

# St. Roch Church



*Sunday of Lent*

*You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.  
Live as children of light. ~Ephesians 5:18*

*While I am in the world,  
I am the **Light** of the World. ~John 9:5*

## Mass for the Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

4:00 PM The Parishioners of St. Roch Parish &amp; The Light of the World Retreatants

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

8:30 AM David B. Sullivan, Jr. (7th Anniversary) by son Ryan

11:00 AM Al Gallant by Terry &amp; Ed Renaud

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

8:30 AM The Minor &amp; Laverdure Families by Paula Miner &amp; Ken Mills

**Tuesday, March 28, 2017**

8:30 AM Paul W. Guiney (11th Anniversary) by the family

**Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

8:30 AM Al Gallant by Teri &amp; Jeff Rawson

**Thursday, March 30, 2017**

8:30 AM Fritz Zeiss by sister Gerda Rusnica

**Friday, March 31, 2017**

8:30 AM Vernon Laverdure by the family

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

4:00 PM Anna Particiauone by Ed &amp; Terry Ann Renaud

**Sunday, April 2, 2017**

8:30 AM Ryan Bernier by Mom, Dad and family

11:00 AM John (7th Anniversary) &amp; Angelina 'Julie' (13th Anniversary) Lapomardo by the family

**Scripture Readings****Sunday, March 26**

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41

**Monday, March 27**

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday, March 28**

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday, March 29**

Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday, March 30**

Ex 32:7-14

Jn 5:31-47

**Friday, March 31**

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday, April 1**

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday, April 2**

Ez 37:12-14

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45

**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**Deacon **Rev. Mr. Paul Connolly**Director of Religious Education **Mrs. Terry Ann Renaud**Administrative Assistant (M-TH 9-4) **Mrs. Teri Rawson**Email: [strochrectory@gmail.com](mailto:strochrectory@gmail.com)Director of Music **Ms. Anna Pizzolato**St. Vincent de Paul Society..... **Arlene (508) 987-2813**Cemetery ..... **Contact rectory at (508) 987-8987****Mass Schedule****Saturday: 4:00 PM****Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 AM****Monday, Tuesday (during Lent), Wednesday,****Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM**(the fourth Wednesday of the month  
Fr. Roy has Mass at St. Paul's  
Cathedral—no Mass here)**Confessions: 3:00 PM Saturday or anytime on request.****Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30-4****Pastoral Care: All the time****WEBSITE: [strochoxford.com](http://strochoxford.com)****EMAILS: NOTE UPDATES!!**Teri Rawson—Rectory Office: [strochrectory@gmail.com](mailto:strochrectory@gmail.com)Terry Renaud—Rel. Ed. Office: [strochoxford@gmail.com](mailto:strochoxford@gmail.com)**Your Sacrificial Offering** **March 18 & 19**

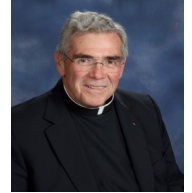
Offertory Envelopes (153)	\$ 3,846.00
Loose Money	632.00
Other sources of income	1,003.00
Total	5,481.00
Weekly Goal	5,582.00
Result	- 101.00

**Thank you!****CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Men are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on **Sat., April 1st**. Visit [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase tickets online. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Julie Schroeder at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 15th, afterwards \$60. Students \$30.



**PRAY FOR ...** Kathy Perry, Owen Benway, Irene Richardson, Jane Lewicke, Anthony Nguyen, Andrew Rivers, Raymond Joseph, Al Sinkis, Barbara Swenson, Chloe Barbara Jones, Craig Ladd, Ruth Andrzejczyk, Fr. Robert Kelley, Roseanne Ferlito, John Barton, Carol Violette, John & Bev Makowski, Dale Mahota, Maddy Desrosier, Phyllis Day, John Hickman, Stephen Rice, Timothy Bowes, Ed Carpenter, Cindy Flores, Liz Iandolli, Anita Prunier, Roger St. George, Charlene White, James Sumerlin, Bob St. George, Julie Guertin, Jerry Coffey, Francis DeSimone, Robert & Beverly Burns, Judy Rodier, Dawn Hoeg, Sean Bushey, Richard Fleming, Noelle Silverstein, Edward Wissell, Eric Lambert, Paul Murphy, Sheila Faneuff, Doug Cadarette, Shannon Bernard, James Cadarette, James Quaiel, Irene Allain.

