

Dear Parishioners,

The Period of Purification and Enlightenment corresponds to that time known in the Roman Catholic Church as Lent. It has the character of a time of retreat for the elect who are preparing for Baptism, for the candidates who will complete their initiation or enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, and for the faithful who will commemorate their own Baptism at Easter.

The centerpiece of this period of prayerful preparation is the celebration of the Scrutinies which establishes readiness. In the renewal of the initiation rites the scrutiny is not simply meant to critique and assess one's readiness (remember that readiness was established at the Rite of Election with the sponsors' testimony and the bishop's acceptance of the catechumens' names). The purpose of each of the scrutinies is "to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect" and "to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good."

The true pastoral sense of this two-fold act of uncovering and strengthening is emphasized in the following: "For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ...." At its core, the scrutinies are not about the sinfulness of the elect but about the overwhelming grace of God in Christ. The exorcisms are not fear-laden bouts with Satan but are grace-filled encounters with the healing power of the Spirit.

Throughout this period, the elect and the candidates are invited to join with the whole Church in a deeper practice of works of charity and in the practice of fasting.

The Scrutinies will be celebrated on the third (March 15), fourth (March 21 @ 5 PM), and fifth Sundays (March 29 @ 11 AM) of the Lenten season. The presentations to the elect of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer are also celebrated during this period.

Please pray for those preparing to enter the church here at St. Joseph and throughout the world at this coming Easter Vigil.

Lenten Blessings!
Msgr. John Shamleffer

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers the souls of **Carol Waldbrandt**, mother of Charles Waldbrandt. May our Heavenly Father welcome Carol into His eternal home and may He send the comfort only He can to her family and friends.

Good News -- a 2nd Fish Dinner By the Knights of Columbus!!!

We have been informed by Grand Knight Steve Topping that they will offer a second fish dinner this Lent! Mark your calendars for Friday, April 3rd. Those who attended on Ash Wednesday enjoyed a wonderful meal in a fun, family atmosphere. **We are again in need of volunteers to donate those delicious desserts!**

Monday, Mar. 23

6:30 am

Annie French

8:00 am

Foutean Shalhoob

12:00 pm

Charles Fallert Fam.

Tuesday, Mar. 24

6:30 am

Poor Souls

8:00 am

Sr. Paula Marie Int.

12:00 pm

Anne Scully Williams

Wednesday, Mar. 25

**Annunciation of
the Lord**

6:30 am

Sr. Irene Dinh

8:00 am

Mary Catherine Ciarniello

12:00 pm

Rita Maloney

Thursday, Mar. 26

6:30 am

Emily Rose Mikolaichik

8:00 am

Russ Monika Int.

12:00 pm

Alpha "Fay" Dwyer

Friday, Mar. 27

6:30 am

Mae Cella

8:00 am

Robert Sicking

12:00 pm

Sr. Georgia Schroeder

Saturday, Mar. 28

8:00 am

Daniel Joseph Martin, Sr.

5:00 pm

William M. Byrd

Sunday, Mar. 29

7:30 am

People of the Parish

9:00 am

Kaye Lewand

11:00 am

Charles & Josephine
Judge

We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health and comfort to:

Mary Maloney

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

Faith & Begorrah! Sure and didn't we have a lovely time at our St. Pat's party! Fifteen of us came out on a lovely March day to celebrate, and sing along with Tom Taylor and the choir. Our next lunch is April 14th. So get your taxes filed, and get ready to party!

Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph

Monday, March 23

1:00 pm Prayer Group, Madonna Rm

7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

Tuesday, March 24

2:00 pm Bible Study, Madonna Rm

Wednesday, March 25

5:30 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confession, Church

7:30 pm Bible Study, Madonna Rm

Friday, March 27

7:00 pm Cursillo, Parish Hall

Sunday, March 29

PSR & CLW -- Spring Break

9:30 am Bible Study, Madonna Rm

11:00 am RCIA, PH

"Claiming our Identity in the Divine"

featuring Fr. Paul Coutinho, SJ

9am - 3pm Saturday April 18, 2009

The May Conference Center at DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton

Fr. Paul, a Jesuit from Bombay province of India, is an internationally recognized Ignatian scholar and acclaimed speaker. His presentation will explore how we truly feel about our relationship with God. Do we really have an intimate relationship or just a religion? A professor of theology at St. Louis University, he is author of two books, *How Big is your God?* and *Just as You Are*. Gather at 8:30am for complimentary coffee and pastries. Register early! Fr. Paul's presentations fill quickly. Send \$35 per person (includes catered lunch) to: Contemplative Outreach of St. Louis, 11939 Manchester Road, #402, St. Louis, MO 63131 Questions? Call 918.8288.

St. Joseph Day Celebration

Let us join together to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron, **St. Joseph**. We will have a gathering after 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, March 21 in the Parish Hall. This is also a perfect time to thank Fr. Charlie for all he has shared with St. Joseph Parish and wish him a fond farewell.

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 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.

Education Commission

PSR Spring Break: Sunday, March 22, Monday March 23, and Sunday March 29. Classes resume Monday, March 30 and Sunday, April 5.

Prayer scrolls for our R.C.I.A., First Eucharist and Confirmation classes are at the exits.

