

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK****Monday, February 19 – Weekday (President's Day)**

12:00 p.m. (Chapel) Walter M. Przybyl  
(Przybyl Family)

**Tuesday, February 20 – Weekday**

8:30 a.m. (Chapel) Jane L. Banas (Ladies of Charity)

**Wednesday, February 21 – Ash Wednesday**

6:45 a.m. (Church) Genevieve B. Horn (Estate)  
12:00 p.m. (Church) Arlene Stoeckl (Estate)  
7:00 p.m. (Church) Rev. Msgr. Arnold J. Schneider  
(Joanie, Jane, Terri, Bob & Nancy and Al & Shirley)

**Thursday, February 22 – Chair of St. Peter, apostle**

8:30 a.m. (Chapel) Simon Adolf (Martin & Corinne O'Brien)

**Friday, February 23 – Polycarp, bishop, martyr**

12:00 p.m. (Chapel) John & Inez Sweet (Their Children)

**Saturday, February 24 – Lenten Weekday**

4:30 p.m. (Church) Doris Magner (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stephan)  
7:00 p.m. (Church) Henrietta Campbell (Estate)

**Sunday, February 25 – First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 a.m. (Church) Joseph Rautenstrauch (Estate)  
10:00 a.m. (Church) Anna Woods (Maureen & David Wilson)  
12:00 p.m. (Church) Helen Kovalick (Kovalick Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE ILL...**

Fridoline Ryan, Margaret Weidmann, Carolyn Baker, Irene Pieszala, Audrey Hediger, Barbara Ross, Andrew Hashimi, Jane Martzolf, Henrietta Schlotterbeck, Margaret Urquhart, Peter Paler, Laurie Buczak, Anthony Ulatowski, Richard Zielinski, Anthony Stinson, Mary Seyman, Rita Bukowski, Laurie O'Connor, Mary Vaegele, Ethel Thomas, Gordon C. Gladden, Joanne Hamme, Richard Was, Emma Lyn Biracree, Keary Ciamaga, Joseph G. Peters, Mike Chapman, Robert Niznansky, Monica Niznansky, Alicia Swanson, Eleanor Dobmeier, Leona Drennen, Danielle Hess, Mary Fleming-Arone, Michael Philipps, Charles Taylor, Kruschke, Jessica Grazen, Michael Schrader, Frank Goodwin, Maxine Paoletti, Helene Mikula, Christine, Nenov, Mary Philipps, Nicholas Paul Giangreco, Howard Busshart, Kathleen Macko, Dorothy Kamien, Bonnie Majcher, Richard Trzcinski, Judy Guenther.

**FINANCIAL**

Regular Collection: .....	\$14,703.55
Special School Support: .....	513.00
Hunger Bowl: .....	16.60
Total Collection: .....	\$15,233.15
Special Fuel Collection: .....	\$45.00
Bishop Overseas Collection (Jan): .....	\$35.00
Church Central/East Europe (Feb.): .....	\$543.80
Building / Mortgage Fund Collection: .....	\$783.00

**PRAY FOR OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**

Please remember in your daily prayers the following men and women who are in the armed services of our country who are serving in the Persian Gulf areas and also stateside:

Richard Herr and Jeremiah Herr (Air Force), Robert Napper (Navy), Capt. Sean McManus (Army), James Meger (Air Force), Christopher Pfeil, Jr. (Air Force), Msgr. James McGreevy (Army), Fireman William Noll (Coast Guard), Capt. Kelly Lelito (Army), Patrick Brotka (Navy), Capt. Thomas Derion (Army), Major David J. Roll (Air Force), Capt. Steven Naum (Army), Staff Sgt. Thomas Bain (Marines), Thomas White (Marines), CSM Shawn Browne, LCPL Anthony Celano (Marines), Capt. Evelyn Vento, M.D. (Army), OS3 Justin Blicharski (Navy), Anthony Celani, Jr.

**VOCATIONS****Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 18, 2007**

The Lord calls us to do God's will. Pray that you may know God's Will in your life, especially if you have the inclination that you are being called to the ordained or consecrated life. If God is calling you, call Rev. Walter Szczesny at 847-5535.



You or an organization to which you belong will soon be asked by Catholic Charities to become part of the **One for All** campaign. Please respond with your donation to **Appeal 2007** as soon as possible. Join the faces of caring in the Catholic Charities community – our staff, the people we help and the people like you who help – working as one, under one name. Caring has many faces. One name. Learn more at [1-for-all.org](http://1-for-all.org).

