

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

534 Oxford Street

Rochester, New York 14607

phone: (585) 271-7240

fax: (585) 442-7517

parish e-mail: rblessed@dor.org

www.blessedsacramentrochester.org



February 21, 2010

Mass Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:15 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 am

Tuesday, Thursday

5:30 pm

Confessions

Saturday 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Parish Staff:

Fr. Robert J. Kennedy

Pastor

rkennedy@dor.org

Beverly LaBelle

Pastoral Associate

blabelle@dor.org

Susan Howard

Pastoral Associate

showard@dor.org

MaryJo Lightholder

Director of the Supper Program

mjlightholder@frontiernet.net

442-5279

Margy Handel

Business Manager

mhandel@dor.org

Diane Pawlik

Parish Secretary

Sr. Kathleen Wayne, RSM

Director of Faith Formation

skathleenwrs@aol.com

Barbara Legere

Director of Youth Ministry

blegere@dor.org

Beata Golec

Director of Liturgical Music

bgolec@dor.org

ALONG THE AVENUES:

The subject of **immigration** generates much debate in our country these days, and justice for both legal and illegal immigrants is a clear agenda item for the Church in the United States in addressing a “consistent ethic of human life.” Some make the argument that the American economy and culture are being weakened or even subverted by the influx of legal and illegal immigrant workers. Statistics compiled by the U.S. Catholic bishops and the U.S. Jesuit Conference indicate otherwise. Contrary to popular belief, here are some of the facts.

Immigrants tend to complement the native workforce, rather than compete with it. They are filling the jobs vacated by an increasingly educated population. Unemployment in border states has remained below the national average despite high levels of education, and studies show legalization would likely improve wages for all workers. Immigrants also fill critical shortages in key U.S. industries like agriculture, construction and service.

Immigrants contribute mightily to the Social Security system. Studies show that unauthorized immigrants provide a net gain of \$7 billion to the system each year, and may be paying an additional \$520 billion under mismatching Social Security numbers. Immigrants also boost state revenues. Reports from several states show that unauthorized contribute as much as \$1.5 billion to state revenues. Legalization would force unscrupulous employers to contribute payroll taxes for their immigrant workers and thus further increase state revenues. Immigrants are needed to grow the tax base for an aging workforce, and indeed to grow the labor force to support the retiring generation.

Immigrants are consumers too; they increase the demand for goods and services of U.S. industries. Immigrant workers help to produce lower cost goods for U.S. consumers. Many unauthorized immigrants are low-wage employees whose hard work helps produce more affordable goods for all U.S. consumers. Deporting these workers will lead to labor shortages that will increase the cost of U.S. goods. Such deportation could even force the fruit growers and farmers in our area to leave their crops to rot, which would have a disastrous effect on our local economy.

Immigrant workers are suffering alongside native workers during this present recession. They are just as vulnerable during recessions as native workers due to their lower levels of skill and education, their relative youth, and their overrepresentation in the most vulnerable U.S. industries. Unemployment rates for foreign-born Latinos have exceeded that of non-Hispanic workers during the current recession.

Because of the Church’s social justice teachings, we Catholics have to stand on the side of the dignity of every human person, the dignity of work, the just and humane treatment of legal and illegal immigrants coming to our country and already in our country, to economic development and just governmental policies in their home countries. I encourage you to write Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and your particular representative in Congress to voice your support just and humane legislation regarding immigration as the debate continues.



