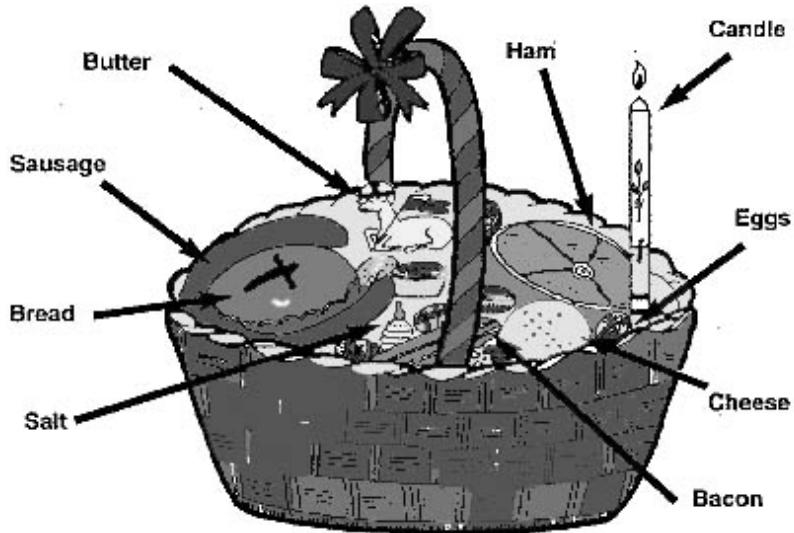


PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

Traditional Easter Basket



THE BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

The **Blessing of Easter Food** is an ancient custom. Giving thanks to God for our blessings is as ancient as the human relationship with our Creator and Provider. Sacred meals, especially the Passover meal, were common in Judaism. After the Lenten fast, we pray that our bodies may be worthy of and ready for the rich food and blessings we are about to receive.

We bring the food in baskets, covered with special embroidered or decorated scarves or covers. The joy of the Resurrection is visible on the outside, as well as spiritually. A candle is placed in the basket, representing the light of Christ, and the new Easter candle. If you do not have a special decorated candle for such an occasion, we will provide simple candles for you at the blessing. Traditionally the blessing takes place after the Easter Vigil, but may be celebrated earlier for the sake of the faithful. The Easter meal should be of only those foods blessed for the celebration of the Resurrection, prepared on Holy Saturday – so that we may rest on the Lord's Day – the Day of Days.

Meats, such as ham, sausage, and lamb can be prepared the day before and represent the richness and heartiness of God's blessing. **Easter Bread or Pascha** reminds us of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life come down from heaven. **Eggs** are a universal symbol of new life, and remind us of the life that emerged from the hard tomb. **Dairy Products** such as butter and cheese remind us of the daily moderation of Christian life. **Easter sweets and candies** remind us to reflect upon the sweetness of the Lord. Various cultures within our Catholic tradition have specific customs. Research yours and prepare your baskets appropriately.

In anticipation of the Vigil Service a couple of hours later, we announce,

“CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!”

Blessing of Food is at 5:00 p.m. this year, closer to its intended time. This allows time for preparation of Easter foods on Holy Saturday. It will take place in the church gathering space. Please share this custom with your children.

Dear Parishioners,

"Hosanna, to the Son of David!" Thus, we begin holy week shouting God's praises, and yet we will also scream, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" at nearly the same time. Strange isn't it - how we want to do God's will, and then turn around and do the opposite? And yet, this is exactly why Christ had to come and die for us: we simply couldn't save ourselves.

Thus, I ask you to make this Holy Week truly that. I realize many travel on vacation, but you can still take time to observe our holiest days. Remember the word "holiday" derives from "holy day." Honor them! As you take palms home and place them near sacred items, bring Christ into your home also. Do your best to attend at least some of the Holy Triduum. Remember the comment I made to you a couple of weeks ago - "Wouldn't it be nice if everyone who came for ashes on Ash Wednesday would come and welcome new Catholics at the Easter Vigil?" Here is your challenge!!! Are you up for it?

Please take home a purple Holy Week event sheet so that you can come and participate. Prepare your hearts, your homes, and your tables to celebrate the great Feast of the Resurrection.

With Holy Week blessings, Fr. Bill Wegher

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

As we approach Holy Week, please keep our Elect and Candidates in your daily prayers as they journey closer to become fully initiated Catholics.. For more details about this process, please call Angela - 734.878.2217 ext 218 or email at agarcia@stmarypinckney.org.

RCIA Sessions

April 4th RCIA/C Retreat 9:00am – 7:00pm
April 8th Practice – Easter Vigil (Worship Area)
7:00pm-8:30pm
April 11th EASTER VIGIL 8:00pm
April 26th Mystagogy #2 12:45-1:45pm
*Class Sessions will be held in the educational wing classroom 152.

