

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Farmington, Missouri



Join us for the K of C
Breakfast **TODAY**
in the cafeteria
following the
7:30 & 9:00 Masses

March 13th, 2011
The First Sunday of Lent

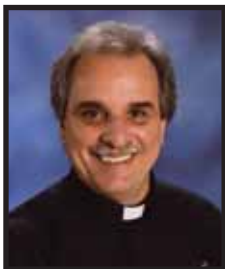
*Let us prepare for the passion,
death, and resurrection of Christ.*

**Sharing in the hallmark of our parish. . .
the spirit of hospitality.**



Our thanks to our hosts for this coming Friday's Fish Fry:
Ushers, Knights of Columbus, 5:00 and 9:00 Choirs, PSR Families
Clean up crew beginning at 7:30 pm - PSR Faculty.

All parishioners are always needed and welcomed to come and help at any fish fry!



From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph

What an Awesome Lenten Evening of Relection with Bishop

Hermann for the Men of our Parish

\$3,635 raised for the Help the Hungry Bake Sale!!!

Last Tuesday, on Mardi Gras evening, 120 men from our parish gathered in our parish center for a very special evening with **Bishop Robert J. Hermann** for fellowship, great food and prayer. Bishop Hermann's presentation "**The Disciples on the Way to Emmaus - The Interior Beauty of the Passion**" truly helped our men embrace the Lenten season now upon us.

My deepest and heartfelt thanks to the 16 faithful men of our parish who served as hosts by bringing food and drinks for a table of eight for this first annual evening. It was so neat to see all the tables filled such as the one with Yesterday's Kids, the one with Choir members, the one with all young fathers, the one with Mineral Area Employees, the one table of bankers, and so on. All of these tables filled with men who are registered and active parishioners of St. Joseph Parish.

Thanks also to **Daryl Buchheit** who provided the prayerful music for the evening that was enjoyed by all. I would like to use the words of Bishop Hermann "**I was truly edified by the presence of so many holy men for an evening of Lenten prayer.**" Please enjoy the photos on pages four and five.

Fish Fry Meals Available to be Delivered to Our Homebound

If you know of someone who is registered in our parish family who is homebound and who is on our communion call list and would like a fish fry meal brought to their home, please contact our **Parish Health Minister, Agnes Hinkebein**, at the parish office.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver some of these meals to our shut-ins, I am sure that Agnes would be greatly appreciative of your assistance. **A great Lenten opportunity for you, (and your children) to visit and bring love and compassion to those who would greatly appreciate a visit.**

Helping with the Spirit of Hospitality at our Fish Fry ... Giving our guests closer parking...

Parking is always at a premium for our parish Fish Fries. **In keeping with our Lenten spirit and our continued focus on our spirit of hospitality, if you are working at the fish fry would you consider parking in the Lober Building parking lot to give our guests a chance for closer parking?** Not only would you be offering this small action for the greater good of our parish, but you could also eat a bit more at the fish fry knowing that you will be walking off a few of the calories by walking to your car!!! ☺

Respecting the Dignity of Being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

For the past several weekends it has been very noticeable that several of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were not present to fulfill their sacred duties. We ask if you are unable to fulfill the times you are scheduled to please contact a substitute. Also, I have been asked by several of our parishioners to mention all Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors be appropriately dressed for the dignity of their ministry. Please no blue jeans, t-shirts, or tennis shoes.

Our Grade School Students Speaking After All Masses Next Weekend

Enriching the Catholic Identity of our grade school at the request of our Archbishop, several of our students will be present next weekend to speak after all the masses. They would like to give a brief presentation to us about St. Patrick and St. Joseph, whose feast days are this coming week.

And Finally. . .

Please see pages 12-13 for your Lenten meditations this week.

I hope you will support our **fish fry quilt raffle**. A special thank you to our quilters. The proceeds from this year's raffle will go to the "Help the Hungry Bake Sale."

"Always remember that as long as we keep the Eucharist the center of our lives, everything else will fall in place...of that I am confident"!!!