*The Readings for next Sunday, April 2, 2017**Ezekiel 37:12-14**Romans 8:8-11**John 11:1-45*

My dear parishioners,

I can't tell you how delighted I am this weekend about our conducting the second *Light of the World* retreat here at St. Roch's. You've heard me say, and I am more convinced of it now than ever, that this is certainly the Lord's plan for the on-going renewal of our parish. For the retreatants and the team, for all of us, it brings into clear focus the essential teachings of our Church, but more than that, it further awakens the presence of the Holy Spirit which deepens our relationship with Jesus; making it more immediate. This is the foundation of our being a community together. Please keep this intention in your prayers.

Prayer is one of the principal ways that we are instructed to keep Lent. In the Catholic Church we have a wide variety of ways that we can pray. For instance all priests, deacons and vowed religious, from the cloistered Trappist monks at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer down to the ordinary parish priest is mandated to use the Scriptures everyday when we pray the Breviary or what is often called the Liturgy of the Hours. Letting the inspired words of the Bible speak to us of the Lord's plans for our lives is a most worthy way of prayer. Prayer is simply defined as a conversation with God; speaking and listening.

I'd like to share with you a method of prayer that I have found to be very enriching and valuable. It is simple and effective. It's based on the foundation of our faith, our belief that our One God is a Trinity of Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At the close of the day I spend a few minutes reviewing the events of that day in the presence of the Trinity. First with the Father, who is the Creator, the Giver of all good gifts. Is there something particularly pleasant that happened today, some blessing that happened unexpectedly; someone coming to confession after having been away for a long time, a surprising contact with an old friend? Whatever, may it lead to a prayer of Thanksgiving to the Father who provides for us.

I continue and review the day with Jesus, the One who came to redeem us from sin. In my "walk" through the day is there something that I regret; a word spoken in anger, an act of unkindness or a good deed neglected? If so I bring it to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and His blessing on anyone I have offended.

Lastly, invoking the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who is my Guide, the One who instructs and sustains me. Looking to tomorrow, I ask for guidance and the strength and stamina needed to face some challenge that I am anticipating. Confident that I will not have to go it alone.

However we pray; whether with the Scriptures, the family rosary, this daily examen, what is important is that we pull aside and spend time with the Lord. This helps us grow in holiness, in wholeness.

1.) I hope many of you are enjoying the daily emails from Matthew Kelly as much as I am. We are halfway through Lent. It can be "begin again, never tire of new beginnings," or "let me persevere with the plan."

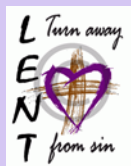
2.) I am getting good positive feedback on my request in last week's letter about the vast library of good stuff on the internet that we can access. It's a program called FORMED. An unexpected generous gift to me will be used to sign us up. More information to come.

Let us continue to love one another,

*Fr. Roy*

P.S. Due to the closing of the Light of the World Retreat there will not be any Novena prayers this Monday. Join us next Monday for Deacon Steve Miller.

## ST. ROCH NOVENA ~ 6:30 PM

**Wednesday March 29***Mass, Novena prayers, and reflection***Monday April 3***Benediction, Novena prayers, and Speaker***Wednesday April 5***Mass, Novena prayers, and reflection***Stations of the Cross  
& Holy Eucharist  
Noon****Friday March 31****Friday April 7****Daily Masses 8:30 AM  
Monday-Friday of Lent****Sacrament of Penance  
available  
Wednesdays 5:30-6:15 PM  
Saturdays at 3:00 PM****April 9 Breakfast  
Passion/Palm Sunday  
*Sponsored & Run by  
Mr. Stolz's students***

Lenten season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized.

Diocesan Lenten abstinence regulations:

**Abstinence** from meat is to be observed all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years and older.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." -Rev 3:20*

How have we responded to the gospel call to serve Jesus through the poor and vulnerable? It is for this reason that we join with parishes around the country in the **National Collection for Catholic Relief Services on the weekend of April 2**. This collection reminds us that through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters around the globe.

Thanks to your donation, you can

- alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers
- provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world through the Holy Father's Relief Fund
- advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace
- actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy

For example, in Niger, changes in climate in western Africa are adversely affecting poor and rural farmers. No matter how hard these farmers work, droughts are shortening the rainy season, leaving harvests too small to support families and communities. Your support of CRS is helping connect businesses that provide drought-resistant seeds to these communities. These new relationships are providing hope to these communities for a sustainable future.

Please be generous in the Catholic Relief Services Collection in your parish. By participating in this collection, you are responding to Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester



The In Pew Commitment Weekend for the 2017 Partners in Charity Appeal at St. Roch Parish will take place on April 29th & 30th.



**April 13 Holy Thursday  
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM**

**April 14 Good Friday Liturgy 7:00 PM  
Noon Ecumenical Stations**

**April 15 Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil  
Mass 7:30 PM**

**April 16 Easter Sunday  
Resurrection of The Lord  
Masses 8:30 & 11:00 AM**







**Light of the World  
Retreat  
March 24 -27  
at St. Roch Parish**

*Please continue to pray for those attending the retreat.*

**Youth Retreat** for all high school students  
at St Roch is **April 7-9, 2017.**

**Registration form & \$50 deposit is now due.**

**Team meetings** are scheduled for **March 28 at 7:00 PM** in the parish center.

**Call 508-987-2382 for details.**



**Bible Study**

Wednesday morning **Bible Study**  
in the Parish Center 9:30 AM.  
All are welcome.

**Learn More About O2**

**Call 508-987-2382**

The **LOTW & IGNITE** service and prayer team is called "O2." As in O<sub>2</sub>, the silent fuel for fire. O2 serves the main retreat through prayer, service, sacrifice and silence. It is not necessary for O2 members to be a part of the retreat, however it is a great benefit. If you want to be part of an O2 team, you simply need to support the retreat behind-the-scenes in prayer and service.



**Prayer** The greatest contribution O2 makes to is their commitment to prayer.

**Praying over the Ignite team.** Before each talk, the speaker gets ready early, then heads to the Church so the O2 members can pray over them.

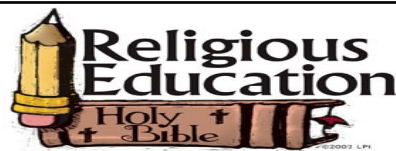
**Praying throughout the day.** Prayer booklets, Liturgy of the Hours, and adoration will be available each day of the retreat.

**Praying over prayer intentions.** Prayer intentions box with small slips of paper and pens, will be available for the team and retreatants to submit prayer intentions throughout the retreat weekend, O2 members can pray over the specific intentions.

**Service** Most of the logistics, setup, cleanup and behind-the-scenes work is done by O2 members. You can decide exactly what you want to do.

**Sacrifice** Part of the role is to sacrifice out of love for the retreatants.

**Silence** From the beginning of the retreat, O2 must not speak around the team and the retreatants.



**March 2017**

**24 -27 Fri - Mon** *Light of the World* retreat  
Religious Ed Office closed, **no classes** K-12 & Confirmation. No coffee and No Wordshare.

**April 2017**

**2, 9** classes k-12 9:40-10:50 AM

**2** Confirmation 6:30-8 PM

**7-9** retreat high school and confirmation

**9** **Breakfast 8 am—12 pm** **PALM SUNDAY**

Sponsored & Run by Mr. Stolz's students & family

**13** *Holy Thursday*

**14** *Friday of the Passion of the Lord*

(Good Friday) noon Living Stations

**15** *Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil*

**16** *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord*

- Rel Ed office Closed—no classes

**16-23** School vacation Rel Ed Office closed

**23** **Breakfast 8 am—12 pm**

**28** Confirmation at Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Webster -*details to be announced*

**29** Eucharist Family Mass 5:30 PM

**30** classes k-12 9:40-10:50 AM

**May 2017**

**7** practice First Eucharist 9:30-10:50 AM

**14** Mother's Day—no classes

**21** First Eucharist 2:00 PM candidates arrive at 1:30 PM for group photo in hall

***SIGN UP FOR VBS SUMMER NOW  
JULY 24-28, 2017***



Just few things needed: white or colored copy paper & card stock, HP printer ink coupons, small & large poster boards, bottled water, & for Fund raising: Aunt Jemima pancake mix complete, maple syrup, eggs, butter, milk, OJ.

Parish center, paint is looking very bright, there are only a few areas left to paint: One entrance, both offices, hallways, room 1.



