

Cycles of Faith

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was a year ago that I was in the hospital for the first time in my life. The minor surgery meant that I had to stay overnight. When it came time for the dressing change the next day, I thought that I was going to die from the intense pain. Of course my brief experience of pain was nothing compared to the chronic conditions or acute illnesses that so many people suffer each and every day. When you think of all the people in hospitals or nursing homes, and the countless others around the world who endure without any medical care, the enormity of suffering seems overwhelming.

It is no wonder then that in Jesus' time once the crowds had heard that he cured Simon's mother-in-law, they raced to bring to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. If someone could alleviate the pain, cure the sick, and cast out demons this was definitely an opportunity of which to take advantage.

While modern medicine may help us with our physical illness and psychological pain, there is still a spiritual dimension to sickness that we should not ignore. Sickness separates us. It makes us question our faith. Illness strikes at our heart as well as our body. That is why the church offers the sacrament of the anointing of the sick for any who are ill. When we are sick, we are also alone. We need the support of the community of faith. And we need their prayers.

When a loved one is ill-or if you are sick yourself-don't hesitate to request the sacrament of anointing. If your illness confines you for a longer time, ask to receive Communion regularly to nurture you spiritually even as you seek to be strengthened physically. People sought out Jesus in this weekend's Gospel. When we or a loved one is ill, we can seek him out today.

©2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Prayer Group

Meets every Thursday evening 7:30pm – 9:00pm in the chapel.

The Archdiocese of Hartford begins a Chapter of COURAGE

COURAGE is a Roman Catholic apostolate that ministers to people with same-sex attraction.

For more information call the Office of Diaconate at 860-761-7446 or visit couragec.org.

All inquiries about COURAGE and workshops will be kept confidential. COURAGE is endorsed by the Vatican.

World Sunday for Consecrated Life

World Sunday for Consecrated Life is being observed in the Church on February 5th.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Looking for More Intensity in Your Life?

God may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life.

To talk about a priestly or religious vocation, contact Father Michael J. Dolan at 860-761-7456 or by email at director@vocationshartford.org.

Family Perspectives

Like the vine grower in today's gospel, parents must "prune and cleanse" the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and "bear fruit."

Bud Ozar

Children's Corner



Sharing the Gospel

Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. She felt so good, she cooked them a nice meal to celebrate. Neighbors brought all of their sick loved ones to be cured. When we pray today, Jesus still comes to those who are sick and heals them. He cures through doctors, nurses, medicines, and machines.

Prayer

Lord, heal my family and friends who are sick today.

Please remember SS. Peter and Paul Church and School in your planned giving.

Book of Prayers

Many people call the rectory and ask for prayers for people. So that we may include all the people in your life who are in need prayers into every Mass we are putting out a book of "Prayer Requests". This book is out all year and is in the front of the church at the Altar of the Word (to the left of the Altar under the Matthew, Mark, Luke and John symbols). We invite everyone to add the names of anyone you want prayed for in the "Prayer" book and we will mention all those in the book at the Prayers of the Faithful. What a beautiful way to remember both the living and the dead who are in need of our prayers as a parish community.

Just a Friendly Reminder

Please remember to turn your cell phones to vibrate or off for the celebration of Mass.

Sponsor of the Week
Gateway Limousine, Inc.

School News

SS Peter and Paul Home and School is collecting Box Tops for Education. Please save all of your box tops from participating products and place in wooden collection boxes at the doors of the church. We appreciate all of your help.

Upcoming Events

Wanted:

Vendors interested in renting floor space for an indoor tag sale
St. Leo the Great Church
Saturday March 24, 2012. Fee: \$25.00 & \$30.00
Event sponsored by the scholarship committee.
Call 203-879-5900 for information.

A Biblical Walk through the Mass

St. Michael Church, Waterbury, will be running a fascinating 5-part series on the Mass, entitled, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass like never before. You will discover the rich meanings behind why we say what we say and do during the Liturgy. The words and gestures of the Mass will be seen in a new light; leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. The series will begin on March 6th and a maximum of 48 people will be accepted. Registration deadline is February 17th. For information or to register contact Lisa or Nancy at St. Michael Church 203-753-0689.

2012 Greater Waterbury Relay for Life

Team Meeting
February 15th – 6:00 pm
Prospect Firehouse – Route 69
The 24 hour walk will take place on June 2 & 3 at Crosby High School
For more information please contact
Dayna or Mary at Waterburyrelayforlife@gmail.com

Men's Club

The Men's Club of St. Leo's will have its meeting this Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00PM in Guild Hall.
We invite the men of SS. Peter & Paul to join us.

