



**First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2010**

*“You shall worship the Lord, your God,
and him alone shall you serve.”*



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First Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 4 - 10

Moses discusses the power God has displayed in freeing his people from oppression and leading them to a rich land. He tells the people that they should make offerings to God to show their gratitude, then celebrate over the great things he has given them.

Second Reading: Romans 10: 8 – 13

Paul tells us that if we proclaim, “Jesus is Lord” and truly believe that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. For God shows his mercy toward everyone who call upon his name.

Gospel: Luke 4: 1 - 13

Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days, then Satan appeared to him and tempted him to turn stone into bread. After Jesus refused, Satan promised him great powers if Jesus would worship him. Jesus replied that he would worship God and no one else. Then Satan tried to persuade Jesus to put God to the test, but again Jesus resisted his temptation.

Stations of the Cross Will be recited



the Cross
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every Friday during Lent
at 12 noon in English and
6:30 pm in Polish
in the Church.

Please make an extra effort to attend.

MONDAY, February 22

8:30AM - + Larry Bligh & Devine Family
r/o Kathleen & Patsy Bligh

TUESDAY, February 23

8:30AM - + Angelo A. Sylvester
r/o Arlene D’Alesandro

WEDNESDAY, February 24

8:30 AM - + Josephine Windelar
r/o Lottie Yefchak

THURSDAY, February 25

8:30 AM - + Anthony Tiglio
r/o Joanne, Dominic, Cindy&Matt

FRIDAY, February 26

8:30 AM- + Robert Majcher
r/o Aunts

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30
AM Mass. Adoration immediately following Mass
until 12 noon.*

SATURDAY, February 27

8:30 AM - + Agnes Kosierowski
r/o Granddaughter
Theresa Rudnicki-Jones

5:00 PM - + Parishioners

SUNDAY, February 28

8:00 AM - + Jean Chubrick (Bday)- r/o Family

9:30 AM - + Nahuel Facundo Balsano
r/o Domenico Oleastro

11:00 AM- + Franciszek & Victoria Pakosz
r/o Son Henry & Grandchildren

Repentance doesn't mean going through life with your head down, feeling remorseful for being so bad. It means start doing something good. Start practicing what you believe in.

Gorzkie Zale (Bitter Lamentations) will take place after the Polish Mass on Lenten Sundays during Lent. A prayerful meditation on the Passion of our Lord in song followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

PARISHIONER PRAYER LIST

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING:

Catherine Barbati, Martha Burke, Bernadine Hnasko, Peter Jannone, Adeline Melesurgo, Donna Rabke, Lee Sarlo, Clara Vadimsky, Helen Vanderbeek, Helen Wawrzyniak.

HOMEBOUND: Clementine Buono, Andy Civiletti, Alice Czado, Carmela Ciminelli, Henrietta DePass, Florence Colanduoni, Bronia Litowinski, Vicki Mitzen, John and Anna Occhipinti, Genevieve Wawrzycki.

NOTE: Please call the Parish Office (732) 356-0358 with the names of homebound, nursing home/assisted living or hospitalized parishioners. Please also notify the Parish Office when the status of a parishioner changes.

Weekend Schedule February 27-28, 2010

5:00 pm Lector	Diane Urbielewicz
Eucharistic Ministers	Anthony Guido Martha Ptaszynski Walt Urbielewicz
8:00 am Lector	Carol McGinnis
Eucharistic Minister	Frank Kolodzieski
9:30 am Lector	Theresa Rudnicki-Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie Morello Tony Provenzano Josephine Vadinsky
11:00 am Lector	Anna Grochocki
Eucharistic Minister	Mark Litwinko

GOD'S GIFT FOR GIVING

Last Sunday Our Generous Stewards of

St. Mary's Parish Contributed:

5:00 PM - \$ 1113.00 9:30AM - \$ 885.00

8:00 AM - \$ 453.00 11:00 AM - \$ 687.00

TOTAL : \$3142.00

Winter Collection \$ 1103.00

**BINGO
NEEDS
YOU !!**



Can you spare some time on Friday evenings? Not EVERY Friday- but whenever you can- for just a couple of hours to help our Parish Fundraiser, BINGO! Please call the Parish Office or just stop in on a Friday night !!!

March Open House at Holy Family Academy



Holy Family Academy is holding evening Open Houses every Monday night in March from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Principal Judith Clayton will be available to give tours, answer questions and provide registration material

about the school and the enhanced Preschool and Kindergarten programs for September. Welcome Wednesday Tours are also available from 9:00 - 2:00 throughout the school year. Call for an appointment (732) 356-1151.

Contribution Statements for 2009

Contribution Statements have been sent to parishioners who have offered \$600 or more during the year. If we missed you or if you would like to have a statement sent, please call the Parish Office. 732-356-0358

CONCERT IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DECEASED PRIESTS

The Diocesan Office of Liturgical Music in collaboration with the Office for Priest Personnel presents a "Concert In Remembrance of Our Deceased Priests" at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 5:00 pm. An expanded Diocesan Festival Choir of nearly 70 singers, under the direction of Thomas DeLessio, will perform John Rutter's Requiem with a professional seven-piece orchestra. The concert is in observance of the "Year for Priests" as declared by the Holy Father. The Necrology of Priests listing the names of all deceased priests of the diocese will be printed in the concert program. Please join us as we remember and celebrate our faithful servants who have gone before us. Tickets are not required.



