

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH

190 NORTH MAIN STREET

WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

March 3, 2013

Third Sunday of Lent



Gardener: “Sir, leave [the fig tree] for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

Luke 13:9

# Saint Charles Borromeo Church

190 North Main Street Woonsocket, RI 02895

Phone: (401) 766-0176 Fax: (401) 766-0185

Parish email :

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Pastor's email :

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Parish Website:

www.stcharlesborromeo.com

## Pastoral Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Gerald F. Finnegan, S. J.**

Parish Secretary: **Lucille Hannon**

Business Manager: **Christine Dancault**

Religious Education Director: **Donna Zannelli**  
(401) 766-2890

Music Ministry: **Wayne and Becky Kilcline**

Office of Community Services & Advocacy  
Woonsocket Satellite: **Amy Saramago (401) 762-2849**  
(on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Cemetery Care:

**Jack Marzini**, Superintendent

**Ken DiPardo**, Assistant

Cemetery tel. # **(508) 883-6838**



## Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses

Vigil Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 7:30 am and 10:00 am

**Brazilian Mass** 12:00 noon

Rev. Herivelto Pereira, C.SsR.

### Weekday Masses (lower level Chapel)

Tuesday through Friday: 9:00 am

**Wednesday—Bible Study - 9:30—10:15 am**

### Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the rectory after your baby's birth to prepare for this initial Sacrament of spiritual life.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)

Confessions are available on Saturdays 3:00 to 3:40 pm or by appointment.

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call the rectory at least six months prior to the date of your wedding.

### Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (and Communion Calls)

Please notify us if anyone is ill, in the hospital or at home and unable to get to church, especially those who are homebound and may wish to receive Holy Communion at home.

**If you are new to the parish, WELCOME!**  
Please introduce yourself. We want to know you and to serve you. We hope you will favor your parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance — according to your means.



**mass intentions**

Saturday March 2	4:00 pm	<b>Tommy Rondeau</b> (2nd Anniversary)	By his sister Molly Champagne and family
Sunday March 3	7:30 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	<b>Leo McIntyre</b> (Birthday Remembrance) <b>Saint Charles Parishioners</b> <b>Brazilian Mass</b>	By Roger & Barbara Peloquin
Monday March 4			
Tuesday March 5	9:00 am	<b>Joseph &amp; Francoise Labrecque</b>	By John Labrecque
Wednesday March 6	9:00 am	<b>Carla &amp; Joseph Labrecque</b>	By John Labrecque
Thursday March 7	9:00 am	<b>Joseph &amp; Francoise Labrecque</b>	By the family
Friday March 8	9:00 am	<b>Lucille Blake</b>	
Saturday March 9	4:00 pm	<b>Rose &amp; Edward Crepeau</b>	By the family
Sunday March 10	7:30 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	<b>Saint Charles Parishioners</b> <b>Isabelle Bessette</b> <b>Brazilian Mass</b>	By Theresa Anzelone

If you have requested a Mass Intention and would like to have a family member bring up the gifts, please see the Celebrant or a Eucharistic Minister before the start of the Mass.

**scripture readings**

For Week of March 3, 2013

<b>3 SUN</b>	Ex 3: 1-8a, 13-15/ 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/ Lk 13:1-9
<b>4 Mon</b>	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
<b>5 Tues</b>	Dn 3:25,34-43/Mt 18:21-35
<b>6 Wed</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5: 17-19
<b>7 Thurs</b>	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
<b>8 Fri</b>	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
<b>9 Sat</b>	Hos 6: 1-6/Lk 18:9-14
<b>10 SUN</b>	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

*Our first experience of God is so important, we either experience Him as the police guard that wants to punish or as Creative Love that awaits.*

- Pope Benedict XVI

**Your kind contributions received last weekend**



Offering Envelopes \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 2,771.00  
Loose Money \_\_\_\_\_ 382.00

**Total \$3,153.00**

**thank you**



## Notes from the Pastor

Anne Flood has written from Florida that Tom and she did their second walk for PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) on February 9 and were again the top fundraisers (\$6600). She wants to thank all of us who contributed to the walk. Tom's condition is not good and Anne needs all the support we can give her as she cares for Tom. Please drop her a line or send an e-mail ([annemflood@aol.com](mailto:annemflood@aol.com)). Their address is 1752 Sanctuary Pointe Court, Naples, FL 34110-4157.

