

Second Sunday of Lent - March 8, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

At this time of worldwide economic challenges, let us not forget that the food and financial crises hit the world's most vulnerable the hardest. Since 2007, 115 million were added to the ranks of the hungry to create a total of nearly 1 billion people without adequate food.

Pope Benedict reminds us that: The Bible (Old and New Testaments) and the unbroken tradition of Christian living, testifies that fasting is "a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it. He calls attention to the great Christian teachers like St. Augustine who saw fasting as a means of restoring spiritual balance to a soul stained by sin. "Since all of us are weighed down by sin and its consequences," the Pope explains, "fasting is proposed to us as an instrument to restore friendship with God."

The idea of fasting-- voluntarily giving up something that is recognized as good and wholesome-- can be traced to the very beginning of the Bible. In the Garden of Eden, God instructs Adam and Eve to abstain from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The Pope also reminds us of St. Basil's observation that "fasting was ordained in Paradise." Jesus fasted in the desert, the Pope continues, and at the conclusion of his fast, when he is tempted by Satan, he points to a deeper meaning of fasting saying "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Pope Benedict concludes: "The true fast is thus directed to eat the 'true food,' which would culminate in doing the Father's will." Oddly, the Pope says in modern times fasting has become associated with doing one's own will, and serving one's own needs, insofar as fasting and dieting are used to achieve greater physical and mental well-being. Without denying the physical benefits of abstinence, the Pope insists that Christian fasting has an entirely different purpose.

One very important spiritual benefit of fasting, the Pope says, is that it can "open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live." Those who fast gain a greater appreciation for those who live constantly in hunger, he says. "By freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger." The Pope noted that this should lead directly to feeding the hungry.

Focusing his message specifically on the practice of fasting, the Pope said it is a way for believers to submit themselves "humbly to God, trusting in his goodness and mercy."

"Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by his saving word," the Pope wrote.

"Through fasting and prayer we allow him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God," he said.

While some people fast to cleanse their body or to lose weight, Christians fast during Lent in order "to heal all that prevents them from conformity to the will of God," he said.

"Freely chosen detachment from the pleasure of food and other material goods helps the disciple of Christ to control the appetites of nature, weakened by original sin," the Pope wrote.

At the same time, he said, "fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live."

By fasting in solidarity with the poor, "freely embracing an act of self-denial for the sake of another, we make a statement that our brother or sister in need is not a stranger," the Pope said.

Let us pray for each other this Lenten Season.

Lenten Blessings!
Msgr. John Shamleffer

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 9
6:30 am
Helene Schweitzer
8:00 am
Jolly Nouss
12:00 pm
Robert H. Sicking

Tuesday, March 10
6:30 am
Matt & Ken Clark
8:00 am
Mary Elizabeth Moloney
12:00 pm
Bernardo-Reyes Fam.

Wednesday, March 11
6:30 am
Poor Souls
8:00 am
Dr. Edward Leary
12:00 pm
Charles Fallert Fam.

Thursday, March 12
6:30 am
Fortunato Martinez
8:00 am
Rita Maloney
12:00 pm
Harriett Smith Holmes

Friday, March 13
6:30 am
Mary Ellen Powers
8:00 am
Virginia Schroeder
12:00 pm
Alpha Dwyer

Saturday, March 14
8:00 am
Dustin Hadley Griffin
5:00 pm
Dr. Francis Burns

Sunday, March 15
7:30 am
People of the Parish
9:00 am
Susan Powers Meier
11:00 am
Kofron Family

We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health and comfort to:

Mary Slais
Bruce Hagen
Maryanne Dolan
Fr. Gerry Kleba
Mary Lee Rovira
John Gillis
Robert Coplan
Mildred Fraser
Elvessie Edwards
Barbara Lindsay
Joan Wilson
Bob Wilson
Sean O'Connor
Josh Eckhoff
Maria Guehlstorf
Michael Phelps
Lynn Burch
Joseph Niedbalski
Naomi Carmody
Beth Wilcox
Richard Vance
Paula Mulhearn
LaVerne Safron
Susie Taff
Sr. Eleanor
Lois Laffey
Peggy Holmes
Vincenttia Majka
Barbara Beauzethier

Welcome to St. Joseph - Clayton, Missouri

St. Joe's Seniors Center

Attention all Irish and those not fortunate enough to be Irish. Plan on joining us for our St. Patrick's Day luncheon. We shall have lunch, Irish Sing-a-Longs, and as always "Rob Your Neighbor". So bring a friend and a gift to share on Tuesday March 10th, 12:45 pm in the church hall. RSVP to 726-1221.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., followed by Confession. The dates are March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, and 8.

