

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY

“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ”
(from the Ash Wednesday Ritual Imposition of Ashes)

Dear Parishioner,

It seems like we’ve just finished boxing up the Christmas decorations and here we are about to start the season of Lent. It seems the busier life gets, the faster time flies.

There are few times as especially hectic as the holidays, so maybe it’s good for Lent to come so soon afterward, at least Lent, as the Church asks us to see it now.

Lent is a time of replenishment; of drawing apart with our Savior to tend to those things which are most essential in our life, and hopefully, to emerge as His renewed and recommitted disciples. Lent has even been called a kind of “honeymoon” time with the Lord; a time of deliberately set aside togetherness to rediscover His presence in our lives, His personal love for each of us.

Perhaps, as children, we gave up sweets, running a kind of 40 day endurance test only to gorge ourselves on Easter Bunny candy at the end. We congratulated ourselves for having made it through the time of sacrifice and rejoiced that life was finally back to “normal”. Nothing in our lives really changed. We may have even carried this routine into adulthood. If so, perhaps, this is the year for change; the time to truly enter into and plumb the richness of this holy season.

Rather than a season to be “endured”, Lent can be a wonderful time of deepening our relationship with the Lord. Lent is a season of positive change. Purposefully set at the transition of winter to spring, it is meant to visually *reflect the change* that we are undertaking in our lives; enduring change; change that continues well beyond Easter Sunday.

Fasting from meat on Fridays, is meant to make us more sensitive to those without food; more compassionate and generous to the poor with the money saved on elaborate meals. Even giving up candy can still have a place in our lives, if by the end of Lent, it reminds us to be a *sweeter* person; a better steward of the gift of health; more in touch and working on those things that have us reaching for that chocolate...

So, as we begin to plan what to do for Lent this year, let’s spend some time reflecting on the real issues in our lives. Then, drawing near to the Lord for strength and guidance, we can truly make this Lent a new beginning. And at Easter, we will experience in concrete ways, the new life the Lord has given us.

Here at St. Mary, we are offering several prayer opportunities to assist you. In this bulletin, you will see a detachable flyer outlining those opportunities. The Stations of the Cross we will be praying will vary each Friday. Each one contains a different set of contemporary reflections to help us make the connection between our Lord’s journey to Calvary and the crosses we carry each day. Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, on Mondays in the chapel, gives us ample opportunity for some quiet time with the Lord.

I especially draw your attention also to the presentation of “Mary Magdalene” here on March 21st. Professional actress, Gina McKenna Smith, will bring her talent and deep faith to bear on her portrayal of Mary Magdalene. I first saw Gina do this presentation almost 10 years ago and it remains a very vivid memory for me. I truly felt like I was seeing and hearing an eye witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus relating those events here and now. It is a very moving and prayerful presentation. More details will be in future bulletins but I heartily encourage you to mark your calendar and plan to attend.

St. Mary will be hosting this year’s Lenten Communal Penance Service for the parishes of Cherry Hill. As always, this sacrament is available every Saturday as well. It’s a wonderful assist on that road to change.

As we receive ashes on our foreheads this Wednesday, let us together pray for the grace to take to heart those words with which we are signed....and allow the Lord to truly change our hearts.

May God bless each of you!