**THANK YOU FOR THE MONTE CARLO THEME BASKETS!**

Thank you to all who donated and made the Monte Carlo Theme Baskets such a success! We raffled 61 baskets. Many people donated anonymously. Thank you again and may your generosity be returned many times over.

Nicole Klaczyk & Sheila Kierejewski

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S****CHURCH****February 20**

Adult Choir Practice – 7:30 p.m.

**February 22**

Prayer Group – 7:00 p.m.

**SCHOOL****February 18**

R.C.I.A. (Gathering Room) 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bingo (Team #4) – gym – 2:00 p.m.

Catholic Fathers' Basketball Practice (Parish Center)

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**February 19****NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Boys Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**February 20****NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Girls Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**February 21****NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Boys Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Clam Chowder Party (Parish Center) 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul (Faculty Room) 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**February 22****NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Girls Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Parish Nurse Ministry (Gathering Room) 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**February 23****NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Boys Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**February 24**

Girls Varsity Basketball (gym) 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**IT'S BACK! LENTEN CLAM CHOWDER**

Clam Chowder Fest, Wednesday, February 21, 2007, from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., in St. Mary's Parish Center. New England Clam Chowder – Fish Sandwich, Tomato Soup – Grilled Sandwich – your choice. Dinner includes beverage and dessert. Dine in or take out.

**WORKERS NEEDED FOR THE LENTEN CLAM CHOWDER** If you can work any or all of the hours 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., we would love to hear from you. We need many positions filled.

Please call the Rectory at 683-6445 with your name and phone number. With all events – workers are critical to our success.

**LADIES OF CHARITY SET DATE FOR BELL RINGER AUCTION AND LUNCHEON**

Ladies of Charity, affiliate organization of Catholic Charities, will host the Annual Bell Ringer Auction on Saturday, March 24, 2007, at the Creekside Banquet Center, 2669 Union Road in Cheektowaga. A complete luncheon features chicken parmesan and pasta, coffee, tea and dessert. Participants will have an opportunity to bid on gift certificates from local merchants, vintage items, and collectibles. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Lunch served at noon. Cost \$25. Reservations must be made in advance. Call Ladies of Charity at 895-4001 for more information.

All are invited to attend.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

From among the young men at St. Mary's parish who elected to pursue their college preparatory education at Canisius High School, the following have achieved honors during the second marking period:

Max Baire	Ninth	Third Honors
Alexander Greco	Tenth	First Honors
Matthew Keysa	Twelfth	Second Honors
Clayton Schmitt	Eleventh	Second Honors

Congratulations to all of the above.

**ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 21**

Blessed Ashes will be distributed during our Masses on this day.

Masses are 6:45 a.m. / 12:00 noon / 7:00 p.m. All Masses on this day in church.

**ANNUAL ECUMENICAL LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERIES**

Once again the churches of our Lancaster/Depew communities are holding **Wednesday** Lenten Services. They begin at **12:00 noon** and will be followed by a light lunch (soup and salad) at the host church. The theme of this year's series is "**The Valleys of Lent.**" The services begin next week **February 28th at Trinity Episcopal, Lancaster.** This prayer series has had a good response in past years. (The full schedule of churches and speakers can be found on the back of the LENT 2007 booklet.)

Note: Because of the Ecumenical Lenten Services, our Wednesday daily Mass will be held at **11:00 a.m.** rather than at 12:00 noon during the next five weeks of Lent. This change begins February 28th.

**ANNUAL LENTEN – SOUP AND SCRIPTURE SERIES**

Our discussions this year will look at Biblical Treasures: Some of the Lesser Known Biblical Books and Stories. The program will follow the pattern we have used over the past several years - Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. (School Cafeteria) followed by Talk at 7:00 p.m. (Gathering Room, Parish Center).

## LENTEN SPIRITUAL HELPS

Take a copy of the booklet **Lent 2007** for suggestions for keeping the season of Lent. Give a copy to a friend. The schedule of Lenten activities at St. Mary's is found on the last page of this booklet.

## LENTEN EVENINGS

Our Lenten evenings will begin next **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**, with a special talk by **Rev. James F. Joyce, SJ**, Pastor of St. Ann's Parish in Buffalo, on what the Catholic Church in the Central City of Buffalo is doing and about a great educational program that Father Joyce has begun with inner city students. He will offer some ideas on how we can help in the mission of the church in our central city. This presentation is being sponsored by the Social Action Committee of our parish. Plan to attend. (The scheduled Biblical Study Discussions will begin the following Wednesday, March 7th.)

## LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING...

...is Monday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rectory.

## COME AND PRAY

St. Mary's parishioners are invited to share in the annual World Day of Prayer on March 2, 2007 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway in Lancaster. This year's program was written by the women of Paraguay in South America. Please join together on March 2nd at 10:00 a.m. for this prayerful annual event.

## FUEL COLLECTION

If you haven't already used your fuel envelope in your church offertory packet, this would be a great time to send us a donation. Our expenses increase greatly during these winter months and with February being as cold as it is, we know our next bill will be very high. The last bill we paid for fuel was \$6,256 for the month of January.

## "THE MASTER IS HERE AND IS CALLING YOU." JOHN 11:18

Are you looking for a good way to begin the Lenten season? Come, spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He'll be waiting in the chapel on Friday, March 2, from 12:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

## CHINESE AUCTION

The final preparations are being made for **St. Mary's Elementary School's** annual **Chinese Auction**. Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 2nd**, and start looking forward to a fun night out! If there are any parishioners willing to make a donation, it would be **greatly appreciated**. Some of you might even have a generous business contact willing to donate. Basket items or monetary donations can be dropped off at the school office or you may call Colleen K. (681-2342) or Sheila K. (683-7096) for pick-up arrangements.

## MORTGAGE FUND DONATIONS

With the fewer number of Masses here at St. Mary's as compared to last year's as well as the increasing demands on the number of priests in the Diocese, we have established a new policy beginning last July for scheduling Masses in memory of a loved one. You may have read about it in the bulletin. It states: In light of the fact that more than 60 deaths occur in our parish each year (this year it was over 80!), the following policy is necessarily established. In the first year after their death, up to 4 Masses may be offered for the deceased person. Subsequently, 2 Masses each year may be offered for the deceased person.

Because of this policy and depending on how many friends and relatives request memorial Masses for your deceased loved one, the Mass you request **will be scheduled**, but it may not be said for more than one or two years or even longer.

Instead of requesting a Mass, why not donate money to the Mortgage Fund in memory of your loved one? We have a special card in the rectory office that you can send to the deceased person's family informing them of your donation. Also, once a month we will print in the bulletin a list of donors and the names of those who have been remembered.

January's donations were made in memory of:

- Rev. Msgr. Arnold J. Schneider
  - From Mrs. Ruth Unger
  - From Gary Randolph

Please remember Rev. Msgr. Arnold J. Schneider and his family in your prayers.

## PROGRESSIVE BINGO NUMBER IS: #55.

## I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME

Deacon Tim Maloney, Chaplain at Wende and Gowanda Correctional Facilities, will discuss "**I was in prison and you visited me**" at Christ the King Seminary. Deacon Tim is presenting the final talk of this series on Matthew 25:31-46, the straightforward way Jesus Christ tells us we are going to be judged. Everyone is welcome Monday, February 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the Aula of the Seminary Classroom building, 711 Knox Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. The 2007 Speaker Series is presented by the Christ the King Aurora Council of the Knights of Columbus. This adult continuing education invitation is open to all – women and men at no charge. Come join us and bring along a friend.

## AN ENCHANTED EMERALD EVENING...

...to benefit Nativity of Mary School, will take place on Saturday, March 10, at Samuel's Grande Manor on Main Street in Clarence. The event will feature dinner with an open bar, along with silent and live auctions. The cost is \$50 per person. For an invitation or information, please contact Dave Will at 759-2056.

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION FOR 2007-2008**

Registration forms are available in the school office for students entering Kindergarten through eighth grade. Registration will take place from February 1-28, 2007. Students registering for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2007. **New this coming school year – we plan to open a second kindergarten in September.** Please submit your registration forms and fees by **February 28, 2007.**

Applications will be prioritized according to the following criteria:

1. Active parishioners of St. Mary's with children at S.M.E.
2. Active parishioners with children in S.M.E. Pre-K
3. Active parishioners of St. Mary's parish
4. Active parishioners of other parishes
5. Non-parishioners

A waiting list will be established when a grade reaches its maximum enrollment. Vacancies will be filled on an earliest to register basis. Everyone is considered as of the date when all the forms and fees have been submitted. The above criteria will be used to fill any vacancies during open registration. All fees are non-refundable unless we are unable to accommodate the student in a specific grade.

