



## February 21, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

### Welcome to the Nashoba Valley Catholic Collaborative

If you are visiting us for the first time, we wish to welcome you and your family and hope that you enjoy your visit with us. If you would like to join either St Mary's or St Anthony's Parishes (we are two separate entities) there are **Registration Forms on our website:** [www.nashobacatholic.org/form/parish-registration](http://www.nashobacatholic.org/form/parish-registration). Don't have the internet or email? Call the office and we would be happy to mail a form to you!

#### WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Sat, Feb 20, 4pm – Chet & Jane Pauley Family, r/b The Family  
Sun, Feb 21, 8am – Judy Pinard, r/b Maryann Madigan  
10:15am – Charles & Virginia Eddy, r/b Arthur & Michelle Eddy  
Sat, Feb 27, 4pm – Adriana & Kari Medina, r/b Isabel Chesak  
Sun, Feb 28, 8am – Henry Gendron, r/b The family  
10:15am – Sal Spinale, r/b The Family  
The next available Saturdays are in October 2021  
The next available Sundays are in August 2021

#### Reconciliation at St Anthony's Church

Wed, March 3 & Wed, March 10 at 7pm  
Please wear a mask.  
Social Distancing will be in place.

#### Virtual Retreat

Wednesday and Thursday, March 24 & 25  
At 7PM

#### Virtual Examination of Conscience

Wednesday, March 31 at 7pm  
Details coming soon!

Dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect. Cardinal Sean strongly encourages people in vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and those with complicated physical conditions, to continue to watch from their homes (which you can do on our Nashoba Catholic Facebook page).

**Please pray for these people who may be ill or have asked for prayers:** Karen Butler, Anne Fiesinger, Norman Gionet, Joanne Glaszcz, Alec Lawton, Betty LeBlanc, Dotty Marino, Mary Palmer, Donna Vaira.

*We want to wish everyone born in February a very Happy Birthday! And all couples that were married in February a very Happy Anniversary!*

#### Make Your Home a Holy Place!

Over the five weeks of Lent, we will be offering suggestions each week on how to make your home a holy place.

This week's suggestion is to have a crucifix displayed in a prominent place and, for those with children, speak to them about it.

#### FAST AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

**FAST** means limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals each day, and binds Catholics from age 18 to 59.

**ABSTINENCE** means not eating meat, and binds all Catholics age 14 and older. *One is not bound to fast if health or the ability to work is affected.*

**DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE:** Good Friday.

**DAYS OF ABSTINENCE ONLY:** All Fridays in Lent.

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As this year's Lenten journey begins, take some time to reflect on those areas of life that keep you from being fully committed to Christ. Perhaps you are tempted to keep Jesus at a Distance lest he ask something difficult of you or perhaps you find it easier to ignore the call to conversion than to take the steps needed to make a change of heart. Seek out the Sacrament of Penance as a way to overcome the temptations you face. Rely on Christ's healing presence in this sacrament to accompany and assist you in times of doubt and temptation.

**2021 CATHOLIC APPEAL** – As we begin the Lenten season, we are reminded of the importance of our parish communities that allow us to fully live out our faith. The support of the ministries at the Archdiocese of Boston helps our two parishes to continue serving the faithful in this community. Consider making an early gift to this year's Catholic Appeal to help ensure these ministries can continue helping our parishes, and all parishes, schools, and communities throughout our Archdiocese of Boston. Visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org) to learn more or make a donation. Thank you for your support!



**30 Pieces of Silver!** Thirty pieces of silver was the price for which Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, according to an account in the Gospel of Matthew 26:15 in the New Testament. An Usher will give you a bag. Fill it with 30 pieces of 'silver'(quarters). When it is full, bring it to church by Palm Sunday and toss it in to the Temple! Whatever is collected will be split equally between our two parishes.



For those of you who have not yet returned to Mass, we thank you for your continued support of our two parishes.

