



Dear Parishioners,

Well, it's upon us again... the great season of Lent. While some may bemoan it as a season of "giving things up" or a season of "penance," I think it is also a very joyful and positive time. It is a chance to start over and to begin anew. It is a chance to right relationships with God, others, and even with ourselves. As the days, "lenthen" - the origin of the word "Lent" - we also know that as spring approaches, so does the greatest celebration of our faith - the Sacred Triduum, culminating with the Feast of the Resurrection.

And so, as a parish, we invite you to join us in preparation. *Ash Wednesday liturgies at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*. Fish fries (4:30pm) and Stations of the Cross (7:00pm) are on every Friday of Lent. *The Lenten Parish Mission* is next Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. *Cafe Wednesdays* offer continual growth in faith. Please think seriously in this time of economic need about not only what you can "give up" for Lent, but how you can serve God's people this Lent.

Looking forward to this spiritual pilgrimage with you,
Fr. Bill Wegher

PROPER DISPOSAL OF BLESSED PALMS AND OTHER SACRAMENTALS

Lent is nearly upon us again, and you may be wondering what to do with the blessed palms you received last year. Please return palms and other broken or unused sacramentals such as rosaries and medals to the box placed in the gathering space for that purpose. We will assure these items are treated with reverence, and are repaired, passed on to someone who can use them as an encouragement or disposed of properly. Remember--we need to receive these items now--not after the new palms are distributed.

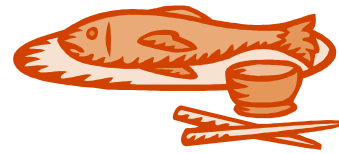
NATIONAL COLLECTION

The Church's National Collection for Black & Indian Missions in the United States will be taken at all Masses next weekend. Because of the generosity of the people of this parish and parishes around the U.S., last year, over 9 million dollars were contributed to the collection and - 98 cents of every dollar was distributed. The support went to the neediest people across the United States; from the inner cities of the rural South and from the deserts of the Southwest to Alaska's cold wilderness - 131 Dioceses received assistance from the collection. Through your gifts, you join your sacrifice to those who sacrifice daily to lead others to Christ. You become a co-missionary for the Church. Please give what you are able. If we all give a little - a lot will be accomplished.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lord
Of dirt and ashes
Lord
Of burnt and hurt,
Enter into
My dark confessional this Lent.
Hear my secret sins-
The ones that really burn me.
See my smoldering resentments-
The ones that I won't let go of.
Then Lord, Easter me this Lent.
Come into my upper room.
Breathe me into your peace-
The peace that flows from forgiveness-
The forgiveness of myself and others.
Then together we shall rise from the ashes.
-Andrew Costello, *Markings*

FISH DINNERS



EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, & April 3
4:30pm - 7pm - Multi-Use Room

Dinner is the choice of : Baked or Fried Fish
And includes...

Choice of Potato: fries, scalloped, or baked
Beets, Coleslaw, Macaroni & Cheese, Cut Veggies,
Roll, Jell-o, Milk, Coffee, Tea, Punch.

Adults: \$8.00 Seniors: \$7.00
Children: \$4.00 (under age 12)
Family Price: \$25.00 (immediate family only)
Take Outs Also Available!

St. Mary's Men's Club Presents
March Madness & Music

Country Style Breakfast on Sunday, March 1, 2009
From 8:30am to 11am - Free Will Donations
To Help Fund St. Mary's School Wish List
Musical Guest Star Principal John Gilboe
Tickling the Ivories (*the piano*)

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Please keep our Candidates and Catechumen in your daily prayers as they continue to journey in the RCIA process. For more details about this process, please call Angela - 734.878.2217 ext 218 or email agarcia@stmarypinckney.org

RCIA Sessions

February 22nd Dismissal 9:00am Mass
Class #16 *Temptation/Lent* 10:15-11:15am

February 28th Rite of Sending/Dismissal 5:00pm Mass
Class #17 *Sacraments of Vocation* 6:15-7:15pm

March 1st Hour of Reflection at -
St. Mary Parish 1:00pm-1:45pm
Rite of Election (St. John Parish, Fenton) 3:00pm

March 7/8th **NO CLASS**

**Class Sessions will be held in the educational wing classroom 152.*

Faith Formation Information

- **Summer 2009 Session for Kindergarten through 8th Grades will be held June 15-June 26 from 9am – 12noon. Registration Dates and Tuition information will be forth coming.**

