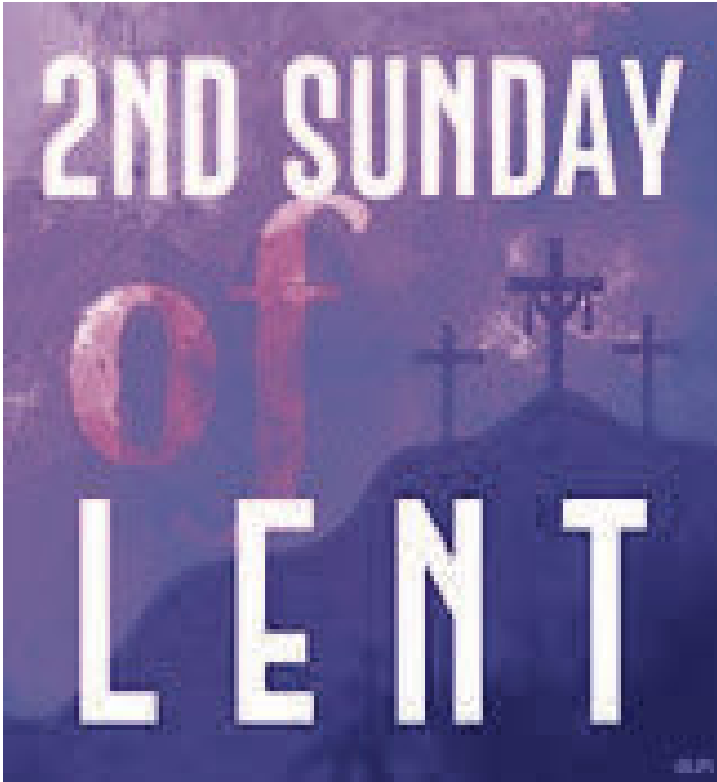


# Our Lady of Peace Church

*"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**  
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](http://www.ourladyofpeacetf.org)  
Email: [church@ourladyofpeacetf.com](mailto: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,

## Previews of what's to come

I have to admit that, when I used to read the beginning of our first reading, Genesis: 5-12, 17-18, I was not all that impressed. Our text for this Second Sunday of Lent has to do with the promises God made to Abram (later renamed Abraham): “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, shall your descendants be.” I’ve always lived in areas where there is a lot of light pollution, which means that only a small fraction of stars are visible. Then on a camping trip to the western United States, we were at a relatively high altitude in an isolated corner of Idaho. Even though it was summer, the nighttime temperatures dipped into the 30’s, so the air was thinner and quite clear. And the area was so unpopulated that there was no light to compete with the light of the stars. I looked up, much as Abraham looked up, and saw our milky way in all its grandeur, like a ribbon of light across the night sky. Now with the use of very powerful telescopes, astronomers are saying that there are something like four hundred billion stars in the Milky Way. And beyond our home galaxy, there are billions upon billions of other galaxies out there. So the command to “count the stars if you can” now makes a lot of sense to me. It was quite a promise.

Our first reading describes the agreement between God and Abram as a sacred covenant in which both were pledging themselves to each other. The Hebrew word for the enactment of the covenant is “to cut”—to cut a covenant agreement. Here’s what the text says. God instructed Abraham, “Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” The passage continues, “Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell on Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed through those pieces. It was on that occasion that the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.’”

The word to *cut* a covenant refers to the animals being cut in half and the parties of the agreement passing through them, symbolizing a ratification *in blood* that bound the parties to the specifics of the pact. Abram bound himself in allegiance to God, and God promised both land and numerous descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, if they could possibly be counted.

Our Gospel reading for this Second Sunday of Lent, Luke 9:28-36, is the account of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes his inner circle of those closest to him, Peter, John and James, and leads them up a high mountain. “While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” What we find here might be called a preview of coming attractions. Jesus, knowing that the horrible days of humiliation, suffering and crucifixion were fast approaching, wanted to give his disciples the reassurance that it was all in the hands of God. Jesus appears, if only momentarily, in his divine glory. And by including in the vision the ancient figures of Jewish history, Luke is showing that Jesus now inherits and surpasses both the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) that came before him.

Next, we find that Peter, overwhelmed at the sight, is overcome in ecstasy, and doesn’t really know how to process it or what to do with it. So, he wants to hang on to it. “Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Then, the revelation continues. “From the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my chosen Son; listen to him.’ After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.”

This passage points to the events that will happen in Jerusalem. God will enter a new and everlasting covenant that will be sealed, not with the blood of animals, but with the blood of God’s own beloved Son, Jesus Christ. And the blessing received in this covenant is neither land nor descendants, but eternal life. Thus, these readings are meant to fill us with anticipation as we look to our annual celebration of Jesus life-giving death and resurrection during the Easter Triduum, the three glorious days, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, that made us people of the new covenant with an eternal destiny.



### **LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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



## ST. JOSEPH'S BREAD



For the 5 weeks of Lent, 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!**

**March 6 total donations= 64 loaves**

### 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

### Saturday, March 19

4:00P *Richard Cade*  
by Joe & Lynn Cade and family

### Sunday, March 20-Third Sunday of Lent

8:00A *Jean Sulda*  
by Jack & Suzanne Davis

10:00A *Frank Zaleski*  
by Joe & Vivian and family

### DAILY MASS

#### Monday, March 14

8:00A *John Kiley family*

#### Tuesday, March 15

8:00A *Elaine Godin*  
by Ed & Robin Sargent

#### Wednesday, March 16

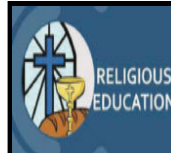
8:00A *Walter & Jennie Kostanski, Sr.*  
by Virginia & family

#### Thursday, March 17

8:00A *Helen Podlenski 15th anniversary*  
by Sue Hastings

#### Friday, March 18

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



**CLASSES** will meet **March 13-April 10**. Grade 2 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **March 13** after the 10:00A Mass.



Our Ash Wednesday drive-thru was appreciated by many!



**Annual Women's Group Scholarship** applications are now available for 2022 graduating parishioners at the rectory and in the sacristy at Mass. Seniors may call Cathy Marcum 413 522.4292.



### OUR LADY'S WINDOW

**March 12**

*Jennie "Gram" Choleva*  
by her family

**March 18**

*Marge Calcari 1st anniversary*  
by Mary

## Saturday, April 23

9:00A-1:00P in the parish hall

### 6th Annual "STASH BASH"

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 **March 6**

Weekly \$5,772.00 On-line \$1,178.00

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