



February 28, 2021 – Second 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. 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 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

Sat, Mar 6, 4pm – Adriana & Kari Medina, r/b Isabel Chesak

Sun, Mar 7, 8am – David Gionet, r/b The Family

10:15am – The Deceased Family Members of Chet & Jane Pauley

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 family prayer by sharing intentions and having a conversation with God.

Last week we suggested to put a Crucifix in a prominent place. The following is a **Prayer Before a Crucifix:** *Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus, while before Your face I humbly kneel and, with burning soul, pray and beseech You to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity; true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment.*

While I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, Your five most precious wounds, pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words of David, Your prophet, said to You, my Jesus: "They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all My bones." Amen.

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.

St Mary's Fatima Club February Winners are:
Jane Flagg, \$100; Sally Nappila & Kathleen Dennen, \$75 each; Michael Janes & Ashley Crosswhite, \$50 each; and Kolbe Bunker & Amy Finch, \$25 each.

Congratulations to all!

The next drawing will be on Monday, March 15.

February 28, 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Lent - The readings this week deserve to be read, and reread and pondered. "God put Abraham to the test." A bit scary, isn't it? Think about it: God put (insert YOUR name) to the test. Perhaps one test you face arises from the disruptions caused by the pandemic – feelings of discouragement, isolation, doubt and fear to name a few! Despite the various difficulties that may need to be faced, listen again to the words God speaks in today's gospel - "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." Open your heart to Christ; listen attentively to what He is speaking to you, asking of you. How will you respond?

2021 CATHOLIC APPEAL – Next weekend, parishes across the Archdiocese will launch the annual Catholic Appeal, which provides necessary funding for the more than 50 ministries that serve our parishes, schools, and communities, helping us all live our faith together. This is our Church, and when you support the Catholic Appeal, you are directly supporting our parish and all those who turn to our Church for assistance. Visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to learn more or to make a donation. Thank you for your support!



30 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 21 = \$1700.25
St Anthony's, February 21 = \$3126.75

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

Today's 2nd Collection for BOTH PARISHES: February 28 = Support Around the World

Upcoming 2nd Collection for St Mary's: March 14 – Maintenance & Utilities

Upcoming 2nd Collection for St Anthony's: March 7 – Parish Support

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

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 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. 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!**

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.

For Independent Study Opportunities, please see past bulletins.

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, please email him at ccoach11@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS - The Parochial School Trust of the Archdiocese of Boston is providing approximately 100 scholarships, each worth \$1000, to families with a child planning to attend parochial school (grades 1 through 8) during the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are due April 1, 2021. If interested, Ayer residents should call St Anne's St. Vincent de Paul #978-320-4215; Shirley residents should call the St Catherine's St. Vincent de Paul #978-320-4214, to commence the scholarship application process.

Some History of the Catholic Church in Ayer and Shirley

1855 – Mass began being offered on a regular basis for Ayer and the surrounding towns, with priests from Fitchburg. 1867 – Fr Barrata purchased land on Shirley St and St Mary's Church was dedicated in 1870. In 1895, Catholics in Shirley met once a month in the Old Fellows Hall, and in the Fall of 1905 construction of St Anthony's Church began. The first Mass was on June 13, 1906, before the building was completed! It was blessed on August 5, 1906. St Mary's Rectory, now Parish House, was built in 1921. The Shirley Street School was purchased in 1949 and became St Mary's School.