

# *Blessed Trinity Parish*

## *Roman Catholic Church*

*Greenfield, Massachusetts*

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 19, 2023*



### *Schedule of Masses*

**Lord's Day Vigil— Saturday 4 pm**

**Lord's Day—Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, & 11 am**

Weekday - 8 am & 9 am

Lenten Season Weekday - 8:30 am, 12:05 pm & 6 pm

First Saturday - 8 am

Weekday Holy Day Vigil - 6 pm

Holy Day - 9 am, 12:05 pm, & 6 pm

*"Just as the living Father sent me  
and I have life because of the Father,  
so also the one who feeds on me"* John 6:57

### *Our Churches & Sacred Spaces*

#### *Blessed Sacrament Church*

221 Federal Street

Mass: Saturday - 4 pm | Sunday - 11 am | Daily - 9 am

Holy Day Vigil: 6 pm | Holy Day: 9 am

#### *Calvary Cemetery*

Wisdom Way | First Burial recorded 1792

#### *Holy Trinity Church*

135 Main Street

Mass: Sunday - 8 am & 9:30 am | Daily - 8 am

Holy Day: 12:05 pm & 6 pm

#### *Perpetual Adoration Chapel*

221 Federal Street | Always present 24/7

[www.blessedtrinitygreenfield.org](http://www.blessedtrinitygreenfield.org)

*All are Invited & Welcome to Join Us!*

We are a diverse Catholic Community of Greenfield which shares a faith in Jesus Christ, is nourished at the table of the Eucharist, celebrates life-giving and healing Sacraments, tries to live the beatitudes, and reaches out in service, together.

Please join us on this journey of life and faith!

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — THE MONTH OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.. —*Amen*



**PARISH OFFICE.**

14 Beacon Street. Greenfield, MA 01301

**HOURS:** Monday-Friday: 8 am - 4 pm

413.773.3311 | 413.774.2884  
office@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org



**PASTOR:** Rev. Michael M. Pierz

pastor@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org | x103

**DEACONS:** deacons@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

Deacon Paul F. DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

Deacon George Nolan | Deacon Channing L. Bete (ret.)

**CAMPUS MANAGERS:**

Deacon Paul DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

**OFFICE MANAGER:**

Monique Richardson

**MAINTENANCE STAFF:**

Harry Demers | Rick Dufraine

**CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION:**

Betty Fritz, Administrator *pro tem*

**MUSIC MINISTRY:**

Paul Calcari, Choir Director | Kathleen Galluzzo, Organist

Stephen Glover, Organist/Choir Director

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Karen Yestramski-Provost, Interim Coordinator

ReligiousEd@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

**FOOD PANTRY:**

Donna Leary, Coordinator

pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

**BULLETIN:**

Charlene Currie, Editor *pro tem*

bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

(Deadline **Wed.5pm -10 days prior-** for following weekend.)

**FINANCE COUNCIL:** (transitional)

Bill Bell (Co-Chair) | Kevin O'Neil (Co-Chair)

Pierre Belhumeur | Ann Dillon

Gary Longley | Mark Penfield

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOARD:**

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Phil Corrinet | Jason Edson

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**BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE COMMISSION:**

Pierre Belhumeur | Skip Descavich

Johan Livingstone | Gary Longley

Mark Penfield | Greg Rode

**FATHER JAMES CASEY HALL** (135 Main St)

**PASTORAL CENTER HALL** (14 Beacon St)

**BL. MCGIVNEY CONFERENCE ROOM** (14 Beacon St)

Arrangements for use can be made through the Parish Office.

**PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL**

Deacon John Leary, Coordinator

Hours available and Coverage Requested

**CALVARY CEMETERY**

Arrangements for burial can be made through the Parish Office.

**OUR MINISTRIES.**

**FOOD PANTRY**

Saturday 9 am– noon | Tuesday Noon-3 pm | Thursday 3 pm-6 pm | pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

**COMMUNITY MEALS:** 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays—to volunteer call Marcy Hoynoski 413.773.3311

**ALTERNATIVES PREGNANCY CENTER**

413.774.6010 *Pregnancy Tests, Counseling, Support, Post Abortion Support*

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:** Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

**YOUNG & CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT GROUP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY:** Stephanie Paige 413.773.3311

**POPE ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT YOUTH GROUP:** Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

**ROSARY SODALITY:** Marcy Hoynoski, President. 413.773.3311

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LT. JOHN GALVIN COUNCIL No. 133:** Dan Arsenault, Grand Knight. 413.773.3311

