



March 7, 2021 – Third 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, 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
Sat, Mar 13, 4pm – Edward Madigan, r/b His Children
Sun, Mar 14, 8am – Elaine Gendron, r/b The family
10:15am – Theresa & Robert Cahalane, r/b The Family
The next available Saturdays are in November 2021
The next available Sundays are in August 2021

Individual Confessions at St Anthony's Church on Wed, March 10 at 7pm

Please wear a mask.

Social Distancing will be in place.

Virtual Retreat

Wed and Thu, March 24 & 25 At 7PM

Virtual Examination of Conscience

Tuesday, March 30 at 7pm

Individual Confessions at St Anthony's Church

Wednesday, March 31 at 7pm

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, William Davis, Anne Fiesinger, Norman Gionet, Joanne Glaszcz, Br. Joachin, Alec Lawton, Betty LeBlanc, Dotty Marino, Mary Palmer, Donna Vaira.

We want to wish everyone born in March a very Happy Birthday! And all couples that were married in March 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 read the Bible.

St Mary's Fatima Club - The next drawing will be on Monday, March 15.

This is the Year of St. Joseph

A DAILY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH – Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

March 7, 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Lent – In today's Gospel, we have a scene that may make us uncomfortable. Jesus knew that some of the temple practices were rife with social injustices. What made matters worse were that it was done in the name of religion. Jesus' heart ached to think that any Gentile seeking the presence of God would feel unwelcome in the house of God. If Jesus were to enter this church/parish, would he find an exclusiveness, a coldness, or a place where the "seeking" stranger finds welcome, solace and peace? Lent gives us the opportunity to examine our attitudes and make the necessary change so that every person feels welcome in this house of God. The pandemic restrictions need not hinder becoming a strong evangelizing parish.

2021 CATHOLIC APPEAL – This weekend, we launch our annual Catholic Appeal, along with all the other parishes throughout the Archdiocese. See *today's insert for details*. Each year, the Catholic Appeal provides the faithful with a way to help support the ministries that support our parishes, our schools, and our communities. This is our Church, and every gift makes a difference. Please consider making your gift today by visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org. Your gift has an immediate impact on our parish and the work of our Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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 28 = \$1837.25

St Anthony's, February 28 = \$2793.00

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

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

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

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.** A last video lesson will be available around Holy Week to learn about Easter through Pentecost.

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

Marianne will be at St. Anthony Parish Hall on Saturday, March 13, from noon to 4pm for anyone who wants to pick-up and/or decorate their window clings there and use provided, multi-colored Sharpies. They can also drop off a completed window cling at this time. Covid safety restrictions will be observed and masks are required. 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!** As always, if you have any questions, contact Marianne. 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!! **For the month of March, EVERYTHING IN THE STORE WILL BE 50% OFF! Plus, new, handmade Easter Baskets will be for sale.**

MISSION DAYS 2021 - Mission Days has been scheduled for July 13, 14 and 15. The event is subject to all of the safety protocols that will be in place at the time. We are hopeful that we can run this program in some form. At this point we are looking for the following:

1. Jobs - if you know anyone that needs outdoor work done to their home but cannot get it done due to hardship, please have them contact us at the email below.

2. Kids - if you are going into 7th grade through graduated senior and want an amazing experience, please send an email to the email below.

3. Adults - we always need adults to help with the planning and execution of these days. **Please contact Joe Leone - 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 St Catherine's St. Vincent de Paul #978-320-4214, to commence the scholarship application process.

Some History of St. Anthony's Rectory

While St Anthony's church was being built in 1905 and 1906, the pastor, Fr Cote rented a house on Chapel Street, which served as a temporary Rectory. The original plans called for a rectory to be built at the right side of the church with a connecting door in the church. But that plan was never realized as Fr Cote was able to purchase the "Old Parsonage", on the other side of the town, in 1906, and move it to where it is now. This Rectory building has the distinction of being the house of the first minister in Shirley as well as being the home of the first Catholic priest in town. An historical marker in front of the Rectory, placed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission, reads as follows: "OLD PARSONAGE – The house of the first minister of Shirley, Phineas Whitney. Dorothy Quincy and Madam Lydia Hancock visited here; and also, in 1733 came John Hancock to accompany them home. Moved to this site in 1906, it became the rectory of Saint Anthony's Church."