

Mission Statement:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Christ-centered family of believers, celebrating Christ alive in our lives through the inspiration of the Gospel, church teachings and traditions and the Sacraments. We are sensitive to the spiritual and temporal needs of God's people, acknowledging their uniqueness and dignity and are dedicated to reaching out and serving them through prayer, liturgical celebrations and social ministries. Guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Holy Eucharist, we welcome all people with love, respect and compassion. We are vigilant in protecting the rights of the most vulnerable. In the tradition of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, we put the "good news" of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into action.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 21st

- 8:00 St. Francis Parishioners
 10:00 Ints. of Michael Lobasso, Stephen Cipot +, Gabe Nucci +,
 Barney Confessore +, Thomas Angiolino +, Mary Cody +,
 Kate Porto +, Dominick Misita +
 12:00 Catherine Clemens +, Josephine Furnari +
 5:00 Young People of the Parish

Monday, February 22nd

- 8:30 Louis & Marie Vagnini +
 7:00 Ints of Luis Caban, Sr.

Tuesday, February 23rd

- 8:30 Ints of the Recca Family
 7:00 Special Intention

Wednesday, February 24th

- 8:30 Joseph Cook, Jr.
 7:00 Special Intention

Thursday, February 25th

- 8:30 Ints of the Field Family
 7:00 Special Intention

Friday, February 26th

- 8:30 Guiseppe & Nunziata Scalzo +
 8:00 Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 27th

- 4:30 Edith West

Sunday, February 28th

- 8:00 St. Francis Parishioners
 10:00 Kate Porto, Ints of Michael Lobasso, Joan Montaigne +,
 Giuseppe Picoriello +
 12:00 John LoPipero +
 5:00 Young People of the Parish

Ministers for Saturday & Sunday, February 27th & 28th

Saturday, 4:30pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Allan & Lorraine Longo,
 Diane Bauge, Sean Pugni, Gabriella Horvath

Lector: Robert Bauge

Altar Servers: Monika, Mackenzie & Maddlyn Sivilli

Sunday

8:00 am

Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Queally, Helen Flanders,
 Marilyn Reilly, Jean Garvey, Jim Byrne

Lector: Bob Moriggia

Altar Servers: Daniel Troy, Kathleen Davin

10:00am

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Jean Cantave, Michael
 Lobasso, Crystal Irving, Marie Cantave, Matt Flood

Lector: Ellen Lobasso

Altar Servers: Sarah Dube, Angela Capotosto, Brittany
 Coscio

12:00 pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Bauge, George Pozderec,
 Sally Mulholland, Paul Papa, Mariejo Prezeau

Lector: Robert Bauge

Altar Servers: Amy Florio, Lorenzo & Lucas Porpora

5:00PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Doreen McNiff, Diane French

Altar Servers: Lauren & Kimberly Fried



Lent begins

Readings for Sunday, February 28th

Reading I. *Gn 15:5-12, 17-18*

Reading II. *Phil 3:17-4:1*

Gospel *Lk 9:28b-3b*

FROM THE



PASTOR

Lenten Thoughts

Most of us received the Ashes on our foreheads last week and it is good that in these busy and distracted times we have such a concrete symbol to start our Lenten journey.

The First Sunday of Lent, when we read of the Temptations of Jesus in the desert, is another hallmark day in this season! We knew that the notion of “Sin” was having trouble in our cosmopolitan culture, but so is “temptation”. When we say, “I was tempted”, we are most often making a joke of something or stating something fairly light, “I was tempted to take another piece of chocolate!”

In our Christian faith, temptation is a radically serious matter and can come suddenly, powerfully and in many forms. We traditionally divide temptations stemming from the world, the flesh and the devil. Many folks seem to have enough trouble with the “World” and the flesh; the devil seems superfluous. The saints knew better. While we don’t want to create artificially “too big” a devil, the scriptures bear testimony that he is involved subtly in all kinds of temptations and evils. We are not to underestimate him either. While the world and the flesh command our attention and never lose their enticements, the devil’s business is to discourage, deceive, exaggerate, provoke, confuse and accuse! He will do all he can to keep us from God’s plans for us. Notice how the temptations of Jesus were tailored to his (presumed) vulnerabilities and to his God-given vocation!

Even as we begin Lent with all its seriousness, we have a wonderful celebration to share in – in fact, since it is a fundraiser for the parish, we can consider it a responsibility and so without any almsgiving enjoy a grand evening in the penitential season of Lent. I am referring to our glorious St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 6. Most of the parish has received information in the mail and a book of raffles! You may come to the Dinner Dance with some raffle purchases or if you cannot come in person, mail in your raffle. In any event, allow me to encourage everyone in the parish to consider coming. In our tradition of a quality evening, you know you are in for a good thing!