Sincerely,
Kathleen G. Rando
Pastoral Associate

 *Mass Intentions*

Monday February 15, 2010

8:00 AM **Sharon Wagner**
by: Pat and LeeAnn Olson

Tuesday February 16, 2010

8:00 AM **Joseph Condon Jr**
by: Sandy and Dave Czerniakowski

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

8:00 AM **Hugh A. Donohoe**
by: The Dwyer Family

12:10PM **Ash Wednesday Service**

7:30PM **People of the Parish**

Thursday, February 18, 2010

8:00 AM **Elinor Wagner**
by: Pat and LeeAnn Olson

Friday, February 19, 2010

8:00 AM **Monica Rodrigues**
by: Her Parents and Brother, Mark

Jeremiah Fallon

by: Ines Palombo

Concepcion Eleazar Gohu and Manny Uy

by: The Ted Eleazar Family

Anna Mosco

by: The Eucharistic Ministers

Mary Ciprietti

by: Marie Bantivoglio

Saturday February 20, 2010

5:00 PM **Ed Melchionni**
by: The Melchionni Family

Sunday, February 21, 2010

8:00 AM **People of the Parish**

10:00AM **Bruno Mazzi**

by: Corinne and Stephen Halabura

11:30AM **John Tursi**

by: His Wife, Isabel

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Phil Ardire, Ruben N Alvarez, Anita Alvarez, John & Mary Lou Baird, Tate Balcarek, Marie Bantivoglio, Elsie Barnhart, Dolores Bauer, Bruce Beckett, Antionette Bedishian, Elizabeth Belli, Barbara Biehler, Joe Bolam, John Brach, Jim Brady, Walter Burnes, Roger Butler, Mary Byrne, Connie Chiolo, Anthony Ciarroccki, Jimmy Contento, Sandy Cowley, Pam Crocetti, Mary Dalbey, Kayla DeFeo, Nancy DeYonce, Frank Dolan, Charles Dumont, Eileen Edwards, Catherine Faccine, Terri Gannon, Brian Geary, Joe Garofalo, Michael Garrity, Colin Patrick Grady, Lucille Gross, Helene Haney, Barbara Hartman, Arlene Harvey, Laurie James, Fred La Rosa, Mike Leatham, Julie Leonard, Ingrid Lodato, Marge Lubrano, Caitlin Martin, Ann McIlroy, Fred McIlroy, Bruno Melchionni, Blasco Molle, Perfecto Moulic, George Oberski, Vicky Peralta, Michael Piazza, Patty Plunkett, Catherine Potts, Baby Bryanna Ramirez, Jim & Tony Ray, Mary Recupido, Anthony Russo Sr, Joseph Ragusa, Ronald Schoen, Gary Schoen, Michael Sepessy, Kathy Shiflet, Marie Smith, Thomas Stinson, Helen Szymczak, Dr Edgar Valle, Jack Waite, Ginger Walsh

LITURGICAL ROLES

for February 20, 2010 and February 21, 2010

Saturday, February 20, 2010

5:00 PM Fr. John and Deacon Welsh

Altar Servers: G Miller, M Miller, N Rudi

Lectors: K Wiley, B Cocozza

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: J Byrne, M Byrne, D Desrochers, J Waite

Sunday, February 21, 2010

8:00AM Fr. John

Altar Servers: L Infantolino, K Nufable, N Warrington

Lectors: H Schmidt, T Clerici

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: G Coen, K Coen, R Murphy, C Wallace, J Wallace

10:00AM Fr. Ruggles

Altar Servers: M Borucki, L Hurley, A Mora

Lectors: F DeAngelis, M DeAngelis

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: C Forlastro, L Kosyla, N Minchew, J Olenick, J Plunkett, J Smith R Whitty

11:30AM Fr. Ruggles

Altar Servers: E Hallinan, M Hallinan, M Langmuir

Lectors: D Czerniakowski, K Hill

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: B Veitch, P Gall, C Hallinan, S Palladinetti, B Wall

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

US Army: Col. Lars Braun, Capt. Alex F. Katauskas, Sgt. David Marnell, Sgt. Frank Renna, Infantry, Sgt. Peter Roethke, Ranger, Capt. Doug Sackett, PFC Christopher Vassey, Sgt. John David Vozzelli, Lt. Joseph Weston, Jr., Pvt. Christopher Worthington, Sgt. Deanna D'Ambrosio, SPC Matthew Baumann, SPC Christopher Hill

US Navy: E4 Bob Moeller, Ryan E. Gager, Lt. Grahm Gill Joseph Cornell, Cmdr, JG **USAF:** Thomas Clerici, David J Wagner, Jr. **USMC:** PFC Ryan Bridge, Daniel Gallemmit, Thomas Grace, Cpl Jonathan Mezzancelo, Michelle I. Ryan, Sean P. Ryan, Adam Ardire, Justin Keleher, **USCG:** Petty Officer Tim Edwards

OFFERING REPORT

February 8, 2009	\$10,455.00
February 7, 2010	\$6,035.00
Decrease \$4,420 or 73.2.1%	Envelopes: 163
Weekly expense:	\$11,000.00
Parish Indebtedness:	\$17,805.00

****The February 8, 2009 collection weekend was 50 degrees and sunny. This February 7th collection there was 27.3 inches of snow on the ground.**

Social Justice Outreach

Father John wrote in his "Dear Parishioner" message last week about Thomas Awaipo, our recent visitor from Ghana, and his message about CRS's Operation Rice Bowl which distributes money and relief services to the poor. Please pick up an Operation Rice Bowl Box after Mass in the Gathering Space (Religious Ed families will receive them through the program.) Fr John suggests placing the box on your kitchen table, and during mealtimes, place in it the savings from your Lenten resolutions and loose change. Then, return the filled box at Easter time.

Thank you for your support and God bless you.

Religious Education News

The next regular class for eighth graders is **Monday, February 22, from 6:30-8:15PM in the Chapel.**

There will be no Religious Education classes on February 16th, 17th or 18th. All students must attend either the Ash Wednesday Service at 4:30PM or the Ash Wednesday Mass at 7:30PM on February 17th.



