

- Saturday, March 23** **4:00pm Valentine & Helen Modzelewski and deceased family members**, requested by the family

- Sunday, March 24** **9:00am John Sheridan 21st Anniv.** requested by the family.

- 11:00am Bernard Chesties** requested by Fr. Michael

- Monday, March 25** **8:30am John Sheridan** requested by Rosalie Allen

- Tuesday, March 26** **8:30am All Souls Intentions of Jack Flynn**

- Wednesday, March 27** **8:30am Ruth A. Shattuck** requested by David Dumais

- Thursday, March 28** **8:30am Christopher Roy** requested by St. Ann's Parish

- Saturday, March 30** **8:30am Thomas Topalian** requested by Theresa Topalian

- Sunday, March 31** **9:00am Alphonse Vigeant 6th Anniv.** requested by the Vigeant Family

- 11:00am Tammy Pelc** requested by the family

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us the story of the Barren Fig Tree. In this story, the tree-owner plants a fig tree so he may later enjoy the fruit from it. He visits the tree for three years hoping each year that he will find fruit on the tree. After three years without success, the tree-owner tells his gardener to "cut it down" because it is "exhausting the soil".

The gardener responds to the owner in a remarkable way. He pleads for the tree, stating that he will take special care of it so that it may bear fruit in the future. Yet, he is clear that if later it does not bear fruit, the owner can "cut it down".

Why does Jesus tell us this story? It is because He wants us to know that He expects us to be spiritually fruitful. The gardener pleading for the tree is God's mercy, giving us time to receive God's grace so that this fruitfulness may occur in us.

How do we become spiritually fruitful? We become so by receiving God's grace of conversion. This grace changes our hearts so that they are open to new life. Just before this section in Luke's gospel, Jesus warns those unwilling to "settle with their opponents" that the consequences of their hardness of heart will be God's punishment. Thus, forgiveness is an important way that we can bear fruit acceptable to the Lord.

Lent is a time in which God urges us to look deeply into our hearts. What is there that is blocking us from receiving God's graces? Are we like the barren fig tree? God gives us time because he expects that His generosity will lead to our conversion. Yet, the story of the fig tree ends with the gardener assuring the owner that if the tree does not eventually bear fruit that he can "cut it down." In the same way, eventually we will run out of time and our lives will end. We know not the day or hour this will occur.

Let us pray that our hearts may be open to receive Lenten grace.

In Christ,
Fr. Michael



Weekly Collection March 16 & 17	
Adults	\$ 3,518.00
Children	\$ 22.00
Maintenance	\$ 68.00
Bottles & Cans	\$ 20.00
Other sources of Income	\$ 232.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 441.00
Total of parish support	\$ 4,301.00
Weekly support needed to meet budget expenses	\$ 4,250.00
SVDP	\$ 120.00
Poor Box	\$ 31.00



Coffee Shop April 7

Please join us after the 9:00am Mass for fellowship in the hall.

***The church hall will be closed for the month of May and the first two weeks of June for the Yard Sale.**

Meetings

NA Sundays 7:30 pm in the hall
K of C 1st Tuesday of the month 6:45pm in the hall
SVDP Next meeting to be determined
Rosary Group 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 6:00pm in the church
Upper Room Ministry **No Upper Room March 26th**
Bible Study Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Church Hall
Please read Luke 15:1-3,11-32
First Saturday Marian Devotion after 4:00pm Mass



St. Vincent De Paul
Serving those in Need

If you are a parishioner and are in need of assistance, please call #508- 987-8892 and leave a message on the SVDP private line and someone from the SVDP will return your call. Maybe you have lost your job and are behind on your utilities or can't afford to have oil delivered. We can help. We also can point you in the direction of other resources that are available.



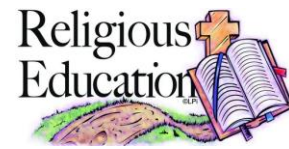
Save the Date for the Senior Spring Luncheon

St. Ann's SVDP Society cordially invites the seniors of the parish, 50 years young and up, to a Senior Spring Luncheon on Sunday, April 28th at 12:00pm in the hall. Please fill out the response forms on the bulletin tables and return them by Easter Sunday or call the Rectory at #508-987-8892.

This year at the Spring Luncheon our guest of honor will be Sr. Jeanne Rouillard. Please join with us as we dedicate a special garden to thank her for her many years of service to St. Ann's Parish.



The date of this year's yard sale is June 8th & 9th. We will start collecting items on Saturday, April 6th and will close the church hall again this year during the month of May to be able to store the yard sale items. **Signup sheets are on the bulletin board for volunteers to help sort and clean the items as they arrive.** If you know of someone who is moving and wants to donate items to the parish please contact the rectory. We need many volunteers this year with different gifts and talents to make this fund raiser a success. Please join us!!



Grades 1-4 3:30 - 4:45pm
Grades 5-9 6:00 - 7:15pm
Confirmation Classes Wednesday at 6:00pm

Lent



Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent at 6:30pm

Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30pm

Living Faith meditation books are available at the bulletin tables courtesy of SVDP



PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Last weekend was our Parish Commitment Weekend for the 2019 Partners in Charity Appeal. Thank you to those who made a gift and a special thank you for those who gave for the first time. Gifts and pledges have totaled \$7,300.00 towards our parish goal of \$40,000. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our mission as a diocese. Please be as generous as possible. If you have already made a gift to the 2019 Appeal we thank you. Your gift will help us reach our goal. You can also make your gift online at www.partners-charity.net. Thank you.



50/50 Raffle tickets and Raffle tickets for various prizes will be on sale after all the Masses. These raffles will benefit the Partners in Charity Appeal. The drawings will be held at the **Bingo Night** on Saturday, April 6th, 5:30pm to 9:00pm in the parish hall. There will be cash prizes, snacks, and fun for everyone. All ages are welcome. Please consider bringing your family and friends to this event.