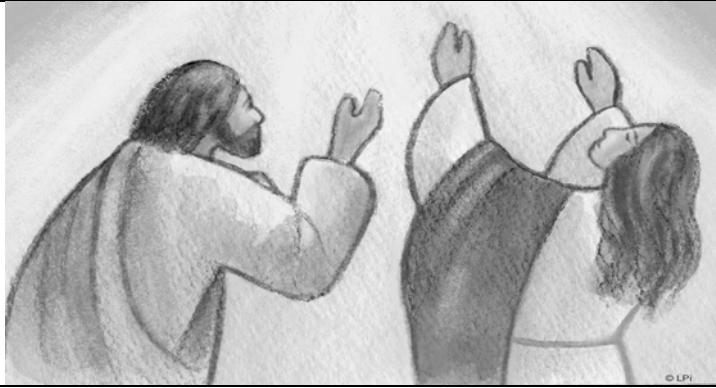


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (XXI-35)



THEME OF TODAY'S MASS

Faith means welcoming now the love of God in Christ, which saves us and gives us life that lasts. However, this plan must be freely accepted. To reject it is to condemn oneself—to prefer darkness to light. Christ as the light of God, is one of the images most used by John the Evangelist. Darkness, for John, imaged the world's rejection of God's love.

THINGS TO LISTEN FOR IN THE READINGS

In the First Reading

The Hebrew Chronicler speaks about God in terms of the reality of mercy. The speech refers to the 'mercy' of the foreign ruler, Cyrus! Through this reference the Chronicler redefines the meaning and role of the agents of power in our world—that they can also be agents of God's mercy!

In the Second Reading

The prayer of intercession earlier in Paul's letter to the Ephesians celebrates the exaltation of Christ. Now the 'lifting up' of Christ for Hebrew and non-Hebrew, is spelled out. God's initiative remedies the human situation, by giving life to lifeless bodies, and lifts them to a place of security, 'in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus'.

In the Gospel

Jesus had been saying to Nicodemus, that if people don't believe Him when He talks about the things of this world (things they are seeing everyday), they won't believe Him when He talks about the things of Heaven.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Amelia Ball, Albert Hustek and Louise Biggs, all of whom were recently buried from Assumption Church.

Please pray for the deceased members of the following parish families: Niezelski, Nimons, Nixon, Noble, Nocella, Noe, Nolan, Norris, Northrop, Norton, Novak, Novicio, Novinsky, Nunes, Oakes, O'Brien, O'Callaghan, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Grodnick, O'Keefe.

DURING LENT

Mass will be celebrated each weekday at 8:00 am in the Rectory Chapel.

Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday evening at 7:00 pm in the Rectory Chapel.

FASTING AND ABSTAINING DURING LENT

Fasting means one full meal during the day and two light, meatless meals. Liquids are permitted at any time. **Abstaining** means not eating meat at all during the entire day.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are both days of fast and abstinence.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION | ANSONIA

Generations of Faith



During our December GOF sessions on the Sacrament of Matrimony, the topic of divorce was not discussed. Divorce and marital struggles were not the focal point of the discussions. But a very good suggestion was made by some families who attended. We are interested in beginning a support group for people going through a divorce. Divorce can be a very unsettling and stressful experience. The loneliness and sometimes lack of support is hurtful. If you are someone who is looking for support, or know someone looking for support, please contact me, Christine at 203 735-2701 ext. 34.

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Monday (March 27)

- 5:00 pm-GOF Core Committee Meeting-Rectory
- 7:00 pm-New Bereavement Group Starting-Rectory
- 7:00 pm-Meeting for all those interested in participating in the Living Stations of the Cross-Hall

Tuesday (March 28)

- 7:00 pm-Miraculous Medal Novena-Rectory

Friday (March 31)

- 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall
- 7:00 pm-Stations of the Cross-Rectory

Saturday (April 1)

- 7:00-10:00 pm-School Dance-Hall

UP-COMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday (April 3)

- 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory
- 7:30 pm-Parish Council Meeting-Rectory

Tuesday (April 4)

- 7:00 pm-Miraculous Medal Novena-Rectory

Friday (April 7)

- 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall
- 7:00 pm-Stations of the Cross-Rectory
- 7:30 pm-Holy Hour for Life-Rectory

Saturday (April 8)

- 3:00-11:00 pm-Art Auction-Hall

COLLECTIONS

	2006	2005 (Palm Sunday)
Offertory	\$8,400.45	\$9,777.11

As of last weekend, the total cumulative Offertory Collection is **\$4,316.99** more than last year.

Our goal is \$36,000.00 more than last year.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL-2006

As of the last report, 90 parish families have made a gift or pledge to the 2006 AAA. Thank you. If you have not yet made your gift or pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so this week. We thank you in advance for your generosity. If you need a pledge card, we have a supply at the back of the church. The Archbishop's Annual appeal provides help to those in need! The 2006 Appeal will provide a minimum of \$500,000.00 to help provide affordable housing, a health clinic and other much needed community development initiatives.

HELPING HANDS RAFFLE

For each \$25,000.00 that Assumption School makes through the Helping Hands Program, we can raffle \$1,000.00 to participants. We are able to keep track of this. If you give cash, please make sure that the seller takes your name and the amount given. The money must be made by June 30, 2006. As of March 5, we have made \$15,335.00. Thank you very much for helping.

