

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Rectory: www.nativityharrishill.org • School: www.nativityofmaryschool.org

*Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

February 19, 2012

RECTORY

4375 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
632-8838 • Fax: 632-7898

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE, SCHOOL & FR. SCHWIER HALL
8550 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

PASTOR - Ext. 307

Rev. Msgr. Frederick D. Leising, PH.D.
Email: pastor@nativityharrishill.org

SENIOR PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. John J. Leising, Ext. 308
Email: frjohn@nativityharrishill.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

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DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

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PARISH SECRETARY

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Robert Volkman

PARISH TRUSTEES

David Rogers, Nancy Dobson

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chair: Vic Martucci
Vice Chair: Megan Connelly

SCHOOL

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 634-3130

DIRECTOR, Mary Ann Hoag

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
Maureen Rademaker

Family Faith Formation Email:

nativityreligiouseducation2004@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTER

Stephanie Moss, 634-3130
Nativity.youthministry@yahoo.com

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Melanie Bream, 633-7441 ext. 301
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FACILITIES MANAGER

Otto Misso • 810-0538
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A Pro-Life Parish



Parish Mission Statement

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is a Roman Catholic faith community. Centered and formed by the Eucharist, we seek to learn and to live the Gospel and to lovingly grow through service to one another and to all God's people.

MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8, 9:30, 11 AM, & 5 PM
Holy Day: See the bulletin
Weekdays: 6:30 & 9 AM
Saturdays: 8 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:15 PM
Penance Services: TBA
Daily: after each weekday Mass upon request.

BAPTISMS

are on Sundays at 12 noon. Baptisms may be held at Parish Eucharistic liturgies. To have your first child baptized, parents-to-be **must** attend a Pre-Baptismal meeting. These sessions are on the second Tuesday of every month. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements for these classes.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements should be made in person only, at least six months prior to wedding date desired. Pre-Cana instructions are necessary.

WEDDING MASSES:

Friday: After noon.
Saturday: 12 Noon, 2 or 6:15 PM

SICK CALLS - ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Contact the rectory when needed.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursdays 8-9 PM,
First Fridays 9:30 AM-Noon

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday:
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday: 9 AM to 12 Noon

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Register in person or by phone at the rectory.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19, 2012 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mon., Feb. 20

- 6:30 •Antoinette M. Wolf - The Family
- 9:00 •Andrew D'Aloisio - The Family

Tues., Feb. 21 - St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa - The Family
- 9:00 •Maria Boccabella - Biagio & Lena Farace



Wed., Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday

Readings for Today: *Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

- 6:30 •All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •June Schuder - Daughter, Norma
- 12:15 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- 7:00 •Rev. Joseph Paa - The Family

Thurs., Feb. 23 - St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

- 6:30 •Ceil Hibscheiler - Mike, Mary & Family
- 9:00 •Benjamin Tate - The Wilcox Family
- Maria Boccabella - The Damiani Family

Fri., Feb. 24 - Lenten Weekday

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions

Sat., Feb. 25 - Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 •Gertrude Timm - The Family
- 4:30 •Richard Smyka - Wife, Norma
- Charles & Mary Walker - The Walker Family

Sun. February 26 - First Sunday of Lent

Readings for Today: *Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15*

- 8:00 •Fannie Bolognese - Patricia & John Rapp
- Jolene Rappa - Andrew & Lorraine
- 9:30 •Catherine Schunk - Michael & Paula Noe
- Frank Daigler - The Jaskolka Family
- 11:00 •James Batt - Dolores Batt Petty
- Barbara Opper - The Family
- 5:00 •Rev. Donald Paa - The Family
- All Souls Day Intentions

MINISTRIES FOR FEBRUARY 25 & 26, 2012			
	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Servers
4:30 PM	Endres, Fox, Kern, Macie, Will	Wik	Palmer, Panzer
8 AM	Attea, Beardi, Schachtner, Zgoda x 2	Friedman	Hartman x 2
9:30 AM	Friedman x 2, Misso, Neill, O'Connell	Miller	Keppell x 2
11 AM	DeBrauwere, Ervolina, Farace, Glauber, Hammer	Mazurowski	Mazurowski x 2
5 PM	Clark, Gerstner, Wendel, Volunteer x 2	Clark	Beil, Meiler



THE SICK

Please remember, in your prayers, the following who are ill: Mary Baggs, Jim Bonn, Audrey Clark, Dolores Classon, Fred Dentinger, Debra Evers, John Gatti, Art Goldhawk, Carole & Susan Hilburger, Jackie Kennedy, Charlene Kern, Anna Rose Leavoy, Larry Paul, Mary Pelletier, Kenneth Pestka, Carole Pfohl, Jerry Phelps, Leah Marie Pula, Loretta Quenneville, Bill Rademaker, Jodi Remsen, Jane Schrader, Lorrie Steerey, Beverly Talladay, Mary Thielke, Ray Zwolenkiewicz.

Note: Please contact Bonnie in the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the prayer list. Names will appear for three months. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, please call the office and we will gladly include them in three month increments as long as necessary.



THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for the deceased benefactors of the parish and all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, especially Anne M. Cardarella and Sophie Casuccio.

COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY

You are invited to support the Church's works in the Holy Land by contributing to the annual Holy Land collection on Ash Wednesday, this Wednesday, February 22, either at Nativity or at Sacred Heart in Bowmansville. Envelopes are in your packet for this collection.

THE PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT



PASTORAL
SHARINGS

This week, with Ash Wednesday, we begin the liturgical season of Lent. Note the schedule of Eucharistic liturgies that day.

At Nativity, liturgies will be as follows:

6:30 AM - Fr. John
9 AM - Msgr. Jerry
12:15 PM - Msgr. Fred
7 PM - Fr. John

At Sacred Heart, liturgies will be

9 AM and 7 PM with Msgr. Fred.

The Church also encourages us to practice fasting and abstinence during Lent, with a special emphasis on the Friday's of Lent. The literal expectations of these disciplines needs to be attentive to the larger concern of spiritual maturation. For example, eating various seafoods may not be sacrificial nor spiritually enriching for many. Perhaps a simple meatless soup or casserole might be best. Knowing hunger in order to identify with those for whom it is not a choice but a given might develop an empathy that, in turn, leads one to greater acts of charity and justice.

Note that we will be prayerfully remembering Jesus' last hours through the medieval devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

Nativity will also offer its annual Lenten retreat experience titled "Mission," a seven consecutive evening experience beginning on Sunday, March 4 and concluding on Saturday, March 10.

Our Clarence cluster of parishes will provide a Lenten Penance Service at Our Lady of Peace on March 21 at 7 PM. This is a great opportunity to experience the sacramental reconciliation of Christ. A like service will be held by the Lancaster cluster of parishes that includes Sacred Heart at St. John's, Alden, on March 26 at 3 PM and 7 PM.

The Northern Erie Vicariate is conducting its annual Lenten series at 7 PM on the first five Mondays of Lent around themes from the Corporal Works of Mercy. The venues for these presentations are elsewhere in this bulletin.

Lenten booklets providing daily meditations are available at Nativity.

Please privilege the annual Catholic Charities Appeal as an opportunity to participate in the wonderful, transforming and healing works of our major diocesan structure for ministry to marginalized, impoverished, and hurting persons. Respond to God's generosity to you by helping others-in-need.



MISSION 16

"Who am I, O Lord God,
and what is my house,
that thou hast brought me thus far?"

2 Samuel 7:18

Take time at Mission to look for answers

**Sunday March 4 to
Saturday March 10**



For information & Registration:

Mario & Alana Tarquinio 741-4203

LENTEN MATERIALS

Materials are available to help us observe Lent. A special issue of Catholic Update provides mini-meditations for each day of Lent. Another pamphlet offers daily reflections based on the writings of Henri Nouwen. These materials are available at the doors of the church this weekend.

