

WELCOME

If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly.
If you are in need of forgiveness, Jesus forgives you completely—with unconditional love.
If you have been hurt by the Church, we are truly sorry.
If you are angry, Jesus offers you peace.
If life has become burdensome, we are here to support you.
We are happy you are here and want you to stay.
We would like to share our lives with you.
Come join us each week so we can worship God together.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard T. Conway—Pastor

rtconway@comcast.net

Irene Bonner – Business Manager

ibonner@comcast.net

Susan Hurton—Faith Formation Director

shurton.srb@gmail.com

Joe Galluzzo – RCIA Coordinator

joe.galluzzo@comcast.net; 978-314-3404

Yvonne Gobis – Liturgical Music Coordinator

ygobis@comcast.net; 603-458-7291

Karen Bailey – Communications Coordinator

kbailey07@comcast.net

Laura Szekely – Funeral Ministry

lcszekely@gmail.com

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:00 am

Weekdays as announced

Parish Office

978-683-8922

Fax: 978-689-8878

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

(closed from noon-1:00 pm)

Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance. Participation in both a parish and a diocesan preparation is required of all couples.

RCIA

Adults interested in baptism or joining the Catholic Church should contact Joe Galluzzo at 978-314-3404 or joe.galluzzo@comcast.net.

Anointing & Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is seriously ill or goes into the hospital. Staff and Communion Ministers bring communion to those who are infirm. Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated communally in the spring and the fall.

Baptism

Celebrated regularly at Sunday Eucharist. Mandatory parent preparation sessions are held at church every other month. Please contact the Parish Office four months prior to the intended Baptism date.

A Stewardship Parish

*Building a Catholic community of commitment, passion and love
Celebrating our faith through dynamic liturgy and a rich sacramental life
Welcoming all into the warmth of our parish family
Sharing the gifts God entrusted to us
Striving to learn, live and share our faith*

FROM FATHER RICK

Dear Friends,

LENTEN SOLEMNITIES THIS WEEK A BREAK IN LENTEN PRACTICE

ARCHDIOCESAN FEASTDAY

Tuesday of this week (March 17) is the Feast of Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. Mass with music will be celebrated at 5:30 pm, followed by simple Irish Hospitality.

HUSBAND OF MARY

Thursday of this week (March 19) is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church and Patron of a Happy Death. Mass with music will be celebrated at 12:10 pm, followed by our annual St. Joseph's Table Celebration in the rectory. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Fr. Rick ASAP. That means by Sunday afternoon!

MASS INTENTIONS

In the past couple of months Irene and I have engaged in discussions over the number of Mass intentions and the reduced number of Masses celebrated on weekends here at St. Roberts, and the quandary that that situation sometimes presents. As I thought about it, in my experience, there are a number of ways to approach this issue.

As I mentioned to Irene, this is the first parish I have been in where all the Masses requested were celebrated here. In most cases the Masses were sent to priests in the missions as a means of support. This would be one solution.

Another practice that is common in some other parishes is multiple intentions. Because the Mass is of infinite value there can be more than one person remembered at any one Mass. We already do this when we offer Mass for the deceased members of an entire family. The only thing that the church's Canon Law says about this issue is "The priest celebrant receives only one stipend for the Mass the other stipends go to the support of the parish."

As many of you know, I have tried to maintain the schedule of memorial Masses that we have in place at this time. However as more parishioners die, this is going to become more difficult. Therefore what I've decided to do is to use my own memorial Masses as a "test." Over the next few months you will hear both on weekends and at weekday Masses multiple intentions being announced. This will become the parish practice on July 1, 2020. It will only become necessary when someone requests a Mass that already has an intention.



This Lent we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves into Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, on this its 5th Anniversary. As we hear the Gospel story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well, this week's insert is, of course, about water – our use and our waste of it. The insert offers some very simple suggestions that we can all implement to contribute to the Caring for our Common Home. Just as a point of information, as a parish, we have stopped purchasing plastic water bottles. We are currently using up and recycling what we had already bought.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

Pope at Angelus: We become witnesses through gift of the Spirit

In his reflection on the day's Gospel, Pope Francis reminds the faithful that we are called to be Christ's witnesses through a gift of the Spirit, and not on account of our own merits.

On the Second Sunday of Lent, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel account of the Transfiguration, when Jesus revealed His glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John. The Holy Father delivered his Angelus address from the Library in the Apostolic Palace on Sunday, a precautionary measure in response to ongoing concerns about the coronavirus.

Understanding the mystery of His Person

The Pope explained that Jesus takes the disciples "and goes up a high mountain, symbol of closeness to God, to open them to a fuller understanding of the mystery of His Person, Who must suffer, die, and then rise again." Through the "wondrous event of the Transfiguration," he said, "the three disciples are called to recognize in Jesus the Son of God shining with glory."

