

Saturday, February 20

5 p.m. +John A. Haines
By Vicki and Alex

Sunday, February 21

8:00 a.m. +John A. Haines
By Bill and Mary Supple
10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Theodore Church

Monday, February 22

8:45 a.m. +Gloria and Frank Fahey
By Rita Kane

Tuesday, February 23

8:45 a.m. NO MASS INTENTION

Wednesday, February 24

8:45 a.m. +Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Thursday, February 25

8:45 a.m. NO MASS INTENTION

Friday, February 26

2:30 p.m. NO MASS INTENTION

Saturday, February 27

5 p.m. Parishioners of St. Theodore Church

Sunday, February 28

8:00 a.m. Altar Rosary Society
10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Theodore Church

- **Fridays during Lent:** 2:30 Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet Devotion and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3 p.m.; Confessions 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration 7 p.m.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Grace for Fullness of Faith and Life

There is a close relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Growing beyond a self-centered spirituality
We are born spiritually in the sacrament of Baptism. We become sharers in the divine life of the most Blessed Trinity. We begin to live a supernatural life. As we practice the virtues of faith and hope and love and as we unite with Christ in His Church in offering worship to God, we also grow in grace and goodness. But at this stage our spiritual life, like the life of a child, is largely self-centered. We tend to be preoccupied with the needs of our own soul, with the effort to "be good." We cannot be wholly self-centered, of course—not if we understand what it means to be a member of Christ's Mystical Body, and not if we understand the significance of the Mass.

Living for others

We receive a special grace by which our faith is deepened and strengthened, so that it will be strong enough not only for our own needs but for the needs of **others** with whom we shall try to share it.

Special grace

In order that we may have such a concern for Church and neighbor, in deed as well as in feeling, the sacrament of Confirmation gives us a special grace and a special power. Just as the "mark" or character of Baptism made us sharers with Christ in His role of priest, giving us the power to participate with Him in divine worship, so also the character of Confirmation makes us sharers with Christ in His role of **prophet** or teacher.

We now participate with Him in the task of extending His kingdom, of adding new souls to His Mystical Body. Our words and our works are directed not merely to our own sanctification but also to the purpose of making Christ's truths alive and real for those around us.

The [Catechism's section on Confirmation](#) says that Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Its effects are to: Root us more deeply in divine filiation (being children of God) Unites us more firmly to Christ

- Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- Strengthens our bond with the Church
- Associates us more closely to her mission of bearing witness to Christ. Helps us and more strictly obliges us to spread and defend the faith by word and deed .

A generation ago, we said that confirmed Catholics were "soldiers of Christ." This indicates Confirmation's effects: it configures us for a full & active mission of service to Christ.

Are we allowing the grace to work?

The cross which is traced upon the forehead of the person being confirmed is a powerful symbol if it is really understood and acted upon.

It is quite easy to know whether I do understand and act accordingly. I have only to ask myself:

- "Do I actually live as though there were a visible cross branded on my forehead, marking me as 'Christ's man' or 'Christ's woman'?" "In my daily life, do I really bear witness to Christ?"
- "By my attitude towards others, by my treatment of those around me, by my actions in general do I proclaim: 'This is what it means to be a Christian; this is what it means to live by the Gospel?'"

If the answer is no, then it means that there is a lot of grace being wasted—the special grace of Confirmation. It is a grace which is available to me in abundance if I will but use it.

Its strengthening grace will enable me to overcome my human pettiness, my cowardice in the face of human opinion, my fearfulness of sacrifice.

Please pray for our confirmation candidates who will be confirmed on May 15.

Confirmation Retreat: March 12 (11a-6 p)

Weather Conditions and Sunday Mass Obligation

In light of the blizzard of two weekends ago, the Bishop has prepared the following statement offering guidance for occasions when serious weather conditions fall on a weekend. He asks that you kindly disseminate the statement by means of your weekly bulletin and website now and throughout the year.

Given the difficulty of communicating with all the faithful of the Diocese on short notice, Bishop Bootkoski offers the following guidance for those occasions when weather conditions might present a hazard walking or driving to church for Sunday Mass.

A Message from Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski Catholics are not obliged to follow the precept to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation when weather conditions could make roads, sidewalks, and parking lots unsafe. When judging whether travelling could be dangerous, one should use common sense and always err on the side of caution.

When unable to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful still are encouraged to observe the Day of the Lord (Sunday). A practical approach may be to read and reflect on the Gospel of the day and, if living with others, you may discuss ways the Gospel message can be lived out in your own household, the Domestic Church. You may also consider praying together the Responsorial Psalm of the Day.

Finally, pastors and administrators are reminded that canon law enables you to dispense your parishioners from their Sunday Mass obligation "in individual cases" (c. 1245), which includes a single situation involving many persons.



Please pray for: Stephen, Elizabeth Ondroczy, Rosaria Incantalupo, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante,

Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Charlie Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Eleanor D., Kerry Kraft

Our Offering: \$2,608.81 **2015:** \$1,1260- snowstorm



Easter Egg Hunt: Needed: candy-filled eggs for the Hunt on Easter Sunday. If you are able to donate, please fill eggs with non-chocolate candy (Please hand in your eggs by March 19.)

The following dates are available for your



intentions. Mass intentions can be for the living, as well as the deceased. Blessings for Healing, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Special Intentions are

wonderful ways to express how much you care. We have Mass openings on the following dates: **Feb. 29, Mar. 1, 2, 7, 10, 16, 17, 21; also many openings from April on . Call Mary to reserve a Mass 689-8318, ext. 1**

Pascal Candle and Matching Altar Candles:

if you would like to donate funds for either the Paschal candle or the Altar Candles (or all of them), in Loving Memory of, in Honor of a loved one, or in Thanksgiving of...please call Mary, 689-8318, ext. 1 (Paschal Candle \$180; Altar Candles Set \$105)

Church Announcements

- **During the Fridays of the Holy Season of Lent,** please join us at 2:30 for Mass, 3 p.m. for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy; Confessions at 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. and Eucharistic Adoration at 7:30 p.m.
- **Confessions** will be heard 30 minutes before the start of every Mass—weekends, as well as daily Masses.
- **Home Visitations:** Every First Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call Mary at the Parish Office to be put on the list.

February & March Schedule

Feb. 22: All grades at School

Feb. 26, 7 pm: Grades 5 thru 8: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 29: All grades at School

Mar. 2, 7pm: Altar Rosary Society Meeting

Mar. 7: 7th Grade Saints' Papers due

Mar. 9, 7 to 9 pm: Evening of Recollection

Mar. 12, 11am-6pm: 8th Grade Retreat

Mar. 14, 6:15 pm: 2nd Grade Penance practice

Mar. 19 & 20: Altar Rosary Bake Sale

Mar. 20: 10:30- 2nd Grade Penance Service

Mar. 21 & Mar.28: No Religious Education

Mar. 24: Parish Office Closed

Mar. 27, 11:30: Easter Egg Hunt

Mar. 28: Parish & Rel. Ed. Offices Closed

Please Note: *The Holy Week Schedule will be published in an upcoming bulletin.*