WEEKEND MASS CELEBRANTS

February 25 & 26

At Nativity

Sat.	Sun.			
4:30	8:00	9:30	11:00	5:00
FDL	FDL	FDL	WJS	FDL

At Sacred Heart

Sat. 4 PM & Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 AM - JLL

FDL is Msgr. Frederick D. Leising

JLL is Fr. John J. Leising

WJS is Msgr. W. Jerome Sullivan



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

ITALIAN FEAST COMING UP!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012

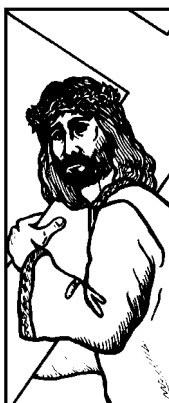
The annual Italian Feast to benefit Habitat for Humanity/Buffalo will be on Saturday, May 5 in the school cafeteria beginning at 5:30 PM.

More information to follow. Please call Char Tornabene at 633-4843 if you have any questions.

**LENTEN STATIONS
OF THE CROSS**

Nativity offers Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent. We use a variety of different approaches to the Stations which are planned by a different group or person for each Friday of Lent at 7 PM.

Why not make it a Lenten practice to come to the Stations of the Cross this year. Come with your children or grandchildren for this traditional Catholic devotion.



PARISH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Following another successful year, the **Educational Advisory Council** is expanding its membership. The Council is a consultative, collaborative body whose purpose is to review and recommend actions that relate to School operations, including planning to ensure the viability of the School. This is an excellent opportunity for parishioners to participate in the development of the School and share their talents to make Nativity of Mary School the premier choice for Catholic education.

General Council meetings are held every other month, and membership also includes service on committees that meet as needed to fulfill specific goals and objectives. For more information, or to volunteer to serve on the Council, please contact current Council President Sandy Gibson at 759-7085.



**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
MARCH 11, 2012**

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
GIRL SCOUTING**

ATTENTION NATIVITY GIRL SCOUTS

Wear your Scouting uniform to the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, March 11!

Monday, March 12, 2012, marks the 100th Birthday of Girl Scouting USA. On March 12, 1912, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, GA for a local Girl Scout meeting. Belief in God and acknowledgement of one's responsibility to God are values inherent in the Girl Scout Promise. Girl Scouting helps girls build leadership skills, character, moral values, and self esteem to succeed in life.

Interested in learning more?

Visit www.gswny.org or

contact Linda Zakrzewski at lindaz777@yahoo.com.

**"SHOP FOR NATIVITY"
SHOPPING MADE SIMPLE WITH
GIFT CARDS!**

After the 8, 9:30, and 11 AM Sunday Masses

The Nativity Gift Card Store is open **year-round**. We have hundreds of gift cards in stock. To place an on-line order, visit www.nativitygiftcards.com. There are also paper order forms at the church entrances and in the rectory. Simply complete the order form and place it in the collection basket. The Nativity Gift Card Store is also open Mondays & Thursdays from 8:30 AM to Noon in the school cafeteria.

For more information please contact Mary Beth Cucinotta at sales@nativitygiftcards.com or 630-1677 before 9 PM. We look forward to filling your orders! Thank you for supporting Nativity.

**PARISH DISABILITY MINISTRY
"Dare to Dream" -- for families of
individuals with any type of
disability of any age**



This annual FREE conference takes place Saturday, March 10, from 9 AM to 2 PM, at the Northtown Plaza People Inc. Building, 3131 Sheridan Drive. Individuals with disabilities and their families will leave with tools to plan for future home, school and work transitions, income needs and friendships. The day includes presentations, hands-on activities, panel discussion with family members, free lunch and networking with other families. The Early Childhood Direction Center, Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, and Parent Network of WNY are the conference sponsors. So that adequate refreshments are on hand, registration is required. To register or if you have questions, contact Parent Network at (716) 332-4170. More information is available at <http://www.parentnetworkwny.org/Events/DaretoDream>.

NATIVITY YOUTH



Make sure you stay up-to-date on everything that's going on. Check us out on Facebook. Look at the website or contact Stephanie Moss at the Religious Ed/Youth Ministry Office (Email at nativity.youthministry@yahoo.com or call 634-3130 or cell: 240-367-2452).