This traditional prayer of the church offers all the opportunity **to more deeply meditate on the Passion of Our Lord.**

The Stations are visible signs of Christ's path which are available to us year round. We have come to overlook them week after week.

Let us walk the Way of the Cross to Resurrection together this Lent.

Rest in Peace

Let us, as a parish family, pray for all of our deceased parishioners, relatives, benefactors and friends. We remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us and pray that they are celebrating with our Lord in heaven.

Readings for the Week March 8, 2009

Sun: Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18
Ps 116:10,15-19 Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10
Mon: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9,11,13
Lk 6:36-38
Tues: Is 1:10,16-20 Ps 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23 Mt 23:1-12
Wed: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6,14-16
Mt 20:17-28
Thur: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4,6 Lk 16:19-31
Fri: Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a
Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43,45-46
Sat: Mi 7:14-15,18-20 Ps 103:1-4,9-12
Lk 15:1-3,11-32
Sun: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25



St. Joseph Parish Mission

Thank you to all who participated in the Parish Mission. It was a great success. This bulletin finds a quick thank you, saving our heartiest, and fuller thanks for next week giving us time to reflect on all we have experienced. (Remember -- B I B L E stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth!)

Correction on Monthly Calendar

There will be Anointing of the Sick on March 21 and 22nd. We will **NOT** be Anointing the Sick on March 15.
Sorry for the error!



"There are those who are constantly trying to write the obituary of the pro-life movement. I remember in the mid-1980's a television commentator reporting on the huge crowd at the annual March for Life as the "dying gasp" of the movement. It is 20 years later and the pro-life movement is growing stronger and younger."
~ Archbishop Joseph Naumann, [Zenit Interview](#), 11/19/08

St. Joseph Bridge Group

Our 2nd Thursday of the Month Bridge Game is this Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone.



Please pray for the following men and women as they carry out their duties in the service of our country:

Christopher Johnson, grandson of Naomi Carmody. Christopher is stationed in Iraq outside of Baghdad.

James O'Connell, son-in-law of Deacon Al and Mickey Williams is stationed in Iraq.

Are You A Registered Parishioner?

It is as simple as a phone call. Call the Rectory, 726-1221, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00 p.m. and we can take your registration information over the phone.

The Year of St. Paul

READ: II Timothy 2:1;4:9

Meditation theme: The master crowning his faithful Apostle.

Paul sensed that death was approaching. While his defense at the preliminary hearing had given him great satisfaction, never-the-less he was still a realist. He knew that the Roman Court had to have victims for Nero's fire. Surely a leader among the Christians would not be spared. Therefore Paul told Timothy how much he longed to see him again before he died. And fearing that Timothy might not reach him in time, Paul poured out his heart in a letter which would be his last.

Timothy must be "a good soldier of Christ," an "athlete," a "farmer," a "worker approved." He must "pursue justice, faith, charity and peace." Timothy had to know that Paul's last wishes for him were for all the virtues that would make him like the Lord. He must be "gentle towards all, ready to teach, patient, gently admonishing those who resist."

And secondly the Church, the Lord's Mystical Body was a concern for Paul. The time would come when men would "not endure sound doctrine, but having itching ears, would heap up for themselves teachers according to their own lusts and turn away from hearing the truth." Paul winced at this thought. Timothy and his successors must fight this erosion in the Church. "I charge you in the sight of God and Christ Jesus to preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, entreat, rebuke with all patience and teaching."

Paul's last thoughts were of his friend Timothy. He was a perfect example to Timothy of loyal, faithful love! The truth was that all who want to live in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But that was not the end: "I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. For the rest there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the last Judge, will give me in that day; yet not to me only, but also to those who love His coming.

Lord the time for faithful love and service is NOW!

Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph

Monday, March 9

- 1:00 pm Prayer Group, Madonna Rm
- 4:30 pm Children's Choir, Music Room
- 5:15 pm PSR, School
- 7:00 pm Education Commission, School
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

Tuesday, March 10

- 12:45 pm Senior's Luncheon, Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm Bible Study, Madonna Rm

Wednesday, March 11

- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions, Church
- 7:00 pm Baptism Class, Rectory
- 7:30 pm Bible Study, Madonna Rm
- 7:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul, Parish Hall

Thursday, March 12

- 6:30 pm Bridge Group, PHC
- 7:00 pm Parish Council, Madonna Rm

Friday, March 13

- 7:00 pm Cursillo, Parish Hall

Saturday, March 14

- Little Sisters of the Poor Speaking at Mass

Sunday, March 15

- Little Sisters of the Poor Speaking at Masses
- 9:00 am RCIA, Parish Hall
- 9:30 am Bible Study, Madonna Rm
- 9:30 am PSR, School
- 11:00 am CLW, PHC

ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS

Then to all Christ said, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps" (Lk 9:23). The Church has always helped us respond obediently to these words of Jesus by prescribing certain acts of penance for all Catholics. Accordingly, the Holy Father and the Bishops of the United States have set forth the following regulations of obligatory fast and abstinence:

Good Friday (April 10, 2009) is a day of **abstinence** for all Catholics **over the age of 14**. On this day **Fast**, as well as abstinence, is also obligatory for **those from the ages of 18 to 59**. Abstinence means abstinence from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

All other Fridays of Lent are days of **abstinence** from meat. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, the obligation does not apply. We should strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer and penance.

5:00 pm

Altar Servers
Madeline McMahon
Meredith McMahon
Emma Rowley

Reader/Lector
Bebe Kennedy

Extraordinary Ministers
Vic Schulte
Ramon Floro
+Mary Molloy

7:30 am

Altar Servers
Dan Hoff
Reid & Will Cytron

Reader/Lector
Jane Byrne

Extraordinary Ministers
David Ahner
Frank Hackmann
+Betty Torno

9:00 am

Altar Servers
John Miller
Connor Mulligan

Reader/Lector
John Gillis

Extraordinary Ministers
Ruth Tredway
Susan Hackmann
+Terry Carmack

11:00 am

Altar Servers
Sean Gallagher
Connor Gallagher
Caroline Avery

Reader/Lector
Mary Molloy
Katharine Shapleigh
Extraordinary Ministers
Anthony D'Agostino
Roger Drone
Thom Schweteye
+Pierce Powers

+ Only when no deacon is present

Skilled And Unskilled Volunteers Are Needed

Habitat For Humanity

Build 2009

We need able-bodied men and women, **age 16 and older**, willing to help less fortunate people achieve the benefits and responsibilities of home ownership

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SUBMIT IT BY MARCH 27

YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO COMPLETE THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WAIVER

(it will be emailed or mailed to you)

Name of Volunteer/Family Contact: _____

Additional Family Volunteers: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Family is volunteering as a group: _____ YES _____ NO

Please check the days you can work. You will be notified by April 10 of your scheduled days and any organizational information.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prebuild | <input type="checkbox"/> May 3 (Sun.) | <input type="checkbox"/> June 27 (Sat.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 18 (Sat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> May 9 (Sat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> July 25 (Sat.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 1 (Fri.) | <input type="checkbox"/> May 16 (Sat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> July 31 (Fri.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2 (Sat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> June 20 (Sat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> August 1 (Sat.) |
| | | Dedication |

OR

_____ I cannot commit to a specific date at this time, but I would be interested in receiving emails checking my availability throughout the build.

Skill Level

- _____ I am not very skilled but would be happy to serve as a safety monitor or tool shed helper
- _____ Willing to learn – knows the right end of a hammer and is not afraid to use a shovel
- _____ Semi-skilled – an accomplished do-it-yourself EXCEPT for power tools
- _____ Skilled – accomplished do-it-yourselfer who is at ease with power tools
- _____ I know how to run a table saw

If you have any questions please call Betsy Sampson (314) 725-3380

Send form to:

St. Joseph's Parish
Attn: Habitat Build
106 N. Meramec
Clayton MO 63015

GOD BLESS YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME AND TALENT