

St. Roch Parish

Sister Parish—St. Anne of Chardonnières, Haiti

1st Sunday of Lent

*One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4:4



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 25	4:00 pm	Frank & Maureen Felicetti by family
Sunday, February 26	8:30 am	Gerald Shima by Geraldine Yetter
	11:00 am	Gerald Vuona by Ed & Terry Ann Renaud
Monday, February 27	8:30 am	Anthony, Anna, Olga Kersis by the Jalbert family
Tuesday, February 28	8:30 am	Mass with St. Ann Intention
Wednesday, March 1	8:30 am	People of St. Roch & St. Ann Parishes
Thursday, March 2	8:30 am	Noah L. Miner (living) by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Friday, March 3	8:30 am	Paul O'Reilly by James Casavant
Saturday, March 4	4:00 pm	Barbara Allain by Irene Allain
Sunday, March 5	8:30 am	Mary & Alexander Anusauskas by the Jalbert family
	11:00 am	Anthony Ricardi by Terry & Ed Renaud



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Feb 26—Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7/ Rom 5:12-19/ Mt 4:1-11
 Feb 27—Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46
 Feb 28—Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15
 Mar 1—Jon 3:1-10/ Lk 11:29-32
 Mar 2—Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25
 Mar 3—Ez 18:21-28/ Mt 5:20-26
 Mar 4—Dt 26:16-19/ Mt 5:43-48
 Mar 5—Gn 12:1-4a/ 2 Tm 1:8b-10/ Mt 17:1-9

PARISH DIRECTORY

334 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

Rectory Office ... (508) 987-8987 Fax ... (508) 987-8938
 Religious Education Office.....(508) 987-2382

Pastor Rev. Michael J. Roy
Associate Pastor Rev. James J. Boulette
Deacon Rev. Mr. Paul Connolly
Director of Religious Education Mrs. Terry Ann Renaud
Administrative Assistant Mrs. Teri Rawson
Director of Music Mr. John Drahos
St. Vincent de Paul Society.....Arlene (508) 987-2813
CemeteryContact rectory at (508) 987-8987



Mass Schedule

Sat 4:00 PM Sun 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday—Friday 8:30 AM

The Sunday 11:00 Mass is LIVE-Streamed
 on the parish website.

Confessions ~ Saturdays 3-3:30 pm

Tuesdays 6-7 pm or by appointment

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am—4 pm

WEBSITE: strochoxford.com

EMAILS:

Teri Rawson—Rectory Office: strochrectory@gmail.com

Terry Renaud—Rel. Ed. Office: strochoxford@gmail.com

Our Sacrificial Offering February 18 & 19

Offertory Envelopes	3,489.00
Online Giving	250.00
Fuel	1,460.00
Other sources of income	789.00
Total	5,988.00
Weekly Goal	5,872.00
Result	Thank you! + 116.00
<i>Cath Relief Services—Earthquake Relief</i>	<i>1,055.00</i>

Friendly Reminder: The offertory envelope company has sent out end-of-year statements. The amount of this statement reflects the donations that were received in your monthly envelope packet. If you did not use envelopes, you can use your cancelled checks for documentation purposes.

If you would like to begin using offertory envelopes, please call Teri at the rectory 508-987-8987.



A second collection will be taken up this week end, **March 4 & 5** for **The Church in Latin America**. We thank you again for your continued generosity.

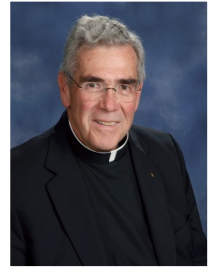


Maysoon khair will be at our church in **March 4 & 5** representing over a hundred Christian families who make their livelihood through the selling of their hand carved olive wood religious articles.

After all Masses there will be a display of these beautiful hand carved religious items; such as nativity scenes, crucifix, rosaries, last supper and many other beautiful religious statues.

Please stop by and look over the carvings that are available and help support this self-help project to keep the Children and the Christians living in the Holy Land.