TEENS, CHECK IT OUT!!

Open Gym Night; Service Night: Friday, March 2, 6:30-8:30 PM. We will be meeting in the school cafeteria for our service activity. Bring some friends, earn some service hours (for school or for confirmation) and have some pizza. Bring \$2 for pizza! Don't forget to RSVP Stephanie BEFORE Wed., Feb. 29.

NATIVITY SCHOOL EASTER FLOWER SALE

This is your opportunity
to order flowers
as a memorial in the church
or for your home for Easter.

Lilies, Mums and Tulips
are available for church
or your home.

Hyacinths and Daffodils
are available for your home only.

All orders must be pre-paid and
are due in the school by March 12.

Orders can be placed in the
Sunday Collection
or dropped off at the rectory.

Order forms are available
at the doors of the church
and in the rectory office.



GOT CHOCOLATE?



Nativity of Mary school is selling
delicious Platter's chocolates
for the Easter season.

Platter's orange and milk chocolate
make any Easter basket better!

Order forms are located in the back of church. Please
fill out a form and drop it off at the school office or the
rectory with a check,

(payable to Nativity HSA)
or call Tara Cutaia at 817-9522.

Place your order by February 27th.

The chocolates will be available
for pickup after all Masses
the weekend of March 31st/April 1st.

Nativity keeps 50% of the proceeds
from the candy sale.

Thank you for supporting our school!



NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY BAKED GOODS & HANDMADE ROSARY SALE



*A special thank you to all the parishioners who came
out last weekend to support the Youth Ministry
group at their bake sale.*

NATIVITY 8TH GRADE CLASS TRIP FUND RAISERS

Fish Fry



Nativity's 8th Grade Class will sponsor
a Krolick's Fish Fry in the School Cafeteria on Ash
Wednesday, February 22 from 3 to 7 PM. The meal
includes fish, coleslaw, salad, roll with butter and
beverage. Slices of cheese pizza will also be available. Eat
in or take out. Drive up service will be available.

There will also be a Theme Basket Raffle, a 50/50 split
and a Bake Sale.

Tickets are \$9 per dinner, presale, or \$9.50 at the door.
For more information or to purchase pre-sale tickets, please
call Sandy Gibson at 759-7085. Tickets will be sold after
all Masses this weekend, February 18 & 19. They will also
be available in the rectory this Monday and Tuesday.



Bottle & Can Fund Raiser

Nativity School 8th Grade Class will be
holding a "drop off" bottle drive on April 21.
Please save any returnable water, pop or beer
bottles and cans for this fundraiser. Details to follow.
Please note, if you or anyone you know has a large quantity
(500 or more) of cans and bottles and would like to make
arrangements for pick-up at your house or business, prior
to the "drop off" day in April, please call 685-4076.

*Both of these fund raisers benefit the class trip to Boston.
Thank you for your support.*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following parishioners who have
achieved honors for the second marking period at their
respective schools:

Holy Angels Academy

Katherine Kolber, Emily Schifferle & Rachel Tworek

St. Mary's High School

**Hayley Lampart
Joseph Hamilton
Kristen Hamilton**

**Mary Hamilton
Leah Meyer
A. Frank Sardina**

PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know someone who needs:

- a shelter for time of overwhelming grief?
- a shade in times of sorrow too deep for words?
- a shield from times of unimaginable loss?

A prayer shawl is the product of a maker who prays for the comfort of the unknown recipient who is in need of a shelter, a shade, and a shield.

The prayer shawl is meant to give both physical and spiritual comfort. The prayer shawl is made with compassion and the belief that prayer works.

If you would like to comfort a friend or relative in need, a prayer shawl is yours for the asking by visiting the rectory during regular business hours.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NOTES

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and commemorates the start of a period of preparation for Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. As you start your own Lenten Journey this week, remember the selfless sacrifices of Jesus. With \$3.12, the cost of feeding a family of four one meal, what can you sacrifice to allow for just a donation of that amount - coffee and a bagel? Remember your neighbors in need and give as generously as you can to Catholic Charities' 2012 Appeal, benefitting tens of thousands in Western New York. **Protect. Strengthen. Empower. Please give to the 2012 Catholic Charities Appeal.** Find out more at www.ccnyny.org or call 218-1400.