**HOSPITAL MINISTRY | JAIL MINISTRY | HOMEBOUND MINISTRY | HOMELESS MINISTRY**

### ***Thoughts from the Pastor's Desk ...***

Dear friends of Blessed Trinity,

This week we solemnly enter the season of Lent as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. Many of us may take the opportunity to attend daily Mass this week and be marked by the burnt embers of last year's palms. The sign of ashes that we humbly accept on our heads is a personal recognition and visible expression that the worldly trappings of adulation, fame, and praise amount to not much but dust. With that realization, our hearts and will are set free to pursue that which truly shines and lasts, a life in Christ, the incarnation of Love.



Ash Wednesday marks the start of a new opportunity to deepen our encounter with the living God. Lent is a season where Holy Mother Church herself, and we together brothers and sisters in Christ, support one another to progress in this profound relationship. You and I are made for the gilded glory and peace of Heaven, not the dark smudginess of earthly decay. May Lent be for each of us a time to recognize this true value.

As we can read in Bishop Byrne's Lenten letter (reprinted in the following pages), this season affords us the time "to make our interior dispositions more of what Christ would have us be". With his encouragement, may we all take advantage of the opportunities this penitential season provides us. I encourage you to consider our upgraded daily Mass schedule unifying our morning Mass throughout most of the week as well as a Lenten noonday Mass and a new Wednesday evening Mass. May these new times be ever easier opportunities for greater participation among our faithful in at least one or a few daily Masses. Lent can be a great time to try it out!

I also invite you to spend time in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel or volunteer with our pastoral ministries. Perhaps picking up some spiritual reading from our parish book kiosk or tuning in to a Catholic podcast. Being extra generous during this season with time, talent, or treasure to support our hospital ministry, jail ministry, or homebound outreach. Among prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, so many opportunities can be had here in our parish. May this be a holy and purifying Lent for us all, reborn and made new from the ashes of world to the joy of union with God in Heaven!

*Most Holy Trinity, I adore You!*

*My God, I love you in the Most Blessed Sacrament!*

**Fr. Pierz**



#### **Proposed Daily Mass Schedule**

Monday	8:30
Tuesday	8:30
Wednesday	12:05 & 6:00 PM
Thursday	8:30
Friday	8:30

Locations to be determined, based on the best use of our sacred spaces.

NB. Sunday Mass schedule does not change.

#### **Daily Mass Schedule (*Lent*)**

Monday	8:30	12:05
Tuesday	8:30	12:05
Wednesday	12:05	6:00 PM
Thursday	8:30	12:05
Friday	8:30	12:05

8:30 AM Mass in Blessed Sacrament Church

12:05 PM Mass in Holy Trinity Church

6:00 PM Mass in Perpetual Adoration Chapel

With consultation, discernment, and deliberation, these proposals can take effect **Ash Wednesday, February 22.**



# OUR FAITH.



## Diocese of Springfield Office of the Bishop

January 31, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

We begin Lent this year on February 22, 2023 with the visible sign of ashes, acknowledging our frail human nature, with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

The practices of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent are outward signs of the work we seek to do during Lent: to make our interior dispositions more of what Christ would have us be. The acts of almsgiving and self-sacrifice help us to grow in our understanding of all God has done for us. A special undertaking can be Operation Rice Bowl, a sacrifice by each of us for those who never have a full meal.

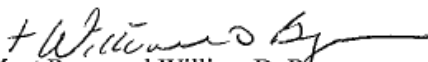
History indicates that in the Diocese of Springfield Lenten Penance services have been beacons of light for Catholics returning to the practice of their faith through the Sacrament of Penance. I encourage all to take advantage of this Sacrament of healing, particularly for those who have felt hurt by the Church in any way. As we journey through the Sacred days of Lent, let us be aware of the many ways by which we can provide healing to our Catholic family.

Please refer to the printed guidelines for Lenten practices as they pertain to fasting and abstinence.

May this Lent be a time of growth in our relationship with Christ and with others, and may we find ourselves in a more meaningful and intentional relationship with our God.

With every good wish, I am

Your friend in Christ,

  
Most Reverend William D. Byrne  
Bishop of Springfield

Monsignor/Father/Deacon: Please share this letter at all the Masses on the weekend before Ash Wednesday. (February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) Thank You.