FOOD DRIVE - REMINDER

A Food Drive is being held this weekend, March 25 & 26, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Valley Council #23, for the benefit of the Valley Food Bank. Please return your paper bags to the church when you attend Mass this weekend. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

BAPTISMS

We wish to welcome into our parish family **Gabrielle Patricia Bellavance, Matthew Andrew Childs, and Shawn Anthony Richards, Jr.** all of whom were recently Baptized at Assumption Church.

BREAKFAST TO BE HELD

A breakfast will be held in the Church Hall on Palm Sunday, April 9, following all Masses. It will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Assumption Sports Programs. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses April 1 & 2. Raffle tickets for Sports Programs and K of C will also be available. The breakfast tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 12, and free for 5 year-olds or younger. Sports raffle tickets will be \$1.00 each, and K of C raffle tickets will be \$10.00 each.

BENEFIT ART AUCTION

The Assumption School will sponsor a benefit Art Auction on Saturday, April 8, in the Assumption Church Hall, 61 North Cliff St., Ansonia. A preview of art will begin at 7:00 pm—the bidding will commence at 8:00 pm. Signed sports and music memorabilia and art works from contemporary and well-known masters will be presented by Ross Galleries. About 150 works will be available, including oil paintings, water colors, silk screens, etc. Most opening bids are below \$100.00, and many of the pieces are signed and numbered by the artist. Each work is matted and custom framed. The public is invited, and tickets will be available at the door. Admission is \$8.00 per person and \$15.00 per couple, and includes food and wine throughout the evening, and door prizes as well. For further information, please call Tina at 734-0855 ext.22.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Take time for yourself—take all the time you need. A time to talk, to cry, to laugh, to listen—to share in a grief support group. This group will meet on Mondays from 7:00-9:00 pm, for nine weeks, starting March 27, 2006. The meetings will take place at the Assumption Church Rectory, Ansonia, CT. For more information, please contact Barbara O'Grodnick @ 734-5096, or Marcia Burkitt @ 723-5295.

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK

If the members of the family for whom a Mass is being celebrated would like to bring up the Offertory gifts, please notify one of the ushers before Mass. Thank you.

- Saturday (March 25)** Vigil Fourth Sunday of Lent (V)
4:00 pm-HM-Jennie Vacca (The Greski Family)
- Sunday (March 26)** Fourth Sunday of Lent (V)
7:30 am-LM-For All Parishioners
9:30 am-HM-For the Deceased of 2005
11:30 am-HM-Maurizio Monaco (Parents & Family)
- Monday (March 27)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-Open
- Tuesday (March 28)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-Open
- Wednesday (March 29)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-Open
- Thursday (March 30)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-Open
- Friday (March 31)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-Open
- Saturday (April 1)** Lenten Weekday (V)
8:00 am-LM-Elizabeth & Edward Trombley (Family)
- Saturday (April 1)** Vigil Fifth Sunday of Lent (V)
4:00 pm-HM-Alcine White (Family)
- Sunday (April 2)** Fifth Sunday of Lent (V)
7:30 am-LM-For All Parishioners
9:30 am-HM-Peg Kelleher (Jerry & Mary Mahoney)
11:30 am-HM-Catherine Imperato (Joe Foley)

LIVING STATIONS

Any high school student interested in taking part in the Living Stations must attend a meeting on Monday, March 27, 2006, in the Church Hall, at 7:00 pm. This will be a brief organizational meeting to hand out parts and prepare a rehearsal schedule. If you can't attend, please call Mrs. DeGennaro at 881-2844 before Monday.

PARISH NURSE

The Valley Substance Abuse Action Council and Valley parish nurses are offering the free Congregation Assistance Program (or CAP) to help prevent and control addiction. The training will be held from 5:30-9:00 pm on March 28 and April 4, at Holy Rosary Church, Father Salemi Drive, Ansonia.

Key Components of CAP are education to understand addiction, outreach to those suffering from substance abuse, gambling and mental health problems, and referrals.

Dinner and dessert are included. For more information or to make reservations, call Pamela Mautte at 736-8566.

CATHOLIC CONCERNS DAY

The 8th annual Catholic Concerns Day will be Wednesday, April 5, 2006. This is our day, when as Catholics, we will have a voice at the Capitol. The day begins with a Prayer Service at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford at 9:30 am, followed by a procession to the Capitol at 10:30 am, and meetings with legislators from 11:30 am-2:00 pm in the Legislative Office Building. Please call ahead for an appointment with your legislators, at the following numbers: Senate Democrats: 1-800-842-1420; Senate Republicans: 1-800-842-1421; House Democrats: 1-800-842-1902; House Republicans: 1-800-842-1423. Shuttle buses will be available from off-site parking at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, for travel to the Cathedral from 8:00-9:00 am. The last pick-up to St. Thomas Seminary will be at 2:00 pm. For more information, call the Connecticut Catholic Conference at 806-524-7882.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, April 2, Bishop Peter Rosazza will offer a Mass in remembrance of all children who have died because of abortions. The Mass will take place at the Shrine of St. Anne, 515 South Main Street in Waterbury, at 10:00 am. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford.