

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—March 8, 2009



# St. Elizabeth

2035 Fifteenth Street West  
Hastings, MN 55033

*Ann Seton*

[www.seasparish.org](http://www.seasparish.org)

Parish Office:  
651-437-4254

Fr. Jim Perkl, Pastor ~ Fr. Abraham George, Associate Pastor

## MASS SCHEDULE

### **Weekends:**

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday:

7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 6:00 pm

### **Daily Mass (*During Lent*)**

Monday-Friday: 7:00 am, 5:15 pm

### **Stations & Benediction**

*(During Lent)*

Friday: 7:00 pm

### **Reconciliation**

Weekdays at 6:45 am

Every Saturday 3:45-4:15 pm

### **Anointing**

*Immediately after the 5:15 pm Mass on the first Thursday of the month, or by appointment.*

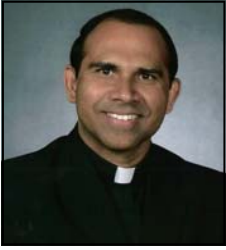
## ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

On Tuesday, March 17 we'll celebrate Mass at 11:30am, followed by corned beef and cabbage at the VFW in downtown Hastings. Tickets and buttons will be sold after Mass on March 14/15, and before Mass on March 17.

## CCW PRAYER SHAWL MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19 from 10am-noon in the Youth Room. All knitters and crocheters are welcome! If you have questions, contact Linda at 952-818-9502





## "This is My Beloved Son. Listen to Him!"

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Transfiguration of Jesus is both proof of Jesus' divinity and a preparation of the apostles for the coming trial of their faith when they would witness the death of Jesus. It is also appropriate to see it as a vivid demonstration of what Lent is supposed to do for us, namely, *transform us more and more into Christ, and make us new creatures through our sharing in Christ's death and resurrection*. But the combination of this gospel with the sacrifice of Abraham places it into a new light, and St. Paul in his letter to Romans puts the meaning in specific terms.

Abraham is surely one of the most remarkable and admirable persons who ever lived. From this distance we cannot possibly imagine his agony and anguish when the Lord commands, "Take your son Isaac, your only son, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Isaac, we recall, is the "miracle child" whom God had promised Abraham in his old age. And it is now that same God who makes this demand! That is part of Abraham's agony. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky or as the sands by the seashore.

Even though Abraham does not understand, he still is ready to carry out God's command. He does not rebel. This is given as an example of his great faith and total trust in God. God's promises will be honored even though it is not clear how. Of course, we know that at the moment Abraham raised the knife to kill his son on the altar of sacrifice, God told him to stop. Abraham had proved his faith and confidence in God and Isaac did indeed live to continue on Abraham's line to countless generations.

Beautiful is this story. But it is not the whole story and meaning for us today. For that we go to the gospel. Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a high mountain. Jesus was transfigured before them, and a voice came from the cloud, saying: "**This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!**" These words practically reproduce the prophecy of one of the Servant Songs of the prophet Isaiah, which foretells the passion and death of the Servant of Yahweh who will suffer and die for all mankind. St. Paul sums up it perfectly: "*God did not spare his own Son, but handed him over for us all.*" It is good for us to remember that the Transfiguration takes place shortly before Jesus' passion and death.

There is a clear parallel between Isaac and Jesus. Both are the well-beloved and only sons of their fathers. Both carry the wood on which they are to be slain. Both are innocent. Both are willing to die freely, out of love. What we can only try to imagine is the anguish that rends the hearts of the fathers at the prospect of seeing their sons sacrificed. Parents who lose a child through death have some idea of the feeling of Abraham and the Father almighty.

It is easy to see God's love in our lives in good times but it is equally important to realize that it is true even in bad times. Even in the very worst of experiences - a terrible and painful sickness, great mental suffering, disappointment, rejection, failure - God's love is there, just as it was in the awful moments of agony of Jesus on the Cross.