“Forever Young” Shrove Tuesday Celebration

Remember this Tuesday, February 16th at 12:00 noon in the parish hall. We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. Come and enjoy a traditional Pancake Brunch. Begin your journey for Lent with an inspirational presentation by Joan Sandell as she reflects upon “The final journey of the Apostles with Jesus.” Her talk will help us get started on our spiritual journey through Lent. Questions? In need of a ride? Call Mary Anne at 856-767-7855.

Each week, Mark Celijewski goes fishing online and shares his catch with me. I found “Dancing With God” from last week’s catch., a must share reflection for Valentine’s Day.

Fr. John

Dancing With God

When I meditated on the Word Guidance, I kept seeing “Dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God’s will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn’t flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It’s as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw “G”: I thought of God, followed by “u” and “i”. “God, “u” and “I” dance..” God, you, and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God’s blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and every day. May you abide in God, as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

MASSES: 8AM & 7:30PM

PRAYER SERVICE: 12:10PM & 4:30PM

(Ashes will be distributed during the services)



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be at St. Mary on Wednesday, February 24th - 9:00AM to 2:00PM to collect donations of usable clothing. They will also be accepting small household goods and small appliances. An attendant will assist you and provide tax receipts, if necessary.

BAPTISM



- Sunday April 11, 2010 11:30AM Mass
- Sunday, May 9, 2010 1:00PM
- Sunday, June 6, 2010 12:00PM (Noon)
- Sunday, July 4, 2010 12:00PM (Noon)

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call the Parish Office at (856) 424-1454 for more information. Arrangements **must be made in advance** for Baptism Preparation and Date of Baptism.

Please remember that the Sacrament of Baptism is not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY TRAVEL

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime journey to the Holy Land. We will visit a variety of sights: religious, archeological, and historical in the land of Jesus, while visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem. Enjoy visiting other ancient sites, sailing on the Sea of Galilee, and floating in the waters of the Dead Sea. We will leave on Nov 3rd, 2010 for a most inspiring trip to Israel. For additional information, please call Barbara Dollarton at (856) 424-2739 or Marie Bantivoglio, in the church office at (856) 424-1454.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Youth Group Meeting on February 15. The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 1, from 6:30-8PM in the Parish Hall. All members of the parish in grades 7-12 are invited. A welcoming atmosphere for teens to hang out!

UPDATE CORNER: Before Vatican II, holy water fonts (and Baptismal fonts) were bone dry throughout Lent. That is no longer the case! Discover why as we examine “**Lenten Customs: Baptism is the Key**”. - Next week in the bulletin.

****Due to the snow storm of last week, the Catholic Update on Annulments will be in a future bulletin.**

FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA FOR SALE

Fair Trade Coffee (Regular and Decaf) (Bean or Ground) and various Teas will be available for purchase in the Gathering Space next weekend. Great coffee and tea for you, fair treatment for low-income farmers overseas. Remember, this is not a fund raiser for St. Mary. This is a Social Justice Ministry project.

Parish Calendar of Events

- February 16, 2010 **No Religious Education Classes**
12:00PM "Forever Young" Pancake Brunch (Hall)
7:30PM Pastoral Council (Meeting Room)
7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)
- February 17, 2010 **ASH WEDNESDAY (No Religious Education Classes)**
8:00AM & 7:30PM Ash Wednesday Mass with Distribution of Ashes (Church)
12:10PM & 4:30PM Ash Wednesday Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes (Church)
- February 18, 2010 7:30PM RCIA (Meeting Room)
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Cherry Hill Food and Outreach Council

During February, it is St. Mary's turn to collect non-perishable food for the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. Major needs at this time are peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, cereal (cheerios, Special K, Rice Krispies, and other low sugar varieties) and pancake mix and syrup. Other items always needed include: canned fruit, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned salmon, beef stew or other meals in a can, hearty soups and potato buds. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

St. Mary's will be providing workers at the Cherry Hill Food Pantry during the first two weeks in March, on Tuesday evenings 5-8PM and on Thursday, 10-1PM. If you are not already on the Food Pantry call list and wish to help out, contact Sandy Czerniakowski at 856-231-7879 or Helen Myers at 856-787-9187. Please remember to provide the time and date preference, if you leave a message.

ALERT: The organization (ActiveCause) that managed the distribution of RecycleBank points for nonprofits has decided to no longer continue this role. The RecycleBank is now looking for other organizations who might be willing to take on this role. Until the RecycleBank develops an alternative donation strategy, the Cherry Hill Food and Outreach Council (CHFOC) is advising people not to make RecycleBank point donations to the CHFOC. All donated points up to January 31, 2010 have been awarded to CHFOC, as requested by the donors.

