

Our Lady of Peace Church

*"Let the Church always be a place of MERCY and HOPE,
where EVERYONE is WELCOMED, LOVED and FORGIVEN." ~Pope Francis*



Parish Staff

Rev. Stanley Aksamit **Pastor**
Rev. Galadima Goni **In residence**
Joseph Bucci **Deacon**
Marguerite Noga **Pastoral Minister**
Carol Holubecki **Religious Education**
Marcia Caloon **Office Manager**
Dottie Pelis **Financial Manager**
Elizabeth Hallett **Cemeteries**
Marie Putala **Hall Manager**
Bernie Chartier **Custodian**
Sharon Broughan **Senior Choir**
Joseph Zadroga **Modern Ensemble**

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 4:00P
Rosary at 3:15P
Sunday 8:00A & 10:00A

Daily Mass 8:00A
Monday-Thursday
Rosary at 7:30A

Holy Communion Service
Friday 8:00A
Holy Days Vigil 6:00P
Holy Day 8:00A

Confession
Every Saturday 3:15P
or by appointment

Rectory Office Information

Office hours: Monday-Thursday
8:30A-12:00P
Closed on Friday
Phone: 413 863.2585

Website: www.ourladyofpeacetf.org
Email: church@ourladyofpeacetf.com

90 Seventh Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Organizations

Community Meals Program
Our Lady of Peace Women's Group
Altar Society
Montague Catholic Social Ministries

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish of Our Lady of Peace, are descendants of various ethnic orientations and proud traditions. We are a Catholic community united in keeping our faith alive and growing. We nurture this faith by being committed to the Eucharist, prayer, family, social justice, education and service. We hope enthusiastically to reflect the life of Jesus by following His teachings of love and peace, by living the gospel values.

May we seek always to be inclusive of all, and strive to become
a community of diminishing strangers.



My dear friends,

One does not live on bread alone

We have begun the season of Lent. This is how the Church officially describes this special time:

The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rite of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis. The faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises.

Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, which then begins the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

Our first reading for this First Sunday of Lent, Deuteronomy 26:4-10, presents a speech of Moses, which commemorates and summarizes the experience of the Hebrew people as a journey out of bondage to freedom: "My father was a wondering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. But there he became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey."

Down through the centuries, passages such as this have had a special appeal among those who were voiceless, poor and oppressed, and they brought a new sense of hope in the God of justice. Throughout the ages, right up to the present time, the strong have oppressed the weak, powerful nations have overtaken weaker ones, and dictators have acted like pharaohs, without scruples about the injustice they cause. But Deuteronomy reminds the world that God takes notice. In God's time those who mercilessly inflict pain on others will be dealt with, while the poor and the meek will have an everlasting inheritance.

The journey of the Hebrew people through the desert speaks to us about our journey through Lent. While we do not have any catechumens preparing to join our parish through baptism, many churches around the world do. Let us keep these fledglings who are attracted to the faith in our prayers. And let us reflect on the meaning of our own baptism, which signaled our official entrance into the Church and gave us the obligation of serving God faithfully by loving both God and neighbor. Often, as the days and years go by, we can become lax in our observance of the faith and indifferent to God's will. Lent, then, is the opportunity to pause, quiet our hearts, listen to God's Word, and renew our faith.

Our gospel reading, Luke 4:1-13, presents Jesus' own journey through the desert for forty days, parallel to the journey of his Hebrew ancestors. In the desert, when deprived of all sorts of stimulants and distractions, one is alone with one's thoughts, though not truly alone for God makes the journey with us. In the Bible the desert is the traditional place of temptation. The Hebrew people experienced many tests and obstacles, but often failed to remain faithful and trusting because of their "hardness of heart". But, whereas they failed the test, Jesus was able to resist the strongest of human temptations.

The first test our Lord faces is hunger: "He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry." It is when Jesus is at his weakest that the devil approaches, challenging him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answers him, "It is written, *one does not live on bread alone.*" There is a powerful lesson in this first temptation that Jesus faces on our behalf. We, simply because we are human, become hungry for all sorts of things. And often, we fill the hunger and the emptiness with what satisfies in the short term, but ultimately always leaves us hungry in the end. Genesis teaches that we are made in the image of God. Within us there is a hunger that can be satisfied only by a true relationship with God.

These forty days of Lent give us the opportunity to examine our hungers, our habits, our passions, and also to look at how we typically satisfy these needs. And if we are honest, we might acknowledge a deeper hunger, a thirst for something more. That hunger and how we deal with it may unlock for us the power of this Lenten season. If we are running on empty, feeling dry as the desert, perhaps that is God's invitation to search for something deeper that will truly satisfy.



LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

with Deacon Joe will take place each Saturday during Lent at 3:00P.



Saturday, March 5

4:00P *Andrew Wasileski*
by the parish staff

Sunday, March 6-First Sunday of Lent

8:00A *Good health & wellness for Jill Betters' family*
by Lonnie & Julie Ricketts

10:00A *Alberta Riel*
by the Community Meals Program

Saturday, March 12

4:00P *Alvin & Rena Smith*
by their family

Sunday, March 13-Second Sunday of Lent

8:00A *Deceased members of the Richotte family*
by their family

10:00A *Good health & wellness for Jill Betters' family*
by Lonnie & Julie Ricketts

DAILY MASS

Monday, March 7

8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*
by Paul

Tuesday, March 8

8:00A *Charles & Effie Slatkavitz*
by Charlotte & Judy

Wednesday, March 9

8:00A *For our parishioners & friends*

Thursday, March 10

8:00A *John Kiley family*

Friday, March 11

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

ST. JOSEPH'S BREAD



For the 5 weeks of Lent beginning **March 5-6**, we will be collecting **FRESH LOAVES OF WRAPPED BREAD** at all weekend Masses. The bread will be taken home by those at the Monday night *Community Meals*. Baskets are in front of the Our Lady of Peace statue at the side entrance. **Please add 1 more loaf of bread to your weekly shopping list!**



CLASSES will meet each Sunday in March. **March 6** will be a Youth Mass Grades 9-10.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been made in memory of *Jean Sulda* by Liz McCarthy, Patricia Sojka & family; and in memory of *Jean Sulda* by John & Suzanne Davis to the Community Meals Fund.



Annual Women's Group Scholarship applications are now available at the rectory and in the sacristy at Mass. Please call Cathy Marcum 413 522.4292 with any questions.

OUR LADY'S WINDOW

March 5

Kenneth Reil by his wife & children

Please remember in prayer
+*Georgia Conway*
+*Bernard "Bernie" Chartier*

6th Annual "STASH BASH"

Saturday, April 27 9:00A-1:00P

Accepting "stash" donations such as yarn, beads, notions, fabric, buttons, craft supplies, ribbon, scrapbooking, etc. **Please, no paints!** Vendors, call Chris 367.3052. Vendor space is \$20 for an 8 foot table. To donate craft items, call either Bev at 863.7783 or Sandy at 773.9217.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

For the weekend of **February 27**

Weekly \$2,632.00 On-line \$933.00

Thank you for your continuing generous support.



Members of the Women's Group enjoy a post-Christmas meal and good company at the French King Restaurant.



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