The men who took our railings have been apprehended, although the waters are still murky, I believe, about what they did with the rails. So we must wait until the matter clarifies itself more. We will of course replace the rails, but with something less attractive to those who would want to benefit from them financially. I am grateful to the police and the detective who acted with such skill in this matter, and to the anonymous person who reported a suspicious car. Please do not send money or a check to pay for the replacement. The insurance should take care of it.

This is a sad time for us here in Woonsocket. Msgr. John Allard's priestly service of many years has been brought to an end because of an allegation of an assault thirty years ago. We pray for all involved. If the allegation proves to be true, we pray for the person, now an adult, who has suffered from the effects of this violation for many years. If it proves false, we pray that Msgr. Allard may be returned to service as soon as possible and his reputation be restored. In all cases we pray for both of them, that love and mercy may prevail.

The cardinals will meet soon to choose a new pope. We pray for them as they make this choice. May the Lord raise up for us a man who will guide our church in these hard days!



## THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

*"Pour water on us like water on parched land."*



Jesus,  
grower of souls,  
we are  
as barren  
as the fig tree.

You gave it time.  
Give us more time too.

Make our roots  
moist with your presence.  
Pour your grace  
on us like  
water

on parched  
land,

... especially **Charlie Bowers, Jan Kirby, Jean O'Donnell, Tom Flood, Fritz Page, Donald Hickey, Lauri Luzzi, Robert Lachance, Paul Kogut, Ralph Descy** and the members of our parish, our families and our loved ones — who may be hospitalized, homebound or otherwise struggling with any form of physical, spiritual or emotional illness.



...For the recently deceased, especially **John Nalewski, Anne Simmons, Margaret Hoard, Jeannette Barry, Colleen Monteiro, Mary Jane Giberson, Pauline Colerick**, all the deceased members of our parish, our families and our friends.



... for our military — the brave men and women, who are stationed in troubled spots around the world — especially family members of our parish, the community of Woonsocket and the State of Rhode Island.



parish news



Next weekend's **Second Collection** will be for Easter Flowers.

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**THE WORD AMONG US** publication, with Mass Scripture readings and daily meditation for each day of Lent is still

available at the church entrances. Please take one as a help for your Lantern prayer.

**GREATER WOONSOCKET CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOLS** is holding a **SILENT & LIVE AUCTION** on Saturday, March 23 at Fr. Marot CYO Center, 53 Federal Street, Woonsocket. 6PM Hors D'Oeuvres, Cocktails & Silent Auction; 7PM Buffet Dinner and Live Auction to follow. Proceeds to benefit GWCRS Technology & Scholarship Funds. \$28 per person or \$250 for a full table of 10 people. RSVP by 3/13.

Divorced? Separated? The Office of Life and Family is pleased to offer the **FINDING HOPE SUPPORT GROUP** for those who are separated or divorced at St. Catherine Church, 3252 Post Road, Warwick (upper back entrance). This support group embraces the teachings of our Catholic faith, provides a peaceful environment for healing, provides time to share and discuss topics related to separation/divorce, and is free. Offered each Thursday (except Holy Thursday), from 7 to 8:30PM, March 7 through May 2. For additional information, please contact: Peter Magnotta, Office of Life and Family at (401) 421-7833, ext. 217. (See flyer on bulletin board).



Our annual **SAINT PATRICK'S DINNER** will be on Saturday, March 16 following the 4 PM Mass. Tickets (\$15 Adults \$7 for children under 10) are available after weekend Masses or at

rectory during office hours ( Mon. Tues. and Thurs.)

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION** at St. Joseph Church, 1 200 Mendon Road on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 11, 13, and 14, from 7 to 8:15PM Fr. Hyacinth Marie Cordell, O.P., Associate Pastor of St. Pius V Church in Providence, will conduct the Mission entitled "God's Vision for Us." Mass will be celebrated each evening. For more info please call (401)766-0626.



**FISH AND CHIPS** will be served at **St. Theresa's Church Hall, 35 Dion Drive, Harrisville** every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. The dinner will be held from 12 Noon to 7PM. Cost is \$8.50, and \$5.25 for a junior portion. Also Baked fish \$10 and Grape nut pudding for an additional \$1.75.