All our Lenten observances (prayer, fasting and almsgiving) are not ends unto themselves, but to help us gain the perspective and insight to see temptation for what it is and courageously resist it.

Also, in the Easter season, mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 21 – Our 1st Annual Parish Golf Outing at Crab Meadow?

Check the church bulletin and website for our schedule of Lenten activities. Many things are happening. Don’t forget, we have a weekday evening Mass (Monday-Thursday); Stations of the Cross on Fridays and new things coming up. Be part of it!



Lent

FATHER OZELLE

After a very inspiring Advent conference;
Fr. Ozelle returns to Saint Francis for
Lenten prayer and preaching.

Wednesday, February 24th. @ 7:30pm;
in our church.



Time, Talent & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship as a way of life

(Regular Sunday Offertory)

Last Week's Sunday Offertory: \$9,666

Last Year's Sunday Offertory: \$8,628

Thanks for Giving First Fruits & Taking a Step!!!

Bulletin Reflection

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their first fruits by using their talents and resources to help one another as individuals, the church and wider community.



*First
Sunday
in Lent*

February 21: First Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying "Give, and gifts will be given to YOU; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap ..."

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts and into our lives.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2010 DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

To provide funds for parish needs, Catholic Charities and Diocesan Services, we agree to make a gift of:

PLEDGE: \$ _____

PAYMENT: \$ _____

BALANCE: \$ _____

The balance is payable in 10 payments. No payment is needed today. If you choose to make a payment, please make checks payable to: *Catholic Ministries Appeal.*

You will receive a monthly reminder from the Diocese. Please send your payment directly to the Appeal Office.

Signature of Donor: _____

Please Print:
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING

<u>Pledge:</u>	<u>10 Payments:</u>
\$300.00	\$30.00
\$500.00	\$50.00
\$750.00	\$75.00
\$1,000.00	\$100.00
\$1,500.00	\$150.00
\$2,500.00	\$250.00
\$5,000.00	\$500.00

Please drop in collection basket or return to rectory. Thank you.

Cardinals' Corner

News From Trinity Regional School:

Monopoly –based **Race to Read** has enlivened the school halls during the past few weeks. Game pieces and property cards abound throughout the school, as the classes compete to be the top readers in their category. Community Chest in the front hall provided a place to donate books for the less fortunate. .

High school plans for the 8th graders have been on students' minds, as the acceptance letters to Catholic high schools were mailed on Jan 14. Best wishes to all our students and their families as they make their decisions.

Trinity recently welcomed visitors for open houses at all campuses. Student-led tours introduced prospective parents to the facilities.

Catholic Schools Week began with school Mass prepared by the 4th grade. Parents of current students took the opportunity to visit the classrooms, and participate in activities. Student Council held a pep rally, celebrating Trinity's school spirit.

Rehearsals have begun for the spring production of *Mulan Jr.* which will be performed by the 6th, 7th and 8th graders in April. Watch for show dates as it gets closer!

Trinity's Science Fair, for 4th-8th graders, will take place on Feb. 8. Seventh and eighth grade students who place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their grade at the Trinity Science Fair go on to compete in the Chaminade Invitational Science Fair, held in March.

Coming Events:

- **The Annual Dinner Dance & Auction** on Friday, March 5. Get tickets now if you haven't already!!!
- **School Confessions-** Mon. 3/8
- **Stations of the Cross-** Fri. 3/12

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

LUKE

"This is the Gospel you will hear at Mass this entire Liturgical Year; learn about it!"

COMING TO ST. FRANCIS FEB. 22ND.

THE Gospel of Luke, the third Gospel in the New Testament canon, has a remarkable place in the study of Sacred Scripture and this unique position does not stem solely from the fact that it is the only Gospel to have a second volume associated with it, namely, the Acts of the Apostles. Luke engenders a great deal of discussion on the level of New Testament formation, sensitivity to historical data, literary technique and theological development.

CHOOSE A TIME MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU!
Saint Francis of Assisi~ LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY
 ... begins Monday evening, February 22 @ 8pm and Tuesday morning, February 23 @ 9:30am
 The only fee is for your study set/books: \$15
 Registration will be after all masses: 2/13-14 & 2/20-21
 There are 12 sessions for this study.

Men's Spirituality Group



Deacon Dave will be forming a Men's Spirituality Group for Lent in March.

