

**SAINT MAURICE PARISH, STAMFORD**

*Founded October 19, 1935 - Celebrating 73 Years!*

Our MISSION is That ALL may find a welcome home and a place to pray, grow, serve and know Our Lord, Jesus Christ, TOGETHER, here, at St. Maurice Parish.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
15 7:55am Novena 8:00am Mass (DC) <i>Mary Cyr</i> <i>r/b Gregory &amp; Laura Halkides</i> 7:15pm <b>Finance Meeting.</b> (REC)	16 8:00am Mass:(DC) <i>For the Parishioners</i> 3:45pm-Faith Formation (DH) 6:30pm Prayer Shawl (CAT) 7:00-8:30pm Reconciliation (Church) 7:30 -9:00pm Evening of Reflection (DC)	17 <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day</b> 8:00am Mass: (DC) w/ Holy Hour <i>Vincent Finazzo</i> <i>r/b Ann Finazzo</i> 6:00pm Al-Anon (CAT) 6:30pm Choir (Church) 6:45pm: Faith Formation: 6-8 (DH) 7:15pm Meditation Hour (DC)	18 8:00am Mass (DC) <i>Vito Canneto</i> <i>r/b Family</i>	19 <b>Happy St. Joseph's Day</b>  <b>Bulletin Collators</b> Betty Genter & Fran Pace  7:15pm Stations of the Cross	20 3-3:30pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass: <i>Carmine Concilio</i> <i>r/b Daughters</i> 5:00pm Palm Sunday Rehearsal  Easter Food Basket Slips  Blood Pressure Readings	21 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 8:30am Mass: <i>Betty Jane White</i> <i>r/b Mary Lou Flowers</i> 8:30am RCIA (DH) 9:30am 1st Euch.Ssn 2 10:30am Mass <i>For the Parishioners</i> 12pm Palm Sunday Rehearsal 5:00pm Mass and Confirmation Ssn 10  Easter Food Basket Slips  Blood Pressure Readings

**Reflections**

Dear Friends,  
What would happen in our own lives if we were to give all our heart to God?

... **If I give all my heart to God, I open my life to be blessed.**

*Who knows whether He will not turn and relent  
And leave a blessing behind Him, —*

Some peoples lives are not blessed because they fight God. Instead of going through life with God they choose to fight God. Some may have been fighting with God for years. But we need to see that this blessing of God comes through brokenness. Joel tells us that God is asking for you and I to break our stubborn heart. He asks us to break our rebellious heart. He asks us to allow God to teach and to mold our heart. God asks us to open our hearts to Him and He will bless our life. Give my heart to God so God can bless my whole life- not a bad trade.

We are being given an invitation this Lenten Season to be set free from our past. We are given an invitation to come back to God no matter what has happened in our lives up to this very point.

And God says His loving kindness will wrap itself around you and I and will bless us. God says I will not punish you for being so far away from me for so long... instead I will welcome you back home.

How can we turn down such an invitation? Please see our Lenten Calendar for ways in which you can **Return to God, with All your Heart.**

*Fr. Bern...*

**Stewardship Highlights**

**TREASURE**

In our ongoing attempt to keep you aware of your Parish Finances we have revised the format to offer you a more transparent accounting of the financial state of our Parish Community. Our Parish expenses can only be met by your Responsible Financial Stewardship. ***If you are unable to attend Mass for any reason, we kindly ask that you make up your weekly offering.*** Thank you for supporting the work of your church.

**Treasures**

Income		2/21/10	
Offertory	5571.00	Grants	953.00
Electronic	256.50	Mass Stipends	N/A
Snow/Fuel	367.00	Religious Ed Fees	615.00
Other	165.00		
		Total Income:	\$7,927.50
February		Year To Date	
Income:	\$ 14,205.00		\$338,251.00
Expenses:	\$ 25,736.00		\$336,481.33
<b>Bottom Line:</b>	<b>\$ -11,531.00</b>		<b>\$ 1,770.00</b>

**THANK YOU for your responsible stewardship!**

**OUR STEWARDSHIP PRAYER**

*My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be full, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver. It will be a church of loyalty and love, fearlessness and faith and a church with a noble spirit if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.*

*St. Maurice, Pray For Us!*

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

*If you have any questions or needs regarding Faith Formation OR if you would like to offer your time and talent to assist with Faith Formation activities and events, please call Debbie in the Faith Formation Office at 348-8768.*

**FIRST EUCHARIST CLASSES** will begin on March 14th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in Doran Hall. There will also be a Eucharist parent's meeting on that day at 9:30. It is important that all parents are there as we will be discussing preparation for First Eucharist.

