

MASS INTENTIONS

THIS WEEK

Saturday 5:00 Leonard Power  
 Sunday 8:00 Waldo Szopa, Mark Dundas,  
 Louis DiGiovanni  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Lew Carrington  
 Monday 8:00 Connie Nero  
 Tuesday 8:00 Charlie Wolff  
 Wednesday 8:00 Frances Jerome  
 Thursday 8:00 Communion Service  
 Friday 8:00 Charlie Wolff

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Virginia Kaufmann  
 Sunday 8:00 Ed Hurley, Mark Dundas, Louis DiGiovanni  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Mary Ellen & Richard Boyce

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Flora Massa, Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Regina Zanis, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Bernadette Harrod, Eileen Metterville, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Richard Smith, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Alexandra Burke, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Peter Gill, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Bencotter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, John L. Sullivan, Kameron Hardaker, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Brenda Kowalski, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Paul Chamberlain, Pauline Laberge, Edith Vinci, Chad Larivee, Patrick McNulty, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Ellen Marie Anderson, Carter Mock, Nancy Hurley, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Ed Daly, Addie Priess, Tim McEnaney, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, Lolita Previd, Joe Conlan, Patty Camarra, Sue Waugh, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Tom & Deb O'Connor, Roseanne Balsavage, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Paul Branden, Claire Surprenant, Jayne Boyle, Vittoria Hillis, Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., George Brescia, Peter Wall, Fran McDonagh

PRAY FOR LOVED ONES IN THE MID-EAST

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED Elisabeth Rewcastle,  
 Mary Ellen Ackley

COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

February 11 Regular \$ 6,559.00  
 Harvest Sunday \$ 3,772.00  
 Annual Appeal \$102,080.00

2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend's second collection helps to support Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

**LENT**

PARISH MISSION

Next weekend we welcome Rev. Melvin A. Shorter, C.P., who will speak at all Masses. Rev. Shorter will conduct a Parish Mission, *Reflection of Christ*, in the church at 7 p.m. next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 26, 27, 28. Additionally, Rev. Shorter will give a summary of each day's theme following the 8 a.m. weekday Masses.

Monday, February 26 *Hello Stranger!*

Tuesday, February 27 *Let It Go!*

Wednesday, February 28 *Act Like You Got Some Sense!*

Several priests will be available on Tuesday evening to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE CROSS AS TEACHER LENTEN PROGRAM

Our Lenten Reflections on Forgiveness, Surrender and Compassion, directed by Judy Burt Walker, continue this Wednesday, February 21, at 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome, even if you have not attended the prior sessions.

REFUGEE GIFT CARD COLLECTION

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me* (Mt. 25)

Gift card collection baskets will be available in the church foyers the weekend of March 3-4 to support 100 new refugees being assisted by Ascentria Care Alliance in Worcester. We hope to welcome and support these families with gifts cards from Shaws, Stop & Shop, Wal-Mart, or Visa.

POWER-POINT PRESENTATION ON REFUGEES

Please join us in the Parish Center following the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 4 to view a Power Point presentation on the Refugee families we have been assisting and learn other ways your family or Parish Group can help. Refreshments will be served.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS/SOUP SUPPER

Friday, March 16, at 5:00 p.m.

### FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST THIS WEEK

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the parish family for their continued support by hosting a FREE Pancake Breakfast following the masses this Sunday, February 18. Come and enjoy blueberry, cranberry, and plain pancakes, along with sausage, coffee and OJ with friends and family. We look forward to serving you.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Support Group will meet THIS Sunday, February 18, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. These year-round monthly group meetings focus on the various aspects of grieving. The presentations and round table discussions provide information to assist the bereaved as they move forward with their new life. For further information, please call Barbara at 508-240-1090 or Liz at 508-896-4916.

### ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Church of the Transfiguration will host the Annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2, at 1:00 p.m. The theme, *All God's Creation Is Very Good* was prepared by the Women of Suriname. Call 508-255-1094 for more information. All are welcome.

### SEASONAL REMINDERS

Due to the flu season, the cup will not be offered at Mass. The Sign of Peace may be offered with words and a smile rather than a handshake, if you like. **The Diocese is urging all parishioners to receive Communion in the hand to reduce the risk of spreading germs which cause the flu or other illnesses.** If you suspect you are ill or weather conditions are hazardous, you are **not** bound to attend Mass. Remain at home, possibly participating in the Mass on TV, radio or internet. **If schools are closed or delayed due to snow, there is no daily Mass.** Please observe this policy for your safety, as well as to expedite the snow removal in our parking lots.

### WOMEN & MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Fall River Diocese is offering a women and Men's Conference on Saturday, March 10, at Stonehill College in Easton. Offering a great opportunity for spiritual renewal and enrichment during Lent, the program features dynamic speakers, prayer, music, reflection and Mass. This year there is a special track for young adults, ages 18—30. Speakers will be Paulist Father Dave Dwyer, host of SiriusXM Radio's *The Busted Halo Show*; Daughter of St. Paul Sister Marie Paul Curley, a writer and multi-media producer; Father Tony Ciorra of Sacred Heart University, who is a leading expert in Catholic spirituality; and ValLimar Jansen, a Christian music singer and composer. For details, pick up a registration form in the church foyers or visit [www.fallriverdiocese.org](http://www.fallriverdiocese.org).

