



Mass Intentions

- Monday** **February 23 Polycarp, bishop, martyr**
5:00 p.m. Stanley Kaminski and Robert Boylan
- Tuesday** **February 24**
8:30 a.m. Emily Valentine
- Wednesday** **February 25 Ash Wednesday**
8:30 a.m. Thomas P. Murray
12:15 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Jeanne and Robert Coe
- Thursday** **February 26**
8:30 a.m. Faithful Departed
- Friday** **February 27**
8:30 a.m. Leo Pitts
- Saturday** **February 28**
9:00 a.m. Irene Wissinger
4:30 p.m. Jane Kirkbride
- Sunday** **March 1st - 1st Sunday of Lent**
8:00 a.m. People of St. Mary Parish
9:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the
 Stillwell and Huge Family
11:00 a.m. Katherine and Roy Cheevers

Readings for the Week of February 16, 2009

- Mon: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2,5; Mk 9:14-29
Tues: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37
Wed: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thurs: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 11-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
Fri: Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Sat: Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sun: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

In your prayers...



This week, please remember all in our parish community, the intentions in our intention book, our family and friends in need, especially: **Barbara, Eva, Florence, Lawrence, Molly** and all who have asked for our prayers.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Geraldine Smith** and **Richard Snyder** who died this week and for the consolation of their loved ones.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday Collection (02/15/09)	\$10,376.50
Pension and Hospitalization	\$623.00
Envelopes	346
Building Fund	\$127.00

Our gratitude to all of you who are so generous.

Thank you!

[2nd Collection March 1st - Black & Indian Missions]



My Friends,

This week we enter into the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday services. You can check this bulletin for the schedule of services and the regulations for fast and abstinence. Beginning with Matthew's Gospel, the Church has always recommended prayer, fasting and almsgiving as the remedy for sin. If we think of sin as a rupture in our relationship with God and one another, these disciplines make sense. Prayer is the way we renew our relationship with God. Almsgiving is the antidote for sins against our neighbor. Fasting is the way we deny ourselves and make God the center of our lives. Lent is a season of grace if we take its observance seriously.

As part of our Lenten observance, I would like to suggest a couple of ways to embrace the discipline of almsgiving. On Ash Wednesday we will take up a collection in support of the St. Joseph Overnight Shelter in Lorain. The needs at the shelter are local and certainly deserving of our support. In a time when funds are drying up, the need of providing basic overnight shelter for the homeless is more critical than ever.

We are also in the midst of our Catholic Charities Campaign. These monies are kept separate from diocesan operations in the Cleveland Catholic Foundation. They are used to fund social services throughout our 8 county diocese. With budget cutbacks in state funding and the shrinking of foundation contributions, these services are more important than ever. I believe Catholic Charities is one of the best things we do as a diocese.

One last suggestion I would like to make would be your participation in Operation Rice Bowl. As envisaged by Catholic Relief Services, the program engages all three disciplines. You are asked to share a simple meal together (fasting) during which you remember and pray for those who have no food (prayer). The money you save is collected in the 'rice bowl' and contributed to Catholic Relief Services at the end of Lent (almsgiving). This is a great way to observe Lent as a family.

The interesting thing about Lent is that you will only get out as much as you put in. We need to move from hardened hearts to humble, contrite hearts. May God bless us with a generous spirit as we walk with the Lord to Jerusalem.

Fr Charlie

PS: I want to take this opportunity to thank all who worked so hard to make the Heart's Desire dinner and raffle such a pleasant evening. The food was great and the company enjoyable. While many worked to make it a success, I would like to acknowledge in a special way the efforts of Debbie Conner, Jennifer Ehlke, Terri Oakes and Kelly Copa. Your efforts are especially appreciated by those who attended the evening and the rest of the parish for the funds raised.

FASTING and ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 25th and Good Friday, April 10th are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast that is limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



This Week in our Parish

Monday

February 23
 5:30 p.m. Helping Hands Ministry – Conference Room
 6:30 p.m. PSR – Marian & St. Joseph Buildings
 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Commission – Staff Room

Tuesday

February 24
 5:00 p.m. Hot Meals - Cafeteria

Wednesday

February 25
 2:15/3:30 p.m. Day School / Parish -Young People Choir – Church
 2:20 p.m. Brownies T591 & Cadets T729 – Green Room
 2:20 p.m. Girl Scout T278 – Art Room
 5:00 p.m. Pierogi Making - Cafeteria
 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir – Church

Thursday

February 26
 9:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration – Lower Church
 5:00 p.m. Pierogi Making - Cafeteria
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study – Lower Church

Saturday

February 28
 5:30 p.m. MAD Factory Dinner/Show - Hall

Sunday

March 1
 11:00 a.m. Pre-School P.S.R. – St. Joseph Building
 11:00 a.m. RCIA – Weigand Room
 7:00 p.m. Men’s Basketball - Hall

200 CLUB WINNER: 02/22/09 Don Gaydosh #124



February 25, 2009

Masses: 8:30am and 7:00pm
 Prayer Service: 12:15pm

St. Mary Parish will once again serve pierogi lunches on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays during Lent from 11:30-1:00pm in the Weigand Room. Lunches consist of 5 Sophie’s Choice pierogi, applesauce, tossed salad and beverage. Cost is \$6.00.



The next Senior Luncheon will be Tuesday, March 3rd. We will begin with lunch at Noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$4.00. Please call in your reservations to Sr. Mary Dorothy at 322-1423 by

Friday, Feb. 27th. We look forward to a great meal, good fellowship and game of BINGO for those who wish to stay. Bring a friend and enjoy a great afternoon.

BRING AN APRON!!! Volunteers are needed to help make pierogi for the *St. Mary’s Home Made Pierogi Sale*. We will meet **Wed., Feb. 25th & Thurs. Feb. 26th ~ 5-8pm in the School Cafeteria.** No Experience Needed! If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Jerry Boron at 458-4722.

Lent is a great time to “*Consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away....but encourage one another*” Hebrews 10:24-25. Why not invite a friend or family member to come to Eucharistic Adoration with you. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every Thursday, 9:00am – 5:00pm in the lower Chapel. Please call Pat Franco, 365-3570 to reserve your special hour with Jesus.



Registration for the 2009-2010 school year for Preschool, Kindergarten and **NEW** students to St. Mary School has begun. Students new to St. Mary School must bring the following documentation with them when registering: Birth Certificate, Baptismal

Certificate (if not baptized at St. Mary Parish), Records of First Communion and First Reconciliation (if applicable), Immunization records, Legal custody papers (if applicable), and Registration fee of \$150 (non-refundable). A student registering for Kindergarten must be five years old by September 30, 2009. Registration will be considered completed when Parish registration has been verified and the school office has received all materials and fees. Please call the School Office at 322-2808 if you have questions or need additional information.

CALLING ALL ST. MARY BAKERS: Please contact Annie Cunningham at 323-5539 if you would be willing to bake for one of the receptions following the Tetelestai performances - March 6, 7 & 8.

2009 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal:

Blessed is the person who has regard for the lowly and poor. Ps 41:2

Consider the plight of those who are less fortunate. We know that Jesus has called us not only to recognize that all that we are and all that we have is given to us by our God but also that we return a portion of those gifts as a sign of our gratitude. A gift to Catholic Charities, a gift to support service to the poor, is one way to show gratitude for God’s role in our lives. Please pray for the success of this important Appeal.

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, MARCH 6, 2009: Sister Judy Dohner, HM: “An Island Far From Paradise” Haiti, a Caribbean island that lies less than two hours by plane from the United States, is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Sr. Judy Dohner, a missionary Sister who has worked in Haiti for six years, will discuss why Haiti has become so poor, what the consequences of such poverty are, and what is being done and can be done to alleviate the suffering. Join the First Friday Forum for spiritual refreshment, fellowship, and good food at LCCC Spitzer Conference Center, 11:30AM! Tickets are \$15.00. RSVP by calling the reservation line at 244-0643 or fflorain@gmail.com before 3pm Monday, March 2, 2009.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers provide **FREE TAX ASSISTANCE** (for ages 60+) in Elyria at the American Red Cross 2929 West River Rd. Mon/Wed. 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am-11am by appointment. Call 324-2929 for information or to make an appointment.

Married Couples: As we prepare for Lent, let us think about ways to change our hearts and enrich our Sacrament of Marriage. Take time now to build a stronger Sacrament. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are April 17-19 and October 16-18, 2009. Dates fill fast, early registration is recommended. For more information or to register, call Ken and Rose Breen at 440-899-9002 or check the web: www.wvme.org.



We are the Stewards of God’s Green Earth.

Sponsored by Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County

Decrease CO2 emissions while saving money. Don’t idle...idling more than 10 seconds takes more gas than turning your car off and starting it up again. Fifteen minutes of idling per weekday can cost you up to \$100/year while also creating twice the emissions of a car in motion.