We will meet on four Thursday nights in March -
 4, 11, 18 & 25th
 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

The first night will be a film "Joseph, The Man Closest to Christ" and the remaining three Thursdays, we will be using the book "Tools from Joseph's Workshop."

Whether you are single or married, eighteen or eight, childless or the father of many, you will benefit by spending some quality time with Joseph, the humble craftsman, chosen by God to raise His Son, Jesus.

Get Ready for a dynamic faith building time in Joseph's workshop!

If you have any questions or to sign up, please call the Rectory or speak to Deacon Dave



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 17, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, has given us a moving and insightful Message for this Lent. It can be found on the Vatican website, www.vatican.va. He begins with St Paul's affirmation, "*The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ.*" He then unpacks the meaning of justice which for most persons means what one person owes to another. But he places that into a bigger picture in which we see human efforts at justice within the broader world of our relationship with God as the measure of our relations with one another. Such a vision allows us to confront the reality of injustice and evil on a level that we could not have without seeing our lives within the wondrous and awesome reality of a God Who created us in love, established us with the gift of freedom and calls us to live that freedom by choosing the good over all the various concrete possibilities and real distractions of evil and of injustice.

The Holy Father repeats the words of Jesus Himself that "*there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile...What comes out of a man is what defiles a man. For from within, from the heart of man come evil thoughts.*" It is the evil that infects the human heart, the evil that springs from a mean heart that wounds him as it wounds others and wounds our relations with God and with one another. The Old Testament justice that comes from God is one that seeks to bring about the liberation of the human heart. This comes in fullness when Jesus mounted the cross to free us from sin and bring us into a restored and renewed relation to God and one another. This is "the justice that comes from grace" that goes beyond any human concept of justice because it is the fruit of the "exorbitant price" God has paid for liberation, the price of the death of His own Son.

We then must be the ever grateful recipients of a justice that is divine, that liberates, that forgives, that gives new life that flowers into gratitude, reconciliation, forgiveness and unbounded charity. Clearly what has been given to us we must then give to others, that same understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, love and peace.

My dear friends, this Lenten message I wish to make my own for each and every one of you. And I desire to make this message of the Holy Father very concrete by applying it to a situation that I believe is too prevalent in our Church today, one that has infected too many of us and threatens to poison our very life as Christ's Church on Long Island. I am referring to how much we seem to be always attacking one another, feeling free to speak ill of one another, even slandering those with whom we do not agree. How can we who have been forgiven by Christ not offer forgiveness and respect, love and peace to one another? If from out of our mouths come anger and bitter condemnations of our brothers and sisters, of priests and bishops, with little or no concern for objective truth and human dignity, then we have closed ourselves off from the liberating love of Jesus Who from the cross begged God to forgive even His murderers.

It would mean so much to me as your bishop and your pastor, your spiritual father and your friend, if all of us together would make a part of our Lenten journey a commitment to the message of the Holy Father and seek to build up the Body of Christ by affirming all that is good in one another. Then we can come to the Sacred Triduum and the glory of Easter with hearts lifted up by gratitude to God, by appreciation of one another and by a loving kindness that is charity, that love which is His gift to us and which is the sole way for us to live in harmony, happiness and peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."
" John 13: 34*

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

Jesus tells us to **love one another**. This love for one another is so evident as you continue to lovingly place donations in the crib in our St. Francis of Assisi Baby Comer. We have assisted over 157 families that include more than 242 precious children. (Our Baby Corner has "diapered" 205 babies.) We look forward to the birth of another little girl this March and a second one this June. Helping our families has been possible through your great generosity. Every baby item and dollar helps us to answer each call with love, prayers, and much needed baby items. Our youngest Baby Comer babies- twins-were born this past Christmas season. We praise God through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Francis for all you do for all our precious babies. Thank you for helping to fill our white crib during our "Diaper Drive" this Lenten Season.

Our Baby Corner warmly thanks Holly Brink and her religion class (from a nearby parish) for their wonderful donation. Their project involved filling a large laundry basket with packages of diapers, baby wipes, baby wash, laundry detergent bottles, bars of soap, toothpaste and toys, and monetary donations. We thank Mrs. Brink and her students for their generosity.

Our St. Francis of Assisi Baby Comer greatly appreciates contributions of Huggies and Pampers diapers sizes 4 and 5, unscented baby wipes, unscented baby wash, powdered and liquid Similac Advanced formula, powdered and Enfamil formula, baby coupons, and money. Thank you! Need assistance? Wish to join our St. Francis of Assisi Respect Life Committee? Please call our rectory at 631-757-7435.