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**Students to Leaders
Education Dinner**

Catholic schools prepare our young people to be future leaders and responsible citizens for business, our communities and our nation.

To keep the legacy alive, we must strive to keep Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible and affordable to Catholic parents and their children.

You can help by joining attending the Students to Leaders Education Dinner on Wednesday, May 19th at the Palace at Somerset Park, in Somerset, New Jersey. The special guest speaker is author Mary Higgins Clark.

Proceeds from the dinner support the Foundation for Education, an endowment fund which provides tuition assistance grants to aid low and middle income families whose children attend diocesan schools.



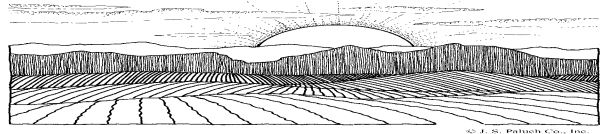
The Season of Lent: A Journey to Holiness

Each year as we start thinking about Lent, we are usually drawn to the concepts of sacrifice and self-denial. These issues are very real, but neither is the true goal of Lent. Lent is first and foremost a time for growth and development of the individual. We should desire to expand our hearts, enlarge our souls and enrich our minds. Perhaps the meaning of the Lord's words is that *God prefers a full heart to an empty stomach.*

The first goal of Lent is holiness. Holiness is measured not by depriving ourselves, but of the fullness of our life in Christ. Lent should be a time to seek patience, joy, trust and compassion. To become truly blessed does not mean to deprive ourselves, but to fulfill our hunger for righteousness. The human soul and heart are like our garages; they fill up with junk very quickly. This is where the role of self-sacrifice comes into play. This becomes our personal Spring Cleaning-time to clear out the clutter to make room in our lives for God.

*"Go and learn the meaning of the words: It is mercy I desire, not sacrifice."
-Matthew 9:13*

**Blessed
are the
peacemakers**



As we enter the Season of Lent, let's explore the Beatitudes, the teaching of Jesus for opening ourselves to God's saving love.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Jesus was not there to give comfort to the proud or the haughty or to the well-fed but to assure those broken in spirit were truly the objects of God's love.

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Only those who truly recognize and mourn their sin see the need for God's love.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Jesus describes himself as "meek and humble of heart." Yet can any human match his inner strength?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. In such a world, everyone's rights will be respected. Everyone will have a place at the banquet table and enjoy the gifts of God's creation.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. No sooner does our heart imitate the mercy of God than we are shown the same gift of mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. When our motives and intentions are clouded or dishonest, we lose our clarity of heart and our ability to see God - and our neighbor as an image of God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. As instruments of God's peace, we are instruments of wholeness and reconciliation in our world. We are then true children of God.

Blessed are you when you are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Consider Jesus arriving into Jerusalem. He knows full well that he will be persecuted and destroyed by leaders of both the church and state. But he also trusts that God is with him as he breaks through the imperfections of his persecutors and into the saving love and happiness of God's kingdom.

~As we look back over the eight beatitudes, we can see that Jesus is the perfect model for each of them. He, too, is blessed and happy for the same reasons. His beatitudes define his own being and call us to be what he is.

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 2010

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: St. John Neumann Pastoral Center

TOPIC: Characteristics of an EFFECTIVE Stewardship Council

Both veteran and novice Stewardship Councils will benefit from this workshop.

Discussion will include:

- What gifts and talents to look for in council members
- The role of the Stewardship council
- Setting goals & planning the Parish Stewardship Calendar
- Making the most of council meetings
- Keeping your Stewardship effort fresh and vital.

There will be time set aside for sharing parish-to-parish, so bring your success stories and your challenges.

There is no fee for this workshop, but we ask that you pre-register so that we can provide comfortable accommodations.

RSVP by:

Email: smantarro@diometuchen.org

Phone: 732-562-2432

Fax: 732-562-1168



Morning Prayer

Whatever comes my way today,

I ask for the grace to bear it.

To keep it to myself if bad,

*And if it's good, to **SHARE IT !!***

St. Peter, the Apostle

Feast Day February 22

Simon Peter, the son of John and brother of Andrew, was part of a fishing family on Lake Genesareth. Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus, and later Christ called Peter to become a disciple. Becoming a disciple of Jesus, he gave Peter a new name: Cephas, the rock. He then told Peter that "you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church....I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Peter was always listed as the first of the apostles and was a member of the inner circle of Jesus, with James and John. He helped organize the Last Supper and played a major role in the events of the Passion. When Jesus was arrested, he cut off the right ear of a slave of the high priest Malchus and then denied Christ three times as the Lord had predicted. After the Resurrection, the first appearance of the Risen Christ was before Peter, ahead of the other disciples. At Tiberius, he gave Peter the order to "Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep .. Feed my sheep."

According to tradition, Peter was crucified on the Vatican Hill upside down because he declared himself unworthy to die in the same manner as the Lord. He was then buried on Vatican Hill. Excavations under Peter's Basilica where his tomb was unearthed, relics had been found and now enshrine under the high altar of St. Peter's. From the earliest days of the Church, Peter was recognized as the Prince of the apostles and first Supreme Pontiff: his see, Rome is at apex of the entire Catholic Church.

