



"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied." - Lk 6:20-21

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 14, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:00 Vigil: Stanley & Chessie Kowalewski, r/b their daughters
 7:30 Rocco LaMonica, r/b his family
 9:30 All parishioners living and deceased
 11:30 Blessings for living members of the Iloeje family, r/b Uche & Vivien Iloeje

The Rosary is prayed before Mass daily at 8:35 a.m.
 Perpetual Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Divine Mercy (entrance from lower parking lot).

Monday, February 15

- 9:00 A Special Intention

Tuesday, February 16

- 9:00 Arthur Szykalski, r/b Judy McCain

Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 Mass with Ashes, A Special Intention
 9:00 Mass with Ashes,
 All parishioners living & deceased
 12:00 Service with Ashes
 4:00 Service with Ashes
 7:00 Mass with Ashes, A Special Intention

Thursday, February 18

- 9:00 Albin Kocialski

Friday, February 19

- 9:00 Helen Sawicki
 7:00 Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 20

- 9:00 A Special Intention
 5:00 Nellie and Nancy Ondrick, r/b their family

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday of Lent

- 7:30 Benedict & Felicidad Andaya, r/b their family
 9:30 All parishioners living and deceased
 11:30 In thanksgiving, r/b Donna Mattei

Prayer Request

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Shannon Cody, Benjamin Cantwell, Ellie Frisk, Alice Young, Rose Spagnulo, Michael Peck, Richard H. Peck, Dominic Serlise, Charles V. Conte, Mary Kelly Brown, Josephine Reck, Carol Nettis, Bridget Flanagan, Sarah Lorenzo, Rose Roberto, Donna Callahan, Kathy Rand, Armand Cook, Claudia Kondracky, Bill Connell, Robert Stetson, Florence McIntyre, Henrietta Bernal, Carolyn Record, Rosalie Pitruzzello, Peter Young, Janis Gianni, Karen Ireland, Phyllis Kelly, Josie Anderson, John Dooney, Howard Nielsen, Jr., Richard "Rick" Brown, Mary DeJohn, Kathleen Linehan, Richard Bobrowski, Margaret Ward, Jerilyn LaFargue, Carol Goulart, L. Johnson, Pasquale & Natalia Fasciani, Christine Guerriero, Maureen Schappert, Michelle Delisle, Kelly Franklin, William Revis, Marc Revis, Francis Ethier, Mike Cosker, Dr. John Conroy, William White, Cameron Rahman, Katherine Sabb, Thomas Danaher, Carolyn Mueller, Bob Matus, Marie Griffin, Linda Coons, Sylvia Costa and Judy Nocera.

Please call 635-5590 to add or remove names from the prayer list

Your Sacrificial Offering
Weekly Offering: \$7,196.00
Thank you for your sacrificial giving.

FRANCISCAN MISSION APPEAL: This weekend, February 13 and 14th, a mission appeal will be conducted for the benefit of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Anthony Padua Province. Continuing the tradition begun by St. Francis of Assisi, the friars of St. Anthony Province are laboring in Jamaica, Africa., Central America, the Philippines ... and even among the poor in the United States! Brother Michael Duffy will speak at all Masses.



FEBRUARY 17, 2010

- 7 A.M.: Mass with Ashes
- 9 A.M.: Mass with Ashes
- 12 noon: Service only with Ashes
- 4 P.M.: Service only with Ashes
- 7 P.M.: Mass with Ashes

A COLLECTION for the Poor and Needy will be taken at all Ash Wednesday Masses and services.

LENTEN MASS: 9 AM. Daily Mass *Only*

Traditional STATIONS OF THE CROSS, with movement from Station to Station, will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Deanery Lenten Penance Service, St. Sebastian Church, Middletown, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.



OPERATION RICE BOWL: OUR LENTEN PROGRAM

Solidarity Will Transform the World

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, our parish is beginning a program of prayer and sacrifice called OPERATION RICE BOWL (ORB).

Rice Bowls will be distributed this weekend.

For 36 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through our participation in this program, we bring hope and healing to another person or family living halfway across the globe, strengthen and enriching those persons' lives, both physically and spiritually, and greatly enhancing our parish community's Lenten faith experience. Rice Bowls will be distributed to you at Mass today. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. With the moneys saved from this meal, a donation is placed in the family Rice Bowl and can be brought to the parish family Rice Bowl Collection on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Join Us For Coffee, Donuts and Conversation

in the Church Hall following 9:30 Mass next Sunday. This month's hosts are our Eucharistic Ministers.



