

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Week of February 15th****NO CLASSES – FEBRUARY VACATION****Classes resume week of February 22nd**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 17th. Masses on Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at 9:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will be distributed during Mass. A Prayer Service will be held at 4:00pm for students, their families and all parishioners who wish to attend.

The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed: **Abstinence** from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent by all Catholics ages 14 and older. **Fasting** is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by this rule may take one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs but eating solid food between meals is not permitted. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in Daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended.

**LENTEN
MASS SCHEDULE****Monday – Friday****9:00am & 6:00pm****Stations of the Cross – Friday – 7:00pm**

To celebrate St. Valentine's Day and honor the vocation of Catholic married life, the Foxboro-Sharon Knights of Columbus will be distributing prayer cards, honoring marriage at all the

Masses this weekend. The Knights have asked the celebrants to offer a blessing and a prayer for all married couples in attendance. The Knights also invite all attending the 9:00am & 11:00am Masses to join them for Valentine cake and coffee in the lower church following those Masses.

**PRAY FOR OUR
MILITARY**

Please remember in your prayers the men and women who are in the military today, especially William Albano, Captain USMC Michael Burke, Captain USMC John Burke, Commander Karl Eimers, Louise Balduf, Graham P. Johnston, Father Bill Devine, Corporal Brendan Kelly and USMC Phillip Giardino, Jr. Also, Daniel Sheehan, Shane McAulay, Daniel Wagner, Sean Davey, Corporal Eric Thomas, USMC Marc Manning, Captain Joseph A. Colantoni, Brendan Quinn, Sgt. James R. Jarvis III, Cpl. Michael P. Johns, Staff Sgts. Andrew & Arielle Grato, Sgt. Eric Seiden, Army Airborne Specialist Matthew Blanchette, USMC Sean Wilson, USAF Ryan Wilson, Sgt. First Class Thomas D. Chadronet, Cpt. Brian Sclama & USCG Matthew Goode. If you have family member, friend or loved one serving in the military please call Father Steve at the Rectory.

OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Operation Support our Troops, Inc. sends personal care items and goodies to our troops in Afghanistan. The collections for Easter packages will continue through Sunday, February 28th. Boxes will be at the front doors of the church. Items requested include: beef/turkey jerkey, tuna in foil packs, cans of cheese, crackers, cookies, trail mix, dried fruits/nuts, single canned fruit. Also power bars, candy, gum, water-flavoring powder (Crystal Lite) hot chocolate powder and non-sugar sweeteners. Also baby wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath gel, shampoo (no soap bars) unscented deodorant, sharing cream disposable razors, hand sanitizers, foot powder, lip balm, hand/foot warmers, batteries, tube socks, winter socks with black edging, towels, facecloths and micro-fiber throws. Thank you for your continued generosity.

LIFT – Tuesday, February 16th 7:00-9:00pm at Fontbonne Academy, Milton. Guest speaker will be Bob Lesnefsky. LIFT includes praise and worship music, challenging speakers and Eucharistic Adoration. LIFT is for all ages – from young teens to adults to entire families.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

St. Mary's Fuel Collection to assist the parish with its winter heating bills will be held the weekend of **February 27-28th**. The envelope for this collection is dated for **February 7th**. We would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to hold your envelope and contribution until that last weekend in February

Pastor's Paragraphs

Happy Valentine's Day! I want to thank the Knights of Columbus for their efforts this weekend in providing coffee and cake after Mass to celebrate marriage. Their work is an important reminder to all of us about the critical importance of a good, healthy relationship in our lives. May God continue to bless all of our families and relationships that we treasure in life.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has cooperated and used good common sense during the early winter months and flu season. We have received permission this week to return to the practice of extending the Sign of Peace to those around us during our Liturgies. (I for one am glad because I have found it awkward to skip over it during Mass.) The Archdiocese has lifted the restriction that was put in place in October to encourage everyone to continue to wash their hands on a regular basis and use hand-sanitizer as much as possible. The cold and flu season is still with us so we must still use caution. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

'LENT'

We begin the season of Lent this week. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and ashes will be distributed at two Masses 9:00am and 7:00pm. There will also be an Ash Prayer Service at 4:00pm. The weeks and days of Lent are given to us as an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord. Taking time to be prayerful and reflective is something we should all try to accomplish during Lent. To this end, there will be additional opportunities to draw closer to God. I would like to encourage you to possibly attend Mass during the week. We will be adding an evening Liturgy Monday-Friday at 6:00pm. Last year a good number of people attended this Liturgy so we hope that will continue this Lent. As mentioned last week by Father Jay, the diocese has initiated a new program "The Light Is On For You." Every Wednesday evening (beginning February 24th) the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6:30-8:00pm will be given to us. Lent is a great time to return to the Lord through this Sacrament. Every Friday evening at 7:00pm we will gather to pray the Station of the Cross in the church.

As Lent begins this week, we must all consider the invitation of the Lord, to "Come Back to Me." May we as individuals and a parish community celebrate Lent well and see the Lenten Season as an opportunity to receive a renewed presence of God in our lives.

Father Steve



*"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*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:00 Anne & Silvio "Slip" Santucci Memorial

SUNDAY, February 14

7:00 Joseph & Angela Bagley Memorial

11:00 Phyllis Westwater Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 The Kuplast Family Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 Yvette Berube Memorial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:00 Frederick Cove 5th Ann

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

4:00 Lance Corporal Thomas M. Casey, Jr Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 Nicholas Paul "Nick" Sheehan 6th Ann

9:00 Edwin VanDenBerghe 2nd Ann

11:00 Louise Finch 6th Ann

Please remember in your prayers the above intentions, the ill and infirmed of our parish, members of our Benefactor Society and all our beloved deceased especially Catherine Milhomme and Mary Callahan whose Funeral Masses were celebrated this past week here at St. Mary's. Also please remember Rev. William Keneally on the 26th anniversary of his death. Fr. Keneally was a pastor here at St. Mary's.

SANCTUARY CANDLE



The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in loving memory of Frederick Cove. If you wish to remember your beloved deceased by lighting the sanctuary candle in their memory please call the Rectory. A donation of \$25.00 is requested.

Parish Support

OFFERTORY: \$7137.00

Thank you for continued support and generosity each week to St. Mary's Parish.



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