Faith Formation Information

- **REMINDER:** There are NO Sunday Session classes on April 12th and April 19th! All Sunday Session Classes resume on April 26th.
- *Summer 2009 Session for Kindergarten through 8th Grades will be held June 15-June 26 from 9am – 12noon.*

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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Have you not yet been Confirmed, received the sacrament that completes your initiation in the Catholic Church? Have you missed the sacrament when it was offered for you? The 8 Livingston Regional parishes are offering a six-week course to prepare you for this sacrament. You will then be Confirmed in your own parish at Pentecost. Classes are at St. John the Baptist Parish in Howell/Hartland on Thursdays, April 23rd to May 28th, at 7 pm. For more information and/or to register please contact Angela Garcia 734-878-2217 ext 218 or agarcia@stmarypinckney.org.

ADORATION SCHEDULE

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed on Wednesday, April 8, at approximately 6:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on Easter Monday, April 13, after the 9:00 a.m. Communion Service.

The St. Mary's Eucharistic Adoration Team wishes everyone a most blessed and holy Easter!

ATTENTION: ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENTS MANDATORY MEETING

APRIL 26, 2009

10:15-11:15am

Worship Area (Church)

If you wish to have your children/child attend any of the following Religious Education Programs at least one parent MUST attend this mandatory meeting;

Summer Session 2009 (6/15-6/26)

Sunday Session 2009-2010 (K-8)

Confirmation 2009-2010 (9th graders in Fall 09).

Special registration papers will be handed out to each family at this mandatory meeting. There will be NO signing up for sessions and NO registration forms taken at this meeting. ALL registration paperwork must be returned on one of the following dates:

Registrations for these programs will take place on;

May 6, 2009 from 6-9pm in the multi-use room.

May 7, 2009 from 9-11am in the multi-use room.

Looking forward to seeing ALL parents who are interested in the 2009-2010 Religious Education Programs at this mandatory meeting on April 26th that will be held in the church!

If you have any questions please contact Angela in the Faith Formation Office – 734-878-2217 ext 218.



Family Life Night

April 15, 2009 ~ 5:30pm

Mexican Fiesta! Tacos!!!

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

Attn: Usher's

We will have a training session/refresher course of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Machine on Wednesday, April 15th at 6:30pm in Conference Room A. Please make plans now to attend! Please note: this meeting is open to anyone that is interested.



Attention: All children ages 1-10 years old!

St. Mary's Knights Daughters will be hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 11th at 10am. Please bring an Easter basket or bag to put your eggs in. It will be fun for all! The egg hunt will be held behind the church on the grass. We are hoping the Easter bunny will make an appearance.

Gayle Killingbeck and Sherry Jasinski
& Knight's Daughters Circle #009

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

On Monday, April 6, 2009, (during spring break) St. Mary School is sponsoring a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen in Ann Arbor (Briarwood Mall) to raise money for the risers. Simply bring the notice below to CPK anytime on April 6th and present it to your server when ordering (dine-in or take-out). 20% of your check (minus tax and tip) will be donated to the school. It's that easy! Please consider passing this flyer along to family, friends, and co-workers. Simply have them download the flyer from our website: www.stmarypinckney.org Your support is VERY much appreciated! Questions can be sent to dawn.wise@iraniwise.com.



Philanthropizza

Please join us at California Pizza Kitchen for a flavorsome fundraising event. All you need to do is bring in this flyer on our scheduled date and present it to

your server when ordering. 20% of your check will benefit our organization. So come out and enjoy something delicious from the CPK menu. Your taste buds will thank you, and so will we.

**St. Mary School - Pinckney, Michigan
California Pizza Kitchen -Briarwood Mall
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Monday, April 6, 2009**

(Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax, gratuity and retail purchases.)

Valid for dine-in and take-out only.

Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.)

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL MEN'S SPEAKER NIGHT

All men are invited to discover what vocation in life God is calling you to. Father Jerry Vincke, Diocese of Lansing, will present "Answering God's Call" on April 16, 2009, at St. Patrick Church (Brighton) Men's Speaker Night. We are all called to be "Fishers of Men" as well as to the priesthood and diaconate service. But how do we know we are being "called" and what is it that we, as married or single men, are "called to do"! Plan on participating in the discussion led by Father Jerry Vincke on the third Thursday in April. Mass and fellowship will precede Father Vincke's discussion; 7:00-9:00 p.m.

We are pleased to announce...

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,
I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Veronica Kinsey will be our new school principal beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. A veteran teacher of our school, she brings the expertise and longevity we need in this position. All of our candidates were excellent individuals, and the choice was not easy. I thank God for our talented, dedicated and faith-filled staff. Congratulations Mrs. Kinsey, and we look forward to many years of your service to our parish. Fr. Bill Wegher



Applications for Tricia T. Berger Music Scholarship are here!