The Confirmation & high school youth thank you for helping with funds for their retreat, breakfasts scheduled: April 9, 23. Come help them & enjoy a great meal as well!

Please call 508-987-2382 to volunteer to help work in the center or parish hall for religious education or to buy or reserve advanced tickets for all events.

## MEETINGS

**Ignite Team** will meet Tuesday, **March 28th at 6:00 PM** in the parish center.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society** will meet **Monday, April 3rd at 7:30 PM** in the parish center.

**Fundraising Team** will meet **Tuesday, April 4th at 6:00 PM** in the parish center.

**Festival Planning** will meet **Tuesday, April 4th at 6:00 PM** in the parish center.

**Finance Committee** will meet **Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 PM** in the rectory.

### "Passion" Performance in Charlton

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton presents The Passion. Experience Christ's last few days through creative stage, living art, and beautiful music. **April 1 at 6:30 pm & April 2 at 1:30 pm.** Tickets: \$20 Adults \$10 for children under age 12. Admission includes live performance, cash beer/wine bar and amazing buffet of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets are available on Sundays at St Joseph, Charlton after 8:00 & 10:00 Masses. Tickets are limited so get yours now!



### 334 CLUB WINNERS — Week 16

- # 113 Michael Jalbert
- # 246 Father Robert Kelley
- # 216 Del Baarda
- # 148 Jeffrey Jablonski

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**



### Mass for Life March 30, 2017

All are invited to join Bishop Robert J. McManus and students from our Catholic Schools at the annual Mass for Life on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 10:00 am at St. Paul's Cathedral, 19 Chatham St., Worcester. The diocesan pro-life awards, honoring individuals who have shown extraordinary witness to the sacredness of human life, will also be presented at the Mass. All are welcome!

### Discernment Retreat with Bishop McManus

Have you thought of a vocation to the priesthood? Come and learn more.

The Diocese of Worcester's annual discernment retreat, directed by Bishop McManus, will be held on **April 7 & 8**. This retreat begins 6pm Friday and ends 6pm Saturday. It is for men high school age, college age, and older. The retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, Connecticut. There is no cost, and transportation is provided if needed. Visit [worcestervocations.com](http://worcestervocations.com) for more information. Contact Fr. Jim Mazzone [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net) or by phone at 508-340-5788 to sign up.



### Friday Fish Dinners - Now thru April 7th

**4:30 - 6:30 pm** at Saint Louis Church Hall, 14 Lake St., Webster. \$10 per Dinner. Eat-in or Take-Out! Your choice of: Baked Fish with Rice Pilaf OR Fried Fish & Chips; Clam Chowder, Clam Fritters, Mac & Cheese also available.

**11:30 am - 1 pm and from 4 - 6 pm** at St. Andrew Bobola Church Hall, 54 West Main St., Dudley. Eat-in or Take Out! Scrod dinner includes baked scrod, baked potato, cole slaw, rolls and coffee, tea or soda. Adults \$9.50 /children \$5.



### Supplying the Wine for Mass

John Tagg, who serves the daily Mass, has for some time been organizing donors willing to give \$20 every couple of months to pay for the sacramental wine that is used during the Eucharistic celebration of the Mass. Anyone who would like to become a Vintner for the Lord is asked to call the rectory at 508-987-8987.

## St. Joseph School 5K Run/Walk Bunny Hop

AN EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

**April 8, 2017 9AM**

**Memorial Beach, Webster, MA**

Register at [www.firm-racing.com](http://www.firm-racing.com)

**Easter Egg Hunt, T-Shirts, Awards and More!**

### BEAT THE BUNNY!

The Bunny's been training all year for Easter, and this is his final tune up before he tapers for the big day! Beat the Bunny and win a special award!

Helping to raise awareness for autism and the Fund for St. Joseph School.



### Hungry to Help?

Your local Meals on Wheels program needs additional people to help pack and/or deliver lunch to older adults in your community. Travel reimbursement is available for drivers. Please call Tri-Valley Meals on Wheels at 1-800-286-6640.

## The Catholic Free Press

**Please renew or begin your subscription today!**

A full year subscription is only \$30! When you subscribe you are not only receiving a quality weekly newspaper you are *also* supporting St. Roch Parish as we are assessed a certain number of subscriptions. Your envelope may be placed in any collection basket.

*Thank you for your support!*