Resurrection Catholic School News

Resurrection Catholic School is accepting **Admissions Applications** for grades K-8. Our **Pre-school** classes are close to capacity. When those classes fill, we will continue to take Applications and place children on our Wait List. **Current 5th-7th grade students** interested in RCS for Middle School (and their parents) should plan to attend "An Introduction to Middle School" on Thursday evening, **February 18th** at 7:00 pm in the RCS Auditorium. Prospective students are also invited to spend the day "**shadowing**" an RCS student. Please call Mrs. Smith in the Advancement Office at 667-3034, x 274 for more information or to set up a Shadow Day.

SCORE -VOLUNTEERS

SCORE, a non-profit organization funded by the Small Business Administration SBA, counsels start-up and existing business entrepreneurs in growing their business. We are seeking volunteers who have expertise in areas of: marketing, management, finance, event planning, IT Human Resource and other skills. Giving of yourself to help others is self-rewarding. Be apart of the exciting team of over 12,000 other counselors nationwide who mentor small business entrepreneurs. For more information call Larry Brennan at 856-234-5669 or go to our website score254.org and view our ad.

The Catholic-Jewish Commission's Institute for Understanding

BIG SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS: Catholic and Jewish Perspectives We often turn to our faith traditions when confronted by life's big questions. This Spring we will examine the ways in which Jews and Catholics have approached some of the great questions of life and faith.

Dates and Topics: February 24, 2010: SUFFERING;

March 3, 2010: LIFE AFTER DEATH

March 10, 2010: SAINTS AND ANGELS

See the bulletin board in the Gathering Space for more information.



LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARY



- **ASH WEDNESDAY:** Feb. 17th : *Masses:* 8:00am & 7:30pm; *Prayer Services:* 12:10pm & 4:30pm
- **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Every Monday in Lent: 8:30am-1pm (Chapel)
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** *Every Friday of Lent: 7:30pm* (Church)
 - **February 19th :** *“The ‘Traditional’ Jerusalem Stations”* (Join the thousands who have prayed these stations for decades...)
 - **February 26th :** *“A Scriptural Way of the Cross”* (with contemporary reflections for daily life)
 - **March 5th :** *“The Way of the Cross with the Women of the Gospels”* (Journey with the women whose lives were changed by Jesus)
 - **March 12th :** *“Mary’s Way of the Cross”* (Hear Mary tell the story of Her Son’s journey to the cross)
 - **March 19th :** *“Everyone’s Way of the Cross”* (Jesus speaks to us today)
 - **March 26th :** *The ‘Voices’ Stations”* (Journey to Calvary with Jesus as we hear the thoughts of Veronica, Simon, the soldiers, and others)
- **PARISH MISSION/RETREAT: “Lent: A Time of Penance, Prayer & Commitment”**
(Rev. David Swantek)
 - * *March 1st: All day Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 9:00am (Church)*
 - Monday, March 1st, 7:00pm:** *“Penance: Take up your cross and follow Me”*
“Forgive me, Lord . . . for I have sinned”
(includes an opportunity for individual confessions afterward)
 - Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:00pm:** *“Prayer: Growing in the Spiritual Life”*
“Speak, Lord ...your servant is listening.”
(For those who health is seriously impaired by illness or advanced age, the Sacrament (Anointing) of the Sick will be included in this service.)
 - Wednesday, March 3rd, 7:00pm:** *“Commitment: Maturing in the Spiritual Life”*
“As for me and my house. . . we will serve the Lord.”
(includes a special focus on Marriage)
- **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: “Mary Magdalene”:**
Sunday, March 21st, 2:30pm Professional Actress **Gina Smith** brings Mary Magdalene to life in our Parish chapel! (See the parish bulletin and bulletin board for more details)
- **COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE:** (at St. Mary), March 22nd, 7:30pm
- **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:** *Sacrament of Penance (confessions): March 31st: 7:00pm-8:00pm*
 - **Passion (Palm) Sunday:** Masses: (Sat.) **5:00pm**, (Sunday) **8:00am, 10:00am** and **Noon**,
 - **Holy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord’s Supper: **7:30pm** (Solemn adoration until 11:00pm: chapel)
 - **Good Friday Service:** Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: **3:00pm**
 - **Blessing of Food (Holy Saturday): 9:45am (Chapel)**
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 - **Easter Vigil: 8:00pm**
 - **Easter Sunday Masses: 8:00am** (Church), **10:00am**, (Church & Hall) , **Noon** (Church)