Pope Francis emphasized that the choice of Peter, James, and John to witness the Transfiguration was not made according to human criteria: Peter, in fact, would deny Jesus during the Passion; and the brothers James and John ambitiously sought the first place in Jesus' kingdom. Instead, Jesus chose them "according to His plan of love." It is "a free, unconditional choice," the Pope said, "a free initiative, a divine friendship that asks for nothing in return."

We are called in the same way, the Pope said, to be witnesses of Jesus. That is, our calling is a gift that we have not deserved; and although "we may feel inadequate... we cannot back out with the excuse of our incapacity."

Called to bear witness to Christ

Although we have not seen "with our own eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun," we must nonetheless be prepared to bear witness to Christ. Despite the burdens and worries of everyday life, the Pope said, "we must not forget that the Baptism and Confirmation we have received have made us witnesses, not because of our capacity, but as a result of the gift of the Spirit."

The Pope concluded his reflection with the prayer that "in the favorable time of Lent, the Virgin Mary might obtain for us that docility to the Spirit which is indispensable for setting out resolutely on the path of conversion."

After the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis surprised the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square by appearing at the window of the Apostolic Palace, where he waved and blessed those who had previously watched him from the screens.

LENT 2020 AT SAINT ROBERTS

LIVING THE EUCHARIST

Please pray for the small communities participating in Living the Eucharist. If you have any questions, please contact Maggie at butler.fam@verizon.net or 978-640-1879.

2020 LENTEN SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 4:00 pm
Sunday at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday at 4:00 pm
Tuesday at 5:30 pm
Wednesday at 6:00 pm
Thursday at 12:10 pm
Friday at 6:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, March 18 – 6:30-8:00 pm
Wednesday, March 25 – 7:30-8:00 pm
Thursday, April 2 – 7:00 pm Penance Service
Please note NO confessions on Wednesday, April 1.
Wednesday, April 8 – 6:30-8:00 pm

REMAINING LENTEN SOLEMNITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 – ANNUNCIATION

Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by hospitality in the Gathering Space

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

- We CONTINUE TO provide bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the vestibule, Gathering Space and other areas of the church.
- Communion under both species will be suspended at most Masses.
- I will not be coming down from the sanctuary for the sign of peace.
- I WOULD ASK THAT THOSE WHO REGULARLY RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE TO PLEASE COME TO COMMUNION AT THE END OF THE COMMUNION LINE.

Hopefully, this will be short lived.

*Please pray for our parish. I wish you a peaceful week,
Fr. Rick*

Stewardship Reflection

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” (John 4:13)

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions, we always want more. True Joy and Peace only come when we follow Jesus; when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”



It's Catholic Appeal Time! Each year, we are called to make a gift to the Appeal so that we can support the Archdiocese and the many Central Ministries that make our parishes, schools, and communities stronger. Please prayerfully consider making a generous gift that will benefit both our parish and the many ministries that serve the 283 parishes, 110 schools, and 144 communities throughout the Archdiocese. If you would like more information, or to make a gift online, please visit the new and improved Catholic Appeal website at bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Liturgical Ministers This Weekend

Saturday, March 14, 4:00 pm Mass

Presider: Fr. Rick; Greeter: Regina Hoell; Cantor: Melissa Glaister; Lector: Ruthie Gordon; Server: Bill Sullivan

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Linda Biles, Frank Coppola, Rod Houde, Kim Millien, Sean & Laura Szekely

Sunday, March 15, 10:00 am Mass

Presider: Fr. Rick; Greeter: Grace Bouvier; Cantors: Sheila Manzi; Lectors: Sal Basta and Phil Giguere; Server: Tom Cuff; Children's Liturgy: Martha Giguere

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Tom Atkins, Jill Basta, Grace Bouvier, Marian Magnan, Mary Jo O'Brien, Kevin Roselle, Maureen Stewart

Parish Community Prayer Intentions

At our parishioners' request or with permission, we list those who are sick or in the hospital and wish to be remembered in our prayers:

The names in the Parish Community Prayer Intention list are not included in the web version of the bulletin in order to maintain the privacy of those individuals.

In Service

2nd Lt. Luke Beaulieu, USA, Lt. William E. Conway, USN, SN Madalina Yvonne Southworth, USN, SFODA 1324 Detachment, 2nd Lt. Hannah Jean Kuegler, USA, BM2 Stuart Bangs, USCG, Sean Hodgdon, USAF, Cpl Chris Carey, USMC, SFC John B. Nicholas, USA, SGT Jean-Paul Fitzpatrick, USA, SGT Vincent Amasula, USA, CDR Paul Giguere, USN, 1st Lt. Stephen Draheim, USA, Col. James Coffey, USAF, Lyle Shackelford, Pvt. Alexander Sabu, USA, Gen'l. R. Steve Whitcomb, USA, Col. Brian P. Bedell, USA, Capt. Lauren Whitcomb, USA, BG Patrick J. Donahue, USA, BG Brian P. Donahue, USA, Cpt. Michael McGaffigan, USA, Lt. Jesse Salisbury, USA F, Commander Kevin B. O'Brien, USN, Miko Belonia, Maj. Tony Hoffman, USA, Maj. Ross Coffman, USA, Maj. Garth Howe, USA, Chief Warrant Officer II Michael Morris, USA, Captain Matthew Mancini, USA, Sgt. Ellen Barnes O'Connor, USA, Pvt. Adam James Mazza, USA, Pvt. Joseph D. Gagnon, USM



