



This Wednesday, February 25th is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses after the homily. Mass times are at 7:30, 9:00, 12:15 & 5:15.

Catholics who have reached the age of 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays during Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 are to fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day. During the Season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7:00PM, an additional daily Mass at 5:15pm and an 8:00am Mass on Saturdays. Both of these Masses will be held in the Chapel located in the Rectory, please use the Greengarden entrance.

The Season of Lent is a time of intense reflection and awareness of God's great love for us – His children. Because it is a different liturgical season, the church encourages us to approach it in a spirit of simplicity and faith. A simple sung penitential rite calls attention to the need for acknowledging our sinfulness. The GLORIA and ALLELUIA are silenced adding to the somber atmosphere of the season. Times of silence during the Mass are always appropriate and encourage us to greater attentiveness to the God within. It is in this spirit of reflection and attentiveness that we ask that as the Masses are completed each weekend, we leave the church in silence, a respectful and reflective silence which will carry us through the next week as we meditate on the God who came to save us. All of this will bear fruit as we celebrate the great Triduum, which recalls so vividly the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord.

OPERATION RICE BOWL Our faith community will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Program *Operation Rice Bowl* as a part of our Lenten observance. Throughout Lent, Operation Rice Bowl will help us *pray* [with our families and faith communities], *fast* [in solidarity with those who are hungry], *learn* [about our neighbors in the developing world] and *give* [sacrificial contributions to those in need] in solidarity with those in need around the world. We encourage you to be a part in this Lenten journey at home with your family and loved ones. Rice bowls will be available in the vestibule of church.

FISH DINNER Friday, February 27th is the first of our three Lenten Fish Dinners featuring baked scrod, fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, roll & butter, sherbet and beverage. Macaroni & cheese dinners are also available. Dinners will be served from 4:30 – 7:00PM. Prices are Adults: \$6.50 fish dinner \$5.00 macaroni & cheese dinner...Children under 12: \$4.00 fish dinner \$3.00 macaroni & cheese dinner. Take outs are available.

BAKE SALE Stop by our bake sale table after dinner and pick up something special for dessert! We are counting on our famous bakers to donate their baked goods. All baked goods can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the day on Friday.

CHILD CARE We will be offering child care this year for the children of our volunteers. If you are interested in this service please call the Parish Office with the number of children and their ages. Any high school student who would like to earn service hours by babysitting should call the Parish Office.



TRUE GIVING Jesus' words in today's Gospel violate a commonly shared message from parent to child, especially around Christmas or a birthday: "We give for the sake of giving. We don't give expecting to get something in return."

Jesus says something very different: "Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap." What Jesus also adds is that giving will be hard. It's hard to give to a person who treats you badly. It's hard to give to someone who looks or acts different from you. It's hard to give to someone who gossiped about you. It's hard to give to someone who opposes everything you hold true. Sometimes the first enemy to be overcome in these situations is ourselves. To treat others with mercy and compassion demands patience with ourselves and others. Perhaps it would be well to remember another message parents share with their children: "You don't have to like every person, but you need to love all people." © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL A blessed thank you to those who gave a gift or made a pledge this past weekend to the Catholic Services Appeal. Each and every person's gift is important. For those who have not yet made a pledge, please join us in supporting the vital programs and services throughout the Diocese of Erie, that no single individual or parish can offer. Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal supports the ministries and services in this Diocese from which you and this parish benefit. Simply use the green envelope in your packet or fill out a pledge envelope and place it in the offertory basket or drop it in the mail. Pledge envelopes are located in the lobby of church. Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Catholic Services Appeal.

YOUTH GROUP PLANNING MEETING Any adults interested in attending an informational meeting about forming a Senior High and a Junior High Youth Group are invited to meet with Father Mike in the school library on Tuesday, February 24 at 7PM. Any students in grades 9-12 who are interested in the Senior High Youth Group are also asked to attend this informational meeting.

NEW YORK CITY MISSION TRIP Any high school or college student interested in going on the New York City Mission Trip April 12-16 is asked to call the Parish Office or talk to Fr. Mike for more information.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE In today's gospel, Jesus teaches us how to achieve happiness in our family. "Be merciful. Stop judging. Stop condemning. Forgive. Give to everyone who asks of you. Do to others as you would want them to do to you." The simple steps can be the hardest.

MASS OPENINGS We have added an additional daily Mass during Lent at 5:15PM. We have many openings for Mass requests for that time slot as well as the 7 & 8am Masses. We also have openings for the Sanctuary Candle.