Women of St. Leo's & SS. Peter & Paul Parishes

Next weekend, February 10 -12, 2012 is the scheduled time for the women of St. Leo the Great and SS Peter & Paul to be on retreat at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center. There may still be some openings for our combined parishes by calling 1-860-677-8519, or by contacting Ceil at 203-753-4266 or Kathy at 203-754-6482. Those of us who are attending ask for your prayers, and we will keep all parishioners, priests and deacons in ours, as we participate in this grace-filled weekend.

Save the Date

Dinner in honor of the 50th Anniversary
of ordination to the priesthood of Monsignor James Coleman.
Thursday May 31st, 2012 at the CoCo Key Resort in Waterbury.
6 PM Cocktail Reception. Dinner and program at 7 PM.
Seating is limited. Reservations accepted.
Please mail a check for \$50 per person made out to: Monsignor Coleman's Dinner. Mail to: Attention Selim Noujaim.
P O Box 3327 Waterbury, CT 06705.
Per Monsignor's wishes, proceeds will be donated
to SS Peter and Paul School. (No gifts, please.)

Parish Support

The contributions for January 29th
totaled **\$5,200.00**.
Thank you for your continued support of our parish.



Family Catechesis Program

Our Family Catechesis Program is this week on February 7th or 9th. We continue with Catholic Social Justice and our topic this month is: Rights and Responsibilities. A Catholic tradition we'll want to protect! See you there.

Winter Weather

Please tune to Channel 3 WFSB or channel 8 WTNH for information on cancelled classes in our Religious Education Program due to snow or inclement weather.

For Your Information

Volunteer Drivers Needed – Malta Van

The Order of Malta is looking for volunteers to drive its Mobile Healthcare Van to local Waterbury churches. The Malta van provides free primary healthcare to the uninsured in Greater Waterbury. This is a project of the Archbishop's annual Appeal. If you are interested – or for more information; please contact Greg Oneglia at 860-489-9261.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry is again seeking donations of yarn and cotton fabric.
We have donated over 20 pairs of shorts and 18 dresses to another ministry for children in Africa.
We have donated over 50 scarves and 37 hats to the homeless in addition to the many shawls and lap blankets knitted and crocheted by our members.
We continue to make baby blankets donated to a local hospital.
Thanks to your donations, our ministry is thriving and we encourage new members.
Call Mary Bossie @ (203) 757-4705 or Terry Longo (203)574-0519 for more information.

St. Leo the Great Bingo

Games start at 6:45 p.m. each Wednesday night
in the Guild Hall. Doors open at 5:00pm.
Refreshments are available, door prizes, specials, sealed tickets
and plenty of parking in our well-lit parking lot.
The Guild Hall is handicap accessible.

UNICO Scholarships for High School Seniors

The Waterbury Chapter of UNICO is awarding scholarships to high school seniors of Italian heritage. Scholarship applications can be obtained from any Waterbury high school guidance department. The Waterbury chapter grants scholarships to students who live in Waterbury, attend high school in Waterbury or who are children or grandchildren of UNICO members. Students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or B+. The application, along with an official transcript, S.A.T. or A.C.T. scores, and two letters of recommendation, must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2012.



Saturday, February 4th

4:00 Joseph Bowey – 1st Anniversary
(Family)

Sunday, February 5th

8:00 Margaret “Peg” Garren – 1st Anniversary
(Family)

11:00 Joseph Ficeto – 7th Anniversary
(Family)

Monday, February 6th

7:30 Joseph Daddona – Memorial
(Family)

Tuesday, February 7th

7:30 Umberto Palmieri – Anniversary
(Mom and dad)

Wednesday, February 8th

8:00 Mass at St. Leo the Great

Thursday, February 9th

8:00 Mass at St. Leo the Great

Friday, February 10th

7:30 Alessandro and Maria Inglese– Anniversary
(Daughter, Lillian)

Saturday, February 11th

4:00 Catherine and John Brady – Memorial
(Family)

Sunday, February 12th

8:00 Josephine Blacker – Birthday Remembrance
(Family)

11:00 Edward Bandiera – Birthday Remembrance
(Family)

Please Remember In your Prayers

Please remember the sick members of our parish
at home, in hospitals and convalescent homes
in your prayers this week.

Also, please pray for the deceased of the parish.

**William Walsh
Thomas Stanco
Hugo Morra
Catherine Tirpak**

