

Sts. Francis & Clare Parish



*We are God's people
empowered by the sacraments
to become a servant community.
We remember our diverse heritage,
embrace our Christian discipleship,
and seek a lifelong spiritual growth
by following the gospel of Christ.
May Saints Francis and Clare
guide all our efforts to build
God's kingdom in our midst.*

WORSHIP SITES

Holy Assumption Church (HA)
1290 Hornberger Ave. Roebling

Saint Clare Church (SC)
232 East Front St. Florence

PARISH OFFICE

Location: 1290 Hornberger Ave. Roebling, NJ 08554

Office hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Phone: 609-499-0161 **Fax:** 866-422-4690 **Email:** sfnepo@gmail.com **Website:** stsfnc.org

PARISH STAFF

Adam Midor, Pastor
James Manaloris, Deacon
Michael Scannella, Deacon

Peggy Schwoebel, Secretary
Maria Corbett, Business
Linda Panzarella, Music
R. L. Gallagher, Cemetery

invites you to celebrate:

EUCCHARIST: Monday through Friday at 8:00 am in SC. Weekend Masses in HA: 5:00 pm (Saturday), 8:00 and 11:00 am (Sunday). Holy days of obligation schedules are published in our bulletin. Holy Hour devotion is held every Thursday from 8:00 to 9:00 am in SC.

BAPTISM: is celebrated every third Sunday of the month during 11:00 am Mass. We offer a Baptism Preparation Class to assist parents. Please contact the PO to register. **Godparents are required to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility** from a parish where they are currently practicing their faith.

MARRIAGE: Our parish family supports those who wish to celebrate their love in the sacrament of matrimony. Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance. At least one person needs to be a registered parishioner. To schedule an initial meeting please call the PO.

ROSARY & NOVENAS: These prayers are said weekly before and after our weekday masses in SC.

RECONCILIATION: Confessions are heard every Saturday at 4:00 pm in HA or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Any seriously ill Catholic who needs the comforting prayer of the Church may be anointed. Please contact the parish office to invite the Pastor to celebrate this sacrament without delay.

FUNERALS: In all cases the family should contact a funeral home directly. They will contact us to make further arrangements. Shortly afterwards, a consolation minister will meet with some family members to finalize the funeral liturgy.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: 20

8:00 am † Gabriella Pensyl from
the Pensyl family

Tuesday: 21

8:00 am † Joan Konrad from
South Jersey Federal Credit Union

Wednesday: 22

8:00 am † Deacon Robert Machion from
the Morelli family

7:00 pm † Helen Myers from
Sterns and Weinroth

Thursday: 23

8:00 am Holy Hour

Friday: 24

8:00 am † Regina Sadowski from
Mary and Joseph Rowland

Saturday: 25

5:00 pm † Antonia and Mateo Mirkovic from
Maria Butkovic

Sunday: 26

8:00 am † Carmel Anthony from
Theresa and Linton Elliott

11:00 am † Deacon Robert Machion from
Linda Panzarella

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

February 12, 2012

Weekend offerings: \$7,827.00

Eastern Europe: \$ 455.00

Thank you for your stewardship!

Dear Parishioners,

In January, a federal court in Rhode Island ordered a public school to remove a prayer mounted on a wall because it imposed a belief on 16-year-old Jessica Ahlquist. According to some, this ruling was consistent not only with the First Amendment but with the intent of Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island expressly to provide religious liberty, and who called such forced exposure to prayer 'spiritual rape.' I dare to disagree.

The conflict between church and state is as old as American history. It began when Puritans, envisioning a Christian nation, founded 'a city upon a hill' in Massachusetts. Williams rejected that idea, and insisted that the state refrain from intervening in the relationship between humans and God. In fact, he stated that people advocating even the most Pagan, Jewish, Turkish, or Anti-Christian consciences and worships be allowed to pray freely, because forced worship stinks in God's nostrils.

Nowadays, the argument over the First Amendment continues. There are more and more individuals who twist the truth to mislead others into accepting their agenda. Roger Williams' view of 'spiritual rape' concerned compulsion at gun point to practice someone else's religion; he was not talking about a kid being offended by a prayer printed on a banner. This raises even bigger issues. If government is prohibited from moral teaching, why should it operate schools? If it is an inappropriate tool for religious training, why should it use tax money to promote its own humanist religion? In my humble opinion, this is precisely the type of spiritual rape that Williams had in mind.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy; its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.

Q & A

What are some threats against the family?

The most recent attacks suffered by the family these days are very diverse in nature and intensity: in terms of gender ideology, technical manipulation of life and of childbirth, an anti-birth mentality, etc., just to mention a few. I cannot embark here on a thorough analysis of each item, so I will only mention one of the attacks which, from a psychological viewpoint, most strongly oppose the very nature of the family: the subject of the capacity to undertake commitments. (...)

