

Mass Intentions (February 18-24, 2023)

Sat. Feb 18/4:30 p.m. Special Intentions for Christina Shanahan - Teresa Baird

Sun. Feb 19/10:00 a.m. Nick Baird - Teresa Baird
Emile Mina - Leila Mina
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott families
Giuseppe Venanzi & Joe Giancola - Angela Venanzi
Clinton & Hamiltus Senevirantne - Kahawita family

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wed. Feb 22/10:00 a.m. Safe travel for Ernest & Ping Pabillo, Sche, Tersol & Annie & Tony Militar - Pabillo family.
Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird

Thu. Feb 23/10:00 a.m. Gaetano Parissi -Velia Parissi

Fri. Feb 24/10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

"The Lord is merciful and gracious."

First Reading (Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18)

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Second Reading (1 Cor 3;16-23)

We are all servants of Christ and wisdom only comes through Him.

Gospel (Matthew 5:38-48)

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Reflection:

It is easy to love those who love us. But today readings challenge us to live a high standard – to be holy and perfect as GOD is holy and perfect. We are called to be imitators of the holiness of GOD – to love compassionately, to care for and pray for others, just as GOD does. The Responsorial Psalm describes the attributes of our holy GOD: forgiving, kind, compassionate, merciful, and gracious. Those are the characteristics that should mark our lives also. St. Paul reminds the people of Corinth that they are the place where the holiness of GOD dwells; therefore they must act as the holy temple of GOD and expect others to treat them as the place where the GOD of all holiness can be found. In the Gospel, Jesus examines the commandments then lifts the bar higher and says that we must do more than the minimum requirements of the old law. We must be perfect as our GOD is perfect. As baptized believers and disciples of the Lord Jesus, if we believe that we are made in the image and likeness of the GOD Who is holy, then we must imitate GOD's holiness in the way we treat others. Just as GOD is forgiving and hates no one, we must strive to do the same. We are not to condone their wrong doing or sins, but be willing to forgive as GOD forgives. After all, isn't that what we pray each time we voice the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespasses against us"? If GOD can love even the greatest sinners and send the Son to die for them, who are we not to love them.

May you continue to strive to follow the example of Jesus in loving others, even those with whom you have disagreements.



What Lent
means to me

Ash Wednesday February 22

Mass and Blessing with Ashes

10:00 am - Parish

4:00 pm - St. Patrick's Square

7:15 to 7:45 pm Blessing with Ashes at the Parish

Meditations on the Stations of the Cross

Every Friday after the 10:00 am mass.

Exposition and Holy Hour

9:00 to 10:00 am Every Friday

Lent is a time for penance and repentance, for almsgiving and prayer, for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God.

Lent is an important season in the Church's year. Every year Christians use Lent to prepare themselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, On Easter Sunday.

Lent is the forty days before Easter. Christians do not include Sundays in the forty days because they celebrate Jesus' resurrection every Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day. Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations.

"What does God want to give me this year?"

This question may require that I slow down a bit and *listen* to my inner spirit.

"What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for my family on that special day?

The anticipation and the preparation are transformed with the companionship of family and close friends. We shouldn't be deterred by the fear that our spouse or children or friends "won't be into it." Jesus said, "Fear is useless; what's needed is trust." Imagine what we could all receive from God in these days.

Ash Wednesday is a great place to start with our planning. "What are we going to eat?" We can plan to *intentionally* have only one full meal on Ash Wednesday.

We can make that meal very meaningful and it doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus. God can do so much with that. We could wake up each morning, and for half a minute to a minute, stand by the edge of our beds, and just ask the Lord for the grace to let this day be one in which I long for the beginning of Lent. Whatever we try to say, our Lord can understand the Spirit trying to speak through our simple words. Each night, in the days ahead, we can practice giving thanks to God before we go to bed. This simple pattern, in the morning and evening can stir our spirits to look forward to and prepare for Lent, as a season of grace.

May our Lord bless us all on our journey ahead.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week
Giving thanks to the Lord.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

New Choir Members needed

We need new choir members for our Sunday choir. Only requirement is to be available for practice at 9:30 am on Sundays and thereafter for mass. If you are interested please contact our Choir director Connie Wilson after the Sunday mass.

Volunteers needed to maintain the Altar and the Sacristy

We need volunteers to assist in maintaining the altar and the sacristy. The requirement is one volunteer to be present at 9:30 am on Sundays to assist Yvonne Gouveia.

Two more volunteers are needed to clean the altar and the sacristy on Saturdays at 10:45 am for one hour.

Please contact Anna Maria Marinoni after the Sunday mass.

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE YOUR USED COMPUTER FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN!

Children belonging to refugee and asylum seeker families need computer or laptop to do their homework. If you no longer use your old one, please bring it to the Church office. One of our volunteer engineer will repair them before giving it to the families.

Thank you for helping.

Churches today have continued the mission, but many still face difficulties in developing their churches, and St. Richards Parish is no different. As generations pass on, people have less interest in the traditional ways. The reality is churches must grow to survive and spread the Gospel. The benefits of growing a church come with reaching more people, sharing God's message, and making a difference in people's lives.

Fr. George wishes with every parishioner's help to build a vibrant parish community for St. Richards Parish. He humbly request we all make an effort to invite and bring family and friends to Sunday mass. We can only succeed with your help.

Thank you for making an effort.

Sacrament of Reconciliation every Sunday, 30 minutes before mass or any other day/time by appointment. (514) 488-0778.

Sick and Shut-Ins

If you have a family member or know of a friend who is shut-in and wish to receive Holy Communion or a visit from our pastoral home care team please call the parish office.

We are here to serve you.