There is also a First Eucharist class on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 in Doran Hall.

**RCIA** is a process for welcoming people into the Catholic faith. Please join us if you are an adult who is seeking the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation, or a Catholic adult seeking more information about the faith. For more information, please call the Faith Formation Office at 348-8768.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** takes place during the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday mornings. Children up to grade 5 are encouraged to go downstairs with an assigned adult to hear the Gospel stories in an age-appropriate format. They will then return to you for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS** The Next Confirmation session is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:00 pm.

**SUNDAY EVENING MASS** The next Sunday evening mass is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm. Confirmation students must attend. All parishioners are welcome!



## PRAY FOR . . .

*...All those serving in our Armed Forces...*

*...Those who are ill . . .* Ruth Alexander, Minnie Balzarano, Jay Burkhardt, Marisa Cannata, Kathy Carella, Michael Carella, Pete Cavanna, Naida Cognition, Anthony Covino, Thomas Covino, Julie Czamanski, Connie DeFazio, Fr. Peter DeMarco, Marge Denicola, Tricia Ede, Joe Ezzo, Frank Fuda, Patti Griffiths, Alice Hughes, Lynn Kostka, Laurence Lanphier, Brenda Lydecker, Eleanor Macari, Jacqueline Moranski, Sharon Musolino, Marisol Olavarria, Tony Olive, Anne Perna, Baby Riley Perna, Nancy Pinciaro, Jasonya Rodgers, Rose Rubino, Frank Ryan, Nancy Simpson, George Sutherland, Kevin Sutton, Jessie Thompson, Mary Ann Totaro, Michael Toth, Tiffany Vizzo, and Graham Wallace.

**May God strengthen and heal you!**

*...The repose of the souls of* all the faithful departed, most especially the deceased members of St. Maurice Parish.

When we learn that someone is ill the individual will be added to our prayer list and will remain on the prayer list for three weeks. Kindly call the parish office if you or someone you know would like to remain on the prayer list for a longer period of time. Thank you!

### ST. MAURICE COMMEMORATIVE COOKBOOK

Insure that your copy is included in the first printing by ordering today! Please stop at the table at the front of the church to find out how to order yours.



### Be Reconciled to God

#### The Lenten Diocesan Reconciliation Campaign 2010.

The theme for the Lenten Reconciliation Campaign comes from today's second reading: "be reconciled to God." Whether you are the "prodigal son" or the "righteous son" of today's Gospel, we all need reconciliation. No matter with which one you identify yourself, return to the Father who is merciful! Whether you have not received the Sacrament in 4 months or 25 years, come, "be reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Tuesday at our parish from 7 p.m. to 8:30p.m.

### EVEN NOW...RETURN TO GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART...

#### "Be Reconciled to God"

We invite you to celebrate the tender mercy of God every Tuesday evening in Lent from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available each of these Tuesday evenings. See column above for more details.

#### BREAKING NEWS:

**Join us on Tuesday of Holy Week for a very special and powerful experience of Taize's Prayers Around the Cross. Look for more information next week!**

#### Lenten Evenings of Reflection

Join us every Tuesday during Lent from 7:30-9:00PM with Barbara Glynn and our candidates in RCIA as we explore the rich Lenten stories of the Bible and God's invitation to "Come Home!" Each session stands alone, so come for one, any or all. Sessions are held in the Day Chapel.

#### Wednesday Evening Meditation Hour

ALL are encouraged to take an hour out of your busy week to spend in quiet, meditation every Wednesday from 7:15-8:15 pm.

#### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be **every Friday** at 7:15 PM. Keep watch in the bulletin for information regarding special devotional Stations of the Cross. This Friday evening join us as we journey the Via Dolorosa using scripture based on the Gospel of Luke.

#### Loaves and Fishes Campaign

A campaign to feed the hungry of Fairfield County will be held throughout Lent. The funds raised will help support emergency food centers and soup kitchens in the diocese.

### Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup>!

