

5th SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 9, 2008



This past week our second graders (19 children) received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was such a grace for me to be able to be there and pray with and for them that evening. The sense of trust and innocence that was a part of their experience caused me to reflect on my own apprehensions when it comes to this Sacrament.

I don't know about you, but it is so much easier for me to recall memories of my First Communion than it is to recall my First Reconciliation. Know that I pray for you during this time of lent that God who is all loving and forgiving will meet you in this Sacrament of forgiveness and that you will experience the new life experienced by Lazarus who was brought back to life through the compassion of his friend Jesus.



I invite everyone to join us again this Wednesday for **Holy Hour at 7 PM.** We will continue to offer reflections, exposition and optional faith sharing.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at St. Susanna's on Friday, March 14th at 7 PM.



We will also have Stations at 2 pm with our school children.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE SCHEDULE

Monday, March 10th - 7 pm
St. Gerard Majella
Tuesday, March 11th - 7 pm
St. Bartholomew
Wednesday, March 12th - 7 pm
St. Susanna
Thursday, March 13th - 7 pm
St. Irenaeus

There will be no confessions at St. Bart's after Saturday, March 15th. Please plan accordingly.

The following reflection on reconciliation comes from America Magazine, by Greg Kandra

I can't quite explain it. Why does this sacrament exert such force? Some of it, I'm sure is that it just feels good to let the weight of all our wrongs roll off our shoulders. It is comforting to be told that we are going to be okay and that what was wrong can be set right.

Everybody needs a second chance. Or a third.

Of course, it isn't easy. It requires reflection, observation, scrutiny. For a few moments we are asked to be more anthropologists. We seek out our sins. We capture them, name them, tag them and put them under a glass to study, like wildly exotic fauna. What on earth is that?

The Chinese have a saying: The beginning of wisdom is to call something by its correct name. Perhaps that is part of it, too: we name what we are---proud, greedy, lustful, petty, selfish, untruthful---and become aware. With penance and practice we strive to be better. Wisdom begins.

The final words of the Act of Contrition put it so succinctly and clearly. The purpose of the sacrament, really, is to amend life. To improve on what is there.

And with that improvement, I think, comes this beautiful promise at the heart of our faith; the promise that we will rise. We can be uplifted. Resurrection is available.

The profound act of being reconciled with God enables us to live Easter every time we emerge from that confessional. We breathe again. We see light again. We hope again. We are given grace.

*Have a great week,
- - - Sister Dorothy*

SCHOOL NEWS

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ASSEMBLY

Our students in grades 1 through 3 will be attending an assembly on Monday March 10th. This assembly will focus on Injury Prevention, and should be very educational.

MASS

Please join Mrs. Sicilia and the first graders for mass on Thursday, March 13, at 10:00 AM. The children have been preparing for this special mass.

OPEN HOUSE

Once again, on Tuesday, March 11th, we will showcase our school. Any one interested in touring our school can call the office for an appointment. The open house will be held from 9AM until 11AM. St. Bart's school is better than ever.

CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL

Please pray for our 5th graders as they go to Carnegie Music Hall on Thursday, March 13th. The students will be performing on stage. The students have been practicing very hard. We are truly proud of them.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

The School Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, March 11th at 6PM in the library. Super Bingo is in the works, more details will follow.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FISH FRY ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT!!



EASTER

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EASTER BLESSING OF FAMILIES

On Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008, Bishops David Zubik, Paul Bradley and William Winter will welcome families of the Diocese to their Annual Blessing of Families at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland beginning at 3:00 PM.

As they greet and bless your family personally, they affirm and support you as a household of love and witnesses to your faith. All families, nuclear, single parent, blended, extended, etc. are invited to come and experience the Bishop's expression of appreciation for the gift that you are and the gifts that you bring to our Diocese. Each family attending will receive a special memento to take home and the children will receive a sweet treat.