ITEMS:

***PRO-LIFE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 158 Laverack Ave., Lancaster, Fri., Feb. 24 at 7 PM. Call 683-6522 for more information.

***BLESSED ARE THEY WHO...:** Saturday reflections to be offered at St. Joseph Center for Spirituality, 4975 Strickler Rd., Clarence. Call the Center at 759-6893 ext. 175 to make reservations.:

...HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE. THEY SHALL BE FILLED. Saturday, February 25, from 9:30 to 11 AM. Sr. Karen Klimczak, SSJ taught Judy Major about this, giving her life for her belief. Judy will lead a reflection on the vision of Sr. Karen, a woman of God and other women.

...MOURN FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED. Saturday, March 3 from 9:30 to 11 AM. Presented by Chris Anspach. "Woman soul wailing; world soul wailing." We enter into the mourning of Jesus as we enter into our own mourning for our world and all the particularities of our lives.

***FISH FRY DINNERS AROUND THE AREA:** (1) Dine in or drive up to *St. Gregory's* school gym, 4-7 PM, on the Fridays of Lent (Feb. 24 & the Fridays in March). Pizza available for children. Info.: 688-5678. (2) *At St. Leo the Great*, 903 Sweet Home Rd., Fridays of Lent through Good Friday, April 6. Info.: 832-6340.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY ANNUAL LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

What are You Doing for Lent this Year?

This year's Lenten Series presents a fascinating look at the spiritual impact of the Corporal Works of Mercy and what that means for you.

Why give up something for Lent when you can do something positive for your spiritual life?

All sessions are on Monday and begin at 7:30 PM

February 27

St. Mary, Swormville, 6919 Transit Rd.

Seeing Christ in Suffering People: Deacon Bill Hynes will explore the Scriptural basis for the corporal works of mercy and why these acts of compassion are so important in the lives of Catholics today. **688-9380**

March 5

St. Pius X, Getzville, 1700 French Rd.

Visiting Christ in Prison: Fr. Bob Gebhard will offer amazing stories about how ministry to prisoners and their families can change the course of people's lives. **688-9143**

March 12

*St. Timothy, Town of Tonawanda,
565 East Park Dr.*

Comforting Christ in Pain: Fr. Duke Sajac will present compelling stories about ministry to the sick and dying, their families and their caretakers. **875-9430**

March 19

Infant of Prague, Cheektowaga, 921 Cleveland Dr.

Helping Christ in Need: Mark Zirnheld, Director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, will share stories about people in need whose lives are transformed through the help of others. **634-3660**

March 26

Our Lady of Peace, Clarence, 10950 Main St.

Sheltering Christ in Exile: Sr. Louise Alff, OSF, will offer insights into the experiences of exiles, who were forced out of their homeland, and the process of rebuilding their lives. **759-8554**

**There is no cost. No reservations required.
Come and bring a friend.**

Sponsored by the parishes in the Northern Erie Vicariate.



STEWARDSHIP

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?

LENT 2012

LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

REGULATIONS FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

ABSTINENCE: All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22), all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday (April 6).

FASTING: All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

EASTER DUTY: After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled this year between February 26 (the First Sunday of Lent) and June 3 (Trinity Sunday).

THE FOLLOWING SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED:

RECONCILIATION: Catholics are bound by an obligation to faithfully confess serious sins at least once a year (Canon 989)

OTHER FRIDAYS OF THE YEAR: Catholics should be reminded that all other Fridays of the year remain as days of penance, in prayerful remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

OBLIGATION: The obligation which we have, as members of the Church, to do penance is a serious one. Furthermore, the obligation to observe, as a whole or "substantially," the penitential days specified by the Church is a serious one.

A CAUTION: While no one should hold himself or herself lightly excused, one should not become unduly scrupulous. Failure to observe individual days of penance is less serious than the failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days.