Thanks you and God Bless you.



My Dear Parishioners,

Sitting at my desk pondering what the subject should be for my letter to you on the First Sunday of Lent, there came a light tapping on the office door. It was Terry Renaud asking if I had a minute—there was something that she was concerned about and wanted to share it with me. Her concern was that as of today there were only two people from St. Roch's parish and one from St. Ann's, and two from Sacred Heart that have signed up for the next Light of the World retreat starting in three weeks of March 17. Her concern immediately became mine. I am baffled. What's going on here?

We spoke briefly trying to understand the hesitant response on the part of my people. Is it because the venue for the retreat is at another parish? That there will be people there from three parishes? Please I want to hear from you. These retreats and the follow up have been the best experiences of ministry that I've had in my forty-eight years of priesthood. I can't let this fade away. It is too important for the spiritual growth and strength of my parishioners. We have a great team of speakers from the parishes who have been meeting for weeks preparing their talks and the various roles that go into putting the retreat together. They have been working wonderfully in cooperation with one another, enjoying getting to spend time with other people of faith who love Jesus and the Church he founded.

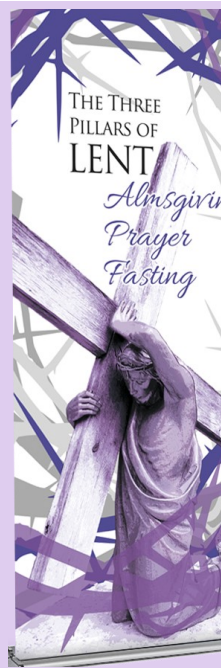
This sad news about the small enrollment follows right after the encouraging and uplifting experience of the robust attendance at all the Masses for Ash Wednesday. Lent is more than the ashes on our forehead that initiates this blessed season of grace. Lent is very much about putting our priorities in order, reprioritizing our relationship with Jesus our Lord and Savior. I assure you that this is one of the greatest benefits of the Light of the World retreat. The incessant attractions of the secular culture continue to distract us from this most fundamental relationship. I too know this first hand. Listening to the talks again, the testimony of witnesses, the quiet periods of adoration, the positive conversations at meals all help me to refresh my faith. I am pleading with my people at St. Roch and St. Ann to be bold in the discipline of setting this time aside and register for the next retreat. When you are right with Jesus the whole parish will benefit as well as your family and friends.



A reminder that the next First Saturday gathering as part of the initiative for the revival of St. Ann's is a week away. Please plan on attending the 4 pm Mass which will be followed by intercessory prayer of the rosary and consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church. A community building Pot Luck Supper will follow in the hall. Getting to re-establish bonds of faith and friendship following the isolation of the pandemic.

Let us continue to pray for and love one another,

Fr. Roy



LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

The Church teaches that Catholics in good health are to observe the following practices during Lent unless for some serious reason they are unable to do so:

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.



Come, sing to the Lord!

Calling all Singers & Musicians!

The combined adult and kid choir for our Easter Triduum services:

**Practices: Sundays at 12:30 pm
in the choir loft.**

If you are interested, but unable to make this practice, **PLEASE** contact John Drahos (508) 731-0020 to talk about what arrangements can be made for you to join!

FORMED

Enjoy a **Free Subscription** to an incredible online gateway of the best Catholic content, all in one place—books, videos, movies, audios, etc. It's **EASY and FREE** to Register! *A Gift of St. Roch Parish to You!!*

1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Select **St Roch Parish** by entering church name
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to **FORMED**.

That's it! Now sit back, enjoy enrich your life with an incredible array of resources focused on our rich Catholic faith.

OXFORD ECUMENICAL FOOD SHELF

The Ecumenical Food Shelf needs food for the winter. Please consider dropping off any non-perishable foods in the bins inside the church near the front doors.

Needed items: single serve items, small tubes of toothpaste, canned pasta, jellies, especially grape (in plastic containers if possible) and any sugar free items. Thank you!



