



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday, March 5 – Lenten Weekday**
12:00 p.m. (Chapel) Myra A. Rohmer (Estate)
- Tuesday, March 6 – Lenten Weekday**
8:30 a.m. (Chapel) Ruth D. Bowen (Estate)
- Wednesday, March 7 – Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs**
11:00 a.m. (Chapel) Gregory Schrader (John & Barb Schrader)
- Thursday, March 8 – John of God**
8:30 a.m. (Chapel) William J. Stewart (Estate)
- Friday, March 9 – Frances of Rome**
8:30 a.m. (Church) All Departed Souls (Family & Friends)
12:00 p.m. (Chapel) Connie Schrader (Estate)
- Saturday, March 10 – Lenten Weekday**
4:30 p.m. (Church) Thomas J. & Hazel I. Drennen (Estate)
7:00 p.m. (Church) Davetta Donovan (Estate)
- Sunday, March 11 – Third Sunday of Lent**
8:00 a.m. (Church) Rob Rozek, Jr. (Mom, Diane)
10:00 a.m. (Church) Michael & John Carlucci (Carlucci Family)
12:00 p.m. (Church) Mr. & Mrs. Frank D. Derkovitz, Sr. (Mr. & Mrs. Frank Derkovitz, Jr.)

FINANCIAL

Regular Collection:	\$12,556.64
Special School Support:	35.00
Hunger Bowl:	33.00
Initial Offering:.....	3.00
Easter:.....	20.00
Easter Flowers:	5.00
Total Collection:	\$12,652.64
Special Fuel Collection:	\$120.00
Special Bells Collection:	\$100.00
Good Friday (Holy Land) Collection:.....	\$10.00
Black & Native American Collection (Mar.):	\$10.00
Home Mission Appeal Collection (Apr.):.....	\$10.00
Building / Mortgage Fund Collection:.....	\$970.67

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, Alfred 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, 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, Karen McCombs, Irene Gworek.

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., Paul Delano.

VOCATIONS

Second Sunday of Lent - March 4, 2007

Peter, John and James had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing His transfiguration. We, too, can have a mountaintop-experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our life. If God is calling you, call Rev. Walter Szczesny at 847-5535.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S**CHURCH****March 6**

Adult Choir Practice – 7:30 p.m.

March 8

Prayer Group – 7:00 p.m.

March 9

School Children Mass – 8:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross – 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL**March 4**

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

RE HS Gr. 9 Parent/Teen Workshop 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Junior Ladies of Charity (Gathering Room) 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Bingo (Team #2) – gym – 2:00 p.m.

Catholic Fathers' Basketball Practice 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

March 5

S.M.E. Scrip (Music Room) 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:00 P.M.

Katherine Beich Fundraiser Pickup 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Boys Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Boys 5 Basketball Practice (Parish Ctr.) 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Youth Group (Parish Center) 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Girls Varsity Basketball Practice (gym) 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

S.M.E. scrip (Music Room) 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Drama Club (gym) 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

March 6

Girls Gr. 6 JV Basketball Practice (Parish Center) 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Boys Volleyball Tryouts (gym) 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Rel. Ed. Grs. 5, 6, 7, 8 (Parish Center) 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

March 7

S.M.E. Scrip (Music Room) 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Boys 3 Basketball Practice (Parish Ctr.) 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Boys 4 Basketball Practice (gym) 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Soup Supper (café.) 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Girl Scout Troop 1233 – (Library) 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Biblical Treasures (Gathering Room) 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

March 8

S.M.E. Scrip (Music Room) 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Care of the Soul Book Club (Gathering Room) 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Drama Club (gym) 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Boys 6 Basketball Practice (Parish Ctr.) 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Boys Volleyball Tryouts (gym) 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Girls Varsity Basketball Practice (Parish Center) 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

March 9

Scrip Sale (Music Room) 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

March 10

Eucharist Retreat (Parish Center) 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

S.M.E. Scrip Sale – (Music Room) 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Girls Varsity Basketball (Parish Center) 12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Boys Volleyball (gym) 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL
LENTEN SERVICE...MARCH 7TH...**

...will be at the Lancaster Presbyterian Church, 5461 Broadway, Lancaster. Service begins at 12:00 noon followed by soup and sandwich lunch. The speaker will be the Rev. Daven Oskvig. Join fellow area Christians in prayer during this special season of Lent. Wednesday Mass will be at **11:00 a.m.**

THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY DRAW WINNER IS...

...Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Piskadlo - \$250 – Congratulations!

THE PROGRESSIVE BINGO NUMBER IS: #52.

SOUP AND SCRIPTURE SERIES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH

Soup Supper is at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The Scripture series this year is entitled: "Biblical treasures: A Look at some of the lesser Known Biblical Books and Stories." This week "Ruth, Judith and Esther: The Women Books – Saving Loved Ones." Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room (Parish Center). All are welcome. Come for supper and scripture presentation or for one or the other. If you have a bible, bring it with you. Presenter will be Fr. Paul.

CARE OF THE SOUL BOOK CLUB



The March meeting will be held **Thursday, March 8th**, in the **Gathering Room at S.M.E. from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome especially those who usually stop in the Gathering Room for coffee and treats after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. We are still in the process of discussing the book:

"Father Elijah, An Apocalypse," by Michael O'Brien. We will be continuing from Chapter 8. We will also be assessing our next book choice for review at this meeting. Special thanks to Ginny Loecher for providing treats for the group!

We will also meet at the home of Barb Schrader at 134 Irwinwood Rd., Lancaster, on **Thursday evening, March 8th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**, for those who are unable to attend the morning meeting. If you plan on attending the evening meeting, please call Barb at 684-6148 for more information or to join us.

UNITED WAY OF BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY DONOR CHOICE PROGRAM

St. Mary's Church is now a participant in the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Donor Choice Program and Community Care Campaign.

You may now direct your United Way of Buffalo and Erie County donation on your donor card to **either** St. Mary of the Assumption Church **or** St. Mary's Elementary School.

The United Way Community Care Campaign provides donors with a unique opportunity to support a diverse network of human services. A gift to United Way Community Care ensures that critical needs are met in the community.

RECYCLE BIN IN THE PARKING LOT

Recycle your newspapers!!! Recycle your magazines!!! Recycle old catalogues!!! So far, St. Mary's has received more than \$1,000 from Abitibi Recycling Company. For every ton of paper, St. Mary's receives \$5.00 – so "thank you" and keep recycling!

FUEL COLLECTION

Please help! We just received our latest fuel bill for \$9,451.38. Our expenses increase greatly during these winter months and with the continued cold weather, we anticipate our next bill to be very high. The last bill we paid for fuel was \$6,256.00 for the month of January. Please be generous when using your fuel envelope in your church offertory packet.

VISIT TO SEVEN CHURCHES

St. James Parish in Depew will be sponsoring a bus trip to visit seven churches on Holy Thursday Evening. A bus will leave the front of St. James Church at approximately 8:00 p.m. Most of the churches we will visit are at least 100 years old. We will return at approximately 10:00 p.m. for decaf coffee, juice and donuts in our parish cafeteria. The cost is \$4.00 per person and \$7.00 per family. Please contact St. James rectory at 683-2746 to reserve a seat or if you have any questions.

We will visit Our Lady of Czestochowa, St. Bernard, St. Casimir, Precious Blood, St. Stephen, St. Louis. St. James is considered the first.

MAGNIFICAT

Come and bring a friend to the next **MAGNIFICAT** breakfast on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at the Holiday Inn-Amherst, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. Please join your sisters in Christ for a breakfast buffet and to hear the powerful witness of Linda Schaefer. Linda, a former editor and photojournalist for CNN, was blessed to have spent several months in India working and photographing Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her Missions of Charity. Her book, "Come and See, A Photojournalist's Journey Into the World of Mother Teresa," documents the work of the Missionaries of Charity. Registration at 9:30 a.m. Prepaid reservations of \$15.00 are required by: March 24, 2007 to: Magnificat-Buffalo, c/o Maureen Janik, 257 Fareway Lane, Grand Island, NY 14072. Telephone: 716-773-3834.