# OUR FAITH.

## SAVE THE DATES—OPEN PARISH MINISTRY MEETINGS.

We invite you to join several upcoming discussions for the growth and expansion of our parish ministries. Your thoughts and suggestions are earnestly invited!

Many of these efforts and initiatives, with more to come, have been born from our first conversations during our **Open Parish Meetings**. Thank you for keeping the conversation going and for the works we can all engage so to build up the Church of Christ here in Greenfield! Let's have an engaging discussion and please bring your creative ideas.

### PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND.

**Monday, February 20 at 6:00PM** in the Pastoral Center Conference Room

Discussions to include Hospital Ministry opportunities, Nursing Home visitations, and Homebound outreach.

### WORSHIP/LITURGY PASTORAL COMMISSION.

**Wednesday, March 1 at 4:00PM** in the Pastoral Center Bl. McGivney Conference Room

**Thursday, March 9 at 1:00PM** in the Pastoral Center Bl. McGivney Conference Room

Discussions to include volunteer opportunities for lectors, altar servers, ushers, sacristans, environmental sacristans, etc. as well as considerations for music, schedules, vocations, children's activities, and more.

### FAITH FORMATION PASTORAL COMMISSION.

**Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00PM** in the Pastoral Center Bl. McGivney Conference Room

**Thursday, March 9 at 9:30 AM** in the Pastoral Center Bl. McGivney Conference Room

Discussions to include all ideas, events, and recommendations pertaining to adult faith formation classes, bible studies, sacramental preparation, Adult Confirmation, and more.

### PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS, THE POOR, & THE HUNGRY:

**Follow-Up Meeting TBD (Previous Meeting: February 16)**

Discussions to include Food Pantry, Community Meals, Take & Eat, expanding our Homeless Ministry, and supporting the Poor.



## Diocese of Springfield Lenten Regulations, 2023



1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed. On days of fast, two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
2. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
3. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at age fourteen (14) and does not cease.
4. The obligation to fast begins at age eighteen (18) and ceases at age fifty-nine (59).

Please note: Although the faithful may excuse themselves from fast and abstinence, for a just cause, there is an obligation to substitute another penance in its place. No Catholic should lightly excuse him/herself from these Lenten obligations

(Please see Bishop Byrne's Letter on the following page)



*May your Ash Wednesday be a time of reflection and promise.*

# OUR FAITH.

## OUR SACRAMENTS.

### EUCCHARIST:

#### LORD'S DAY MASS

Saturday 4:00 pm (BSC) | Sunday 8:00 am (HTC), 9:30 am (HTC), 11:00 am (BSC)

#### WEEKDAY MASS

8:00 am (HTC) and 9:00 am (BSC) | Lent 8:30 am (BSC), 12:05 pm (HTC), 6 pm (PAC)

#### ADORATION

Always present, 24/7 in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel

### CONFESSION:

Saturday, 2:30-3:30 pm | 30 min. before Sunday Masses\* | Wednesday, 5-5:45pm | or by appointment. \* Every godly effort will be made to arrive 30 min. before the 11 am Mass for confession, however sometimes cannot due to previous Mass and drive time.

### BAPTISM:

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule baptism preparation classes, review sponsor eligibility, and plan celebration of the sacrament. Typically celebrated within 8 weeks of birth. Ceremony may be private or during our Sunday Masses.

### MARRIAGE:

Please contact the Parish Office at least 9 months in advance to enroll in marriage preparation classes and plan liturgy arrangements.

### CONFIRMATION:

Typically takes place through our Religious Education program. If you are an adult and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the Parish Office.

### HOLY ORDERS:

Have you ever been inspired of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please speak with Fr. Pierz or call the Parish Office.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Available during pastoral visit, Sacrament of Confession, or by appointment.

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS:** Seeking to receive all your sacraments and enter full communion with the Catholic Church? You are invited and welcome to join us! Please contact the Parish Office to learn how to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation.

### CATHOLICS COME HOME..



To learn more about our Catholic Church and to help you understand more clearly the Church and her teachings you can find helpful

resources at [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

There are many upcoming opportunities for Confirmation Retreats this Spring. Please check the calendar at [www.CatholicYouthRevival.org](http://www.CatholicYouthRevival.org) for more info.