As a result of the relativism in force in the contemporary mentality, people today seem incapable of committing themselves permanently and vitally in those spheres of life, which are most essential, such as the family and many realms of social life.

Without a family, people remain disoriented, disconcerted. In our everyday practice of psychology, we can prove this almost daily. Adults and children who lack a life environment yearn for the experience of mutual belonging and crave the experience of filiation.

And what is more regrettable is that there are men and women, children and youngsters who are incapable of understanding that the traditional family is precisely the original and irreplaceable environment for these deeply vital and personality-shaping experiences.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will meditate on the passion of our Lord every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm in SC. Please make this devotion a part of your Lenten journey.

In addition, we will continue the practice of simple suppers before the stations in SC hall at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide food for these events. For more information, please contact ARS.

BISHOP'S LETTER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“These forty days of Lent, O Lord, with you we fast and pray.” This line from a popular hymn we sing in our parishes during the season of Lent contains a very important truth. During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead - from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday - it is with YOU, Lord, with YOU we fast and pray. The model Jesus gave us for “these forty days” was his own experience of the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert - alone, fasting and in intense prayer - beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. “With YOU we fast and pray” is our song. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. “With YOU, too, we fast and pray.” Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States asks of us as baptized Catholics:

The days of fast (one full meal) and abstinence (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (no meat).

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to abstain (no meat: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of days, which must be considered serious.

BISHOP (continued)

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year - often called “Easter duty” - for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the First Sunday of Lent, February 26th to Trinity Sunday, June 3rd. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage Catholics to get to confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church. We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance, grace and joy for us all.

FYI

Benedict XVI released his message for Lent: ‘We Must Not Remain Silent Before Evil.’ Its portions will be published in the Pope’s Corner. For the entire text go to: www.zenit.org/article-34255?l=english

FOOD DRIVE

The Altar Rosary Society invites you to participate in our annual Lenten Project. We ask you to share by making a personal Lenten sacrifice of a monetary or food donation that will be used for our food pantry.

Many residents of our township come frequently to our pantry to help them through the week. Please give towards our Lenten Project (February 26th thru April 1st) to help those who are in need.

You may drop your food donations at the areas near the entrances of Holy Assumption Church. Look for the posters with a list of suggested items for each of the six weeks of Lent. Thank you for your generosity.

ASH WEDNESDAY

is a day of fasting and abstinence. There will be two opportunities for all parishioners to celebrate the Eucharist on this day: 8:00 am in SC and 7:00 pm in HA. Please make this day a meaningful spiritual experience as we enter a new season of Lent.

POPE'S CORNER

“The Lenten season offers us once again an opportunity to reflect upon the very heart of Christian life: charity. This is a favorable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the sacraments. This journey is one marked by prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in anticipation of (...) Easter.

This year I would like to propose a few thoughts in the light of a brief biblical passage drawn from the Letter to the Hebrews: ‘Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.’ These words are part of a passage in which the sacred author exhorts us to trust in Jesus Christ as the High Priest who has won us forgiveness and opened up a pathway to God. Embracing Christ bears fruit in a life structured by the three theological virtues: it means approaching the Lord sincere in heart and filled with faith, keeping firm in the hope we profess and ever mindful of living a life of love and good works together with our brothers and sisters. The author states that to sustain this life shaped by the Gospel it is important to participate in the liturgy and community prayer, mindful of the eschatological goal of full communion in God.”

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The floral arrangement for this weekend was donated in memory of Mary Lubrano from her daughters. We appreciate their kindness.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

The ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco was truly astonishing: Proposition 8 - and by implication the marriage laws at the federal level and in 43 states - is unconstitutional.

Even while pretending their ruling was a “narrow” decision, these judges effectively decreed themselves to be the supreme overlords of the people, invalidating the votes of over 7 million Californians and declaring that they, the vaunted elite in black robes and cloaked with lifetime tenure, will decide what marriage means in California and the nation.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Black and Indian Missions. Please support this collection if you can. Thank you!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Wednesday, 22

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, 23

St. Polycarp

CATHOLIC MEN

15th Annual Conference: St. Raphael's-Holy Angels, 3500 South Broad Street, Hamilton. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our bishop will be the celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass. Speakers: Patrick Madrid, author; Father Jonathan Morris, priest, news commentator; Darrell Miller, ex-MLB player and convert. ‘Young Men’s Track’ for 8th grade - college age. \$25 pre-registration; \$30 at the door; \$10 for students. To order, send your check with a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Catholic Men for Jesus Christ, c/o Emmaus House, 2116 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ, 08648. Or: to order or for information: www.catholicmenforjesuschrist.org