FOOD COLLECTION

Food is now being collected for the Easter baskets. Food will be collected until March 30th. This can be part of your Lenten sacrifice. Please be generous!

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD MEETING

...is at 3:30 p.m., Monday, March 5th, at St. Elizabeth's, 5539 Broadway, Lancaster.

THE ELMA LADIES AUXILIARY

...will be hosting a French Toast Breakfast on Sunday, March 18, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Elma Social Hall at 2945 Bowen Road, Elma. Adults - \$6.00 / Children under 12 - \$5.00.

34TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

...sponsored by Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, Lancaster Fire Department, Sunday, March 4, 2007, serving from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Bldg., Broadway, Lancaster. Adults 1 - \$6.50 and Children 12 and under - \$3.00.

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament will be sponsoring a **Trash & Treasure Sale**, April 14. Tables are available for \$15. For information, call Helen at 683-6346 or Pat at 683-6791.

VIVA SAN GIUSEPPE

St. Joseph's Day Table, March 11, from 12:00 noon-3:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Peace Church, 10950 Main St., Clarence, N.Y. There is no charge for the dinner, but any donations received will go to the Clarence Food Pantry at the Clarence Presbyterian Church and the Catholic Charities sponsored Lackawanna/South Buffalo Food Pantries.

MEAT RAFFLE

Ladies Auxiliary of the Pvt. Leonard Post Jr., Post #6251, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y., Present their 1st Annual Meat Raffle on Saturday, March 24th. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Raffle starts at 7:00 p.m. \$2.00 admission includes beer, pop and snacks. A variety of quality meat provided by Sloan Supermarket. For more information, call the post at 684-4371.



March 4, 2007 Luke 9:28b-36

Playing your part

When we talk about the Transfiguration, naturally we focus on Jesus and how He was revealed in glory with Moses and Elijah. Jesus is the star of this drama with Peter, James and John merely there as an audience. But wait! Let's not underestimate the value of an audience.

If an event has no witnesses, who will tell the story afterwards? Yes, participants can tell their own tales, but the tales have less credibility. We want an outside objective witness to confirm the story really happened, which makes the audience as crucial as the leading role. Not only that, as Christians, everything we do is part of something bigger than ourselves. We act our part in a play written by the Supreme Director. How can we judge whether we're cast as a lead or merely an extra? The important thing is that we show up, willing to play any part He offers us. Sometimes we'll have lots of lines and sometimes we'll be off in the wings, but either way the scene will reveal His glory if we just keep our eyes open. If you've been feeling like a bit player lately, pick your script back up and trust the Director. The very next scene He has planned may be your shining moment.

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 11-NOVEMBER 4

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m.

A PRAYER FOR A NEW WEEK

Come now to us and turn us toward a new week, with a hunger for surprise, a refusal of despair, an openness to possibilities that are as sure as your dawn and your sweet-smelling morning jasmine.

Guide us to and through the deep water of living, Great Leader, so that we may be safe in danger, secure in adventures, ready for risks. When we get afraid and want to turn back and forsake you, take us by the hand and touch our fear. Make us more afraid of fear than we are afraid. And grant us your guidance and our ability to follow it. Amen.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

March 4 – Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1
Lk 9:28b-36

March 5 – Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Lk 6:36-38

March 6 – Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16c-17, 21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12

March 7 – Lenten Weekday, Perpetua and Felicity

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

March 8 – Lenten Weekday, John of God

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31

March 9 – Lenten Weekday, Frances of Rome

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

March 10 – Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

INSPIRATIONAL

Given all that he needed

He asked for strength that he might achieve,
He was made weak that he might obey.
He asked for health that he might do greater things,
He was given infirmity that he might do better things.
He asked for riches that he might be happy,
He was given poverty that he might be wise.
He asked for power that he might have the praise of men,
He was given weakness that he might feel the need for God.
He asked for all things that he might enjoy life,
He was given life that he might enjoy all things.
He has received nothing that he asked for,
All that he hoped for,
His prayer is answered; he is most blessed.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Transfiguration – Goal of the Season of Lent

In all three years of the Lectionary, today's Gospel is an account of Christ's Transfiguration. With the disciples on the top of the mountain, Christ is transfigured, becoming dazzling white. The disciples see him in the company of Moses and Elijah. Coming, as this does, in the second week of Lent, the account of the Transfiguration is presented as an image for the continued journey of conversion and transformation that Lent is to be for us.