Dear Parents;

The applications for the Tricia T. Berger Music Scholarship will be available in the school and parish offices starting Monday, March 30, 2009. To be eligible for the scholarship a student must be currently in grades K-11 and must have attended St. Mary School for at least one year. The purpose of the scholarship is to help pay for private music lessons. Applications are due May 15 and recipients will be notified by phone by May 30. Keep reading the bulletin and Marion Messenger for more details regarding the scholarship and it's fundraising event. Thank you!

Sincerely, Ms. Lynn M. Trierweiler
Scholarship Committee Member

ST. MARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING FLOWER SALE!

Along with the arrival of spring, comes the gardener's anticipation of, yet, another growing season that holds the promise of their best garden ever. This spring, look to pre-order top quality flowers through St. Mary School. We will be taking orders for flats of annuals, as well as, 12 inch pots of tomatoes and green peppers. Order forms will be available after masses out on the table in the hallway. All orders are to be pre-paid and are may be dropped off in the school or church office by Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Please make checks payable to St Mary Catholic School. Any questions, please contact Fabiola Albert at 248-921-1711 (cell phone).

Delivery date is set for Wednesday, May 6, subject to weather and delivery. This is in time for the ever-popular planting date of Mother's Day Weekend. Most of us buy plants from Bordines, Home Depot, or Lowes - please consider ordering from us to benefit our students. This fundraising event is open to everyone, so please tell friends and relatives how they will be able to order and show their support. And, of course, the school and/or parish will gladly welcome any donation of flowers to be planted right here for the community to enjoy throughout the summer. Thank you.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Christian Service Team would like to start a Community Garden at St. Mary's. A community garden is where several people work together to grow, manage, and harvest fruits and vegetables. If anyone is interested in participating please contact Lisa Wack at wackymama@chartermi.net or 810-231-6116. Please respond by April 5th. Thank you and God Bless.





KNIGHTS KORNER

April 2009

Eucharistic Adoration—3, 17, 24

M. I. (tootsie roll) Drive April 3, 4, 5

Daughters Easter Egg Hunt – April 11

General Business Meeting—April 14

Soccer Challenge—April 18

Fourth Degree Exemplification—April 18

Coffee & Doughnuts—April 19, 26

School Auction—April 25

Officers Meeting—April 29

March Knight of the Month: Dave Albaugh

March Family of the Month: Norbert Ricklemann

Visit us @ glmikofc.org

SOCCER CHALLENGE

The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 am to noon, at St. Mary Church soccer field. This is an event open to boys & girls, ages 9 to 14, where they kick free kicks into different parts of a net for points. Highest score in each age group advances to the Diocesan & State finals in May & June. This is open to children in the community. For more information, contact Kevin Schang @ 734-878-6902.

| <u>Report for</u> <u>March 30, 2009</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Year To Date</u> <u>07/01/08–03/30/09</u> |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Offertory | \$ 15,744.01 | \$ 553,984.67 |
| FaithScape/FaithQuest | \$ <u>1,857.50</u> | \$ <u>110,388.85</u> |
| | \$ 17,601.51 | \$ 664,373.52 |
| Operating Budget Reqmnt | \$ 14,373.41 | \$ 569,589.58 |
| Mortgage Pymt Reqmnt | \$ <u>8,657.31</u> | \$ <u>328,977.78</u> |
| Variance | \$ (5,429.21) | \$ (234,193.84) |

Thank you for your generous donations!



Losing a job is one of the most stressful events that can happen to a person. It feels personal even when it is part of a mass corporate layoff or the closing of a business. Involuntary unemployment evokes a lot of emotions, from anger to sadness. It is easy to become depressed. Grief over the loss of part of one's identity or purpose is common. The

difficulty of the experience can depend on the degree of emotional investment one had in the job. The aftermath of job loss also has a significant impact on family members, who are dealing with their own fears and other concerns. If you (or a family member) has lost a job and are dealing with the transition it brings, you can request a BeFriender to be a companion on your journey. BeFrienders provide a listening presence that is respectful and nonjudgmental. To request a BeFriender or to find out more about BeFriender Ministry, call the parish office at 734-878-3161.

Youth Ministry

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

Confirmation Reminder!

Confirmation Students please remember to get all of your assignments including the Saint Report and Letter to the Bishop turned in. Many of you are missing green sheets as well, so please turn them in. We only have a few classes left so it is crucial that you get everything turned in quickly. Please contact me with questions.