Please call the school office for more information at 683-2112 or to schedule a tour. Visit our website at [www.smeschools.com](http://www.smeschools.com).

**PATRON ADS FOR "TWINDERELLA"**

St. Mary's Elementary Drama Club is currently selling patron ads for the upcoming play, Twinderella. In order to meet the expenses involved in staging a successful production, we need and depend on the support of the families of our community. Please consider supporting us, and we hope to see you at the play, March 29th, 30th, and 31st.

Full page ad - \$20.00

½ page ad - \$12.00

Family patron – up to 2 lines bold print - \$5.00

Student booster – one line \$1.00 – for students only

All ads can be either typed, handwritten, or a business card can be used. Be creative!

Please detach the following and send in to the rectory or forms may be picked up at the rectory also.

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Ad \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Content \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All patron ads must be turned in to the rectory by  
February 23, 2007.

**SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?**

Fr. John Bucki, S.J., will show you ways to invite God into your discernment and decision-making on Thursday, March 1st, at 7:30 p.m. during the next session of Come and See in St. Benedict Church, Main Street at Eggert Road in Amherst. Discussion topics include: be-reavement, divorce and separation, annulments, life issues, questions about HIV/AIDS, problems with the Church, coping with cancer. No cost. No reservations required. For information, call 834-1041.



February 18, 2007

Luke 6:27-38

**Give till it hurts**

We all like to think of ourselves as generous. Whether we're giving to family, friends or charity, each of us feels warm and fuzzy when we donate. And we should. Scripture says God loves a cheerful giver. The problem is, God's standards are a little higher than ours. He wants us to be cheerful not just when we give to good people. God calls us to give joyously to the undeserving as well. Jesus said we should give to everyone who asks of us, *everyone*. We're to be open handed and open hearted to the ungrateful, the slow re-payers, the grudging givers and the debt defaulters. It's not a financial decision, it's a spiritual choice. God wants us to give and He'll sort out what happens after we open our hands. We're just called to loosen those fingers to begin with.

It isn't an easy step to take. It's hard to see money, time or gifts be given where they're misused or denigrated. But God stands beside us, encouraging us to give anyway, no matter the cost. He did. He gave His Son to a world that rejected, reviled and crucified Him. He paid with blood for the gift of mercy to be given to people who deny He exists. God gave till it hurts and He calls us to do the same. Can you refuse?

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**A PRAYER OF DAILY BLESSING**

Bless all who struggle in small and large ways.  
Bless our nation's leaders and politicians, that they may find a way to stand tall in short times.  
Bless those of us who have the right to vote; may we know the privilege.  
May we remember Argentina or any country where the franchise has been lost, only to be regained by the blood of citizens.  
Bless the deep water in which we live, that it be fruitful of our faith, courage and Your abundant grace. Amen.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### February 18 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a); 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

### February 19 – Ordinary Weekday

Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

### February 20 – Ordinary Weekday

Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

### February 21 – Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### February 22 – Chair of Peter

1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19

### February 23 – Friday after Ash Wednesday, Polycarp

Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

### February 24 – Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ASHES

*Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return.*

- Roman Missal: Rite of Imposition of Ashes

These are the words that most of us will hear this week as ashes are smeared onto our foreheads at the beginning of Lent. We know that these words are a profound statement of our faith: Without God and his great mercy, we are nothing! Dust! Mere ashes!

Ashes have long been used as signs of repentance. The Old Testament recounts their use throughout salvation history (see Jonah 3:6 and Job 2:8). In their physical state, they are the burnt remains of the blessed palms from the previous year's liturgy of Palm Sunday. Now they act as further reminders of the great mercy with which Christ rules and of our repentance in the face of such mercy.

Aware of our brokenness and our need for penance, we come forward and allow ourselves to be marked with the shape of the cross, the sign of God's ultimate victory over sin, separation and death. This is reason to hope. It is reason to rejoice at the start of this great season. For as strong as our sin is and as strong as our brokenness is, God's mercy is stronger.

