call 800-388-0988.

Offertory Collection

March 4

First Collection:

225 Envelope Users:	\$5,710.00
Loose Money:	\$480.00
24 Envelopes Mailed:	\$1,273.00
TOTAL:	\$7,463.00
Milk Money:	\$143.00

Thank you for your financial support!

This Week at Our Lady of the Cross

March 11: Daylight Savings Time Starts



March 12: 4:00 pm Religious Education

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

March 13: 12:00 pm Lenten Prayer Program

6:30 pm Finance Council Meeting

March 15: 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

March 18: St. Patrick's Day Parade

In Giving, We Receive

The Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Springfield is now underway. The ACA is the major fundraiser for the various ministries and charitable efforts supported by the Catholic community. Last year, over 17,000 donors contributed more than \$2.78 million ~ \$93,000.00 contributed by our parish. Please consider making a gift to this year's ACA. If you have already contributed, thank you! **If you have not supported the Annual Catholic Appeal in the past, would you please consider doing so this year?** Flyers and contribution envelopes may be found at the doors of the church. Thank you very much for any gift that you are able to make!



Scholarships Available

The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts is accepting applications for scholarships for college students of Polish heritage. Undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students of Polish heritage. Undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students completing their Sophomore year of college; the Josephine Karwoski Scholarship is awarded to a female graduate student or a returning student. Applications are due by **May 1** and can be obtained at: www.polishjuniorleaguema.org.