In the Transfiguration we see a glimpse of Jesus' ultimate transformation, which will ultimately come through his death and Resurrection. It is an image of the glory he will enter into through his death on the cross and his being raised by God the Father.

At the same time, it is an image of our own transformation as those baptized into Christ's death and Resurrection. We will hear, on the night of Holy Saturday, in the proclamation of St. Paul's letter to the Romans, that those of us who have been baptized into the death of Jesus Christ will be united with him in the Resurrection.

We speak about this kind of transformation as conversion, which is the ultimate goal of our Lenten journey. At the end of these Forty Days, we are called to stand at the edge of the waters of the baptismal font *different* from what we were at the beginning of the season. On the night of Holy Saturday we should be able to claim that through the disciplines of Lent we have been conformed more to Jesus Christ, in whose image we have been baptized.

May today's image of the transfigured Christ be our guide for this 40-day journey!

Written by D. Todd Williamson. Copyright ©2006 Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications; 1-800-933-1800; www.LTP.org.



TURN TO ME

Lent is a time of repentance. When we are called to turn away from sin and return to a faithful walk with the Lord. In Hebrew the word for repentance is teshuvah, which comes from the root word, shuvah, meaning “to turn,” like the turning of the earth to the sun, or the turning of soil before planting. This Lenten season, let us turn over the sin dead soil of hearts, planting His word deep in fresh soil, so that as we turn our faces to Him we will grow in the light of His Son.

IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE...

A teacher was meeting with the father of a boy in her class.

“Well,” said the teacher, “there’s one thing I can say about your son.”

“What’s that?” asked the father.

“With grades like these he couldn’t have been cheating.”

* * *

In his farewell sermon, the pastor was eloquent in his final appearance at the church. His text: “In my Father’s house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also.”

It was later learned that the pastor had accepted a position as a chaplain in the nearby state prison.

* * *

During a revival meeting, the charismatic evangelist asked anyone who had a need to come to the stage. Moving to the first respondent, the preacher asked, “Brother, what is your need?”

“My hearing,” the man replied.

The evangelist spit on his finger, put it in the man’s ear, prayed to the Lord, and then asked the man, “How’s your hearing now?”

“I don’t know,” the man replied. “It’s not till next Tuesday.”

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

The sermon on the mount forces Christians to face one of Christ’s most demanding and difficult commandments. How can we possibly love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us and pray for them? To behave like that just isn’t possible.

How true that is for many Christians! Jesus’ call to selfless love *is* impossible if we don’t rely on Him. When we try to fill our own hearts with love we will fail every time, because love isn’t the core of our human nature anymore. Sin is. We need an immortal, all powerful Father working a miracle in our hearts if we are to fulfill the mission Christ outlined. Only with God’s power can we become the love-filled people of His kingdom. Bringing Christ’s love to the world is a mission we desperately need to complete, but one that will remain impossible until we bow our knees, heads and hearts in submission to God.

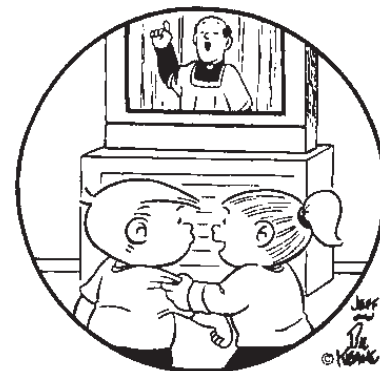
* * *

Though for many years they had argued over various theological issues, two pastors from different denominations had remained good friends.

As they grew older, one pastor remarked how miraculous it was they had been able to remain good friends for so many years despite their many differences.

“That is as it should be,” the other pastor replied. “After all, we both teach the same lessons, and we both teach the same Gospel – you in your way, and I in His.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life.”

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com