Being a Christian means being willing to offer back to God what is nearest and dearest to us- as Abraham did, as God the Father did and as Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, did. What is dearest to us may be a human person, just an old way of life, a profession, or simply our opinions or our own will. Whatever it is that we give back to God. Then God's messenger will tell us as he told Abraham: "*I know now how devoted you are to God...I will bless you abundantly.*"

On that day of the Transfiguration the disciples were asked to listen to Jesus and learn how God's love was working in and through Jesus even at that moment when he was left totally without dignity and in the depths of hopelessness. It was a lesson that they would learn in time and they would boldly follow in his footsteps and give their own lives in the service of the Gospel and the Kingdom. It is for us, too, to listen to Jesus today and to ask for the kind of faith and trust that Abraham had; that everything which happens to us is ultimately for the greater glory of God and our well-being and happiness.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI  
Associate pastor

## Spiritual Life

### 9:30 MASS EASTER SUNDAY - CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir will sing at the 9:30am Mass on Easter Sunday, April 12th. We will have 4 rehearsals on Wednesday, March 11 & 25 and April 1 & 8 from 5:45 - 6:30pm in the church. Please consider joining us for Easter. The choir is open to all children in grades 3-8. Please call Mo (ext. 228) or Chris (ext. 230) with any questions.

### THE SETON SINGERS

If you would like to be a part of the Holy Week and Easter Vigil Choir, come join the Seton Singers for their next rehearsal on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00pm in the church.

### THE SETON RINGERS (HANDBELL CHOIR)

The Seton Ringers will have their next rehearsal on Tuesday, March 10 at 5:45pm in the church.

### ANNAJEAN OBY SCHOLARSHIP

If you are a graduating senior this year and are an active member of any of our choirs or cantoring ministry, you are eligible to be a recipient of the Annajean Oby Scholarship. Contact Chris at ext. 230 if you are interested in receiving the Scholarship application.

### ATTENTION ALL PAST & PRESENT MUSICIANS!

We are taking inventory of our music and are missing many copies of music. If you have extra copies of music at home, please return them to Chris at the Parish Office. This will save us having to order unnecessary music for our choirs.

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND..

If you have extra pyx (plastic containers to transfer the Precious Body of Christ) at home or find you have pyx that you are not using, please return them to the Parish Office.

### ST. CLOUD STATE/HASTINGS HIGH CONCERT

Join the St. Cloud State University Concert Choir (Lee Nelson, conductor) and Percussion Collective (Terry Vermillion, conductor) as they explore the transcending power of music through their exciting program Inspiration to Transformation. This concert will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on Thursday, March 26, at 7:00pm. The performance will include an appearance by the Hastings High School Concert Choir (Lin Warren, conductor). A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of admission.

## Eucharistic Adoration



In the Chapel of Resurrection 24 Hours Each Day Except During Weekend Mass Times. Use the NORTH entrance of the building for late evening and night time hours.

*Everyone is welcome.*

*Come when you like,  
stay as long as you wish.*

*Our Lord is always ready to welcome you!*

Divine Mercy Prayer Hour each Wednesday, 7-8pm

Little Way of Divine Love Prayer Group each

Sunday 7:15 – 8:45pm

Everyone is welcome in the prayer groups.

**When you visit Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration this week, please pray** 1) for the SEAS RCIA candidates and for all who are preparing to enter the Church on Holy Saturday 2) for the return to the Faith of all who have separated themselves from the Church 3) in reparation for all sins against the First Commandment (when we make things in our life more important than God) 4) for the spiritual and physical well being of the homebound 5) for the closure of the Mildred Hanson abortion clinic 6) that our country will embrace values pleasing to God 7) for the Total Life Care Center being established in Hastings and 8) for Father Jim, Father Abraham, all the area priests, the SEAS Parish and Staff, the Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis, the Red Lake Indian Mission and the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya.

### ADORATION SUBSTITUTES AND COMMITTED PRAY-ERS:

If you have not already done so, please stop by the back of the chapel to pick up the letter that is waiting for you.

### ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT MAKING A COMMITMENT BECAUSE YOU MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE ABLE TO KEEP IT?

If you make a commitment and there is a time when you cannot come for your hour, you need only to call your coordinator, who will arrange for a substitute. If you chose an hour when there is another person committed, more than likely that person will be able to be at adoration when you cannot. Here are some morning hours when it would be helpful to have another committed pray-er. Maybe one of these hours would work for you.

Monday 10-11AM, Tuesday 11-noon, Wednesday 11-noon, Thursday 9-10AM, Friday 8-9AM, Saturday 11-noon. For more information or to make a commitment to one of these hours, please call Mary Ann at 437-4546 or Marguerita at 437-9777.