Confirmation Schedule

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Time:</u> | <u>Event:</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 04/05-04/12 | | NO CLASS (2 weeks) |
| 04/19 | 10-11:15am | Formation Session |

HS Youth Group Schedule

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Time:</u> | <u>Event:</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 04/04-05 | Before Masses | Palm Sunday (Passing out Palms) |
| 04/08 | | No Youth Group |
| 04/09 | 7pm Mass | Holy Thursday (Hold Candles) |
| 04/10 | 9am-1pm | Youth Living Stations |
| 04/15 | 6:30-8:30 | MS and HS Youth Group (FLN) |

(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

Just for Middle Schoolers!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

SO, what is Middle School Youth Group? A time for faith, friends, fun and fellowship! A time to just be yourself and have fun learning about God and yourself! We talk about how to be a Catholic Christian in today's world! There is time for prayer and reflection as well as icebreakers and games. Everyone is invited and welcomed!

Middle School meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm. The meetings will begin and end at the Youth Room. So have your parents drop off and pick up at that door! **Call or email Rebecca Keiser with questions.**



Mark the Date! Mark the Date!

Mother's Day is coming soon!

That means the Youth Group will be having their Spring Fundraisers!

Hanging Baskets and bags, baked goods, a Quilt and Baptismal Garment, OFF MY!!!

This year we are combining two of our spring fundraisers to one weekend. A weekend your Mother is sure to enjoy! Along with our flower sale we will be having our bake sale and our Quilt Raffle will start. Starting last year Rebecca's mother made a quilt for the Youth to raffle. If you remember, last year's was "Seed Packets." This year it will be a beautiful Bible Quilt with Old Testament Scenes done in traditional redwork embroidery. As an added bonus this year she made a stunning Baptismal Garment to raffle. The final drawing will be at the Parish Picnic.

MASS INTENTIONS – April 5-12

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

9:00am: For Our Parish

11:30am: In Memory of Gerald Barba

By Tom & Joyce Wilson

Monday, April 6

9:00am: Communion Service

Tuesday, April 7

9:00am: Communion Service

5:00pm: In Memory of Dorothy Wetherbee

By Paul & Kathy Hillman

Wednesday, April 8

9:00am: In Honor of Susan Domen by Family

Thursday, April 9 – Holy Thursday

7:00pm: In Memory of Al Hoard by Men’s Club

8:30pm-11pm: Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

In the School Lobby

11pm: Night Prayer in the School Lobby

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

9:00am: Morning Prayer in School Lobby

Noon: Stations of the Cross in Church

1pm: Good Friday Services in Church

Saturday, April 11 – Easter Vigil

No Morning Mass

5:00pm: Blessing of Easter Food

8:00pm: In Memory of Betty Grimes by Kukalis Family

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

9:00am: In Memory of Ron Bozek by Men’s Club

11:30am: For Our Parish

COMMUNION SERVICE LEADERS

April: 6-7: D. Denome, G. Wizgird

April 13-14: D. Denome, B. Rea

WEEKLY READINGS – April 5-11

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14: 1—15:47/Ps 22

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11/Ps 27

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-22, 36-38/Ps 71

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9/Mt 26:14-25/Ps 69

Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15/Ps 116

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42/Ps 31

Saturday: (See Lectionary) Mk 16:107/Ps 118

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

Tom Butler, Fred Czaja, Paul D’Angelo, Jr., Sr. Gretchen Elliott, Richard Henry, Sheri Kamm, Joseph Kurdziel, Patricia Lichwala, Harold Salyers, George Sellar, Stanley Soja, Margaret Tucker, Jane Vermeesch, Bob Wild Jr., Helen Zwiernikowski

LAY MINISTERS –April 11-12 (Easter Weekend)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

8:00pm: R.C.I.A.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Proclaimers of the Word

8:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Ushers

8:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Greeters

8:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Altar Servers

8:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Offertory Gifts

8:00pm: R.C.I.A.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Home Chalice Program

8:00pm: R.C.I.A.

Linens –April: R. Miller, M. Sheehan

Cleaning the Altar – April: T. Kurzawa

Collection Counters

April 6: M. Glynn, R. Layman

April 13: S. Kronk, D. Eggleston, B. Zielinski

(Special Collection: Need extra person to sign up).

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ—emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue that I might know how to speak to the weary." The Prophet Isaiah offers us this encouragement in our walk of Stewardship. We all have the ability to give encouragement, hope, and support to those around us who are weary - struggling with life's challenges and in need of someone to share the burden. Often when we look beyond our own difficulties, and focus on those around us, who can benefit from our loving words and caring heart, then our own burden seems lighter. May Christ dwell in us richly and shine through our words and actions as we allow Him to speak to the weary through us.

Bulletin articles for the Easter Sunday Bulletin are due this Monday, April 6th at noon! Thank you!