AN INVITATION: In the name of peace, and in union with the Bishops of our country, the faithful of this Diocese are invited to add voluntary fasting to the practice of penance during the Fridays of the year. Together with works of charity and service toward our neighbors, this practice would become a sign of our commitment to conversion, reconciliation and peace (The Challenge of Peace, Art. 298).

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 22. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses after the homily. Masses at Nativity are at 6:30 & 9 AM, 12:15 & 7 PM. Masses at Sacred Heart are at 9 AM and 7 PM. There will be no other times for the distribution of ashes.

PRAYER

Daily Masses during Lent are at 6:30 & 9 AM; 8 AM on Saturday.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Friday evenings at 7 PM.

Inspiration to deepen your relationship with God: see separate article. We have two offerings this year.

The Parish Mission will be held from March 4 - 10.

The Lenten Lecture Series, sponsored by our Vicariate, is every Monday evening at 7:30 PM. It is held in a different parish each Monday. See separate listing elsewhere in the bulletin for locations of the talks.

SACRIFICE

We may decide upon any good work or works. Positive works such as daily Mass, extra prayer or time with the Bible, specific charitable works and sacrifices with intent to save something to give to the poor ought to be favored.

ALMSGIVING

In any time of penance we need to hear the cry of the poor. There are countless ways to respond. In our diocese the central focus for almsgiving in Lent is the Catholic Charities Appeal. This year consider making a pledge. That will enable you to contribute a larger amount over the course of the year.

PLEASE NOTE:

The **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE** will be at Our Lady of Peace on Monday, March 21, at 7 PM. There will be several priests present to hear confession.

There are **NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT**. The last Sunday for baptism before Lent is February 19. Baptisms begin again at the Easter Vigil on April 7. Any emergency needs should be pursued through the rectory.

Please **KEEP IN PRAYER** those who are preparing to become members of the Church throughout the Diocese at the Easter Vigil through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).



THINGS TO GIVE UP FOR LENT

- Taking those you love for granted
 - Promising more than you can deliver
 - Losing your temper
 - Trying to please everyone
 - Trying to get everything perfect
- Doing the right thing for the wrong reasons
 - Justifying your anger
 - Thinking about money
- Blaming others for your woes
 - Nagging
- Blocking out what you don't want to hear
 - Listening only to yourself
 - Wanting to be in control
 - Needing to be effective
 - Having to be right
 - Patronizing people
 - Complaining
 - Carrying grudges
 - Denying your limitations
 - Making snap judgments
 - Denying your obsessions
 - Feeling sorry for yourself
 - Thinking of greener pastures
 - Telling God what to do
 - Pretending
 - Denying your gifts
 - Doubting you can change
 - Never saying you're sorry
 - Blaming yourself
 - Believing only in the possible
 - Doubting your goodness
 - Looking for easy answers
 - Lying to God
 - Looking the other way
 - Expecting others to solve your problems
 - Doing what everyone else does
 - Carrying a chip on your shoulder
 - Being bored
 - Cursing the darkness
 - Denying that you are loved