**DONATIONS NEEDED** - Diapers, Baby Wipes, non-perishable food items. Boy Scouts of America in conjunction with Family Resources Community Action empowers families and individuals to achieve their potential to become productive citizens. Through its programs, advocacy and collaborative initiatives, families and individuals will have their basic needs met and develop the capacity to become fully functioning human beings and members of society. Please deposit your donations in marked box on the bench in the vestibule of the church.

**SECOND ANNUAL MARCH BREAKFAST - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 113**

will be held at All Saints Church Hall, 323 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket on Sunday, March 24 from 8 AM to 12 Noon. Breakfast will be Scrambled eggs, sausage, home fries, beans and French Toast. Tickets \$8 Age 12 & up, \$5 age 5-11 and under 5 free. \$30 Family ticket for 5 people.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** - a bi-weekly support group for all who have experienced the death of a loved one will begin at the **La Salette Retreat Center, 947 Park Street, Attleboro, MA** on Wednesday morning, February 20, 2013 from 10 to 11:30 AM and will continue at the same time and place every other week.

The purpose of the group is to provide a safe space where individuals can share their journey through grief with others who "speak the same language."

The death of a significant person in one's life affects every area of one's being including the spiritual, emotional and social aspects. Dorothy Levesque will facilitate the group; Margaret and Robert McGee, bereaved parents, will co-facilitate. Dottie has been working with individuals and families dealing with loss for many years. She has developed leadership training and various other programs that are widely used. Maggie is the author of *He's Right Here*, a book that traces her journey from despair to hope after the death of her, and Bob's son Brendan in 2003. For more info, call Dottie at (508) 236-9083.

**BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** - will be held next Sunday, March 10 from Noon to 3PM. **ENTRANCE EXAM** for all 9th and 10th grade applicants will take place on Saturday, March

## REFLECTION ON THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

### AN ANGRY SAVIOR?

Jesus, in the Gospel for Sunday, sounds angry and threatening and we must talk about that. "Repent or you will perish"; the tower at Siloam fell on eighteen people; cursing a fig tree, etc. Is the loving Lord we have known actually furious and offended?

Let us look.

News comes to Jesus that Pilate has murdered a number of Galilean people. Still worse, Pilate has mixed their blood with that of sacrificed animals. This is a terrible, gruesome story, worthy of denunciation.

But Jesus draws a point from it:

"Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means! But I tell you,

if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

What is the logic here? It seems you don't have to murder people in order to get punished. You can qualify just by failing to repent!

Why is Jesus so harsh? Is he a truly an angry savior? Was he angry in the same way a lot of people think the God of the Old Testament was? Unforgiving, warlike, furious, demanding an infinite sacrifice to make up for humankind's sins against an infinite God?\*

On the contrary, when we look at the First Reading, we do not find an irate God at all. Instead, we find a tender one, grieving over the troubles of his people.

"I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering.

Therefore I have come down to rescue them."

Miraculously, God speaks these words to Moses from the midst of a burning bush that is not consumed by its own flames! He begins to instruct Moses about how to rescue God's people. Great compassion from the depths of the transcendent God.

Didn't Jesus have the same kind of compassion for his own people?

He tells a parable in the second half of the Gospel that might help us understand.

An orchard owner orders his gardener to chop down a sadly unproductive fig tree. **The gardener advises him to leave it one more year and see if, with some tending, it will bear fruit. Give it one more chance.**

Who does the heartless orchard owner represent? We always assume that it is God. We half-remember the story in Mt 21:18-19 of Jesus actually cursing a fruitless fig tree.

But, on the contrary, **Jesus is** not the orchard owner but **the gardener**, asking mercy for the disobedient fig tree.

Isn't this exactly what he is doing when he warns that they will perish if they don't repent? Isn't he shouting at all of us to turn back to God in order to avoid destruction? Yes. He is "startling the poor sheep back" from the edge of the cliff (to paraphrase the poet Hopkins) and you and I are the sheep.\*\*

There is still reason to fear God, of course, since he is infinite and infinitely more fiery than the burning bush. But the closer you come to the real center of God, the more your fear turns to gratitude. You are not scalded or consumed by the divine fire—you are warmed and gentled at its welcoming hearth.

Jesus' tough love leads us to that hearth.

Fr. John Foley, S. J.