Christ’s peace to you,
Father Bob Kennedy

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:**Monday, February 22**

7:00 p.m. — Pastoral Council Meeting, Parish Office

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Middle School Youth Group, School

7:00 p.m. — RCIA, School Library

Wednesday, February 248:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament

7:00 p.m. — Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, February 25

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. — Lenten Book Group, Parish Office

7:00 p.m. — Contemporary Music Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, February 26

8:30 a.m. — Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, February 27

9:30 - 11:00 — First Communion Preparation, St. Boniface

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. — Sacrament of Penance, Church

8:00 - 9:00 p.m. — Nocturnal Adoration, Church

Sunday, February 28

10:00 a.m. — Pre-School Faith Formation and Nursery

11:00 a.m. — Christ Over Coffee

11:00 a.m. — RCIA Penitential Rite, St. Mary's

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — K-8 Faith Formation, School

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. — Adult Confirmation, Room 11

4:00 - 6:30 p.m. — Confirmation Preparation, St. Boniface

1:45 p.m. — Young Adult Ice Skating (Weather permitting)
Manhattan Square Park**MASS SCHEDULE:****SUNDAY, February 21, First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Bernice Leo — Marge Sharick

10:00 AM - Mass of Remembrance: Harold Handel, Jr.

12:15 PM - For the Parishioners

MONDAY, February 22, The Chair of St. Peter, apostle

8:00 AM - Skiba, Eugene and Sarah Turppi — Blanche Anderson

TUESDAY, February 23, Lenten Weekday, St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr

5:30 PM - Yvonne Lafrance — Mary Duffy

WEDNESDAY, February 24, Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM - Agnes Murray — The Lynd Family

THURSDAY, February 25, Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Betty Keenan — Suzanne Tierney

FRIDAY, February 26, Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM - Margaret Handel — Family

SATURDAY, February 27, Lenten Weekday**SUNDAY, February 28, Second Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - For the Parishioners

10:00 AM - Mass of Remembrance: Kay Lechleitner

12:15 PM - Richard Donovan — Loving, wife, children and grandchildren



SHARE YOUR GIFTS FROM GOD

*Stewardship... Live It!***FRIENDS OF GOD AND PROPHETS: Mev Puleo (1963-1996)**

The turning point in Mev Puleo's life came early when she accompanied her parents on a trip to Brazil at age 14. As they ascended the hill to see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio de Janeiro, she saw on one side of the bus the opulent homes, posh hotels and beautiful beaches enjoyed by the rich, and on the other the ramshackle homes, children in rags and young and old begging for a few coins. Over time she felt the call to bridge the gap between these two worlds. So, armed with her enthusiasm for life, a theology degree, her talent for photography, her ability to connect with other people, and a contemplative eye, Mev traveled the world to bring the suffering of the poor and their struggle for justice for others to see through her photographs, videos, talks and writings. Her hope was to build a Church and a world in which the human spirit could be revered and the distance between persons could be bridged.

Her enthusiasm for life and capacity for joy were tested when a malignant brain tumor left her with six months to live. Her final months set an example of deep faith, courage and hope. She had written in her college years, *"I'd rather die young, having lived a life crammed with meaning, than to die old, even in security, but without meaning."* She got her wish.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

With the emphasis placed on commitment to service in and through the parish by last week's Ministry Faire and the Stewardship Commitment Card, it might seem that we undervalue all the ways in which time, talent and treasure are used in the wider community. This could not be farther from the truth. While a parish Church relies on volunteer assistance to an extraordinary degree, it is also true that one gives back to God a portion of what God has given by sharing one's gifts to address the variety of concerns, needs and issues in the wider community. This is especially true with non-profit organizations. So keep on doing what you are doing as you share your time, talent and treasure in the wider community. We support volunteering for every good cause.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARISH

Sunday collection received: February 14, 2010	\$	7,853
Budgeted weekly need	\$	7,850
Difference - over weekly need	\$	3
Received year to date	\$	245,483
Budgeted need - year to date	\$	259,055
Difference (under) budgeted year to date need	\$	(13,572)

Envelope users gave \$6,348 and loose plate total \$1,505.

We went over weekly need by \$3.00!

Supper Program Collection: \$2,313.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministries.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Very Special Guest for High School Youth Group!!

Sunday, February 21st Mind, Body AND Spirit! A positive Catholic perspective on the gift of Sexuality and Relationships with guest speaker Johan Engstrom!