FASTING AND FEASTING

- ✠ Fast from the need for attention and feast on attending the need of others.
- ✠ Fast from indifference and feast on the difference we can make where hope is lost.
- ✠ Fast from dwelling on the mistakes of the past and feast on what they have taught you.
 - ✠ Fast from family feuds and feast on family prayer.
- ✠ Fast from relentlessly searching for happiness and feast on the joy of bringing happiness to others.
- ✠ Fast from closing your mind to new understandings and feast on a passion for truth.
 - ✠ Fast from cynicism and feast on hope.
- ✠ Fast from loneliness and feast on a welcoming, hospitable acceptance of others.
 - ✠ Fast from routine and predictability and feast on surprises and spontaneity and an open spirit.
 - ✠ Fast from talking and feast on listening.
 - ✠ Fast from the demands of perfection and feast on the glory of being human.
- ✠ Fast from the overpowering urge to win and feast on an overpowering call to serve.
 - ✠ Fast from false security and feast on an abiding trust in the present
 - ✠ Fast from being stuck in time and place and mind and feast on the journey.
 - ✠ Fast from negatives and feast on positives.
 - ✠ Fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness.
 - ✠ Fast from anxiety and feast on trust.
 - ✠ Fast from complaining and feast on appreciation.
 - ✠ Fast from imagined illnesses and feast on the healing power of God.
 - ✠ Fast from unrelenting pressures and feast on the power of prayer.
 - ✠ Fast from worry and feast on blessings received.
 - ✠ Fast from pessimism and feast on optimism.
 - ✠ Fast from anger and feast on patience.
 - ✠ Fast from discontent and feast on gratitude.
 - ✠ Fast from pride and feast on humility.
 - ✠ Fast from childishness and feast on childlikeness.
 - ✠ Fast from emphasizing differences and feast on our common humanity.
 - ✠ Fast from the struggle to reshape the world and feast on the peace of God's will.
- ✠ Fast from cursing the darkness and feast on the light that overcomes the darkness.



QUESTIONS FROM MARK

Mark 4:30: “To what can we compare the kingdom of God? What parable will we use?”

What if we were to see all of life as parables, little stories with deeper meaning? God is always present. Jesus says, “Let those who have eyes to see, see.” Seeing the Paschal Mystery depends on how we interpret an experience. Where have we found hope in a difficult time, or the good that comes from some misfortune?

Mark 6:31: “How many loaves have you?”

What do we bring to the miracles Jesus wants to work through us? God needs our help, our hands, our words, and actions to complete miracles. Jesus goes home to Nazareth, but the Gospel says he did not work many miracles because of their lack of faith. Jesus often tells those who have been healed that “your faith has saved you.” In other words, we have a part to play in our own prayers. We bring faith, God responds, and then we act.

Mark 4:40: “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Faith in stormy times. Jesus seems asleep in the boat. Is the resurrection for real? Does God really answer prayer? Crisis takes us out into the deep. As the wind and waves threaten to swamp our small boat, we must learn absolute trust. Jesus crosses the lake many times with his disciples, teaching them to trust him. You will pass through the waters of death to new life. See the pattern. Trust it.

Mark 10:38: “Can you drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

The disciples want special places of honor with Jesus. He challenges their pursuit of glory with the reality of suffering. This is the same baptism he will endure. If we accept the cup, we must drink it to the dregs. Baptism is both a symbol of cleansing and of death. What goes down into the water is the old, what emerges is the new.

Mark 15:34: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus prays Psalm 21 on the cross. The psalm ends in hope. Jesus goes the distance to save even the most alienated sinner, the one who despairs. No one can ever say that Jesus did not endure something they are facing. He is like us in all things except sin. We can take anything to God, even our anger, hurt and sense of abandonment, because Jesus has been there to experience even this.

Mark 16:3: “Who will roll back the stone for us?”

The women come early to the tomb to anoint the dead body of Jesus. They have accepted the worst, yet they still serve; they still love. Their faithfulness is rewarded. They are the first witnesses to the resurrection. The stone is already rolled away. Messengers meet them. Their mission is to tell the others. What stones have been rolled away for us, obstacles we never thought could be overcome? Has God sent messengers of faith to you in times of crisis?

By Pat Marris & Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Cele Breen.

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RETROVILLE - A PROGRAM TO HELP COUPLES HEAL & RENEW THEIR MARRIAGES

Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi, with a long i) is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program which consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6-12 post-weekend sessions over three months.

The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It affords the opportunity to rediscover one another and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. It is for couples with marital problems including those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced who want marriage help.

This is not a retreat, marriage counseling, or a sensitivity group. There are neither group dynamics nor group discussions on the weekend. It is a time for healing. It is not designed nor intended for couples in a co-habituating relationship.

During the weekend phase a team of three couples and a priest give a series of presentations. Although not a marriage encounter or seminar, it does have characteristics of these. Couples will be encouraged to put the past behind them and start rediscovering each other.