NEW

CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP

Wednesday 3/29 at 4:30 - 5:30 pm
St. Roch Parish Hall
334 Main Street, Oxford, MA

Connect with other young moms in the area who are seeking authentic, faith-based community!

Children are welcome, but not required to prove you're a mama ;)

More information at
bit.ly/catholic-moms-group

If you can't make the first meeting but are still interested in the group or if you have any questions, please contact Gina at gina.hamwey@gmail.com.

Bereavement Support Group

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston will hold its next 6-part series of **"A New Day"** bereavement support group beginning **Monday, Feb. 27 from 1-2:30 pm**. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the sessions) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.



AMERICAN CHOP SUEY

may be dropped off in the church kitchen on **Monday, March 6th before 3:00 PM**.
Thank you!!



MEN'S CONFERENCE

22nd Annual Catholic Men's Conference

Come and join us on **Saturday, March 25**
 at Assumption University, Worcester.

For information check the new website: catholicmenworc.com.

Looking forward to seeing you in person this year!



DROP-A-SOCK CAMPAIGN

The St. Vincent dePaul Society is asking for your help. There are many among us in need. One of those needs is warmth. We are asking you to buy new socks for men, women, and children and place them in the bins at the doors of the church. This drive will be held throughout the **Month of March**.

They will be donated to local nursing homes, veteran's shelters, and places that assist families in need. You always help in such a generous manner. We know that we can count on you!





*Hi everyone,
this is a special note to all parents, students, teachers, & sponsors. Please discard all earlier schedules & follow this newly revised schedule that considers sacraments, vacations, Lenten services, & retreats held for adults & youth.*

K-8TH Grades 9:40-10:50 AM
High School & Confirmation 6:45-8 PM

February

26 K-8, high school & confirmation

March

5 K-8
12 K-8, high school & confirmation
19 K-8 no classes *Light of the World Retreat*
17-20 Teens perform Service at the *Light of the World Retreat*
24-26 9th -12th Grade *Ignite Retreat*
Friday 6-9:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM – 4 PM
Sunday 19:45 AM – 4 PM
26 K-2, 9:40-10:50 AM...
3-8 Reconciliation

April

2 Passion Sunday
K-8, high school & confirmation
6 The Lord's Supper—*Washing of the feet*
(Teens will meet at the sacristy 15 minutes before Mass and sign in)
7 Good Friday outdoor (dress appropriately)
Stations 11:45AM meet Father at church
9 Easter Sunday no class
16-23 School vacation no classes
30 K-8 AM & Youth Night, Grades 7-12

May

7 1st Sacraments classes practice
7 Confirmation Rehearsal 7:15 at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Webster.
Sponsors & candidates only
14 Mother's Day no classes.
15 Confirmation details tba
21 Spring Festival In Person K, 1, 4-8
1st Eucharist Celebration 11 AM Mass



Sometimes we may struggle to pray, we get stuck. We may need creativity in daily prayer.

So many of us want to spend time in prayer, but when we finally settle down, we realize that we don't know how to begin. Perhaps, this simple acronym, A.C.T.S. can help.

Write it down on a little piece of paper and slip into a journal or bible or on that mirror in the room, so next time a quiet moment comes to pray, we don't feel lost.

We all lead extremely busy lives, but Jesus desires to encounter us even amid our messes, reminding us of his profound love. Try walking through these 4 steps today...

A: Adoration- Praise God for who He is.

C: Contrition – Lay your sins before Him.

T: Thanksgiving -Express gratitude for what God's done.

S: Stuff (Supplication) ask God for your own and others' needs.

Also, if you have friends new in their faith journey, or some seeking to grow in their own prayer lives, share this with them! We are all in need of a little guidance and encouragement.

Check out info@reallifecatholic.com for more.



O2 SERVICE & PRAYER TEAM

The service and prayer team for our retreats is called "O2." As in O2 (i.e. oxygen), the silent fuel for fire.