Summer Catechists Needed

- **If you would like to share your love of Christ and your Catholic faith as a Summer Catechist please contact Angela. This is an awesome and rewarding way to bring the children from our parish family closer to Christ. Please take some time to pray and discuss with your family if God is calling you to share your time, love, and faith with children from our parish family.**
- **Reminder: Sunday, March 8th from 10:20-11:20am will be a 1st Holy Eucharist Parent Meeting in the multi-use room. Any families who will have a child preparing to receive 1st Holy Eucharist this year, at least one parent must attend this important meeting. This meeting is for parents from Religious Education, Homeschool, and St. Mary School.**

1st Holy Eucharist Preparation

Mrs. Hayes Sacrament Preparation Class will return to the Sunday Sessions on March 1st to begin their 1st Holy Eucharist preparation. Mrs. Battle's Sunday Session 2nd graders will continue to attend their Sunday classes weekly. (Mrs. Battle's students will begin 1st Holy Eucharist preparation on March 1st.)

Food Pantry Items In Need

Cereal, Oatmeal, Jelly, Juice, Laundry Soap, Toilet Paper, Soup, Canned veggies, Pancake/Baking mix, Dish soap.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

We do not accept expired food!

CAFÉ Wednesdays

Book of Psalms – An Invitation to Prayer

All are invited to participate in CAFÉ Wednesdays!

During these sessions we will explore and ponder the psalms. The more we do this the more we will deepen our relationship with God. The psalms were the prayers of Israel in dialogue with God in the centuries before Jesus. They were the prayers of Jesus. They have always been the chief prayers of the Church. In the view of the early teachers of the Church, such as St. Augustine, the psalms remain the prayers of the glorified Jesus because he continues to pray them through us, the human members of his body. Indeed, with mysterious, multilayered meanings, the psalms speak prophetically of Jesus. Let us together, explore the book of Psalms, so that we may speak more intimately with our Companion as we journey through the Lenten Season. The CAFÉ Wednesdays for the Book of Psalms will be from 7-8:30pm in Rm 152 on February 18, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. The guide that we will be using in these sessions is *Psalms: An Invitation to Prayer*. This book is available in the Faith Formation Office for \$8.00. Please contact Angela (734-878-2217 ext 218 or agarcia@stmarypinckney.org) if you wish to attend these sessions and to purchase a book. **It is not too late to join us!**

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

Join us for the 2nd Annual Diocese of Lansing Accept The Challenge 2009-A Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at The Lansing Center in Lansing, MI. Prayerful, spirit-filled, life changing! The day begins at 8am and ends around 4pm, including Mass with Bishop Earl Boyea and Diocese Priests con-celebrating.

A dynamic line-up of speakers is scheduled, including: Jesse Romero, a full time bilingual Catholic Lay Evangelist; Fr. Don Calloway, M.I.C., a convert to Catholicism; and Ed & Eddie Reinhardt, share their journey of anguish, love and empowerment and show us how ordinary individuals can do extraordinary things.

Ticket price is \$40 pre-registered, \$45 at the door, \$30 for high school/college young men, including lunch. Purchase tickets online at www.acceptthechallenge.org

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Have you seen the new show, "What Would You Do?" They present real life scenarios to see what people would do. Are people willing to step up and come to the aid of other people? Well, we are hoping you will come to the aid of your parish and school. One of our custodians will be having knee replacement surgery and will be off work until June. St. Mary is hoping you will step up and volunteer to help out a couple of hours each day, once or twice a week whatever you can do to assist with light custodial work such as sweeping, vacuuming, sanitizing sinks, desks, and door knobs, etc. We are looking for volunteers to start as soon as possible. Please contact the church or school office to volunteer. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



Mark your Calendars
 Family Life Night
 March 18, 2009 5:30pm
 March Madness!

Hamburgers and Hotdogs and all the fixings! Come see how we relate Basketball to God....hmmmm....

A rewarding opportunity to help nourish God's People!