MASS SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 14

Vigil, Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm: Dorothy, Myles, Janet, and Steven Coates

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 am: Gerard and Mary Conway
5:00 pm: Intention of the Presider

Monday, March 16

Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm: Intention of the Presider

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick, Bishop

5:30 pm: Intention of the Presider

Wednesday, March 18

Lenten Weekday

6:00 pm: Peggy Ann Canty
6:30-8:00 pm: *Light is On for You*

Thursday, March 19

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12:10 pm: Intention of the Presider

Friday, March 20

Lenten Weekday

6:30 am: Intention of the Presider

Saturday, March 21

Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm: Memorial Mass for Adolph Ebner

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00 am: Ken Hyslip
5:00 pm: Intention of the Presider

**Question of the Week:
Third Sunday of Lent**

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel, the short form

Step One: Listen to the Word

In this long story, what image or scene did you see in your mind's eye? What phrase or word caught your ear?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?

Readings for the week of March 15, 2020

- Monday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
- Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Some Tools for the Journey This Week

Pray As You Go Online Lenten Retreat

pray-as-you-go.org

This year's retreat is "Journeying with Jesus: a Gospel Lenten Pilgrimage." The retreat guide is from Peter Edmonds, SJ, and will follow key moments of Jesus' life and ministry. This year as part of the Year of the Word, Pray As You Go will be engaging with scripture a little differently: not only will some scripture passages for each session be longer, but listeners will also have an opportunity to be guided in the practice of Lectio Divina through a supplementary audio session.



The great need today is for Christians who are active and critical, who don't accept situations without analyzing them inwardly and deeply. We want persons like fruitful fig trees, who can say yes to justice and no to injustice and can make use of the precious gift of life, regardless of the circumstances. — Saint Oscar Romero



Lenten Gospel Giving

The traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: PRAYER—FASTING—ALMSGIVING. To assist families in the third of these supports, we participate in LENTEN GOSPEL GIVING. Each week all members of the parish are asked to bring the item with them to Mass. Each item is chosen to reflect the readings of the day and the gifts will be donated to various needy causes. Weekly reminders will be in the bulletin. Complete list is on the parish website if you like to plan ahead.

THIS WEEK

Third Sunday of Lent—March 14/15

"Whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty." (John 4:5-42)

Drink—please bring **DRINK BOXES** or **MILK BOXES** (they are in the same grocery aisle) for Catholic Charities.



NEXT WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Lent—March 21/22

"We must do the deeds of him who sent me while it is day. The night comes when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:1-41)



Light—please bring a package of **LOW ENERGY LIGHT BULBS** (60-75 watts) for Project Home Again.

Weekday Masses

Monday at 4:00 pm

Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Thursday at 12:10 noon

Friday morning at 6:30 am (not pm!)

A range of times to suit many schedules—pick one that works for you and take some time out to focus on your journey.



Stations of the Cross

An Ancient Lenten Tradition

- Walk the stations around the church interior or along the rectory driveway
- Fridays, 8:30 am & 7:00 pm, St. Michael's, N. Andover
- Friday evenings, 7:00 pm, St. Augustine's, Andover
- Reflections you can print out: www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/cchd-scriptural-way-of-the-cross.pdf
- Printable and Audio options: onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html
- Video Stations of the Cross with CatholicTV: www.catholicTV.org/shows/stations-of-the-cross



Listen and Learn

Please join us after the 5:00 pm Mass this Sunday, March 15, to listen to speaker Paul Muzhuthett, the director of Catholic Charities Merrimack Valley, speak about the mission and work of CCMV. If you would like to help CCMV at this time, donations of \$10 Market Basket gift cards are welcome to support their food pantry patrons.



Online Mini Course

The Death of Jesus: Four Gospel Accounts
www.bc.edu/deathofjesus

Explore the four different Gospel passion narratives and encounter each Evangelist's unique insights into the spiritual meaning of Jesus' death. A rich study for Lent and/or Holy Week. Includes introductory material on reading the Bible, and an overview of the four Gospels. Content by Dr. Philip Cunningham, former director of the Boston College Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

ATTENTION HS SENIORS! Scholarship Opportunity

The Andover Country Day School, Inc. (Formerly St. Robert's Country Day School) will award one \$500 scholarship to a high school senior who graduated from the pre-school program, and is accepted at a college or university to continue their education next September. Applications are currently available for qualified applicants. The deadline for submitting the scholarship form is April 10, 2020. For more information or to request an application, contact Jennifer Perigaut at 978-470-2237 or ACDS@verizon.net.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

A reading from the first Book of Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There – anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" – which means Sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

(continued on next page)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

Copyright 1970, 1986, 1992, 1998, 2001 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc. Washington D.C. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by an information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.