Blessings of Peace... **Fr. Rickey**



CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER
20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63119-5738
p) 314.792.7841
F) 314.792.7842
www.archstl.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

TO CHRIST'S FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

**ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT
MARCH 2011**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, March 9, we began our annual Lenten journey that will reach its ultimate fulfillment in the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The imposition of blessed ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday signified the purification of our minds and hearts, which is the fruit of our Lenten observance.

As we read and listen to the Scripture readings during this season of Lent, let us be mindful of our own role in the events that occurred over 2,000 years ago; how our sins contributed to the sufferings endured by Christ for our salvation.

Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. It is a time to pray with renewed fervor for ourselves, our families, and our Church; for the culture in which we live will not encourage us in our efforts to improve ourselves spiritually.

Lent is an opportunity to begin again; to accompany Jesus over 40 days through spiritual reading, increased Mass attendance, acts of spiritual and corporal works of mercy, acts of personal denial and increased care and concern for others, especially our families. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, and spiritual reading are ways in which we can individually and collectively gain the graces we need to sustain us on our Lenten journey.

Together, let us faithfully observe the season of Lent so that we can truly proclaim on Easter Sunday "He is risen; risen indeed."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Carlson".

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

*A Special Lenten Evening of Reflection for the Men of St. Joseph's Parish
"The Disciples on the Way to Emmaus. . .
The Interior Beauty of the Passion"*



A total of **\$3,635** was raised for the "Help the Hungry Bake Sale", a benefit for local food pantries, including our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

A Special Thank You To

**Most Reverend
Robert J. Hermann**

Auxiliary Bishop-emeritus of
the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Daryl Buchheit, musician

and to the special table
hosts for the evening:

Kevin Boatright

Charlie Boyd

Ted Cassimatis

John Denkler

Gene Eddleman

Rob Grindel

Doak Holloway

Bill Jokerst

John Jones

Tom LaMartina

Jim Robert

Dave Sansegraw

Nathan Stein

John Thurman

Mark Trolinger

Mike Ward



*Lord,
"We thank you
for counting us
worthy to stand
in your presence to
serve you"
Eucharistic Prayer II*

Our Pastoral Team

Rev. Rickey J. Valleroy..... Pastor
email: frrickvalleroy@aol.com

Rev. James W. Dyer..... Associate Pastor
email: frjim@stjosephfarmington.com

Deacon Albin Gegg Permanent Deacon

Susie Rohrer Principal
email: principal@stjosephfarmington.com

Sr. Barbara Wentworth..... Religion Coordinator

Agnes Hinkebein Pastoral Health Care
email: agnes@stjosephfarmington.com

Lauren Stein..... Preschool Director
email: prekdirector@stjosephfarmington.com

Lisa Cartee Business Manager
email: lisa@stjosephfarmington.com

Sandy Doty..... Event Coordinator and Bulletin Editor
email: bulletin@stjosephfarmington.com

Jane Hardy Secretary
email: secretary@stjosephfarmington.com

Mike Ward Maintenance Supervisor

Brian Stamm Pastoral Council

Chuck Hayden Financial Commission

Ed Brown..... Cemetery Association
phone: 573-756-5369

Parish Business Office Hours

Monday thru Friday • 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone (573)756-4250 • Fax (573)756-6938
10 North Long Street • Farmington, MO 63640

This Week in Our Parish

Tues	03/15	Born of the Spirit Mission 7:00 pm • Church
		Cub Scouts 6:30 pm • Cafeteria
Wed	03/16	PSR Classes 6:00 pm • School
		Baptism Prep Class 6:00 pm • Library
		Parish Rosary 7:15 pm • Church
		Bible Timeline 7:30 pm • Parish Center
Thurs	03/17	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 am - 5:20 pm • Church
		Boy Scouts 6:00 pm • Cafeteria
Fri	03/18	All School Mass 8:05 am • Church
		Stations of the Cross 2:15 and 7:00 pm • Church
		Lenten Fish Fry 4:00 - 7:00 pm • Gym
Sun	03/20	RCIA 9:00 am • Parish Center