O2 serves the main retreat through prayer, service, sacrifice and silence.



It is not vital for O2 members to be a part of the whole retreat; **however, it is a great benefit.** If you would join a team of volunteers to support the retreat behind-the-scenes in prayer and service, **please** E-mail strochoxford@gmail.com or call 508-987-2382.

Our next Retreat for **Light of The World Retreat** is **March 17-20**, and on **March 24-26**, our teens will have their **Ignite retreat**.



Ignite is a Catholic Retreat for High School teens. It is closely based upon and complements the Light of the World Retreat for adults.

With all the wonderful events happening at our church, over the next months, our kitchen could use a few supplies.

You can help by dropping off some of these items: *paper cake plates, paper dinner plates, soup bowls, coffee cups, drinking cups, paper napkins, paper towels, plastic storage bags all sizes, plastic trash bags, aluminum foil, Stretch-tite food wrap, plastic knives, plastic forks, plastic spoons, dish towels, sponges, bottled water, salt, pepper, oregano, parsley, onion powder, garlic powder, round plastic tablecloths, rectangular plastic tablecloths, cans of soda, butter.*

If you have questions call 508-987-2382.



**Rent a table (\$25 each)
to sell your own things in
St. Roch's Parish Hall.**

334 Main St. Oxford

REUSE...REDUCE...RECYCLE...

April 22, 2023, 8 am -2 pm

Let's limit waste a bit; by selling and buying used in good condition goods to reduce the impact on our planet.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Number of Tables (\$25/8ft) _____

Questions- call 508-987-2382 or
Email strochoxford@gmail.com



St. Roch Parish has been awarded a grant from the Diocese of Worcester through the Partners-In-Charity appeal to assist families who are experiencing difficulty in their heating bills.

This winter is presenting unique hardships to many of our parishioners with fixed or limited incomes.

If you are interested in receiving this assistance, please call the rectory as soon as possible. We have funds available to help six families with \$200 each to be used for heating. First come-first served.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society is asking for your help.

Help fill a grocery bag for a senior in our community.



Marked containers are located inside the church doors for the February items that we will fill for March.

Suggestions for items would be:

<i>Individual Oatmeal Packets</i>	<i>Tuna Fish</i>
<i>Individual Pudding Cups</i>	<i>Cans of Beef Stew</i>
<i>Individual Diced Fruit Cups</i>	<i>Canned Meats</i>
<i>Small Cans of Vegetables</i>	<i>Mac & Cheese</i>
<i>Instant Breakfast</i>	<i>Pasta</i>
<i>Instant Potatoes</i>	<i>Toothbrushes</i>
<i>Small Dishwashing Liquids</i>	<i>Sponges</i>

Many thanks for all your generosity, and May God bless all our endeavors.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS!!

Lenten Fish Dinners are back at **St. Andrew Bobola** each Friday during Lent, February 24—March 31. Fried Haddock Dinners with French fries, coleslaw and tartar sauce in the St. Andrew Bobola Church hall from 2 to 6 p.m., eat in or take out. Tea and coffee will be complimentary for dine in customers (no charge), other beverages will be available for \$1.00. Meal Cost is \$15



334 CLUB WINNERS — Week 12

306 Jerry Caswell
463 Roland Malboeuf
206 Paula Miner
182 Virginia Guertin

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic?

R.C.I.A.

**ARE YOU SOMEONE
OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...**

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- Is a Catholic that has not been practicing and wants to return and be refreshed in the faith.

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the a relationship with God, the teachings and experience of Church, and prepares individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For information please contact the Parish Office at 508-987-8987.

**Classes begin Tuesday, March 14th
From 7:00 to 8:00 pm at
St. Roch Parish Center**

The Catholic Free Press



**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS
KEEPING US CONNECTED**

**ONLY \$39 PER YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION!**

FORMS AVAILABLE AT ENTRANCES
TO THE CHURCH
and also in your envelope packet.
Please place in collection basket.