The team presents a technique of communication that enables couples to take a good look at most areas of their relationship. They do not provide marriage advice. They provide practical tools for improving the marriage. They share how they were able to benefit from these techniques. After each presentation couples will have a chance to reflect on it separately and then discuss it in complete privacy as a couple.

The weekend is not a miracle cure. The post-weekend sessions are designed to continue the marriage renewal begun on the weekend. This phase is crucial to healing marriage problems. The technique learned on the weekend is further developed and used to explore additional areas of the marriage relationship.

Retrovaille is offered on scheduled weekends from Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon. The post-weekend sessions last a minimum of two hours and are scheduled at various times during the week. Couples of all faiths and those with no faith tradition are welcome to attend. There is no attempt to convert anyone to a religion.

Couples are asked to make a donation to help cover the cost of the weekend. This donation covers all expenses of the weekend and post-weekend sessions including lodging, meals and materials.

For information on the program and scheduled weekends, call Patrick & Lauren at 822-5496 or visit their website, www.marriagesaved.com. No one is ever denied the chance to heal and renew their marriage for lack of funds.

ITEMS:

***MAGNIFICAT, MINISTRY TO CATHOLIC WOMEN:** Morning of prayer, testimony and praise at Holiday Inn, Amherst, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd., Sat., March 24, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Celebrate this Lenten season and the awesome mercy and renewal found in the Lord through His Holy Spirit. Speaker, Sr. Noreen McCarrick, OSF. Through a lifetime of ministries, Sr. Noreen has devoted herself to serving the Lord's people, especially those enduring poverty, addiction, and emotional illness. She is the Foundress of Providence House in Niagara Falls NY, which is dedicated to providing basic needs and spiritual support to neighborhood families, especially children. For information or reservation, call Chris at 759-8135 or Cindy at 773-5976.

***TENTH ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE:** Sat. March 24 at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda, right off the I-290. Speakers include Sammy Violante, mentor, coach, survivor; Most. Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, GA; Allen Hunt, former Methodist Pastor and Catholic convert. Register at www.spiritiscalling.org. The fee has been reduced but still includes the Conference and lunch. Come to celebrate this year's theme, *Servant Leadership - The Challenge*.

***SPAGHETTI DINNER:** John Cardinal O'Hara Council No. 13661 Knights of Columbus is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Sun., Feb. 19 from 11 AM to 3 PM at Our Lady of Peace Church, Msgr. Hammerl Parish Center, 10950 Main St., Clarence. Adults, \$7; Children 6 to 12, \$5; 5 & under, Free. Tickets available at the door. Call 759-8554 for information.

ITEMS:

***TOWN OF CLARENCE BASEBALL REGISTRATION:** Returning players may register in person, online, or by mail. Reg. forms can be printed from the website. They are also available at the Town Library or Clarence Town Clerk's Office. Reg. deadlines are Feb. 29 for Rookie, Minor, Major and American Leagues and March 31 for the National & Senior Leagues. Players must reside in the Town of Clarence or be attending the Clarence Central School District. Grades K through first year of college are eligible to play.

***A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS:** St. John the Baptist school cafeteria, 2028 Sandridge Rd., Alden, Wednesdays, Feb. 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM presented by Dr. Edward Sri. For information and registration, call Sr. Ellen McCarthy at 937-6959.

***YOUTH 2000 RETREAT:** "Experience the Power of His Presence" at St. Leo the Great, March 16-18, 2012, 6:30 PM Friday to 2 PM Sunday. All youth & young adults, age 15 to 30, are invited to the weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer, music and fellowship lead by the Franciscan Friars of Renewal. Participants may sleep over at St. Leo's or commute each day. Early bird registration by Feb. 1, \$35; regular registration after Feb. 1, \$40. For registration forms or more information, call Mary Beth Lalka, 835-8905 x 14 or go to www.stleothegreatamherst.com.

***CHRYSALIS AUCTION & DINNER:** Mount St. Mary's High School, 3756 Delaware Ave., Sat., March 10. *Mount Olympus*, a Greek themed silent & live auction & dinner, promises a night of drama, mystery & elegance for all who attend. Tickets, call Bonnie May at 877-1358.