Mass Schedule

Monday thru Friday	7:00 am
Friday (All School Mass August - May)	8:05 am
Sunday Observance	
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am
Holy Days of Obligation	7:00 am, 8:00 am, and 7:00 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 am, or by appointment

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month after the 10:30 am Mass

The Sacrament of Marriage

Celebrated after meeting the bride and groom and beginning preparation six months before the wedding, in accordance with Archdiocesan Wedding Policy.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 7:30 am thru Closing Prayer Service at 5:20 pm
First Fridays of the month from 8:30 am to 2:15 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Open Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For assistance call 756-0997



Happy Birthday



<u>March 13th</u> Ethan Hennes Elizabeth Persons Joseph Potter Nicholas Rice	<u>March 15th</u> Becky Gruhala Sunny Kane <u>March 16th</u> Tim Bone Paulena Boshoff Stephanie Pfaff	<u>March 17th</u> Thomas Benoist Barney Black Patricia Raymer Micheala Woody
<u>March 14th</u> Norma Oder Valerie Walter		<u>March 19th</u> Kelli Sparr



Happy Anniversary



<u>March 13th, 1957</u> Don & Martha Boyd	<u>March 18th, 1967</u> John & Karen Jones
<u>March 14th, 1998</u> Darrin & Pam Bauer	<u>March 18th, 1998</u> Tom & Debbie O'Hara
<u>March 15th, 1986</u> Todd & Debbie Reidt	<u>March 19th, 1960</u> Ronald & Barb Doss
<u>March 17th, 2007</u> David & Bridgette Sansegraw	



Eucharistic Celebrations and Mass Intentions

Week of March 14th - 20th, 2011

Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2,11-18 Ps 19:8-10,15
Mt 25:31-46

7:00 am: **Paul Raymer**

Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7,16-19 Mt 6:7-15

7:00 am: **Virginia Webster**

Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Lk 11:29-32

7:00 am: **Rick Sutterer**

Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Est C:12,14-16,23-25
Ps 138:1-3,7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

7:00 am: **Pat Wade**

Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

7:00 am: **Jack & Joan Manley**

8:05 am: **Leo Scrivens & Richard Kassabain**

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22
2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

5:00 pm **Bertha Thomure**

Sunday:

7:30 am: **Janet Forsythe**

9:00 am: **William & Rita Kramek**

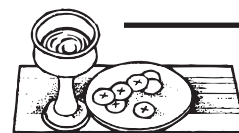
10:30 am: **Parishioners**

visit www.stjosephfarmington.com and click on
"daily mass readings" for easy reference.

Welcome to St. Joseph Parish

A warm welcome to all of you who have come to worship with us. If you are visiting, we are honored by your presence. If you would like more information on becoming a member, please call the Parish Office at 756-4250. Our Parish serves the needs of the community in many ways. We offer preparation for Sacraments, education for children and adults, social activities, assistance to those in difficulty, comfort to the sick. If we can be of service, please let us know. We hope you will come again.

Ministers of the Liturgy



Saturday, March 19th

5:00 pm Mass

Priest: Fr. James Dyer

Lector: John Crouch

Extraordinary Ministers:

Jim Willis, Laura Denkler,
Donna Conklin, Rick Conklin

Ushers: James Cissell, John Denkler,
Terry Guiley, Gary Harris

Servers: A. Willis, A. Gerstner, K. Ramos

Sunday, March 20th

7:30 am Mass

Priest: Fr. James Dyer

Deacon: Deacon Al Gegg

Lector: Chuck Hayden

Extraordinary Ministers:

Chris Westrich, Jerry Bach,
Dotty Bach, Jim Eaton

Ushers: Dale Jones, Jack Neiner,
Chester Ott, Phil Roth

Servers: C. Huitt, N. Westrich

9:00 am Mass

Priest: Fr. Rickey Valleroy

Lector: Mitch Fuemmeler

Extraordinary Ministers:

Adam Barnhouse, Alex Greif, Charlotte
Vander Bol, Vanessa Trokey, Dawn Fuemmeler

Ushers: Don Trokey, Mike Turner,
Mike Ward, Dan Combs

Servers: L. Trokey, G. Trokey, S. Trokey

10:30 am Mass

Priest: Fr. Rickey Valleroy

Lector: Helen Thurman

Extraordinary Ministers:

John Thurman, Jana Dore', Shirley Bieser,
Charlie Boyd, Austin Robert

Ushers: John Bieser, Mark Bieser,
Bob Bone, Tom Freeman

Servers: N. Dore', B. Dore', JC Odle

Monday, March 14th, 2011

Sacristans

Linda Gillespie, Karen Jones,
Jo Rustemeyer, Mary Strohmeier

Money Counters

Marilyn Currington, Bob & Mary Lou Govreau,
Kathy Miller, Edsel Wade

Come join us for our weekly Parish Rosary to be offered this Wednesday at 7:15 pm in church.



Our rosary leaders will be:

Mary Strohmeier, Phyllis Trolinger,
Jackie Maloney, Helen Mell, Joyce Wozniak

The Mysteries this week are: **Sorrowful**

Our petition for this week will be:

“During this Lenten season, may the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and minds through prayer and penance, to prepare us for the Sacred Tridium.”



**Please join us for
Stations of the Cross
each Friday during Lent
at 2:15 pm and 7:00 pm.**

Picnic Help

We are in need of chairmen and workers in the following picnic areas: Grand Raffle, “Big Kid” Games, and the Dining Room. If you are able to help out in any of these areas please call Dave and Bridgette Sansegraw at 756-5082 or Sandy at the parish office at 756-4250.



Baby Clothes Needed

The Parkland Pregnancy Center is in need of gently used boy's clothing, size newborn to 2T.

Please call Pat Boatright at 756-4169, if you have any questions or have something to donate. Thank you!



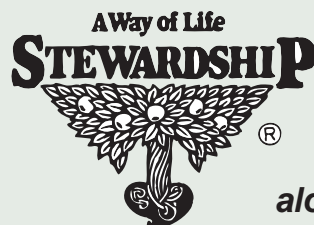
Your Gifts to God and Parish Sunday, March 6th, 2011

Adult Envelopes	\$13,534.50
Loose	\$343.14
Children's Envelopes	\$.80
Spanish Mass	<u>\$273.00</u>
	\$14,151.44

	<u>Current Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Sunday Offering	\$14,151.44	\$387,043.37
Budgeted Amount	<u>\$10,850.00</u>	<u>\$390,600.00</u>
Shortage/Overage	\$3,301.44	(\$3,556.63)

Partners in Education	\$235.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$358.00
St. Vincent de Paul	<u>\$730.00</u>
Total for Specials	\$1323.00

Thank You For Your Faithfulness!!!



**“It is written:
The Lord, your
God, shall you
worship and him
alone shall you serve.”
Matthew 4:10**

The world tempts us with so much. Like Jesus on the top of the mountain, we can all see magnificent possessions, power, adventures, activities or accomplishments that tempt us to push God into the background of our lives. Yet, we must follow the example of Jesus and back away from the temptations of the world so that we have more time in our lives to worship and serve God. Lent provides us with the perfect opportunity to make a change that will last not just for forty days but for a lifetime.

Together we pray for those who are sick. (Parishioners names are in bold.)

Please pray for: Margaret Greif, **Bob Medley**, Beth (Schnurbusch) Nielson, Eric Freeberg, Thelma Bohs, Jayme C., **Linda Bordewick**, Ruth Ratican, Randy McMahan, Richard Thomlison, Kerry Creech, **Paul Gremminger**, **Edsel Wade**, **Tom Rigdon**, Kathy Krechnyak, **Jerry McDermott**, Jane Wurst, Sharon Gonzalez, Lisa Kissel, Karen Abney, Elizabeth Marinoble, **Mary Beth Baker**, Jean Bach, **Mary Lou Lodholz**, Norma Clauser, Jim Redmond, Richard Gram, Jessica Hedgecorth, Norma Roberts, Joe Stewart, Kathy Stewart, Mary Whalley, Cain Crocker, Mary Monte Provost, Helen Nierdigh, Janet Boatright, **Howard Denton**, **Marilyn Trokey**, **Gerald Ellis**, **Mildred Bourisaw**, **Laura Leachman**.