## SOLAR PANEL PROJECT

### E2 Solar has now begun work on our solar panel project!

I am extremely grateful to our Solar Panel Committee for all the work they did over the past months to bring us to this point. They certainly "did their homework" and helped us make all the decisions we had to make regarding the project.

I am also grateful to the Diocese of Fall River for their legal help with contract wording, and their financial analysis of the project, which confirmed the decisions our committee had made, including the decision to purchase the Solar Panel System, rather than lease it.

Our goal with this project is twofold. We are striving to do what is best, both for the parish, and for the environment. This is the mindset we have held throughout our planning of the Solar Panel Project.

As far as the parish is concerned, this project should stabilize our parish finances as it will save us \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year. As far as the environment is concerned, producing clean energy is a noteworthy response to Pope Francis' call to care for our environment.

Our Solar Panel System will be a 70,560 watt system and will consist of 196 panels on the south facing roof of the church. At 360 watts, the Sun Power Solar Panels are the highest performing solar panels currently on the market. The other panels we considered were either 290, 310, or 320 watts.

The Sun Power Solar Panels also have a 25-year warranty, rather than the standard 20-year warranty. Their degradation over time is also substantially less than other panels, as they are projected to be operating at 93% efficiency at the end of the 25-year warranty period. Other panels we considered were projected to be operating at 86-87% efficiency at the end of a 20-year warranty. All of this means that we are making maximum use of our available south-facing roof space, while fully benefiting from the Solar Panel System since we will own it.

The total cost of the Solar Panel Project, because we are purchasing, and not leasing, and because we are using such premium panels is expensive — \$218,619.00!

This is why I am so grateful to all who have already made their annual appeal donation, resulting in a total of \$102,080 to date. If you have not yet contributed, please know that there is still time to donate to our Annual Appeal in support of our Solar Panel Project. Thank you very much!

Peace,  
Fr. John



### FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

**Grades 1-5      Mondays      2:20—4:00 p.m.**  
**Grades 6-10    Monday        6:00---7:30 p.m.**

### FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Due to Winter School Vacation, there are no Faith Formation classes this Monday, February 19. Have a wonderful and blessed week!

### CONFIRMATION ANGEL CARDS

Thank you to all who sent cards and letters to our Confirmation students. It was an amazing response and outpouring of support for these young people. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for Confirmation in March.

### CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Cape Church in Brewster.** There will be only **one rehearsal on Sunday, March 18, at 4:00 p.m.**, also at Our Lady of the Cape. Each confirmation student and their sponsor or an adult is required to attend.

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### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES & DACA

Catholic Social Services of Fall River (CSS) may be able to help you with your application for free. CSS represents people on their DACA cases at no cost and has helped over 200 people with their applications. **This service is only available to those who have ever had, or currently have, DACA.** If you or someone you know has or ever had DACA, please contact Tim Paicopolos, an immigration attorney at CSS at 508-674-4681 as soon as possible. Leave a message if you do not get an answer.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends are Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA and Apr 21-22, 2018 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org>.

## STRIKING THE BALANCE

As we enter into the “wilderness season” of Lent, we pray that we may listen with the ‘ears of the heart’ to the call of the Spirit — a call urging us to acknowledge and uproot that which entangles us; as well as a call to drink more deeply of the ‘living water’ that replenishes hope and brings new life to the soul. In a sense Lent offers a ‘prescription’ for the renewal of our spiritual balance.

There is an old rabbinic story told by Burton Visotzky about a faithful Jew who every morning would write down on a piece of paper the words “*I am but dust and ashes*” and place the paper in his pocket. Throughout the day he would take out the paper and read it. The words, spoken by Abraham in the Book of Genesis, served as a prayerful reminder of his unworthiness and humility before God.

One day he showed the paper to his rabbi. The rabbi was moved by his congregant’s reverence. But the rabbi took out a second piece of paper and wrote the Hebrew words: *Bishvili Novra Haslam* — “*For my sake, the universe was created.*”

“Take these words, as well, and carry them, too,” the rabbi said. “Let there be balance in your life. Realize that of yourself, before God, you are nothing — but because you are created in God’s image, out of love, you possess the greatest dignity imaginable — you are a child of God!”

Our Lenten desert experience is a time for striking that balance between realizing our humility before God and our identity as God’s beloved. When we think that we are in control of our “universe” — arrogantly self-absorbed because of what we possess or what we have achieved, we should take out the first paper and remember: *I am but dust and ashes.*

But when we feel abandoned; when hope seems far away; when we feel lost in the lenten wilderness; we need to embrace the message of the second sheet: *For my sake, God created the universe. I am God’s beloved. I am created in God’s image.*

May the six weeks of our Lenten journey be a time for striking that balance in our lives: a balance between humility that leads to selflessness — and joy in the ever-present love of God in our midst. God has made a loving covenant with us; may we, during this desert time, regain a sense of perspective and renew our commitment to live as followers of Jesus.