### 2010 LIVING OUR FAITH-ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

There are presently 92 active deacons and 15 men in formation for the Diaconate in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Deacon Tim Bolton, from St. James Parish, was ordained three years ago through the Permanent Diaconate Program. Funding from the Annual Diocesan Appeal helped Deacon Tim complete the program for which he is very grateful. "Formation for Diaconate of four and a half years helped awaken the desire within, gave me the tools, and taught me that real formation never ends. It taught me to be faithful in handing on the Word of God so that it may grow in the hearts of His people." He continues, "One of the greatest joys of being a deacon is to help make the Church real for people so they can touch and feel it impact their daily lives"

This is the work of the Church and the Permanent Deacon in humble service to our Lord's Church in building the Body of Christ. Thank you for your gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

MARCH 14, 2010



# Even Now, Return to God with All your Heart



This weekend's Scripture Readings: *Joshua 5:9a, 10-12, 2 Corins. 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Next weekend's Scripture Readings: *Isaiah 43:16-21, Phil. 3:-14, John 8:1-11*

## A REFLECTION FOR THIS WEEK



*In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favor. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of*

*heart if we are to rejoice in God. The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God. The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.*

## A REFLECTION FOR NEXT WEEK

*Twelve step programs enshrine the wisdom of today's Gospel in how they help us to own up to the destructive behavior of our lives and yet give us hope to live beyond our worst moments.*

*Steps four to ten say:*

**Step 4.** I have made a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself.

**Step 5.** I have admitted to God and to another the exact nature of my wrongs.

**Step 6.** I am entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

**Step 7.** Humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings.

**Step 8.** Made a list of all persons I had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

**Step 9.** Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except where to do so would injure them or others.

**Step 10.** Continued to take personal inventory and when I was wrong promptly admitted it.

*The thing I like best about these is that they are pro-active. They alert us to the fact that the best pathway to know healing and forgiveness is not to be passive, but to be active and admit our own faults and work to heal them. Some of us may have been given a tough hand from life's deck of cards, but we do not have to be passive victims, never able to change the cycles of destructive behavior. If the steps work and we trust today's Gospel then we can be happy, healed and forgiven because we heal and forgive others.*



## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEKEND

March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Cycle C

Mass	Presider	Lector	Leader of Song	Special Minister
4: :00 PM	Fr.Bert	CAS	S.Scanlon	B.Breman/ L.Lombardo/G.Gibson
8:30 AM	TBA	C.Happel	S.Scanlon	N.Sabanski J.Sarantos
10:30 AM 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny	Fr.Bert	S.Pritting	Choir	M.Fahey/A.Aquila M.Lamonte

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Cycle C

Mass	Presider	Lector	Leader of Song	Special Minister
4:00 PM	Fr.Bert	C.Happel	S.Scanlon	S.DeLeo/ J.Urso/N.Sabanski
8:30 AM	TBA	P.Keltos-Kelly	S.Scanlon	H.Della-Penna/ J.Sarantos
10:30 AM 3 <sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny	Fr.Bert	S.Cunningham	Choir	D.Hughes/M.Fahey/ J.Sarantos

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

The story of the "prodigal son" is what Jesus' mission and ministry was all about—being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost.

**Question for Adults:** Have you ever had the opportunity to respond to a situation with extravagant love as the father did?

**Question for Children:** When we return to God because we are sorry how does God treat us?

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT WEEK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22 7:55 am Novena 8:00 am Mass (DC) <b>Fred Eccles</b> r/b Family	23 8:00 am Mass (DC) <b>Angie Aquila</b> r/b Sandy Anderson	24 8:00 am Mass (DC) w/ Holy Hour <i>For the Parishioners</i>	25 8:00 am Mass (DC) <b>Mary Kulan</b> r/b Family	26 <b>Bulletin Collators</b> Eleanor Kohn & Geraldine DePue	27 3-3:30pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass <b>George &amp; Winifred Lynch</b> r/b Family	28 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Mass <b>William &amp; Josephine Covino</b> r/b M&M Anthony Covino
	Faith Formation(K-5) 3:45 pm (DH)	6:45 pm (DH) <b>Faith Formation:6-8</b>	6:30pm <b>Rehearsal Holy Thursday</b>		4:00pm Mass <b>George &amp; Winifred Lynch</b> r/b Family	8:30 RCIA (DH)
	7:00-8:30pm <b>Reconciliation</b> (Church)	6:30 pm Choir			5:00PM <b>Rehearsal Good Friday</b>	9:30am 1st Eucharist Ssn2
	7:30 -9:00pm <b>Evening of Reflection</b> (DC)	7:15pm <b>Meditation Hour</b>		7:15pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Easter Food Basket Collection	10:30am Mass <b>For the Parishioners</b>
						12:00pm <b>Rehearsal Easter Vigil</b>
						5:00 pm Confirmation Bread Baking <b>Easter Food Basket Collection</b>

**END OF BULLETIN  
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