The irony of the ashes is that as loudly as they proclaim the realization of our own sinfulness, the fact that they are in the shape of Christ's cross is an even louder proclamation of our faith and hope in the mercy of the one who is our salvation.



### A TWO-FOLD CHALLENGE

The renewal of the Lenten Season gives us an opportunity to look beyond the ordinary, materialistic, pleasure-oriented approach so many of us live in day to day. Ash Wednesday reminds us that life will have an end and calls us to turn to back to God for real happiness in this mortal life. Thus Lent calls us to two powerful actions: turning away from sin, and also turning back to God. Simply treating Lent as a time of fasting and penance gives us only half the story. As the fasting empties us, we also need an active filling of Christian charity and renewed faith. This makes Lent a double challenge: It brings us closer to death and life. Both prayer and good works. Both denial and generosity. The season of Lent, beginning today, can be a doubly blessed opportunity for renewal, if only you see both sides of the story.

### PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

O Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of my sister Death:

*"Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."*

How can I not hear her wise advice?

One day, my life on earth will end:  
the limits on my years are set,  
though I know not the day or hour.

Shall I be ready to meet you?

Let this holy season be a time of grace  
for me and all this world.

Teach us to number our days aright  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

### IT STARTS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday. The Lenten journey begins with ashes, a solemn reminder of life's limits, as we hear "*Remember you are dust and to dust you will return.*" Ash Wednesday calls us to repent of our sins and return to communion with Christ, in preparation for the joy of His Easter resurrection.

\* \* \*

*No snowflake ever falls  
in the wrong place.*

- Zen saying



### GET THE VALUABLES OUT OF THE VAULT

Both in Matthew and in Luke, we find versions of the well-known Sermon on the Mount. In it, Jesus calls us to be His committed followers, a people who can overcome obstacles, even the most personally painful ones. Choosing to live our faith fully may keep us from earning those longed-for millions, it may shatter those plans for plush homes or fast cars. We may find ourselves despised, spurned or ostracized because we desire to live like Christ. But along with the warnings, Jesus' sermon also reminds us that God sees our true value. We are critically important to the work of God's kingdom here on earth. We are responsible for proclaiming the gospel and not "letting someone else do it." Each of us personally must be the ones who will spread the Good News of forgiveness that is found in Jesus Christ. We cannot stay "hidden," much as one might keep the family diamonds locked up in the vault. We must put our Christian faith "on display," every day for Christ.

### NOW YOU KNOW

*What all the advertising terms on products really mean...*

**New** – Different color from previous design.

**All New** – Parts not interchangeable with earlier design.

**Exclusive** – Imported product.

**Unmatched** – Almost as good as the competition.

**Foolproof Operation** – No provision for adjustments.

**Advanced Design** – Our advertisers don't understand it.

**It's Here At Last** – Nobody knew it was coming.

**Field Tested** – Manufacturer lacks test equipment.

**High Accuracy** – Unit on which all parts fit.

**Futuristic** – No other reason it looks the way it does.

**Redesigned** – Previous flaws fixed, we hope.

**Direct Sales Only** – Factory has a big argument with distributor.

**Years of Development** – We finally got one to work.

**Breakthrough** – We finally figured out a use for it.

**Maintenance Free** – Impossible to fix.

**Meets All Standards** – Ours, not yours.

**Solid-state** – Heavy as hell.

**High Reliability** – It will work long enough to ship it.

**Non-Refundable** – We couldn't make it work long enough to ship it.



### PRAY FOR OUR PRESIDENT

In remembering President's Day, believers are called to remember that every president is also a simple human being, created and loved by our Father in heaven. The president is as much in need of prayer, our acceptance and our love as any other member of God's family. Today and every day remember in your prayers the President and all our political leaders, that God's work may be made manifest in our country.

### A CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF PRESIDENT'S DAY

As we celebrate President's Day, here are a few ways to become an active Christian citizen:

Pray for your leaders (politicians)

Become an educated and informed citizen

Vote in all the elections

Make your voice and opinions known: call, fax and e-mail your elected officials to make your concerns on the issues known.

Register to vote.

### OLDER AND WISER

A brawny young man on a construction crew boasted that he could outdo anyone on the job in a feat of strength. One of the old veteran workers sized him up and said, "I'll bet a week's wages I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, Pops," the braggart replied. The older man grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles and said with a smile, "All right, son, get in."