Questions or to volunteer contact: Rebecca at 734-878-2217, ext 203 or email rkeiser@stmarypinckney.org

Youth Ministry

Website: <http://youth.stmarypinckney.org/>

Confirmation Schedule

Date:	Time:	Event:
02/22	10-11:15am	Formation Session
03/01	10-11:15am	Formation Session
03/08	10-11:15am	Formation Session

Youth Group Schedule

Date:	Time:	Event:
02/18	6-6:50pm	Main Game and Props/Décor Meetings
02/18	7-9pm	Youth Group ~P& W~ (MS&HS)
02/23	5:30-7pm	Lock In Team Meeting
02/25		No Youth Group/Meetings (Ash Wed)

(Note: MS=Middle School Event and HS=High School Event)

If you have an questions please call Rebecca at 734-878-2217 ext. 203 or email rkeiser@stmarypinckney.org

GSPN

God's Service & Prayer Network

MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY!

A day of fun, food, friends and faith! Key Note speaker is the hilarious Bob Perron! Mass with Bishop Boyea!

Fun Fest with Metro Inflatables and Music!

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 2:00pm-9:00 pm

Fr. Gabriel Richard Catholic High School, Ann Arbor

We will be carpooling from St. Mary.

IF YOU STILL WANT TO GO

CALL REBECCA ASAP!!!

(See table in the gathering space for more information and registration)

Call or email Rebecca Keiser with questions.

Just for High School Seniors!

James F. and Virginia M. Coughlin Scholarship

For seniors committed to Youth Service!

Amount: \$1500

Applications available on back table in the gathering space or call Rebecca Keiser at 734-878-2217 ext. 203

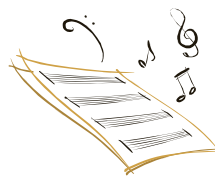
Fr. Charles Irvin Writing Scholarship 2009

Sponsored by FAITH Magazine!

Amount: \$1000

MUST be sent in by DRE, CYM, teacher or pastor!

Information available on back table in the gathering space or call Rebecca Keiser at 734-878-2217 ext. 203



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Why We Sing at Mass

The following was excerpted from a new document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, which

was developed by the Committee on Divine Worship of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is a revision of two earlier church documents, *Music in Catholic Worship* and its companion, *Liturgical Music Today*. Here then is a summary of the fourteen reasons *Sing to the Lord* gives us for singing:

1. God gave us the gift of song.
2. Singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people."
3. The Jewish people were instructed to sing.
4. Jesus and his apostles sang.
5. Music strengthens our faith.
6. Our Catholic liturgical tradition uses music to proclaim Christ and to reply with worship and praise.
7. We continue the song of the victory: of the exodus, of the Resurrection, and of the eternal Song of the Lamb.
8. The paschal hymn continues in service outside of church.
9. Inspired by song, we go forth to spread the gospel; singing motivates us to action.
10. Sung worship allows us to participate in the action of the Trinity.
11. Sung participation is the source from which the true Christian spirit is derived.
12. Listening to sung prayer lifts our minds to God.
13. Even if we don't have good singing voices, sung participation comes from our heart.
14. Through song, we honor and glorify the Trinity.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Holy Family Catholic School in Grand Blanc, MI is seeking a principal for the 2009-10 school year. Holy Family School has an enrollment of 525 students from pre-school through eighth grade. The principal must be a practicing Catholic and a strong proponent of Catholic school education. Candidates should possess or be eligible for Michigan certification; have a minimum of five years of successful teaching experience; have a Masters Degree in Education/Educational Leadership from a certified college or university; experience/training in school administration/curriculum development. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume by Feb. 28 to: Rev. Kenneth Coughlin, Holy Family Catholic Church, 11824 South Saginaw St., Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1322. (www.hfsgb.org)

UPCOMING RETREATS

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER, DEWITT

Register online at www.stfrancis.ws or
call the Retreat Center at 517-669-8321.

Deer Resistant Gardening - A Legacy of St. Francis Gardening Program – Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Taught by Margaret Really, MA, CCG, Master Gardener. Class will cover deer population and feeding habits, and how your garden is affected, as well as information on proper plant selection and planting. The class fee is \$50, proceeds benefit the St. Francis Retreat Center Garden Society. Pre-registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. Please register by Friday, March 6.

An Afternoon of Celtic Spirituality and Prayer with Fr. James Conlon and Fr. Larry Delaney – Sunday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Our celebration includes Mass, Dinner, Music and Craic (fun, camaraderie and atmosphere!) Cost of this program is \$30/person. Pre-registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. Please register by Monday, March 9.