BIBLES NEEDED If anyone has extra bibles that they would like to donate, we can use them for our bible study groups as well as our Confirmation groups. The type of bibles we are looking for are the New American Bible and the New Revised Standard Bible. They can be dropped off at the Parish Office.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

Baptized into the Christian Community through
the waters of Baptism:

OLIVIA LUCIA WHATMORE

Daughter of Anthony and Keri [Bauer] Whatmore and

SOPHIE GRACE TIDBALL

Daughter of Eric and Joann [Cheney] Tidball

Mass of Christian Burial was given to
Alex Christopher, Charles Crane and Mary Steiner.
The prayers and sympathy of the Parish Family
were extended to their families.

May they rest in peace.



III – Heather-Renee Hayden and Reny Rinderle

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Anna Mackowski from her husband.



Monday, February 23 – St. Polycarp

7:00 +Pam Papucci / Mary Ann Watters

8:00 +Henry Hauser / Florence Szabo

Tuesday, February 24 – Weekday

7:00 +Guy Allegretti / Family

8:00 +Harry Roberts / Raymond & Marian Halt

Wednesday, February 25 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 *People of the Parish

9:00 +Mrs. Matilda Camera / Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D' Andrea

12:15 +DeMarco Family / Margaret & Albert DeMarco

5:15 +William Wolford / Lois Bird

Thursday, February 26 – Lenten Weekday

7:00 +Anna Mackowski / Don & Barb Swartz [birthday]

8:00 +Veronica & John Senkalski / Family

5:15 +Eugene Kranz / Betty Miecckowicz

Friday, February 27 – Lenten Weekday

7:00 +Florence Shubert / Friend

8:00 +Richard Fagan / Wife & Children [birthday]

5:15 +James Reinsel / Family

Saturday, February 28 – Lenten Weekday

8:00 +Mary Mezler / Don & Genny Krasinski

2:00 Hayden/Rinderle Wedding

Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent

5:15 +Dorothy Schick / Bob & Patty George

Sunday, February 29 – 1st Sunday of Lent

7:30 +Florence Santia / Mary Louise Pottrowski

9:00 +Madeline Gorgis / Friend

11:00 +James Kuneman / Thelma & Lisa Manendo

7:30 *People of the Parish

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL NEWS Blessed Sacrament School Open House is schedule for Sunday, March 7th from 10:00AM-Noon. Hospitality will be in the cafeteria and the entire school will be open for tours. We encourage everyone to come and see our excellent facility and meet our dedicated faculty. School registration will start Monday, March 8th from 8:30-3:30 in the School Office.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 2/23 – Marge Wiertel, Jack & Shirley Kenehan, Julie Celeski, Helen Imler, Lucille Kraut

Tuesday 2/24 – Marie Elsesser, Tom Gorny, Mary Fiske, Mary Shaffer

Wednesday 2/25 – Joe & Barb McCormick, Darlene Celline, Rita Kaiser, Marion Inman

Thursday 2/26 – Jack Peterson, Marianne Zimmerman, Karen

Malec, Linda Witchcoff, Lisa Pianta, Marilyn Konopka

Friday 2/27 – Mike McLaughlin, Laurie Colao, Bud Prenatt, Don DeSimone, Rita Kaiser

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 2/23 – Jim Zink

Tuesday 2/24 – Mary Hoffman

Wednesday 2/25 – Donna Reusch

Thursday 2/26 – Ann Anysz, Shirley Kiehlmeier. Kevin Kunik

Friday 2/27 – Mary Maloney, Mary Zbach, Jim Zink

Saturday 2/28 – Monsignor Magraw

Sunday 2/29 – Helen Felice, John Ungvarsky, Julia Parana

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91; Rom 10:8-13;
Lk 4:1-13

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

FEBRUARY 15, 2004

Weekly Need:	\$ 9,798.15
Adult Offering:	\$ 5,342.50 471 envelopes
Loose Collection:	\$ 582.00
Youth Offering:	\$ 36.95 42 envelopes
Total:	\$ 5,961.45

CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledged to Date	\$507,682.06
Paid to Date	\$338,269.45
# of Pledges	687

CHILDREN'S CORNER

During the past week some of our children noted on their church envelopes some ways they shared their time and talents: "I was nice to my sister, I helped Grandma clean the basement, I helped clean the toy room and basement." We thank them for sharing their time, talent and treasures by using their church envelopes.