

# Lent

- SATURDAY, March 21, 2009 VIGIL: Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 4:00 PM ☩ Christopher Hannah Birthday Remembrance req by the family
- SUNDAY, March 22, 2009 Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 8:00 AM ☩ Keith O'Connor Birthday Remembrance req by Mom & Dad  
 ☩ Jackie Benham req by her sister  
 10:30 AM ☩ Tom Godek req by Fred & Alice  
 ☩ Fr. John Ayers req by Fred & Alice  
 7:00 PM ☩ Parish Mission Talk & Benediction
- MONDAY, March 23, 2009  
 8:00 AM ☩ The People of the Parish  
 7:00 PM ☩ Parish Mission – Jackie Benham req by her sister
- TUESDAY, March 24, 2009  
 8:00 AM ☩ People of the Parish  
 7:00 PM ☩ Parish Mission
- WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2009  
 8:00 AM ☩ People of the Parish  
 6:00 PM ☩ Stations of the Cross  
 7:00 PM ☩ Mission & Healing Mass
- THURSDAY, March 26, 2009  
 8:00 AM ☩ Gerard Benoit req by his sister, Mary Yando  
 ☩ Therese Leclerc 5<sup>th</sup> ann req by the Leclerc Family
- FRIDAY, March 27, 2009  
 8:00 AM ☩ Morning Prayer
- SATURDAY, March 28, 2009 VIGIL: Fifth Sunday of Lent  
 4:00 PM ☩ James Kennedy req by Theresa St Mary  
 ☩ Edward Dougal req by the Grady Family
- SUNDAY, March 29, 2009 Fifth Sunday of Lent  
 8:00 AM ☩ Bryan Birchfield Family req by Bob & Elizabeth Pelott  
 10:30 AM ☩ Elizabeth Hennessy 6<sup>th</sup> ann, Marjorie Dull & Joan Griffin req by the family  
 ☩ David Hennessy Birthday Remembrance req by the family



***"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."***

*- Jn 3:20-21*

***Readings for March 28-29, 2009***  
***Jer 31: 31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33***

**Religious Vocations Corner** –Jesus told Nicodemus that, when we find our calling in life, we are reborn. We really become a new person, fired with a new love, aimed in a new direction, with purpose and love. Listen to Jesus' voice within you. If He is challenging you to a church vocation, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: [g.dailey@diospringfield.org](mailto:g.dailey@diospringfield.org).

## *The Pastor's Thoughts...*

-This is a very special week for our parish as we welcome Fr. Bill McCarthy for our annual parish mission. As announced, the mission begins this Sunday evening and continues through Wednesday evening. I pray that many individuals and families will take this opportunity to draw apart for awhile and spend time with the Lord. The mission schedule is as follows:

Sunday 7PM Talk & Benediction

Monday 7PM Mass & Talk

Tuesday 3PM Talk & Benediction

(This is a special time for our Seniors who do not wish to come out in the evening. There will be time for confessions following Fr. Bill's talk.)

Tuesday 7PM Mass & Talk

Wednesday 6PM Stations of the Cross

7PM Mass, Concluding Talk and Healing.

Fr. Bill will be available for confessions during the mission. There will also be a Reconciliation Service on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at which several priests will be present.

-Special thanks to Denise Baran of the parish for her "Tupperware" fundraiser which benefited the parish some \$400 in revenue.

-I want to bring to your attention the fact that the parish has a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is available for home visitation. If you would like to take this statue home for a week you will find the reservation binder in the meeting room off the gathering space where the statue may be picked up and returned.

-All those who have signed up to attend the performance of South Pacific in NYC are asked to make their final payment of \$40 ASAP. Checks should be made out to Educational Journeys. We do have 5 tickets still available and extra room on the bus for anyone who would like to spend the day in the city.

-Our parish shawl ministry has been very well received and has brought comfort and support to many in our parish. Thus far, some 65 shawls have been given out as expressions of our prayerful concern. Our deep thanks to all those who are participating in this ministry by making the shawls, may the Lord bless the work of your hands.

-This weekend at the 4pm Liturgy we welcomed members of our CYO Basketball teams. We are delighted with the wonderful season they have had on the court. Special thanks to all the adults who give so generously of their time and effort for the success of this program.

-A reminder that next weekend is our fifth session of Generations of Faith. As we continue the study of our CREED we will be looking at the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus with our "event" celebration being the Triduum.

***May the Lord bless you and draw you close,***

*Fr. Vern*



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*In Gratitude to God for His many gifts,  
the members of this parish have returned  
the following resources in support of the parish  
and its ministries...*

The Sunday Collection for March 14-15 was.....	\$6,241.98
Weekly Sunday Average .....	6,326.95
Weekly Sunday Goal.....	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for March 1-15.....	5,573.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal.....	6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion March Shortfall .....	427.00

**Eucharistic Adoration and Visitation** - The Adoration Info Line number is 323-6272 Extension 6. Please, always call just before coming in for your hour to see if Adoration has been closed due to extreme cold or bad weather. The Adoration Chapel (entrance around the rear of the church) is open to all parishioners for a visit before the Blessed Sacrament. Hours of Adoration are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you would like to be a part of our Adoration program, either as an assigned adorer or substitute, please call Pam at 323-7416. **The following hours are in need of an Adorer: Monday 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Tuesday 12 Noon – 1:00 PM and Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM.**

## Liturgical Roles

*Weekend of March 28-29, 2009*

### Lectors

- 4:00 PM Brawner
- 8:00 AM Forrest
- 10:30 AM Desilets

### Ministers of the Eucharist

- 4:00 PM Yvon, Richard & Leslie Zlotnik, Abraham, Pat A., Beaupre, Couture
- 8:00 AM Barrett, Kielbasa, McGinnis, Miffitt, Moran, Ricardi, Tovet
- 10:30 AM Letendre, Gary & Linda Racicot, Rose, Adams, Tyler, Belanger

### Altar Servers

- 4:00 PM S. & M. Zoufaly, B. Rogers, T. Mazza
- 8:00 AM S. & R. Forrest
- 10:30 AM C. Grady, M. & F. Hegarty

**Pro Life Corner** – The prominent Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer clearly described the act of abortion: “The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.” Please pray that this nation may heed the words of those who speak about the humanity of the unborn and for a greater commitment to the defense of innocent human life. Please pray that families facing an untimely pregnancy will turn to God for help and strength.