PROTECTING MARRIAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

A state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman and preventing civil unions is being considered right now. The Pittsburgh Catholic Conference (PCC) strongly supports this effort and asks Catholics to contact their state legislators expressing support. Please use the enclosed postcard in today's bulletin to contact your legislators. Contact information for legislators is in the local telephone directory, or concerned citizens can send an e-mail by logging onto: www.pacatholic.org

Jesus said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together no human being must separate." Matthew 19:5-6

ATTENTION CATHOLIC MEN

The Third Annual Diocesan-wide Catholic Men's Fellowship is Saturday April, 12, 2008 at the A. J. Palumbo Center in downtown Pittsburgh! It is a gathering of Catholic men for a day of prayer, fellowship, worship and inspiration. The doors open at 8:30 AM with a closing Mass at 4:00 PM. The cost for the day is \$40.00 in advance and \$55.00 at the door, the day of the event. Students are \$10.00. A boxed lunch is included. For more information please contact parishioners Ken Brinzer at 412-242-2529 or Larry Lucas at 412-823-5570.

ST. BARTS MENS RETREAT

Last reminder to register for the 2008 St. Bartholomew's Men's Retreat at St. Paul's from March 14th thru 16th. The retreat center is now under the direction of the monastery and is considered a part of the monastery rather than separate as in the past years. The retreat staff is composed of 5 priests who give lectures on various subjects. Join your fellow parishioners this year and experience the new retreat format. For information or registration call Sam Manganello at 412-824-2526 or Tom Kmonk at 412-241-6286

MASSES

The following mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of March 2008

Puszko Family (Family)
Earl Schomburger (John & Bobbi Ford)
Julia Bund (Lydia Alvino)
Twila Mae Bishop (Karen & Joesph Knapp)
Helen Yanko (John & Betty Fetcik)
P. Cecelia Massarelli (Ted & Linda Klamut)
Laura Klocko (Stella Druga)
Frank J. Moran, Jr. (Marie & Corinda Graham)
William Mierski (Mary Carpenzano)
Peg Chaffo (Jim & Kathy Ciorra)
Michael J. Vucci (Plusquellec Family)
Mary Anderson (Kathryn Severn)
Mary Lou Ervin (Mass for the Living)

MON., MARCH 10, LENTEN WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., HERBERT G. MORAN, JR.

(COLETTA MORAN, WIFE)

7:00 P.M., RECONCILIATION ST. GERARD

TUES., MARCH 11 LENTEN WEEKDAY

8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS

9:00 A.M., ST. GERARD MAJELLA

ST. JOSEPH

7:00 P.M. RECONCILIATION ST. BARTS

WED., MARCH 12 LENTEN WEEKDAY

8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS

9:00 A.M., ST. GERARD MAJELLA

ST. SUSANNA

7:00 P.M., HOLY HOUR-

"THE CUP OF OUR LIFE"

7:00 P.M. RECONCILIATION ST. SUSANNA

THURS., MARCH 13 LENTEN WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., JOSEPH, FRANCES, & SON

JOSEPH TRIOLO (FAMILY)

7:00 P.M., RECONCILIATION

ST. IRENAEUS

FRI., MARCH 14 LENTEN WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., ROSE ANTONUCCI (MR. & MRS.
EDWARD PANZA)

2:00 P.M., STATIONS—ST. BART'S

7:00 P.M., STATIONS—ST. SUSANNA

SAT., MARCH 15 VIGIL, PALM SUNDAY

5:00 P.M., MARY HIDECK (NEJAK FAMILY)

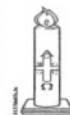
SUN., MARCH 16 PALM SUNDAY

8:00 A.M., PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

10:30 A.M., ROBERT TITUS FINDLAN
(HIS CHILDREN)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins,
and hospitalized members of the Parish.

Please remember in your prayers the departed
members of our parish family, especially
**ANNA SAN MARCO, ANTHONY CINNA, JR.,
ROBERT STAUB**



*The Sanctuary Candle this week is lit in
memory of **Jerry McCaffery** from his wife
Bonnie McCaffery*