If you need to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Pat Boatright at 756-4169.



Congratulations to the Gentlemen Who Received their 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus!!!!

Our congratulations to **John Jones, Ricky Koppeis, and Dave Werner** our three newest members of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus who were Knighted on March 5th at the Airport Marriott.



Fr. Rickey with the three newest Knighted members: Ricky Koppeis, Dave Werner, and John Jones along with Sir Knights Charlie Boyd and John Thurman.



Fr. Rickey with Sir Knight Ricky Koppeis and his wife Stephanie and Sir Knight John Jones and his wife Karen.



Fr. Rickey with this year's attendees of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus exemplification.



Fr. Rickey with Sir Knight Dave Werner and his wife, Cynthia.

We are a Fraternal Organization of Catholic Men

We live by Charity. . . Unity. . . Fraternity. . . Patriotism

St. Joseph Catholic Church Mission

Tuesday, March 15th
7:00 - 8:30 pm

"The Love of the Father"
presented by Lotar Neumann



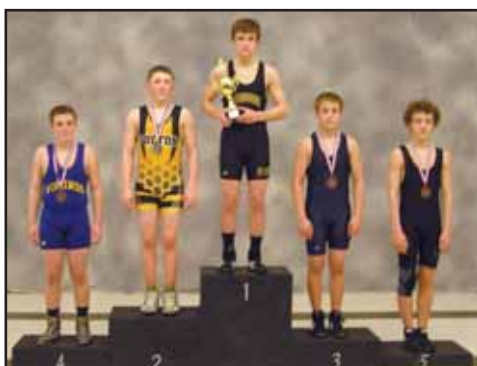
"Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" John 7: 37-39
Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory, but later, those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

Are you feeling thirsty? We invite you to come and be filled.

Each evening will include music by Daryl Buchheit and be followed by a reception of cookies, punch and coffee in the parish center.

FREE baby sitting available!

This mission seeks to provide solid teaching on our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Please join us at St. Joseph Catholic Church at 10 North Long Street in Farmington, Missouri. For more information you may contact Phyllis LaPlant at 573-756-3261 or Dawn Fuemmeler at 573-756-9853.



Congratulations!!

On February 28th, 2011, St. Joseph seventh grader **Collin Huitt** won the Missouri State AAU wrestling tournament. He competed in the 119 lb. 13 and under division. The win qualifies him for the Triple Crown title due to his winning of the previous two tournaments in the series.

Thank You

Dear Father Rickey, Father Jim,
and all St. Joseph Parishioners,



Thank you for your overwhelming support for my newly published book, Still Standing Through Christian Faith. I appreciate the opportunity to share my faith experience with your family and hope you will also share our testimony with your friends. In addition, through the weekend book sales and donations, we collected \$75.00 for the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life. We are blessed by your generosity. I would also like to thank those who came by specifically to show their support and to share "Myranda stories".

Sincerely, *Katie Schwent*

St. Joseph's Lenten Fish Fries

Next Fish Fry - Friday, March 18th

Plan on sharing a great night of fellowship and good food at. . .