Faith Formation

Office: (860) 635-5156

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Secretary: Pat Alsup

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MARK THESE DATES:

3/6/10:	1 st Holy Communion Parent Meeting
3/6/10	9 th Grade Candlelight Rosary
3/14/10	Triduum Intergenerational Event
3/20/10 – 3/24/10:	Parish Mission
4/24/10	2 nd Grade Mini-Reflection SJC Hall
4/27/10	FHC Rehearsal
5/1/10	First Holy Communion Ceremony
5/5/10	Confirmation Rehearsal
5/8/10	Confirmation Ceremony

Baptism Instruction Class will be held next Sunday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Proper. Please call the Parish Office to register.

The St. John Church Welcoming Committee will host a Welcoming Gathering/Registration Meeting for **New Parishioners** in the Church hall on Thursday February 25th at 7:00 p.m. All new parishioners and their families are required to attend a registration gathering. Please call the parish office to sign-up. (635-5590)

Operation Rice Bowl Prayer

God of all people, Hear us as we join in prayer with our brothers and sisters in need. Bless our Lenten fasting, learning, and giving. May your generous love for your people be our guide as we reach out to all who live with hunger and poverty. Amen.

MEMORIAL MASS ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday, February 16 at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Michael Cote will Preside and Father Gerry Kirby will be Principal Celebrant at a Memorial Mass for victims of the Haitian Earthquake, especially family members and friends of our local Haitian communities who lost their lives in this tragic event. This Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church, 70 Central Avenue, Norwich, CT. Light refreshments will be provided immediately following Mass. All priests are invited to concelebrate. All members of the diocese are invited to join us. Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti during this difficult time.



Perpetual Adoration

"THE MASTER IS HERE AND IS ASKING FOR YOU."

John 11:28

OPEN ADORATION HOURS

Please fill shaded areas first:

Monday: 1 a.m. – 2 a.m.

5 a.m. – 6 a.m.

Wednesday: 3 a.m. – 4 a.m.

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: 1 a.m. – 2 a.m.

2 a.m. – 3 a.m.

3 a.m. – 4 a.m.

4 a.m. – 5 a.m.

5 a.m. – 6 a.m.

5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday: 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday: 2 a.m. – 3 a.m.

3 a.m. – 4 a.m.

4 a.m. – 5 a.m.

Saturday: 9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Call Roger at 635-1918

A COMMITTED ADORER IS ONE WHO PROMISES TO BE HERE ON A CERTAIN DAY AT A CERTAIN TIME FOR ONE HOUR.



them from all harm, and bless them always with Your grace and love. --B. J. Hoff

Lord, surround these children with goodness, lead them in Your light each day; Help them walk the path You've chosen, guide their steps along the way-Teach them, Lord, to trust Your wisdom with a faith from up above; Keep

Amanda Marie Giardino
Noelle Cecilia Ferrarese
Kelsey Bernadette Hamel

God's blessing be with you on your day of Baptism and throughout your life.



Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to the families of:

† Barbara Carroll

† Mary Jo Powers

Please keep them and all our departed in your prayers

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

LENTEN MESSAGE – 2010

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The forty days of Lent have been described by one spiritual writer as God's gift to us by which Christ reaches out to embrace us and to pull us along on our journey to the Kingdom of God. The Lenten Season is a spiritual springtime in which God invites us to be faithful to the Gospel and to grow in His love.

Lent enlivens our faith and it enriches our fidelity to the Lord. It strengthens our commitment to live as His disciples by our personal witness to His peace, justice, and love. The Lenten season reawakens in us our responsibility "to act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8) and to serve as did Jesus. In short, during these forty days of Lent, prayer, penitential practices, and outreach to the needy bolster our resolve to live in communion with Christ by living in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in God's family.

Ashes mark the beginning of our journey to Easter where we renew the life of grace that we received at Baptism. Placed on our foreheads in the sign of the Cross, the ashes are a sign of our willingness to follow Christ and of our readiness to embrace His Cross, the sign of our redemption and new life. They indicate our desire "to leave the past in ashes." (Joel 2:13)

In Jesus' company, we begin our journey to Calvary and to a new springtime in our spiritual lives. We take up the Cross and leave behind our past with all its traces of self-centeredness, selfishness, and indifference to others' needs.