Johan is a dynamic presenter with over 20 years of Youth Ministry experience in the Rochester area; thoroughly trained teaching Chastity, Dating & Sexuality.

We will be welcoming the youth from St. Anne/St. Gregory/St. Patrick cluster in Palmyra for this excellent presentation! Supper: 5:30-6:30 pm (if you're comin for supper please email Barb) St Mary's Dining Room, High School Youth Group Meeting: 6:30-8:30 pm St Mary's Commons Room

Middle School Youth Group! Tuesday, Feb 23rd – 7-8 pm at Blessed Sacrament School – do you get test anxiety? nervous when you meet new friends? come and learn how to conquer the Giants of Anxiety at Youth Group!

This service opportunity continues!

Serving at Monroe Community Hospital Middle School & High School Volunteers are needed to help Seniors at Monroe-Community Hospital go to Mass! Sign in at the Volunteer Office in the Faith Building at 10:30 am, then help folks get from their rooms to Mass and return them to their rooms after Mass. You'll be finished about 12:15 pm.

For information on any of the events above or to register call Barb Legere at 465-2665 or email blegere@dor.org

SAVE THE DATE

Third annual Tri-Parish Picnic
Is Sunday, August 15, 2010



OPERATION RICE BOWL

In Luke's story of the temptations of Jesus we see how we can be tempted by wealth, power, and esteem just as He was. Lent calls us to focus on our faith life by living it in deeper ways. As we begin our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us pray and sacrifice so that through our faith life we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3: 17-4:1
Luke 9: 28b-36



Weekend Masses at our Partner Parishes

St. Mary's - Sat. 4PM, Sun. 9:00 and 11:00 AM

St. Boniface-Sat. 5PM, Sun. 8:30 and 10:30AM

OLVictory/St. Joseph-Sat. 4:30PM, Sun. 10AM & 7:30PM

SUPPER PROGRAM CONTINUES TO "GO GREEN"

The supper program is continuing it's commitment to "go greener". We are just beginning to use real tableware instead of plastic ware. The cost of paper goods and plastic ware has become cost prohibitive and our environment will certainly benefit. We are always in need of "Corelle" dinner plates and coffee mugs and assorted forks, knives and spoons. Mismatched items are perfectly acceptable. If you can help please call MaryJo at 442-5279 or email at mjlightholder@frontiernet.net. Thank you!

JustNews

...from Blessed Sacrament's Social Justice Community.

Report from parishioner Peggy Rosenthal from the Arizona border: Near the end of my winter stay in southern Arizona, I felt the need to go to the wall that our government is building along the U.S.-Mexico border. The need was to touch the wall and pray. So I went. It's an ugly wall: actually two walls with a no-mans-land between them, a space for migrants to get caught in helplessly. My hand on the wall, I prayed: May you fall, wall; for nothing good ever comes from walls. Then my husband and I strolled across the border into Naco, Mexico, the poorest town you can imagine. One block from the border we saw a shack with a sign "bienvenidos, migrantes" (welcome, migrants). Curious, we walked in the door. And there we met the warm welcome of the volunteer director of Migrant Resource Center & Shelter, whose mission is to provide a free phone, clothes, and an overnight shelter for people who have been deported by U.S. Border Patrol. These are poverty-stricken people, so desperate for work to support their families that they've risked crossing the harsh desert mountains beyond where the wall now reaches. They've been caught by Border Patrol and — according to the extensive interviews done at the Center — been mistreated dreadfully before being dumped back into Mexico. I was shocked to learn that our Border Patrol abuses the migrants in its care, directly contrary to the firm statement of the US Bishops issued in 2003: "The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected." (*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, available at www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.shtml#15)

The Migrant Center needs volunteers for the summer. A month is the minimum commitment; Spanish knowledge is helpful but not necessary. Contact director Cecille Lumer at cecille-lumer@gmail.com or 520-432-4294.

We welcome you to journey with us. Contact Holly Rockwell at hrock@rochester.rr.com or 473-1990 for more details.