St. Joseph School Gym from 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Adults \$8.00, Children (6-12) \$4.00, Children 5 and under FREE

**All You
Can Eat**

Menu Includes

**Carry
Out**

Three types of fish:
Catfish, Tilapia, and Pollock

Sides of hush puppies, cole slaw, green beans, stewed tomatoes, french fries, macaroni and cheese, and a specialty side dish each week

Your choice of tea, coffee or lemonade

Delicious homemade desserts prepared by Women of Mary

FISH FRY

Specialty items each week are:

March 18th - corn on the cob

March 25th - fried okra

April 1st - bean casserole

April 8th - onion rings

April 15th - shrimp

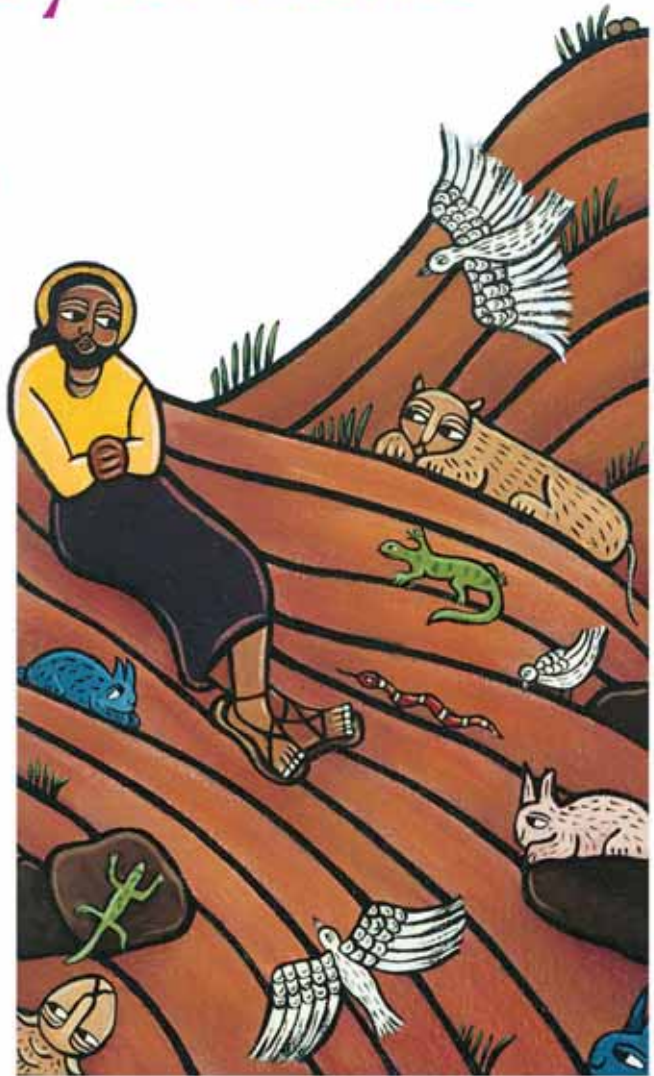
*Your hosts for this coming Friday evening will be the
Knights of Columbus, 5:00 and 9:00 Choirs, Ushers, PSR Families*

Clean up crew beginning at 7:30 pm - PSR Faculty.

First Sunday of Lent

Prayer for Help with Temptations

God our Father,
 you who sustained Jesus through
 powerful temptations
 when he was alone and hungry,
 stand with us as we struggle
 with our temptations.
 Help us learn from his model:
 that with your grace we can overcome any evil,
 that we have within us Christ's strength,
 that nothing can destroy our inmost core.
 Teach us to seek, as Christ did,
 the nourishment of your word
 and your daily protection,
 instead of material fulfillment.
 May we keep you enshrined in our hearts
 and serve your kingdom.
 We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

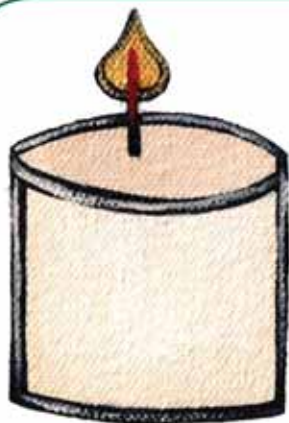


Sunday, March 13, 2011 Turn and Trust

Today's Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11. As ashes were signed on our foreheads Wednesday, we heard the words "Turn from sin; trust the Good News." What does that mean? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that sin is "an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; . . . failure in genuine love for God and neighbor." Sin results from our attachments to things (CCC, 1849).