In taking up the Cross, we embrace sacrificial love that endures and triumphs and gives life. It is a love that is forgiving and merciful and it puts others' needs above our own. It expresses itself in gentle and caring service to others. By allowing the power of Christ's death on the Cross to work in us, we shall rise with Him in a victory over sin and death. When we embrace the Cross, evil and wickedness can no longer imprison us in their darkness. The death of Jesus on the Cross is our liberation from sin and from our past. It empowers us to live in Jesus and to experience the fulfillment and peace that only genuine, selfless love can give.

In his Lenten Pastoral for 2010, Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, reflects on the justice of God by which expiation for sin "flows from the 'Blood' of Christ" as "the loving act of God who opens Himself in the extreme, even to the point of bearing in Himself the 'curse' due to man so as to give in return the blessing due to God (CF Galatians 3:13-14)." The Holy Father points out the exorbitant price that God paid for our redemption and he speaks of "divine justice so profoundly different from its human counterpart." Divine justice is discovered in the death of Jesus on the Cross "where the just man dies for the guilty and the guilty receives in return the blessing due to the just one." The Cross teaches us our need for God and His merciful love. The Holy Father writes, "Before the justice of the Cross, man may rebel for this reveals how man is not a self-sufficient being, but in need of Another in order to realize himself fully. Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need – the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship."


In preparing us for Easter, Lent fortifies us so that we can embrace God's justice and share in a new way of living in Jesus Christ. Our Lenten practices strengthen our will to reject sin not only now but in every time and season of our lives. By our Lenten sacrifices and acts of self-denial, the mind and heart of Jesus, Who emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, accepting death on a Cross, will begin to take shape in us. (CF Philippians 2:3-8)

A well-lived Lent renews our love for Christ and our appreciation for His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. It deepens our hunger for Jesus in the Eucharist and it intensifies our need to participate at Mass each week. As we reflect on Jesus' Way of the Cross, we see ever more clearly our need for the forgiving grace of the Sacrament of Penance.

Yes, Christ is reaching out to embrace us and to pull us along on our Lenten journey to Easter and to living anew the life of His love and the justice of His Cross – both gifts that our gracious, generous God shares with us through the triumph of Jesus' Resurrection.

May Lent be a time of grace to live more fully our fidelity to the Gospel and our witness to Jesus Christ, the Lord!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop of Norwich

ST. JOHN CHURCH PARISH POLICIES

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are generally not ministered during the **Lenten Season**. Parents planning to have their baby baptized must receive instruction prior to Baptism. The next instruction *Class will be held on, FEBRUARY 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.* Please meet in the Church. You must first register with Fr. Raymond (635-5590).

SPONSOR CERTIFICATES: A person wishing to be a sponsor for the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation must be a registered member in good standing with our Church.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements for weddings need to be made in person by the parties of the proposed marriage at least one year in advance and prior to setting any date. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Norms for Marriage in the Diocese of Norwich require that those planning marriages should contact the priest one year prior to the marriage.**

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING is given to those who are seriously ill or about to undergo surgery. Please call the parish office, 635-5590.

COMMUNION TO THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND: Special ministers of the Eucharist may bring Communion to the home of those who are homebound. The priests will visit once a month.

Saturday, March 20 - Bus Trip to Spiritual Luncheon with Father Ralph DiOrio Day of Healing & Restoration in the Holy Spirit - Southbridge, MA - 10:00 AM Seminar, 12 PM Lunch 2:00 Seminar & conclude with 4:00 PM Mass Bus Picking up at Cromwell (8:00). Bus accommodates wheelchairs. Cost is \$95.00. For reservations call Rose 203.878.6427 or MaryAnn 203.407.1448. Info on Fr. DiOrio- visit RDOhealingministry.org.

The Archdiocese of Hartford invites you to a celebration of Black History Month to be held on Sunday February 14th at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. For further information call Ray Brophy at 860-635-5466.

Catholic Charities, Behavioral Health Clinic provides counseling for children, adolescents, adults and families experiencing challenging life issues including loss, stress, anxiety, depression, divorce and addiction. Appointments available days and evenings. Please call 860-342-0760 for the Portland Office or 860-889-8346 for the Norwich Office.

Mercy & Xavier present "Guys and Dolls", March 5, 6 & 7th. Admission is \$10.00. Please visit www.mercyhigh.com for further information.

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2010

Sunday:	Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday:	Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20---6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13