## Stewardship

### MINISTRY THROUGH OUR GIFTS

When we think of gifts, we tend to think of material things. However, the greatest gift we can give is the gift of ourselves, our time, love of one another prayer and our talents. Let us answer God's call to build His kingdom within our families and church by sharing our gifts with one another.

Every family will be receiving a copy of the Volunteer Opportunities here at SEAS. Please take a moment to mark areas that you and your family would be interested in becoming involved in and return it to the parish office. If you have any questions, give us a call at the parish office.

#### **Weekend of March 1, 2009**

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$25,449.96
Plate.....	\$1,899.18
Youth Envelopes.....	\$121.80
Weekly Total.....	\$27,470.94
Weekly Budgeted.....	\$19,796.00
Difference.....	\$7,674.94
Phase II Building Fund.....	\$1,744.00

#### **Year to Date Actual Budget**

Actual.....	\$1,196,460.15
Budgeted.....	\$1,233,119.00
Difference.....	(\$36,658.85)

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY

#### **Sunday, March 15, 2009**

*Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/29*

*Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11*

*1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

*John 2:13-25*

### WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

If you are interested in having your wedding at SEAS, please contact Janet at ext. 265 at least six months prior to your expected celebration date.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please call the parish office for information about baptism class times and baptism dates.

## SEAS School

### DENIM & DIAMONDS ...An Adult Evening For The Benefit of Our Kids

is this year's Spring Fling theme! Reserve the date: Friday, April 24th  
Social Hour begins at 5:30. Reservations can be made at the school or church office. The event is \$40 per person. Wear your jeans and dress them up with your diamonds...and enjoy dinner, wine and participate in the live and silent auctions. Come support our school!

There are many ways to donate:

- Please send in your raffle tickets that will be sent mid-March!
- You can donate to our Fund-A-Need. This year the need is to maintain and improve the Technology plan for the school. All pledges will go directly to improving technology at SEAS School.
- We also have a special auction item: Principal's Purse. We will collect donations in the form of cash and gift certificates or any other small item and place them in our esteemed Principal, Mrs. Humbert's purse. This purse and all its contents will be auctioned off...you won't know exactly what is in it, but it will be spectacular!
- One half of all proceeds from this event will go to the SEAS Endowment Fund. The endowment fund uses the interest to help families who need tuition assistance.

If you are willing to donate to the Spring Fling or have any questions, please call Kay at 437-5205 or Jaci at 216-4681.

### SEAS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

SEAS Preschool is now taking registration for the upcoming school year. We have limited space available. Please call the school for more information. If you would like to come and visit us before you register, call and we can make an appointment for you. Call the Early Childhood Campus at 651-438-3223 or email Polly at [pbauer@seasparish.org](mailto:pbauer@seasparish.org) or Barb at [blaumeyer@seasparish.org](mailto:blaumeyer@seasparish.org).

### OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUE TO EXCEL!

Here are the statistics for Semester I Honor Rolls at Hastings High School:

- 66% of the SEAS students who graduated last year are on the A & B Honor Roll
- 58% of the SEAS students from the class of 2007
- 78% of the SEAS students from the class of 2006 (Juniors now!)
- 68% of the SEAS students from the class of 2005 (Way to go Seniors!)

About 68% of our 8th graders demonstrate (with their grades) their ability to transition well to high school. We are proud of you!!! Keep up the good work.

### SEAS SCHOOL KITUI H2O PROJECT

Imagine walking from Cottage Grove to Hastings and back carrying a 20 gallon barrel of water. Imagine while you are doing that, you are barefoot, hungry and thirsty. This happens in and around Kitui, Kenya 365 days a year.

On Ash Wednesday students from SEAS began the H2O project. During this project the students will practice solidarity with the children in Kitui, Kenya who are experiencing a desperate food and water shortage. Students are asked to give up juice and soft drinks and donate that money to the H2O project. They are encouraged to have family and friends join in their cause. Each student is wearing a blue wristband to remind them of the sacrifice they are making for the people of Kitui. The project goes for two weeks and ends March 13, 2009.

SEAS has been doing this project for the past three years. In a partnership with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the students have contributed money that has helped to build 5 dams to collect rain during the rainy season that will help maintain water during the dry season. These dams are able to hold approximately 5 million liters of water.