In today's Gospel, Jesus turns from the destructive voice of the devil to the life-giving voice of his Father. He speaks to us out of his desert experience of sin and death, saying, in essence, "Turn away from sin and evil and toward God." Are

we haunted by past shame or worries about the future? Are we tempted by attachments that we know will cause harm? Are we still angry about something from years ago? Lent means springtime: it is an opportunity to slough off like a snakeskin all that deadens us. It is also a time to turn to the God who made us, who redeemed us, and who lives in us. Jesus showed that the prince of this world had no hold on him, and so we must know that we belong to God, not to all that tempts or threatens us. Jesus invites us to belong completely to him. The only way forward is to trust in the God who has been faithful before and can be trusted again. Can we step toward that life source this Lent?



This Week at Home



Monday, March 14

Comfort in the Desert—A Prayer Space

The final phrase of Sunday's Gospel is often overlooked: "and angels waited on him." After Jesus' ordeal, the presence of the divine is still with him. Perhaps angels attend all our lonely desert experiences. Where we sense the least comfort, there it abounds. How can we become more aware of God's love waiting on us? Create a prayer space in your home where you can pray, reflect, and do spiritual reading. A corner of a room will do. You'll need a chair and a little table with a violet cloth (violet is the liturgical color for Lent), a candle, Bible, and perhaps a cross or holy image. Let this be a place of refuge where you can feel God's presence attending you. Today's Readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Matthew 25:31–46.

Tuesday, March 15

Lenten Fast

From what shall we fast this Lent? The old practice of giving up candy, coffee, or cigarettes was almost too easy. It only addressed one side of ourselves, the physical. This year, try fasting from negative put-downs, anxiety, time wasted on fluffy entertainment, or games that are beneath us. For a *real* challenge, unplug the television. Substitute compliments, trust, time spent in quiet reflection or reading. That will make it seem like a *breeze* to forego the candy bar! Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Matthew 6:7–15.

Wednesday, March 16

Lenten Almsgiving

Operation Rice Bowl is a long-standing Lenten tradition, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Put money saved from more elaborate meals in the organization's small cardboard box to benefit needy people in over one hundred countries. At the CRS Web site (<http://orb.crs.org>), you can see an interactive map of nations served by the project, stories of individuals it helps, meatless recipes from around the world, and ways to donate. If your parish isn't participating, do so at home. Today's Readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Luke 11:29–32.

Thursday, March 17

Optional Memorial of Saint Patrick

Say this prayer, attributed to Saint Patrick, alone or with family members:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Today's Readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Matthew 7:7–12.

Friday, March 18

First Be Reconciled

How wisely Jesus teaches us to attend to our conflicts with others before we approach worship. He even tells us to leave the altar to settle the cause of disagreement so that it will not block our prayer. Advice from secular mental health experts is similar: not forgiving can drain and de-energize the wounded; clinging to an insult can shadow an otherwise happy life. If we took Jesus' wisdom to heart, we could be more available to God's love and live more gratefully, freely, and joyfully. Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Matthew 5:20–26.

Saturday, March 19

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Both of today's two options for the Gospel describe Joseph's dilemmas. In Matthew, he agonizes over what to do about Mary, his pregnant fiancée. In Luke, Joseph and Mary lose their son Jesus in the temple. Joseph's proximity to Jesus on earth hardly guaranteed bliss; in fact it brought hard challenges, and his faithful response is a model for us. Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.



The Answer is Always “Jesus”

Sr. Barbara Wentworth, DHM • Parish Religion Coordinator



The Church that developed in the Frankish Kingdom under Charlemagne was stable and well defined. It was at this time that the Celtic missionaries from Ireland introduced the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass. Nomadic tribes who “arrived” at regular intervals contributed their reverence for the bones of their ancestral heroes which they carried with them in special and very ornate “caskets.” This custom was transposed by the Church into honoring relics of Christian saints. We know that the laity was virtually isolated from participating in the Eucharist and this did not sit well with the man-in-the-pew. The people demanded that Mass be more available to them. So side altars were built and made into shrines to saints whose relics that been obtained by wealthy families or guilds (forerunners of unions). These side altars lined the walls of churches and as it happened only members of wealthy families, civil officials or prosperous benefactors had the money to pay a monk or canon to celebrate Eucharist for them unobstructed by a barrier or rood screen.