*May the Lord keep you in the palm of His hand  
And never close his fist too tight!*



**Brick Corner** – We would like to thank the following parishioners who have “purchased a brick” for our new church, either in their name or in the name of a loved one: No bricks were purchased during this time period.

Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can “buy a brick”. They are only \$10.00 each.

**Generation of Faith Upcoming Session** – On the weekend of March 28/29 our G of F families will be learning about the lines of the Creed that refer to the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The community is preparing for the experience of the Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday. The session will include a presentation on the Shroud of Turin by Andre Chapdelain and a DVD on the resurrection. If you’d like to join us please call Judy at 323-6272 x 2. Cost is \$10 - \$5 for seniors.

**Operation Rice Bowl** – Did you know that a percentage of the proceeds from the Catholic Relief Service Program, Operation Rice Bowl, stays within our communities? Our own parish Food Pantry has been a recipient of a contribution from them in the past. The work of Catholic Relief Services is world wide providing food, education and support to countless people facing hunger, poverty, oppression and war. Please consider making a donation to the Rice Bowl this year. Collection will be at the Holy Thursday Mass.

**Spaghetti Supper to Benefit NCCY** - The NCCY Teens of St. Francis Parish will host a Spaghetti Dinner prepared by Chef Francesco Dell’Olio in the Pine Room of the St. Francis Parish Social Center on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will help to defray part of the cost of their attendance at the National Catholic Youth Conference. Serving time for the dinner is 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Tickets will be on sale at weekend Masses through April 12 or by contacting John Coty at 413-348-3661. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Donations are Adults \$10.00, children 5-12- \$6.00 and children under 5 eat free.

**Summary of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Pastoral Council Meeting:** The March 2009 Pastoral Council meeting covered the new procedure for nominating people to serve on commissions of the Pastoral Council. Rather than hold elections to a three year position as chair of a commission, the new procedure will be to take nominations to serve as a member of the commission for a year. Commissions will elect chairs from among their members. We also received updates on the Monument to the Unborn that the Knight of Columbus is organizing. Father Vern announced that we will be putting together the updated parish directory (complete with new photos) this spring. The rectory proposal is moving forward. Cost for the 4-bedroom, 3,000 sq. ft. house is estimated at \$330,000 with a \$56,000 contingency. Estimate does not include land development.

**Our Lady of the Angels S.F.O.** will meet on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Tovet Room of the church. All are welcome. For those with questions, call Lynn 323-5537 or Kathy 323-9023.

***Michael Sweeney Prayer Line***

From March 9 through March 16, 2009, the following intentions were added to our already long list of requests for prayers. Won't you please join us in praying for them all.

Prayers are asked for healing for Ann Rex.

Healing for a woman.

Thanksgiving for good test results for Beth.

Renewed intention for a man for successful cancer treatments.

For Patrick McGrath to accept God's will in his suffering.

For D. C. who has lost his job, that he won't be discouraged.

For Karen who is four months pregnant, for a good outcome to the pregnancy.

For successful cancer surgery for Rita 3/11.

Good test results for a man 3/11 and 3/12.

Special intention for Michaela to find a good job quickly.

Thanksgiving for good biopsy results for R. S.

A renewed intention for Ann Rex for healing.

That Ruth will have success in her studies for a Master's degree.

Healing asked for Heather North.

For Harold Darcy, healing.

Prayers asked for T. S. for healing.

Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Rita.

Thanksgiving for all God's Graces and His answers to the requests of the prayer line. If you would like to have the prayer line members pray for you or a loved one, please call Chris McGinnis, 323-6622, Louise Groux, 323-4046 or Marion Masse, 323-7169.

**Easter Egg Roll** – the Knights of Columbus, along with the parish's National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) members, will be sponsoring a FREE Easter Egg Roll, on the church grounds on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> shortly after the 10:30 Mass. Children 2 through 8 are invited to bring their Easter baskets/bags to enjoy an old fashion Easter Egg Roll. We may even be joined by a very FURRY guest celebrity who will be available for pictures! The NCYC team will be selling some delicious refreshments and beverages during the roll to help defray costs for their upcoming 2009 conference trip. It promises to be a great hour of family fun and entertainment. For more info contact Tom Grady 323-5822 or speak with any member of the Kof C or NCYC team.

**Bereavement Group** – If you have lost a spouse, family member or someone close to you, the Bereavement Group at St. Francis is a place of quiet confidential discussion among others who have suffered loss. Come tell us, share your loss or just sit and listen. There are no requirements or dues. Everyone is welcome. It is a special, non-judgmental place where people listen and care. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7PM in the Tovet Room at the church.



**The Food pantry** would like to remind parishioners that we are here for you in the event you are experiencing some hardship and could benefit from some food assistance. Not only do we service the community, but we are also here for our own parish community. You can be assured that any shared information will be kept in the strictest confidence. If you find you need our

help, please contact our private food pantry line at 323-6272 ext. 8.

***St. Francis food pantry is in need of canned soups. As always, thank you for keeping the Pantry supplied.***