# Faith Formation News

## **FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION: LEARNING STATIONS**

Please make every effort to attend the next First Eucharist session on Friday, March 27 from 4-7pm or on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30-11:00am. Please complete Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 in your child's book prior to the Learning Stations. Remember to bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if they were baptized at a church other than SEAS. If you have questions please contact Mary Ellen at ext. 227.

# Adult Faith Formation News

## **LENT & THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

In the early days of Christianity, Lent was a 40-day retreat to purify their body and spirit for those preparing for baptism at Easter. Since there was no practice of ritual infant baptism, this is how people entered the Church. With the emergence of infant baptism and confirmation, this link between baptism and Lent was largely lost. The purification processes of Lent expanded to all Christians-both to support the new converts and to reaffirm and fortify their own faith. Gradually, the link was further broken to the point where many people see Lent as nothing but abstinence from one or two beloved foods, rather than as a period of purification of the spirit.

In 1972, the Church restored RCIA, the Rite of Christians Initiation of Adults – a formal process for adults to enter the Church. With it also was restored the link between adult baptism and Lent.

The catechumens in our parish have been in classes since fall, and beginning with the First Sunday of Lent, the period of preparation formally began with the Rite of Election, in which the catechumen's name is spoken aloud and read into the book of those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for our catechumens and candidates as they continue their journey to Easter.

## **EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE : LENT 2009**

Materials are located in the Gathering Space for pick-up. If you would like to meet in a small group, please call Jill at ext. 225.

## **SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS...**

We are in the last week of facilitator training for separated and divorced Catholics that will enable the parish to offer our own support sessions. Please keep the facilitators in your prayers as they proceed through this training. Please call Mary Ellen at ext. 227 if you would like for more information about the Support Group.

## **FIREPROOF LENT 2009**

We will be offering a three-week series on the movie "*Fireproof*". This is a movie that takes a realistic and Christian look at a marriage that is crumbling. Finally, the couple finds a plan that challenges them to love God, to love better, and to love for a lifetime. Over the three weeks we will watch the movie and offer a Catholic discussion. Sessions will be held on the following Mondays, 3/23, 3/30, and 4/6 from 7-9:00pm. Please call the Office of Faith Formation to register.

## **A CATECHETICAL MINUTE WITH JEANNE HILL, OP**

Lesson 3 continues with the Liturgy. In the Liturgy, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all present. During the Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus calls upon the Holy Spirit in the invocation to bring the Sacrifice to the Father. When Christ offers himself to the Father, He offers all of us to the Father. One sacrifice is offered, "Ut meum au vestuam Sacrificium." This is how we are united with Christ in the Sacrifice of the Liturgy. The Liturgy has changed in custom somewhat as it spread throughout the world over the years. There are many nationalities that have adapted their customs and cultures into their words to express the Liturgy so that it is meaningful to them. However, it is the same, one Sacrifice of the Mass around the world. The word catholic means universal, which is what the Catholic Church is. Male priests celebrate the Liturgy. Christ chose men. This is His will. We must do His will, not ours. Next time you are at Mass, consider yourself part of the offering to the Father. I will. The next lesson is on Baptism and Confirmation. What do these two sacraments have in common (CCC1210-1261)? What about the renewal of your own Baptismal promises?

# Parish Family & Life

## PRAYER CORNER

**Note:** To add a name to the prayer corner, please call Janie at extension 224 with the name of the loved one needing prayers, your name, and your telephone number. Thank you!

