

**Prayers** are requested for the Parishioners of St. Clare Parish, for those who are hospitalized, for our deceased relatives and friends, and for the following intentions:

**SATURDAY, February 21**

4:00 PM: Donald Harding.....2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv

**SUNDAY, February 22**

10:00 AM: Lucy Sacchetti.....1<sup>st</sup> Anniv

11:30 AM: Bradley O'Hara.....3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv

**SATURDAY, February 28**

9:00 AM: Robert F. Rull, Jr.....23<sup>rd</sup> Anniv  
The Crane Family.....Memorial

4:00 PM: John Hughes.....Anniv

**SUNDAY, March 1**

10:00 AM: Dalia Corsini.....5<sup>th</sup> Anniv

11:30 AM: James E. Melody.....Memorial

**Please remember in your prayers** the souls of **Lawrence H. Denver** and **Elizabeth M. Hartshorn**.

**Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God.** Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today's Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God's forgiveness?

**LENT 2009**

**Ash Wednesday, February 25:** Masses will be celebrated at:

9:00 AM, 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

**Lenten Daily Mass:** 9:00 AM

**Stations of the Cross:** every Friday at 4:00 PM

**Abstinence:** Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of abstinence. **Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.** On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

**Fast:** Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year are bound to the obligation of fasting. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting.** On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

**The Parish Family of St. Clare's** would like to welcome the following new parishioners who have recently registered: **Humberto & Ewelina Mundo.**

**Altar Servers:** Those interested in becoming an altar server are asked to please leave your name at the Parish House to the attention of Fr. Paul. We could very much appreciate new servers who are eager to serve the Lord in this special role and meaningful way.

**Our Monthly Food Collection** will be next weekend of **February 28 & March 1.** Please bring your non-perishable donations to the Masses. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**The Altar Breads and Wine** to be used in all the Masses this week have been donated in loving memory for a Birthday Memorial for **Herbert A. Murphy.**

**WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...  
and this is how we live our stewardship**

**Offertory (February 14 & 15) \$5,133**  
Thank you for your ongoing generosity

**Operation Rice Bowl:** Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl connects you through prayer and action with the poor and vulnerable overseas and in the United States. Visit [www.orb.crs.org](http://www.orb.crs.org) during the weeks of Lent to learn more about the people you assist through Operation Rice Bowl. Please pick up a Rice Bowl for your home, which can be found at the doors of the Church.

**Our Next Children's Liturgy** will be on Sunday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>** at the 10:00 AM Mass. Don't let your children miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be inspired to understand and practice their faith. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us then and again on **March 15 & 29.**

**The Parish Web site, [StClareBraintree.org](http://StClareBraintree.org),** is worth a visit. From this website one can review recent bulletins, register in the Parish, and take a daily retreat. Please utilize the new technology in helping to bring your Parish into the home.

**Please Remember the Needy:** Please be generous in donating to our Poor Boxes, which provides monthly meals for those at Pine Street Inn, Boston, and Fr. Bill's Place, Quincy. Your pennies are donated to the Catholic Daughters to purchase cribs for the unborn.

**Liturgical Roles**

**Lectors:**

**February 21 & 22:**

4:00 PM: B. Dugan

8:30 AM: M. Walsh

10:00 AM: M. Dalton – J. Collier

11:30 AM: M. Santos

**February 25, Ash Wednesday:**

4:00 PM: T. English

7:00 PM: G. Cahill

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

**February 21 & 22:**

4:00 PM: J. Dente, M. Ryan, M. Cahill, D. Hoffman

8:30 AM: J. & F. Buonopane, R. Ford, C. Vitagliano

10:00 AM: A. Moran, E. Ramirez, B. Little, M. Smith

11:30 AM: B. & M. Bohannon, P. Manter, M. Rochon

**February 25, Ash Wednesday:**

4:00 PM: R. McDonough, B. McGee, A. Moran, M. Smith

7:00 PM: M. Cahill, R. Ford, M. Rochon, D. Hoffman

**Priest Presiders – February 28 & March 1:**

4:00 PM: Fr. Tom Foley

8:30 AM: Fr. Paul Sughrue

10:00 AM: Fr. Paul Sughrue

11:30 AM: Fr. Tom Foley

### Liturgy & Life

The Lenten Season begins this week and lasts for a period of 40 days reflecting the 40 days of Jesus in the desert. We enter a period of time in which we engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving connecting to what Jesus did for us by yielding his life on the Cross. Will it be “just another lent” with nothing noteworthy to mark its passage? Or will Lent 2009 capture a spirit within us that will make this time memorable, if not fascinating? Prayerfully, Fr. Paul

**Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - St. Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows (1838-1862):** As a Passionist, Gabriel became successful in being faithful to little things. His attention to the feelings of others, the poor, and prayer, quickly made an impression on everyone. After four years of religious life, St. Gabriel contacted tuberculosis and succumbed on February 27, 1862 at the tender age of 24.