REFLECT, March 20-22 at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. A weekend retreat for single adults mid 30's to 50, a time for renewal and growth in your relationship with God, family and friends. Cost for the weekend is \$130 and includes lodging and meals. For more information on REFLECT, please visit www.reflectsingles.com. A \$30 nonrefundable deposit is due with your registration. Please register by March 15.

Women Friends, Sister Friends with Rosita Kintz and Karen Schrauben, Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Bring your friends and celebrate those special relationships that have sustained us through some of life's most challenging times and have been there to celebrate the joyous times as well! Cost for the day is \$35 and includes morning hospitality and lunch. Pre-registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. Please register by March 13.

Knitting/Crocheting Into the Mystery with Barb Doyle and Mary Zollner, co-founders of Caring Hands Ministry, Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Beginners and advanced knitters/crocheters are invited to attend and enjoy this day of handiwork, reflection and fun. Prayer shawl groups are encouraged to attend together to celebrate and affirm their work. Cost for the day is \$35 and includes morning hospitality and lunch. Pre-registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. Please register by March 20.

<u>Report for</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
February 16, 2009		07/01/08–02/16/09
Offertory	\$12,021.53	\$ 467,326.27
FaithScape/FaithQuest	\$ 2,470.00	\$ 98,224.33
	\$14,491.53	\$ 565,550.60
Operating Budget Reqmnt	\$14,373.41	\$ 483,349.12
Mortgage Pymt Reqmnt	\$ 8,657.31	\$ 277,036.92
Variance	(\$ 8,539.19)	(\$194,835.44)

Thank you for your generous donations!

SALUTE TO THE STARS

Livingston County Catholic Social Services (LCCSS) is hosting the 5th Annual “*Salute to the Stars*” on Saturday, **March 28, 2009**, to recognize three individuals and two organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of life in our community and to raise funds for agency programs and services. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Parish Life Center at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 710 Rickett Road, in Brighton, Michigan.

This year's honorees are: **Michael Falinski, Patricia Claffey, Joan Hutchinson, The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and LOVE, In the Name of Christ.** In return for sharing their talents with our community, each individual and organization will be inducted into the LCCSS “Wall of Fame”. Tickets to the event are \$45.00 per person or \$320 for a table of 8, and include dinner, music by the Livingston County Brass Ensemble, and a silent auction. Generous businesses and individuals throughout the community and state have donated a variety of wonderful items for the silent auction. To request a ticket to this fabulous event, call LCCSS at 517-545-5944. If you have a special item you would like to donate, please contact Julie at the agency. We look forward to seeing you there!

VOCATION WEEKEND

Come & see a vibrant, joyful community of Benedictine sisters at Ferdinand, Indiana! If you are a single, Catholic woman age 18-40 and you would like to experience religious life this is just the event for you. During this weekend of March 20-22, 2009, you will have the opportunity to share in the prayer and community life of the sisters as well as hear input on the theme: The Spirit of the Rule of Benedict. This vocation weekend is free: a room, meals, and input are provided. For more information or to register on-line, visit www.thedome.org/JoinUs, call Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-734-9999, or email vocation@thedome.org.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

The Eighth Grade website has been updated. Take a look! In Religion we are working in our Family Life books. In Literature we are studying non-fiction and writing short stories. In Social Studies we are studying the Civil War. The 6th grade social studies we are studying Greek history. In 7th grade we are finishing our simulation on Latin America. We hope to have a Latin Feast.

BIRDHOUSE SALES

Homes for our Friends Project is sponsored by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council in support of the *Kans for Kids Program*. Proceeds from this project will go toward support of the needy children under the *Kans-for-Kids Program*. Economic times are extremely hard now and the donations of cans and bottles has drastically dropped. We will be selling handmade birdhouses that are specifically made for blue birds, tree swallows, and other small song birds of Michigan. Construction is sturdy pine and all items are painted and decorated with non-toxic paints to protect the home and the occupants. Cost is \$20. These birdhouses will be on sale the weekend of March 7-8.