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.** For Bishop Byrne and all the Clergy of the Diocese of Springfield, may participation in the Year of the Eucharist and Eucharistic Congress increase their devotion to the Eucharist. May they find healing and an increase in their zeal for their ministry. **We pray to the Lord.**



### COME PRAY WITH US.

**Most Holy Rosary**—before Daily Mass. Join us in asking our Blessed Mother to help, comfort, protect, and heal.

**Adorations & Benediction**—after the Wednesday Daily Masses (Adoration Chapel).

**Roses for Mary Prayer Group**—each Monday at 6:00 pm in the Adoration Chapel. All are welcome.

**Holy Hour for the Sick and Dying**—each Wednesday at 7 pm in the Adoration Chapel. If you know of someone in need of prayer, come and spend an hour for their intention.

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy**—Fridays at 3 pm in the Adoration Chapel—all are welcome.

With the Lenten Season here, please take note of our updated Confession times.

**Saturday, 2:30-3:30 pm (BSC)**  
**Wednesday, 5:00-5:45 pm (PAC)**  
**Before weekend Mass (HTC/BSC)**  
**By appointment. 773.3311**

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**Feb. 22—Ash Wednesday**  
**April 6—Holy Thursday | April 7—Good Friday**  
**April 8—Holy Saturday | April 9—Easter Sunday**

OUR DIOCESE.

# HE IS PRESENT

## WILL YOU BE?

### Eucharistic Congress

MARCH 4TH, 2023

At the MassMutual Center



For more details or to register  
Please visit our website  
<https://catholiclifeconference.org>

Dr. Edward Sri  
Barbara Hell  
Dr. Carlos Parellada  
Patricia Sandoval  
Ray Grijalba  
Sr. Maris Stella



Adoration • Confession • Vigil Mass

Register at  
[CatholicLifeConference.org](https://CatholicLifeConference.org)  
Register by February 20, 2023  
to have lunch Included





# OUR PARISH.



## Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, February 18—FATHER GONI

4:00 BSC JAMES TETREAU— his Wife and Son

SUNDAY, February 19—FATHER PIERZ

8:00 HTC SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR ROBIN TASSINARI  
—Mary Fleury

9:30 HTC MARCEL AND HELEN HOYNOSKI —  
the Family

11:00 BSC JOHN HANNON — Ann Marie Hannon

MONDAY, February 20 — FATHER AUFIERO

8:00 HTC MARY ANN — Lily

9:00 BSC PEGGY SHEA—David and  
Helen Shea Murphy

TUESDAY, February 21—BISHOP McDONNELL

8:00 HTC OUR MOM, PHYLLIS — Sara and Jill

9:00 BSC IN THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED  
— Christina Martel

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22—DEACON CULLITON

8:30 BSC ARLENE ASHBY — Jackie Jurewicz

12:05 HTC BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR IAIN WRIGHT  
— Aunt Mary

6:00 PAC BRENT KOSTANSKI — Sandy and Charlie  
Kosterman and Family

THURSDAY, February 23—CLERGY IN PURGATORY

8:30 BSC JOYCE TILTON — Laurie

12:05 HTC MATT AND ELINOR FORSAITH — Rich and  
MaryAnn

FRIDAY, February 24—DEACON DECARLO

8:30 BSC CHARLES MCCARTHY, JR.

12:05 HTC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI —  
Britney, George, and Children

SATURDAY, February 25—FATHER LISOWSKI

4:00 BSC GERTRUDE SCOTT— Nancy Willis and  
Frances Joy

SUNDAY, February 26—CLERGY WHO ARE SICK

8:00 HTC EDWARD HODGES — The Fleury Family

9:30 HTC SHARON CONWAY — her Friends, Betty,  
Birute, and Georgia

11:00 BSC HERBERT SEAMAN — 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY —  
the Filiault Family

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

Give eternal life O Lord, to all our beloved dead.  
May they rest in peace! We remember in our prayers:

**MARYSIA SZWYD | VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE |  
VICTIMS OF SCHOOL SHOOTING IN MICHIGAN**



## **FEBRUARY 12 - 25**

The **SANCTUARY CANDLES** will burn this  
week in memory/honor:

For a Special Intention from Anonymous

The **ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES** will  
burn in memory/honor of:

1. Joanne DeNofrio/Coney—by Husband & Family
2. Health & Blessings for Debbie Gleason—by Claire Heath
3. John, Brownie, Aaron Philo & Family—by June & Greg
4. Patricia Duffey Earley—by Robert Earley

The **SANCTUARY FLOWERS** this week are in memory/  
honor of: a Special Intention

## **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE.**

“The rite of receiving ashes on our heads is  
meant to protect us from the error of putting  
the reward received from others ahead of the  
reward we receive from the Father. This austere sign,  
which leads us to reflect on the transience of our human  
condition, is like a medicine that has a bitter taste and yet  
is effective for curing the illness of appearances, a  
spiritual illness that enslaves us and makes us dependent  
on the admiration of others.”

