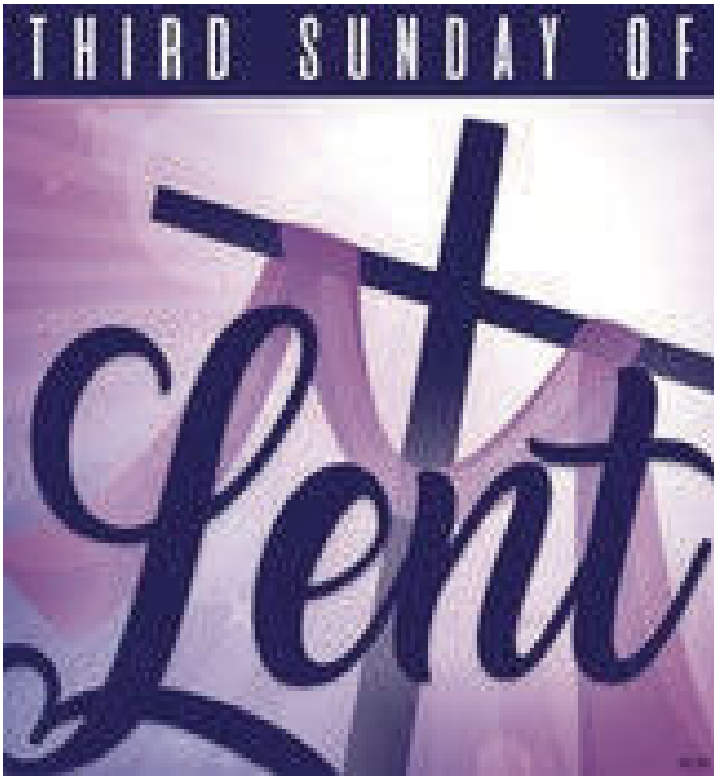


# Our Lady of Peace Church

*"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,

## Covenant, Commandments and Conversion

If you ever saw the movie *The Ten Commandments*, you will undoubtedly remember many of the awe-inspiring elements of that film. In our first reading today, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, we find the basis for one of those special moments, Moses and the burning bush. The passage begins with remarkable ordinariness; Moses is tending the flocks of his father-in-law. “Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb [also known as Sinai], the mountain of God.” Then begins the awesome encounter of Moses with God. “There an angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he [Moses] was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, ‘I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned.’”

Then God begins to reveal himself and the mission he has planned for Moses. “When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am.’ God said, ‘Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,’ he continued, ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.’”

You may recall that in last Sunday’s readings we were introduced the figure of Abraham with whom God entered into a covenant agreement, promising land and descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky, “if you could count them.” Now, with Moses, we are entering the story of the next great covenant, between God and the Hebrew people, which includes the gift of the Ten Commandments. Here, God is setting the stage for the covenant. “The Lord said, ‘I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

Since at that time (about 1,200 BC) many nations believed in a variety of gods, Moses asks who *this* god is. Gradually, he will come to know that there is only one true God, but at this point he asks, “But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ What am I to tell them?” Then God gives a somewhat mysterious response: “I am who am.” The he added, “This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you.” In Hebrew the name God gives is a form of the word to be: YHWH. Some have transcribed this as “Yahweh,” and others “Yehovah” or “Jehovah.” What the name means in precise terms is a matter of debate. The divine name could indicate, for instance, that God is pure being, the One who always existed, and who created all that is. Or it could be a pledge of the God who will always *be with* the people, accompanying them on their journey to the Promised Land, and their journey through daily life. One additional note of interest: for the pious Jewish people, this name of God, out of reverence, is not to be spoken, and so when it appears in a text, they substitute “Adonai”—meaning “My Lord”.

Our gospel reading for this Third Sunday of Lent, Luke 13:1-9, presents a challenging call for repentance. Evidently the people felt that, when something evil happened to a person, it was a punishment for sin. Jesus rejects this thinking, but uses it to enforce his challenge. “Those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!” These are very harsh words coming from the Savior of the world. Nonetheless, if they shake us out of our lethargy and our tendency to be lukewarm in faith, they are an indicator of just how seriously Jesus wants us to take our relationship with God.

The final part of the reading, a parable, tempers the severity of the first part, with a reminder of God’s patience and mercy. “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

The word Lent comes from an old English word that means “spring season”. And so during this springtime of Lent, we have the opportunity to have our hardness loosened up, our barren soil watered and nourished, our dead branches pruned, so that we might be better disciples, ready not just to hear God’s word, but to put it into practice.

**OUR SINCERE THANKS** Last weekend you donated **\$8,536.00** in our second collection for the suffering and displaced people of Ukraine. This clearly demonstrates your compassion and concern. If you have not yet donated, your offerings will continue to be received and forwarded to Catholic Relief Services.  
<https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>



**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

**Saturday, March 26**

4:00P *Paul Socquet, Sr.*  
by Paul & Carol Campbell

**Sunday, March 27-Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:00A *Walter, Mildred & Ronald Traceski*  
by the Creek family  
10:00A *Fr. Michael Devlin*  
by the Devlin family

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** Saturdays during Lent at 3:00P.

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, March 21**

8:00A *Bernie Chartier*  
by the Morning Prayer Group

**Tuesday, March 22**

8:00A *John Kiley family*

**Wednesday, March 23**

8:00A *Benefactors of the Community Meals Program*

**Thursday, March 24**

8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*  
by Paul

**Friday, March 25**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



**OUR LADY'S WINDOW**

**March 21**

*Bernard "Bernie" Chartier*  
by the parish staff & all his friends

**Coming soon! 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.

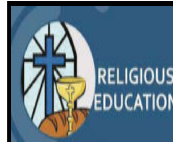
**ST. JOSEPH'S BREAD**



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 13 total donations= 60 loaves**



**CLASSES** will meet through **April 10**. Parents will be contacted regarding the safe environment program called, "Circle of Grace" and classroom lessons.



Just a loaf of bread can mean so much to so 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.

**PARISH COLLECTIONS**

For the weekend of **March 13**

Weekly \$2,141.00 On-line \$659.00

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