The Life Center of Long Island at 631-243-2373. Call for help with a crisis pregnancy, healing after an abortion, or to donate baby equipment. Please do not bring cribs, car seats, or other baby equipment into our Church; rather call The Life Center to make arrangements. The Life Center's Life Line is open 24 hours, 7 days a week at 631-243-0066.

Please continue to pray each day for all our precious babies- born and unborn-and their parents!!!

Pray the rosary each day for the conversion of America's heart to end abortion.



IT'S COOL IN THE FURNACE



Music by

BURYL RED

Book and Lyrics by

GRACE HAWTHORNE

New orchestrations & tracks by Joseph Linn

PERFORMANCES:

Friday, February 26, 7 pm
Saturday, February 27, 2:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church
Clay Pitts Rd., Greenlawn, NY 11740

For more information call:

Ellen Lobasso - 486-2155

Charmaine Nygaard - 266-5458

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH



SCHEDULE OF

**LENTEN
DEVOTIONS**

DAILY PRAYER:

- **8:30 AM Daily Mass**
- **7 PM Mass, Mondays – Thursdays**
- **8 AM Daily, Morning Prayer**
- **8 PM Fridays, Stations of the Cross**



PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

**Mondays @ 8 PM ~ “ LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY, ”
Gospel of St. Luke; 12 session program, with Dcn. Allan (lower church)**

**Tuesdays @ 9:30 AM ~ “ LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY, ”
Gospel of St. Luke; 12 session program (lower church)**

**Wednesday, February 24 @ 7:30 PM ~
“ LENTEN CONFERENCE ” with Father Ozelle (in church)**

**Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 7:30 PM ~
“ MEN’S SPIRITUALITY ” with Dcn. Dave (lower church)**

**Sunday, March 7 @ 2 PM ~
Sr. Kathy Madden “LATE HAVE I LOVED THEE” (in church)**

**Monday, March 22 - Wednesday, March 24 @ 9 AM & 7:30 PM daily ~
“ MISSION ” with Valli Leone (in church)**



Medjugorje



Europe; the region of Croatia, Bosnia-Heuzegovina; close to Sarajevo



A PARISH PILGRIMAGE with:
Sr. Marcie Purpura, Group Coordinator
Fr. Peter, our Pastor and Spiritual Guide

July 29, 2010 – August 7, 2010
\$2,216

(Includes: Round-trip airfare, airport taxes and tips)

Join us on this amazing faith-building pilgrimage.
 Over 20,000,000 Catholics and others have journeyed
 to this tiny Bosnian village where reportedly
 the Blessed Mother has been appearing
 with a simple and profound message of peace.
 A trip with Sr. Marcie is special,
 above and beyond the "Routine" pilgrimage.

Call the rectory for further information.
Ask to speak to Fr. Peter directly.

PRE-CANA ~ MARRIAGE PREPARATION @ ST. FRANCIS



Now is the time to sign-up for your PRE-CANA sessions. The next session; prior to your Summer, Fall, Winter, 2010 wedding date will be between the dates of: Sunday, February 28, 2010 through April 11, 2010.

Sessions are held Sunday afternoons or evenings.

**ANY QUESTIONS &
 TO RESERVE A PLACE
 IN THE PROGRAM...**

**PLEASE CALL:
 Deacon Allan & Lorraine Longo;
 271-3566**

COMMUNITY CORNER

Saturday, February 27th- 1:30 - 6PM

St. Anthony's HS, S. Hunt.

TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY. A Family Perspective in the Church and Society.

A keynote address, (speaker Dr. John DiIulio, Jr.) will be followed by a panel on current public policies in NY State.

The Convocation will conclude with a Mass celebrated by

Bishop John C. Dunne at 5:00pm

Pre-Registration a MUST, 516-678-5800 x 510

God-United News

Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang Update

**Everyone is invited to join us
 at our next PB+J GANG**

**TODAY Sunday, February 21,
 at 6:30pm-8:00pm**



PRAYER FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

O prince of peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in the military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Please guard our churches, our homes, and our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings and all who are within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon true justice. Please instill in the hearts and minds of people everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

**Every Wednesday from 11:30AM - 1:30PM in
 the lower church**

Every Wednesday at 11:30AM in the lower church, we are privileged to host a wonderful Bible Study, presented by Barbara Campbell, a gifted and experienced Bible teacher. Barbara is volunteering her services to our parish. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a visit "or become a regular part of the class". You need not commit yourself to a set number of classes, not to coming every single week. However, once you come, you will very much want to come back.