The laity’s faith in the importance of the Mass remained but, because they were effectively separated from the full celebration of the Eucharist, their emotional connection was weakened if not completely broken. A sense of “privacy” arose and the need to find some sort of religious experience apart from the Mass arose. Worshipers became preoccupied with relics, processions, pilgrimages, shrines and statues of saints, novenas and special devotions in a way to find intimacy with God. These extra-liturgical activities were meant to be faith builders but instead became substitutes for the Mass. The people didn’t stop attending Mass but these activities diverted the laity’s spiritual attention away from the Eucharist itself.

During the Middle Ages most of the population...90% actually, lived on farms and in little hamlets and villages, rarely traveling more than five miles away from where they were born. Churches were small probably holding no more than two hundred people at one time and were decorated with a variety of religious symbols. Life-spans were short, about forty years and the parish priest knew everyone by name baptizing and burying generations of the same family. The calendar year was defined by the liturgical seasons with the people creating social and religious festivals and processions to mark the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. During these years only monks, nuns and priests received Communion frequently. The main reason the laity would come to the Church for Mass was for a chance to see the consecrated wafer or Host being elevated after the Consecration. Bells would be rung to alert the faithful and many would wander around town, going from church to church, hoping to be present to get a glimpse of the Host. This attitude gave rise to a myriad of devotions centering on the Sacred Body. Often the entire town would come out on feasts like Corpus Christi in June when the village priest would carry the Host through town, first on a simple paten, then by the thirteenth century, in a glittering gold monstrance designed especially for occasions such as these. These were rare and wonderful events of great importance because they gave the laity an opportunity to see the consecrated Host that they couldn’t see at Mass...a “communion of the eyes” as one writer put it. In fact people would pay the priest to keep the Blessed Sacrament “out” longer so they could prolong that saving contact with Christ. This custom of Adoration was instrumental in helping people to renew their faith in the Real Presence. The practice also forged a link that had been missing for so many years between the Adoration of the Eucharist and the blessings of the Mass.

Youth Group News

Greetings Parish! Lent is in full swing and it's hard to believe that we've come so far into 2011! Last week Austin and I had the pleasure to meet Jessica, the future youth minister! Tonight, she will join us and any others interested in going to the VMY Youth Mass. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm and leave at approximately 4:45 pm. Bring money for Taco Bell afterward!

Connections

The second reading this Sunday is not easy to follow, especially when some of Paul's sentences are more like a paragraph. But you might notice that he makes several important connections: between sin and death, between Adam and Jesus, and between obedience and disobedience.

In the first one, he says that sin is the cause of death. And of course, everyone is subject to death at some point, even if they haven't sinned. A less serious sin can be a little "death" when it makes us feel we are not as close to God as we could be. And sins that we might think are not a big deal, like smoking, can lead to serious health problems.

The connection between Adam and Jesus is not so obvious. Adam was the first to bring sin and death into the world. Jesus is the first to bring forgiveness by his

death on the cross. The main difference between them is that Adam disobeyed God, while Jesus was obedient to his Father. Adam reminds me of a child who knows what he is supposed to do, but thinks that he can do the opposite and get away with it.

In the gospel, Satan can be thought of as trying to get Jesus to do things the easy way. When he tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread, he shows Jesus an easy way to feed the people. But Jesus takes a better way, when he feeds us with himself in the Eucharist. The devil says Jesus can throw himself off the temple as a dramatic way to attract followers; Jesus lets himself hang from the cross to draw people to himself. Satan promised the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would only worship him. But Jesus chose to be crowned with thorns and receive his Kingdom when he rose from the dead.

(from "The Word in our Lives")