- Pope Francis

**Wednesday, February 22**

**8:30 AM (BSC) | 12:05 PM (HTC) | 6:00 PM (BSC)**



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS —GOLF**

**TOURNAMENT.** Meeting to plan the annual golf  
tournament will be 6-8:30 pm on Monday, February  
27 at the Pastoral Center. Any  
Catholic gentleman interested in  
becoming a Knight, please  
contact Dan Arsenault or Lou  
Grader through the Parish Office  
at 413.773.3311.



## **CANTORS.**

Saturday Feb. 18 4:00 pm— Jackie Jurewicz

Sunday Feb. 19 11:00 am — Sanda Pavoni

Saturday Feb. 25 4:00 pm— TBD

Sunday Feb. 26 11:00 am — TBD



# OUR PARISH.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEALS.

**February 23** Norma Patten | **March 9** Kathy Tomaus  
**March 23** Darlene Steiner | **March 30** Kathy Tomaus



Take-out only 5-6 pm at Holy Trinity Church on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of the month. People can come to the door and they are given a container with a complete meal.

**Additional volunteers are needed** to prepare and serve meals, as well as bakers to make desserts. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry with a few hours of your time, please call Marcy at 773.3311.

## BLESSED TRINITY ROSARY SOCIETY—SAVE THE DATE.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, March 6 at 6:30 pm** at Father Casey Hall.

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month March – June and September through December.



**Newcomers welcome!**

For more information contact Marcy at 773.3311.

## 2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT.

If you would like a copy of your 2022 Contribution Statement for your tax preparation, please call the office at 773.3311. We will be happy to mail or email you a copy.

## WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 12, 2023

*"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"*

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Weekly Parish Collection: | \$4610 |
| Fuel/Energy Collection:   | 182    |
| Maintenance Collection:   | 170    |

*"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of His Holy Church."*

**Thank you for your generosity!**



## Coming up at Blessed Trinity Parish

**Daily Mass** 8 am HTC & 9am BSC

**Lent Daily Mass** 8:30 am (BSC), 12:05 pm (HTC), & Wednesday 6 pm (Adoration Chapel)

**Daily Holy Rosary** 7:35 am HTC, 8:30 am BSC

**Confession:** Sat. 2:30-3:30 pm | 30 min. before Sunday Masses\* | Wednesday, 5-5:45pm | or by appointment.  
 \* Every effort is made to arrive 30 min. before the 11 AM Mass for confession, however priest availability can be limited due to schedule of previous Mass and commute.

### Monday Feb. 20

**6:00 pm Pastoral Ministry to the Sick & Homebound.** Pastoral Center—all are welcome.

**6:00 pm Roses for Mary** Prayer Group (Adoration Chapel each Mon.)

### Tuesday Feb. 21

**6:30-9 pm Boys Scouts** Pastoral Center (every Tues.)  
**No meeting Feb. 21-school vacation week- enjoy!**

### Wednesday Feb. 22— Ash Wednesday

**12:05 PM - Mass (HTC)**

**After Daily Mass—Adoration & Benediction** after Daily Masses ( each Wed.)

**6 PM— Mass (Adoration Chapel)**

**7 pm - Holy Hour** for the Sick and Dying (Adoration Chapel each Wed.)

### Thursday Feb. 23

### Friday Feb. 24

**3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy** recited (Adoration Chapel each Fri.)

### Saturday Feb. 25

**2:30 pm—3:30 pm—Confession (BSC)**

**4 pm—Mass (BSC)**

**7-9pm St John Paul II Youth Group —Game Night** Father Casey Hall .

### Sunday Feb. 26

**8 am— Mass (HTC)**

**9:30 am—Mass (HTC)**

**9:45 am –10:45 am Gr. 1-8 Religious Education** Classes Pastoral Center. Coffee & conversation available for parents. **NO CLASSES School Vacation.**

**11 am Mass (BSC)**

**6-7 pm Gr. 1-8 Religious Education Classes** Pastoral Center. **NO CLASSES School Vacation.**

# OUR FAITH.

## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE THIRTIETH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11, 2022

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36).  
Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them...

