

# Saint Therese - Carmelite



Chapel-in-the-Mall

Peabody, MA

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[www.carmelitechapel.com](http://www.carmelitechapel.com)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

We are already half way through the season of Lent and Holy Week will soon be upon us- Perhaps it is time to ask ourselves, "Have I grown closer to the Lord during this season of penance and sacrifice?" "Do I really appreciate what the Lord did for me in that first Holy Week? There is still time: time to repent and do penance for the faults, failings and sins of the past. Am I making an effort to attend Mass every day or at least some days during the week? Have I taken the time to walk the Way of the Cross (the stations of the Cross) with the Lord and reflect on his suffering and death? Am I abstaining from meat on all the Fridays of Lent? What AM I doing to make this season of Lent special?

I would like to remind all those who have taken a Lenten Offering Folder for the "Street Kids of Lima" that you will be able to drop them in the Offering Box at the door of the Chapel anytime during Holy week. Twenty five cents each day is a good way of reminding us to think of others. The total of \$10.00 is no where's near as important as the daily reminder to be sacrificing for others all during the season Lent. CIMA, the home of

the Street Kids in Cieneguilla, Peru (on the outskirts of Lima) has about 90 boys between the ages of 6 and seventeen. They always need food, clothing, medicines and school supplies. Your Lenten Offerings will be a big help.

**THE CARMELITE GIFT SHOP** will be open on Sundays from now until the end of May, with the exception of Easter Sunday. We are entering into the really busy season of First Communions and Confirmations from 12:noon til 6:00 P.M.

**MATURE ALTAR SERVERS.** We are just delighted with and most grateful to the volunteers who have come forward as Altar Servers for the Saturday afternoon Masses. It is such a great help to have assistance at the altar. The presence of Altar Servers calls for a small table next to their chairs to hold the books that they hold for the priest with the prayers of the Mass. I am in contact with Jeff Martyn from Gloucester, who made all the Sanctuary furniture last summer for the renovation. I would like this table to be of the same design and style of all the other Sanctuary Furniture so that it won't just stand out and looks as though it is something that has just been added on. Is there anyone interested in donating this table as a memorial of a loved one? If so, please see Fr. Herbert.

**MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF COMMUNION** The more spacious sanctuary requires a few changes in the way which we distribute Holy Communion, so we are going to have a meeting of all the current Ministers and anyone else who would like to serve in that ministry. The meeting is open to all. If you are interested and would like to have more information about serving as a Minister of Holy Communion, there will be a meeting here in the Chapel on Wednesday evening April 13th at 7:00 o'clock.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION:** The Offertory Procession and presentation of the gifts of bread and wine at the Altar is really a very significant part of the liturgy because of what it represents. In the sacrifice of the Mass we unite ourselves with Christ as he offers himself to the Father. The gifts represent us and our desire to be united with Christ in his sacrifice. Those who carry the gifts to the altar are representing the entire community gathered to take part in the Sacrifice of the Mass. If you wish to volunteer to bring the gifts to the Altar please step forward before Mass. We will be happy to arrange it. If you are asked to do so, please do not refuse this opportunity to take a more active role in the celebration of the Liturgy.

Just a point of Chapel etiquette: When someone arrives for Mass after you do, please make them the welcoming gesture by smiling and sliding in on your pew. It is much easier than having people climb over you to find a seat. Also, at the beginning and end of Mass, when the crucifix is carried in procession, the congregation should really turn

and look at the crucifix and make a slight bow of the head towards the crucifix. You can also make a short, silent prayer at the time such as: “By your Cross and Resurrection you have redeemed the world”.

**CHAPEL FINANCES.** Our principal source of income for the Chapel are the Offertory collections at the 4:00 and 5:30 Masses on Saturday. I thought that you would like to see just exactly how much is involved in these collections.

	<b>4:00</b>	<b>5:30</b>		<b>4:00</b>	<b>5:30</b>
March 5, 2011	\$ 1048	\$ 512	March 12, 2011	\$ 1022	\$ 516
March 19, 2011	\$ 721	\$ 499	March 26, 2011	\$ 792	\$ 511

As you can see, adverse weather on a couple of weekends during the month of March really hurt our income. Our accountant tells us that of every dollar that we receive 52 cents is required just to open the door (i.e., rent, salaries, utilities). He makes me nervous when he breaks it down like that.

### **APRIL MEMORIALS**

The **Altar Breads** which will be consecrated at all of the Masses during the month of April have been donated for the honor and glory of God in memory of “**T.J.**” **Merritt** by his loving parents.

The **Wine** to be consecrated in all of the Masses during the month of April has been donated for the honor and glory of God in memory of **Thomas G. Prior** by the Prior Family.

The **Oil** in the altar candles will burn during the month of April for the honor and glory of God in loving memory of **Bro. Xavier MacEachern, O.Carm.** at the request of a friend.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn before the Blessed Sacrament this month for the honor and glory of God in memory of all **the Prior Family**.

The **Missalettes** for the Lenten and Easter Season have been donated for the honor and glory of God in memory of **Jean Gerard Barbeau** by his devoted wife Rosanne.

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU:** Cardinal Sean has asked every church and chapel of the Archdiocese to have a priest available for confession on the Wednesday evenings of Lent from 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M. The name of the Program is **THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU** and refers to the little light over the Confessional, indicating that a priest is waiting there for you. If you haven’t received the sacraments in a long time, perhaps this is the time for you. The **Light is on for You** is another way of saying **WELCOME HOME**.

## LENTEN SYMBOLS IN THE HOME

We are in the midst of a very special time of the year. We decorate our homes for Christmas, but do we ever think of emphasizing the season of Lent and Easter? By choosing the right symbols we can let our homes be a place full of the holy — things that help raise our minds and hearts elsewhere. Here are a few symbols that I would recommend.



**A CRUCIFIX:** Probably everyone has a crucifix in the home. If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring, reminder of God's love.

**WATER:** A simple bowl of water placed in a purple cloth, can be transformed into an ongoing reminder of our journey to the font of baptism for the renewal of commitment and life in Christ. Perhaps you can pray over it: "Lord, may this water remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home, where our dying and rising in you is lived each day. Bless us, as we sign ourselves with it each day."



**A CANDLE:** Imagine having a candle in a central place in your home. Imagine praying over it together each day. "Lord, thank you for the gift of your Light in the midst of all darkness. Let this candle be a symbol of our faith in your presence among us." And imagine if we light this candle whenever we feel tempted away from the Light of Jesus, when we are experiencing tensions in our home, whenever we need special graces. Imagine how powerful experiencing the lighting of the New Fire will be at the Easter vigil.

**THE BIBLE:** The Word is so important for us during Lent. Perhaps the prominent presence of a Bible in our home can represent for us our desire for God's Word in our lives. Imagine the experience that could be ours if —when we feel a new inspiration or a softening of our heart, or just a sense of God's love — we pick up that Bible and simply, reverently kiss it.



Lent is a season of Grace which can deepen our awareness of God's presence in our lives, but it is not automatic. We have to do our part. Decorating our home is a way of sharing our faith with everyone that comes to visit. For those whose grown children are not practicing their faith, it may be just what it takes to get them thinking once again..