Jerry Abbott, Jesse Abbott, Vince & Delores Braun, George Brockman, Barbara Buck, Bill Boesel, Eva Bernstein, Jan Burr, Marlene Burkard, Peter Biesel & family, Jacob Berggren, Ruth Bremer, Jim Burgoyne, Gary Benson, Vickie Cunningham, Carol & Chris Capriglione family, Baby Dominic Capriglione, Cole Christian, Pat Conway, Marie Cowan, Mary Cedar, Scott Dodge, Don Diamond, Clarence Drietz, Margaret Denn, Monica Driscoll, Alisoun Forsmark, Margie Flemming, Jim Flemming, Roger Fike, Barb Frank, Brian Fraleigh, Lorene Gergen, Julie Gabor, Steve Gilbert, Bill Gilles, Ryan Gelhar, Jim Gergen, Craig Giles, Bill Hobday, Jim Heerey, Deanne Swainston-Harrison, Collette Hall, John Hoffmann, Eric Hood, Lynn Hunter, Mike Husman, Jon Holmes & Family, Margaret Huberty, Diane Hoyt, Tom Imdieke, Sr. Florence Judge, Jerry Kasel, Gary Kitzmann, Jill Kisby, Patty Kimmes, Kiki, BPK, Lucy & family, RSM, Abigail Macioch, Cheryl Murtaugh, Jodi McNamara, Mike, Jim McGrath, Adam Majetch, Robert Meiers, Joyce Morin, Pete Nelson, Ruth, Rita Razidlo, Ryan, Dan Riley, Charlene Schapp, Terry Salo, Al Sieben, Emma Seeger, Gordon Sanders, Fran Schneider, Jackie Scott, Michael Schaack, Rick Smith, Rose Sieben, Jane & Daniel Saxton, Ted Trondson, Sylvester & Irma Taube, Mary Tri, Cody Vanderloop, Betty Welshons, Rita Welshons, Celestine Wagner, Ralph Wagner, Penny Whipple, Lenny Weiss, Julie & Steve Warmbo, Nico Youngren, Louise Young, Elizabeth Zweber



## CCW NEWS AND EVENTS

The Council of Catholic Women Southeast Deanery Day of Recollection will be on Tues., March 10 at St. Pius V in Cannon Falls. Registration will begin at 8:30am and the board meeting at 9am. There will be rosary, Mass, and talks by Fr. Hogan. The day will conclude after Fr. Hogan's afternoon talk at 1:15pm. Please bring your own bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Men and women are invited to attend! For more information or if you wish to carpool, contact Pat at 437-2451 or Peggy at 437-7292.

Women of SEAS parish, please mark your calendars for these upcoming Council of Catholic Women events; **note corrections in bold:**

- **Saturday, March 28:** Archdiocesan CCW Leadership, **8:30am-3:30pm**
- **Thursday, May 7:** Archdiocesan CCW Convention, 8:30am-2:15pm at St. Therese of Deephaven
- **Saturday, May 9: Ladies Tea** at SEAS

## ATTENTION WIDOWS/WIDOWERS

Our first meeting on February 17 was very successful! The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00pm in the St. Clare room. For more information, give Barbara Lutz a call at 651-437-6998.

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

All volunteers of SEAS...let us serve YOU! Join us for a free spaghetti supper following the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, March 28 in Seton Hall. There will be door prizes and entertainment...don't miss out on this special event thanking you for your volunteer service at SEAS!

## GREAT CLIPS SUPPORTS SEAS!

On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 6pm, Great Clips, located at 1815 Market Blvd. (next to Cub Foods) will be donating a \$1 to SEAS for every haircut given. All haircuts qualify...They will have 8-9 chairs available.

## BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

A Befriender serves members of our parish with love. During a time of crisis or special need in a person's life, a Befriender provides a listening ear; a Christian presence. If you or someone you know needs this type of personalized care, contact Vern Fox at 480-3496.

## NO NAME BAND AT SEAS

The "No Name Band" is returning on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm in Mother Seton Hall. Come on over, have some fun, listen to some great ol' time music. Of course we'll have plenty of goodies and coffee to go around.

## LENTEN PROJECT

Students from the 5th grade Faith Formation classes are working on two service projects during Lent, which help support Hastings Family Service. We will be collecting paper grocery bags and sample sized toiletries. Please drop off your donations in the labeled box in the Gathering Space. If you prefer to donate money for the purchase of these items, bring it to the Parish Office in an envelope marked, "5th Grade Faith Formation". Thank you for your support!

## DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The DoFI will be having their retreat on March 12 at SEAS. The retreat will begin with Stations of the Cross at 11:00, 11:30 confessions, followed by lunch and a meeting.

## SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

Join Fr. Jim on a spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes, Paris, and Lisieux, France. October 19-30, 2009. For information call 438-2725 or pick up a brochure in the Parish Office.

## SUNDAY DONUTS

**Sunday, March 15, 2009**

7:30am—Roger & Sue Schweich, Jerry & Char Kasel, Jeanne McGree  
9:30am—Reid & Deb Seipp, Ashley Siebels, Paul & Jill Vaith