### *Merciful like the Father*

The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father’s love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God’s name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God’s very nature. It combines strength and tenderness. For this reason, we can say with wonder and gratitude that God’s mercy embraces both fatherhood and motherhood (cf. Is 49:15). God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; he unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit.

### *Jesus, the mercy of the Father*

The supreme witness of the Father’s merciful love for the sick is his only-begotten Son. How often do the Gospels relate Jesus’ encounters with people suffering from various diseases! He “went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people” (Mt 4:23). We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that he made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. Lk 9:2).

One twentieth-century philosopher suggests a reason for this: “Pain isolates in an absolute way, and absolute isolation gives rise to the need to appeal to the other, to call out to the other”. When individuals experience frailty and suffering in their own flesh as a result of illness, their hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply, and questions about the meaning of what is happening in their lives become all the more urgent. How can we forget, in this regard, all those patients who, during this time of pandemic spent the last part of their earthly life in solitude, in an intensive care unit, assisted by generous healthcare workers, yet far from their loved ones and the most important people in their lives? This helps us to see how important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick...

### *Pastoral mercy: presence and proximity*

In the past thirty years, pastoral health care has also seen its indispensable service increasingly recognized. If the worst discrimination suffered by the poor – including the sick, who are poor in health – is the lack of spiritual attention, we cannot fail to offer them God’s closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith. In this regard, I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: “I was sick and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Francis

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 December 2021, Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto.

**PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND.**

**Monday, February 20 at 6:00PM** in the Pastoral Center Conference Room

# OUR YOUTH.

**SEEKING A DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.** Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Parish of Greenfield, MA seeks a Director of Religious Education (DRE) to start in the spring/summer of 2023. The **Director of Religious Education** is a leadership role responsible for the development, organization, and administration of the Religious Education program for the school-aged children of Blessed Trinity Parish.

This part-time position (24-28 hours per week; year-round) will report to the Pastor and collaborate with the Religious Education Board as we build the mission of Christ and His Church among our families and young. The full job description can be found at [CatholicCommunityOfGreenfield.org](http://CatholicCommunityOfGreenfield.org). Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter that speaks to their interest and qualifications relative to the job description to [apply@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org](mailto:apply@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org). Thank you.



## Thomas Aquinas College Open House

Prospective students will soon be able to experience the intellectual, spiritual, and community life of Thomas Aquinas College at an open house on the New England campus.

High school juniors and seniors are invited to stay overnight through Sunday morning to sit in on classes, meet students and members of the teaching faculty, and to engage in a range of fun activities including game nights, bonfires, and an evening social.

The weekend will conclude on Sunday, February 26m at 11:00 a.m. with a panel featuring alumna Jane (Neumayr '98) Nemcova, an AI professional and the chief operating officer at Veuu, members of the teaching faculty and TAC parents. Sandwiches and refreshments will be served at its conclusion and those who wish may join us for a full campus tour.

Parents, siblings, family, friends, and anyone else unable to attend the whole weekend are more than welcome to join us on Sunday for the panel discussion, tour, and lunch.

To RSVP for the overnight portion of the Open House, either scan the



QR code or go to [thomasaquinas.edu/OpenHouseNE](http://thomasaquinas.edu/OpenHouseNE).

If you are interested in joining us on Sunday, please email [SCassidy@thomasaquinas.edu](mailto:SCassidy@thomasaquinas.edu).

*"There's one day a year that I wear my faith on my forehead.  
On Ash Wednesday, anyone who crosses my path can see I'm a  
Christian." - Kari Kampakis*

**ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

## POPE ST JOHN PAUL II YOUTH GROUP.



**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30** Monthly meeting at Holy Trinity Church. Come for a panel discussion on "Love and Marriage" along with a holy hour and more. Faith, Food, and Fun! All teens are welcome.

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>— Game Night** from 7-9 p.m. at Holy Trinity. Low buy in! Card games, board games, dice games! Bring Cash! Bring Food! Bring a Friend!

**For more information: 413.522.1859 or**  
[stippiiouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stippiiouthgroup@gmail.com)

## ATTENTION TODDLERS THROUGH TEENS.

We are looking for drawings of your faithful imagination! Easter, Spring, Heaven, and more to feature in our bulletin during the Lenten Season.

Please submit drawings by email [bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org](mailto:bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org) or drop them off at the Parish Office, at CCD class, or hand them in after church to the greeters or Father Pierz.

Please include your name, age, and a little about yourself and a description of what you drew!