**It's Your Faith Discussion Group:** Friday, February 27, at Estella's house in Braintree. Just in time for the Lenten season, we will be discussing the PBS Frontline video series, **“From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians”** which tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. It explores the life and death of Jesus, and the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created the religion we now know as Christianity. Come and be engaged through on-camera interviews with 12 scholars – New Testament theologians, archeologists, and historians. Call or email for directions 781-801-3028 or [este2004@comcast.net](mailto:este2004@comcast.net).

**Internet sites of value include the following:** The Vatican's YouTube video news channel features news clips of Pope Benedict and major Vatican events. On January 23rd, the channel [www.youtube.com/vatican](http://www.youtube.com/vatican) was unveiled. The internet is a wealth of information and resources, which can be very enriching.

**Sabbath Reflections on the Internet:** Father Lou Papes, who preached a parish mission here at St. Clare in March of 2007, has begun posting his weekly homilies on the internet. Simply go to the website [www.sabbathretreats.org](http://www.sabbathretreats.org) and click the link to “Reflections”.

**The Pope Speaks:** At the February 11<sup>th</sup> audience, the Pope spoke of the necessity of controlling passions in order to do good. The Pope's talk focused on St. John Climacus, the 6<sup>th</sup> century author of *Scala Paradisi*, (Steps of Paradise), a step by step analysis of how to grow in the spiritual life. Those steps include spiritual infancy, spiritual combat, and Christian perfection, which rests on faith, hope, and charity. Passions utilized in a positive way energize one's life toward the accomplishment of the good. It is encouraging to note that the virtues of faith, hope, and love are accessible not only to moral heroes and heroines but to all of God's people. The Pope concluded, “let us climb the ladder of faith, hope, and love and in that way we will arrive at true life”.

**The Pieta Ministry** will be conducting a **Spiritual Retreat for Parents Who Have Lost a Child on March 28 & 29** at St. Anthony Shrine & Ministry Center, Boston. To register or obtain more information, please call Diane at 617-542-6440 x116 or email [pietaministry@stanthonyshrine.org](mailto:pietaministry@stanthonyshrine.org).

### Faith Formation

**All classes resume on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Attention Grade 2 Parents:** Before you start your First Communion dress or suit search - we have a few dresses, suits, shoes, (in various sizes) and accessories which have been donated to the Faith Formation Program. If you would like to see any of these, they will be on display in the Church Hall on Mondays during the children's class time. Please feel free to take something home to try on for size. If anyone has any outfits hanging in a closet that will not be used again by a family member, please consider donating them. They surely will be appreciated by someone.

**Snow Cancellation Policy:** If school has been cancelled or dismissed early due to snow - there will be no Faith Formation classes that afternoon or evening. Also, please use your own discretion regarding safe travelling conditions.

**If you have any questions or concerns,** please call the Faith Formation Office at 781-848-7481.

**Individual Email Boxes for each Director:**

Debbie Clancy (Gr K - 5): [Faithformation4K25@Verizon.net](mailto:Faithformation4K25@Verizon.net)

Ann Marie Tranfaglia (Gr 6-8): [Faithformation4628@Verizon.net](mailto:Faithformation4628@Verizon.net)

Mike Panciotti (Gr 9 & 10): [Faithformation4910@Verizon.net](mailto:Faithformation4910@Verizon.net)

**Liberty School's Game Night & Auction:** Friday, February 27, at 7:00 PM at the Sons of Italy Hall, King Hill Road, Braintree. \$10.00 admission. Call Carmen Herlihy at 781-843-2278.

**Volunteers Needed:** The Notre Dame Education Center of South Boston is seeking assistance in a fundraising event, “Hope Alive”, which will take place on Thursday, **April 16**. Volunteers are needed to perform tasks such as collecting donations for the silent auction, working on the sponsorship program, and helping with mailings or phone calls. NDEC is a “Place of Hope” where people from the diverse neighborhoods and cultures of the city come to initiate or to continue their education. Volunteers are also needed for ongoing tutoring and instructional activities at the center. Please call 617-268-1912 or visit [www.ndecboston.org](http://www.ndecboston.org).

**“Women Helping Women \$1,000 Scholarship”**, sponsored by the Braintree Women's Club is for a woman who has delayed entering college for a specific reason and would like to become part of an academic program in order to enter the work force. All Braintree women are encouraged to apply for this award by contacting the scholarship chairperson, Anne Flaherty, at 781-843-0539. Applications must be submitted by **April 10**.

**The Braintree Catholic Women's Club has Two Scholarships Available** to High School Seniors – one from Braintree High and one from a Catholic High School. The due date is **April 1**. Contact your Guidance Department or call Marie Connelly at 781-843-1965.

**Dear St. Clare Parishioners,**

On behalf of the many families and individuals who live in our Parish, I gratefully acknowledge your very generous donation from your Parish Outreach. I appreciate the support and consideration that you are providing to people in need. Without your charity, our work would be a great deal more difficult.

Sincerely, Fr. Thomas Domurat, Pastor of Most Holy Redeemer Parish, East Boston