

FEBRUARY 19, 2012
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

1200 Shippan Avenue Stamford, CT 06902 Rectory: 324-4634 Fax: 348-9963
www.ourladystaroftheseastamford.org

Pastor:
Msgr. Surwilo

Deacon
Gauthier
Vincent

Office
Michele Aikler

Music:
Tanya Walsh

RCIA:
Robin Bughman

Outreach:

Parish Council:
Joe Dineen

Trustees:
Sam Cingari
Bob Unnold

School
Principal:
Sr. Anne
Landry, CND

Finance:
Gary Shannon
Gene Rusin

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday
Saturday
Saturday Vigil
Sunday

Holy Days

Confessions
Saturday

Public Rosary

LIFE WITH FATHER— Last weekend, many of our parishioners endorsed passage of a Bill introduced in Congress to remove mandates connected to a number of morally compromising provisions in health insurance policies. These unacceptable mandated provisions were specified in regulations recently issued by the Administration in Washington. The Bill in Congress would restore protection of conscience clauses which had been effective until now in accommodating concerns of conscience with regard to medical ethics. The parishioners who signed the post card petitions sent to our representatives in Congress were exercising their Constitutional right under the 1st Amendment to "petition the Government for a redress of grievances" not to mention their right to the free exercise of religion and speech guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and 1st Amendment. Most of you know this is not the first time the church forum has been used to address or attempt to redress important issues. Unlike some churches that go so far as to offer the pulpit to political candidates, the Catholic Church in America has thus far stayed clear of partisanship and focused on issues, thereby landing sometimes on one side of the aisle, sometimes on the other. Moral teachings & principles are preached with the expectation they be brought to the political process. But make no mistake, not engaging in partisan politics does not imply there are constitutional barriers to doing so! If there were, non-Catholic pulpits long since would have been called to task. In fact it was the pulpits of the 13 colonies that inspired & fanned the flames of the American revolution, giving birth to this thoroughly Theistic nation we call America. The public square has never been off limits to the churches. The recent notion of a "separation" of church and state, nowhere found in the Constitution, is not an unequivocal notion, and would be expressed better as "cooperation" of church & state. Last weekend's political action at church may have felt a little uncomfortable and strange to some. That feeling should be replaced with a sense of eagerness & duty that allows us to articulate & promote the common good with the church community. Happy Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, Msgr. S.

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 18	5:30	Kay Mead	Family
Sun 19	9:00		
Sun 19	11:00	Bill Wilcox	Family
Mon 20	8:00	The Jones Family	
Tues 21	8:00	For the Parish	
Wed 22 Ash Wednesday	8:00	Lawrence F. Schmidt	Family
Wed 22 Ash Wednesday	5:30		
Thurs 23	8:00	Larry Schmidt	Barara & Michael Ryan
Fri 24	8:00	All Souls	
Sat 25	9:00	Frank Infanti	Family
Sat 25	5:30	Betty & John Franchina	Family
Sun 26	9:00	Harry Bigelow III	Sister Anne Landry & OLSS Staff
Sun 26	11:00	Mary McDermott	Betsy MocarSKI

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 8:00AM MASS AND 5:30PM MASS WITH ASHES

12:00 NOON - ASHES SERVICE

LENTEN DAILY MASSES - MON. TO FRIDAY 8:00AM

SAT. 9:00AM

LENTEN CONFESSIONS - EVERY TUESDAY IN EVERY PARISH 7:00PM TO 9:00PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAYS 7:30PM

LENTEN MOVIE SERIES - SATURDAYS 7:00PM AFTER THE 5:30PM MASS

THE DIOCESAN LENTEN CONFESSION CAMPAIGN which will allow Catholics to avail themselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin next Tuesday, February 28. Every Tuesday every Parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport will be open from 7pm-to 9pm and Confession will be available. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord.

"FROM ITALY TO AMERICA: Photographs of Anthony Riccio," an exhibition of the rituals and traditions of Italians and Italian-Americans, is free and open to the public through Friday, March 30 at the Bellarmine Museum of Art, Fairfield University. On Monday, March 19 at 5 p.m., artist, author, and oral historian Anthony Riccio will offer a free gallery talk, discussing the stories behind the photographs he took in Italy, Boston's North End and New Haven's own "Little Italy." Visit www.fairfield.edu/museum for more events related to this special exhibition.

PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM We are seeking men for a new class in preparation for the Permanent Diaconate. Men interested in applying for admission to the program must be between the ages of 30 and 59. Applicants should be men of faith and of good character and disposed and willing to give the required time and effort to the Diaconate Formation Program. Men who are married and men who are not married may apply. A Married man must be validly married and must have the approval of his wife for acceptance into the program. Applications are to be submitted during the time period of now through July 31, 2012. If you feel the Lord is calling you to the Diaconate, please discuss the matter with your pastor. Admittance into the formation program must be pursued through your pastor. Anyone wishing to learn more about the Permanent Diaconate and our Diocesan Program of Formation may call Deacon Tony Detje, Director of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, at 203-748-5235 or 203-416-1451.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR IRS PURPOSES - Acknowledgement of donations received have been mailed to parishioners for whom we have records of contributions. Feel free to call the office if any major discrepancies are noted between our records & yours. Thank you for being faithful to regular parish support.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGNS - This is a patented program that began in 2004. Since then 422 cities in 10 nations have conducted these campaigns with measurable life saving results. More than 500,000 people have joined together to pray and fast for an end to abortion. The campaign consists of 8 hours of prayerful vigil for 40 days. In Fairfield County the vigil takes place at Summit Women's Center in Bridgeport from 10am to 6pm each of 40 days. Typically a parish might sign up for one of the 40 days. On that day people pray both in their parish and some at the clinic. We would plan to have 2 hour shifts for those who would like to go to the Center itself for a lawful, respectful, peaceful witness with security provided by the city of Bridgeport police. Look for more details in coming weeks.

LAURALTON HALL The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy-Lauralton Hall invites you to attend Take-a-Look Tuesday on March 6, 2012 at 8:00am. Join us for coffee and a tour of Lauralton Hall. RSVP to 203-877-2786 ext 144, but if you don't know until the last minute-just drop in. Lauralton Hall, 200 High Street, Milford.

DIOCESAN ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM On Pentecost Sunday, May 27 at 3:30 pm., the Diocesan celebration of Confirmation for adults will be celebrated at Saint Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. Refresher classes to prepare adults 18 years of age and older for Confirmation are offered on eight dates from April 10 to May 27, at 7pm to 9pm at Saint Luke Parish in Westport. A retreat will also be held. The cost for the entire program is \$50. For further information, please contact Gina Donnarummo at the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Services at 203-416-1446 or email gdonnarummo@diobpt.org. These classes are also offered as refresher courses to anyone in the diocese.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to separate from You.

WEEKLY COLLECTION Last week 5,035.00 Last year 4,253.00