Please pray for our sacramental candidates.

Adult Education

Websites of Interest: Scripture

www.catholic-resources.org A vast array of Bible resources collected by Jesuit Fr. Felix Just.

www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.htm New American Bible on-line with a search engine.

www.salvationhistory.com/home.cfm

Resources for Bible study from Scott Hahn.



Several items have been left in church recently. If you are missing a rosary, umbrella, sweater, glasses, etc. come to the Rectory.

The Year of St. Paul

READING: Romans 1:1-4

Meditation: No Slave Is Above His Master

By Father Romanus Cessario, O.P.

"Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, . . . the gospel about His Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord."

When pilgrims travel today to Rome, they witness the evidence of two thousand years of Catholic life. Churches, monasteries, and colleges testify to the eventual success of Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans. Pilgrims at the same time encounter the remains of another Rome -- ancient Rome, with its Colosseum, its circuses, and its assorted reminders of pagan imperial power. There is a difference between these two Romes greater than one may gather from a well-conducted tour of the Eternal City. Whatever there is to admire in the artifacts of ancient Rome, the truth is that her empire collapsed under the weight of its own inability to sustain the reasonable human good. Within this culture of top-down expansionist power, no lower social position existed than that of a slave. So when Saint Paul announces himself a slave of Christ Jesus, he reverses the established expectations of the most powerful political authority of the day. Who would want to be the slave of anyone? Remember too that it was under the authority of the Roman procurator of Judea that Christ was crucified. Now Paul presents himself as the slave of a man that had been executed as a malefactor. Further, he tells both the Romans and us that the same Christ now brings to all peoples hominess of life and the bright promise of immortality. No wonder Christian authors speak about the Great Reversal. The incarnation inaugurates a turn about in human history that no political power can match. True enough salvation comes from the Jews. The apostle Paul announces divine right even to the inhabitants of pagan Rome. Saint Paul, then, is the Apostles to the Gentiles. We know that after several centuries of bloody martyrdoms, at the head of which stand the apostles of Rome, Peter and Paul, these very same inhabitants accepted Saint Paul's Good News -- the Gospel of God.

Blessed apostle Paul, obtain for us the grace to read your letters with spiritual profit. God chose you to announce the power of His Son Jesus Christ over sin and death. May we grow daily in your spirit of holiness.

Catholic Relief Services Collection -- This Weekend

This year's theme, "Give Hope to Jesus in Disguise," reminds us that our faith calls us to care for one another and that Christ is present both in those who suffer and in those who respond compassionately to their needs. Catholic Relief Services confronts international issues such as food security, HIV/AIDS, education and peace building. The CRS Collection supports refugee resettlement programs, legal aid to immigrants, advocacy and emergency and disaster relief. The needs of our world are varied, dire and immediate. Please consider, in this season of Lent, how you can make a real difference by your generosity to this appeal.

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
Maria Ryan
Cathy Salarano

Reader/Lector
Rosemary Pickle

Extraordinary Ministers
Mike Marks
Ramon Floro
+Mary Molloy

7:30 am

Altar Servers
Sean & Connor
Gallagher
Denny Schultz

Reader/Lector
Jane Byrne

Extraordinary Ministers
David Ahner
Raymond Chiostrri
+Betty Torno

9:00 am

Altar Servers
Brian Gaffigan
Caroline Avery

Reader/Lector
Abby Schult

Extraordinary Ministers
Terry Carmack
Ruth Tredway
+Mary Carver

11:00 am

Altar Servers
Lauren & Erica Hill
Andrew Looby

Reader/Lector
Roger Drone
Tom Misko

Extraordinary Ministers
Thom Schweteye
Anthony D'Agostino
Betty Tucker
+Gretchen Sander

+ 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"/> April 18 (Sat.) <input type="checkbox"/> May 1 (Fri.) <input type="checkbox"/> May 2 (Sat.)	<input type="checkbox"/> May 3 (Sun.) <input type="checkbox"/> May 9 (Sat.) <input type="checkbox"/> May 16 (Sat.) <input type="checkbox"/> June 20 (Sat.)	<input type="checkbox"/> June 27 (Sat.) <input type="checkbox"/> July 25 (Sat.) <input type="checkbox"/> July 31 (Fri.) <input type="checkbox"/> August 1 (Sat.) Dedication
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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. Drop form in the collection basket or mail To St. Joseph's Parish, Attn: Habitat Build, 106 N. Meramec, Clayton MO 63015.

Readings for the Week March 22, 2009

Sun: 2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23 Ps 137:1-6
Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21

Mon: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b
Jn 4:43-54

Tues: Ez 47:1-9,12 Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
Jn 5:1-16

Wed: Is 7:10-14;8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Thur: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Fri: Wis 2:1a,12-22 Ps 34:17-21,23 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

Sat: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3,9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

Sun: Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4,12-15 Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33



Friends of Birthright Card Party

St. Clement and St. Gerard Majella will hold their annual card party and luncheon on Wed., April 1 from 10:30 -- 2:30 at St. Clement Parish Center. Come play your favorite card or dice game: Bridge, Gin Rummy, Canasta, Bunko and more! Or just come for lunch! \$25 per person. Mail check and name of players to Jane Johans, 12335 Ironstone, Des Peres, MO



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.