**Weekly Offering**  
**St Mary's, February 14 = \$2161.00**  
**St Mary's Maintenance & Utilities = \$ 583.00**  
**St Anthony's, February 14 = \$2444.00**

(We are two separate parishes and our finances are not combined.)

*Upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections for BOTH PARISHES:* February 28 = Support Around the World

*If anyone wants a statement of their donations for 2020, please call or email the office to request one, and it can be either emailed or US mailed to you.*

If anyone would like to start contributing via our EFT program, the Authorization Form is on our website in pdf format. It is under the GIVING BUTTON at the top, right of our homepage. You will need to print it out and mail it to the Office.

## NASHOBA CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

Marianne Cooper, Faith Formation Coordinator, 978-772-0727 [faithformation@nashobacatholic.org](mailto:faithformation@nashobacatholic.org)

Our Faith Formation program is a family affair this year! We hope that you are enjoying the video lessons. Please go to our website [www.nashobacatholic.org](http://www.nashobacatholic.org) for detailed information on these video classes and the virtual retreat. **You should have received the video lesson about Lent by now. Please contact Marianne if you haven't received the email link.**

**Calling all parishioners!** Release your inner artist! **The Stained-Glass Project is underway!**

Blank window-clings can be picked-up at St. Anthony's before and after Masses, from the Collaborative office at St. Mary's during office hours, or by special arrangement by contacting Marianne via email. Future art opportunities at the parish hall to be advised. See our website for ideas for your design. *Please return your completed artwork to St. Anthony's Church, the Collaborative Office, or Marianne by Monday, March 22. Let's make our Easter Season colorful at St. Anthony's!*

### INDEPENDENT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!!

**Dynamic Catholic** is offering a Lenten Journey for anyone interested based on the book "I Heard God Laughing". This book was handed out as a gift this past Christmas season to parishioners and a few more are available in St. Anthony's church Narthex (vestibule). Just go to [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com) and register. Starting Ash Wednesday (2/17) and going through the 40 days of Lent, you'll receive a daily email with a short video to reflect on this holy season.

**Cardinal O'Malley will be offering a Lenten retreat from March 22-26.** It will air each night on Catholic TV. Last year's retreat videos can also be found on their website: [www.bostoncatholic.org](http://www.bostoncatholic.org). Search: "Lenten Retreat".

**Have you ever wanted to read the Bible but didn't have time?** How about trying out "Bible in a Year"? It's like a guided tour through the Bible! You can sign up to listen to daily podcasts of Bible readings with Fr. Mike Schmitz. Go to [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com) to find out more.

**In addition to the above websites,** explore these other faith-filled websites to check out suggested books, podcasts, Lenten activities, 3-minute retreat and meditation opportunities [www.LoyolaPress.com](http://www.LoyolaPress.com) , [www.Arrayofhope.net](http://www.Arrayofhope.net) , [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (US Conference of Catholic Bishops)

*Please keep our Faith Formation students in your prayers as they learn more about their faith.* The First Communion and Confirmation students and teachers need your prayers as they work towards the goal of receiving their sacrament during this pandemic.

**HOURS: St. Mary's THRIFT STORE is only open on Saturdays from 9am to 2:30pm.** All COVID-19 protocols are in place, with a limited number of people allowed in the store at one time. Donations are accepted from 9-2 ONLY. No checks, credit or debit cards, or bills larger than \$20 are accepted. No exceptions!!

**MISSION DAYS 2021** - It is still unclear if we will be able to have Mission Days this summer. However, Joe Leone would like to prepare for the possibility. If you are interested in helping, he will have a virtual meeting Thursday night February 25th at 7:00 PM. **Please RSVP to Joe Leone at [ccoach11@gmail.com](mailto:ccoach11@gmail.com).** He will provide you with a meeting link. If you can't make it that night, and would still like to help, please email as well!

**A Prayer for Lent** O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.