MASS INTENTIONS –February 22-29

Sunday, February 22 – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am: For Our Parish

11:30am: In Honor of Rob & Tina Bensinger Family
By Salowitz Family

Monday, February 23 – St. Polycarp

9:00am: Communion Service

Tuesday, February 24

9:00am: Communion Service

5:00pm: In Memory of Sue Farrell by Salowitz Family

Wednesday, February 25 – Ash Wednesday

9:00am: In Honor of Marc Gibas by Sue Domen

7:00pm: In Memory of John & Lorraine Obrzut

By Children

Thursday, February 26

5:00pm: In Memory of Michael Steffan by Krochmal Family

Friday, February 27

9:00am: In Memory of William Schubert

By Floreine Baumgartner

7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28

8:30am: In Memory of Emil Kuk (Father of Debbie Egelston) by Family

5:00pm: In Memory of Ebe Hennigan by Ann Crowell

Sunday, March 1 – 1st Sunday of Lent

9:00am: In Honor of Tony Giamanco by Kolnitys Family

11:30am: For Our Parish

COMMUNION SERVICE LEADERS

February 23-24: D. Denome, T. Burke

March 2-3: B. Rea, G. Wizgird

WEEKLY READINGS –February 22-28

Sunday: Is 43: 18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1: 18-22/Mk 2 1-12/Ps 41

Monday: Sir 1: 1-10/Mk 9: 14-29/Ps 93

Tuesday: Sir 2: 1-11/Mk 9: 30-37/Ps 37

Wednesday: Jl 2: 12-18/2 Cor 5: 20-6: 2/Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18/Ps 51

Thursday: Dt 30: 15-20/Lk 9: 22-25/Ps 1

Friday: Is 58: 1-9a/Mt 9: 14-15/Ps 51

Saturday: Is 58: 9b-14/Lk 5: 27-32/Ps 86

OUR PRAYER LIST

May God's healing hand reach out and hold you:

Joan Bates, Noah Costa, Julie Haberl, Richard Henry, Lauri Sue Hoffman, Kim Joseph, Jordan Keen, Linda Landau, Christine Osmialowski, Cindy Schang, Tracy Schultz, Margaret Shripka, Jane Vermeesch, Bob Wild, Jr., Helen Zwiernikowski

Bulletin articles are due on Tuesdays at noon!

LAY MINISTERS –February 28-29

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00pm: J. Pepper, M. Bergeron, S. Jasinski, P. Miller, D. Wietecha, P. O'Brien, J. Bartek, R. Bartek, M. Beck

9:00am: P. Dzombak, D. Hall, D. Cieciek, A. Langford, H. Menosky, S. Hunter, G. Wizgird, L. Barba, R. Bartkovich

11:30am: B. Bauer, M. Bauer, K. Bozek, Z. Jones, P. Glaser, J. Lichwala, M. Gannon, J. Brennan, A. Gilligan

Proclaimers of the Word

5:00pm: P. Hohl, R. Gass

9:00am: P. Candy, S. Kuschel

11:30am: R. Gonze, C. Bozek

Ushers

5:00pm: P. Carney, D. Pepper, R. Denome, W. Peltier, B. Beck, B. Outwater

9:00am: J. Frost, P. Gabli, R. Kuczajda, J. Polich, N. Rickelmann, B. Wetzel

11:30am: J. Streu, B. Tinlin, M. Charboneau, B. Sabo, M. Corwin, J. Kukalis

Greeters

5:00pm: J. Carney

9:00am: D. Magier

11:30am: Meldrum Family

Altar Servers

5:00pm: E. Miller (Cross), J. Peltier, M. Pescrillo

9:00am: M. Woods (Cross), S. Polich, C. Polich

11:30am: J. Glaser (Cross), T. Jones, J. Callaghan

Offertory Gifts

5:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Schultz Family

11:30am: Larry & Beth Bauer & Family

Home Chalice Program

11:30am: Larry & Beth Bauer & Family

Linens – Feb: F. Kinsey, L. Lavey

Mar: S. Katon, L. Wack

Cleaning the Altar – Feb: M. Rickelmann **Mar:** Pat Gabli

Collection Counters

February 23: M. Sheehan, G. Killingbeck, N. Rickelmann

March 2: M. Glynn, C. Harbert, R. Laymon (Special

Collection/Need extra person – please call office to volunteer)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today's Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God's forgiveness?

"...see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth." The Lord assures us that what seems impossible IS possible with Him. God, alone, can and does bring new life out of all areas of our life and world if we ask Him to be a part of our journey. God can and does make a way in the desert; the dry places of our lives where life seems dead or dying, and He brings rivers in the wasteland of our world. BELIEVE in the power of our God. Walk by faith and not by fear. Trust that God is able to do abundantly more than you could ever imagine, and hold onto HOPE. Remember that we are sons and daughters of the King. We are heirs to the Kingdom of God. With God all things are possible.