

**February 3, 2013: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" -- Lk 4:21-22  
Reprint from the Liturgy for Palm #2011, 1991, 1991 ©2011

**LITURGY**

**MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS**

**Sunday, Feb. 3 (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31--13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30)**

8:00 am- Jim & Rosalie Kubicek

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

**Monday, February 4 (Heb 11:32-40/Mk 5:1-20)**

7:00 am- Emmerlin & Paul Dworsky

10:00 am- Mary Grafe, Benefactor (Hallettsville Rehab)

**Tuesday, February 5, St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr (Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43)**

7:00 am- Joe J. & Cecilia Fabian

**Wednesday, February 6, St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6)**

7:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Lester & Dorothy Sicko's 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

8:05 am- Anton & Helen Bollom, & Harvey Pavliska, Sr.

**Thursday, Feb. 7 (Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13)**

7:00 am- Gene Szwarc

10:00 am- Betty Hernandez (Stevens)

**Friday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin (Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29)**

7:00 am- Josephine Janak

8:05 am- Lucille Etzler, Benefactor

**Saturday, Feb. 9 (Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34)**

5:30 pm- Leon & Emogene Kahanek

**Sunday, February 10 (Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11)**

8:00 am- Herman & Marcella Hanslik

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

**Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Sponsor:** In memory of Leroy Bludau by his family.

**Vigil Light:** In honor of Bill & Fran Byrd's 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Our Gift to God:** Envelopes-\$5,481; Church Endowment -\$70; School Endowment-\$20; Church in Latin America-\$190; Manna-\$872; Loose- \$1,595; Children-\$33

**Flowers** this weekend in church are in memory of Frankie E. McElroy by his family.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Frankie E. McElroy*, father of Frankie Lee, Donald & Ronnie McElroy; and, *Harold Placette*, brother of Theresa Adair & Elaine Rogers. *May they rest in the peace of Christ.*



*Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life!*



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

-Rosary & Evening Prayers, 5:30 p.m., Church.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., K.C. Hall of Fame Room.

-Adult Education Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.

-K.C.'s General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

-Women's ACTS Mtg, 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph, Moulton.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

-CCD: K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

-First Communion Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

**Among our sick:** Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Doug Blumberg, Rose Thumann, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Irene Bordovsky, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Chris Layton, Hank Morris, Frances Moore, Frank, Patrick & Robben Nemeck, Geneva Strmiska, Joyce Bucek, Chibana Alfaro, Steve Smith, LaNora Konvicka, Delores Grahmann, Bernice Neskora, Glenn Rabel, Benedict Bujnoch, Lorene Christ, Donna Coldewey, Matt Pohler, Donna Avant, Wilbert Kalinec, Annette Krupala, Mary Bonorden, Bobbie Lee Drozd, Richard Terry, Dorothy Allen Hass, Rev. Lundy Hooten, Joyce Pesek Hermes, Josephine Muniz, Franklin Billimek, Gene Valenta-Yoakum, Vivian Janak, nursing home residents, & homebound.

**Anniversaries:**

Royce & Anna Brown	45 years	Feb. 3
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	40 years	Feb. 3
Robert & Georgia Pohl	51 years	Feb. 9

**January Baptisms:** Raphael Nicholas, son of Darren & Bernadette Leininger Fikac; Mabry Madison, daughter of Justin & Charlie Turner Jansky; and, Alex Michael, son of Michael & Paula Horton Grahmann.

**Catholic Daughters 2013 Dues are due.** Please mail your \$20 check to Anita Steffek, 549 CR 186, H'ville.

**Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting, Monday, Feb. 4, K.C. Hall.** Registration 6:00 p.m.

Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a meal. There is no charge for the event. Door prizes will be awarded.

**Hallettsville Sacred Heart Women's ACTS Retreat, March 21-24.** Registration forms available at the entrance of the church. Please mail the completed form to the address on the application.

**Christian Mothers Meeting, Monday, Feb. 11, 6:00 pm,** Cafeteria. After a short meeting, enjoy a noodle soup supper & Bunco!

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, Friday, Feb. 15, 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Dine in or drive-thru plates to go - \$8 per plate. Workers are needed. Please call Ricky Steffek.

*Please pray for the blessing of beneficial rainfall!!*



**From the Desk of Msgr. John**

Today, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the Feast of St. Blaise. Traditionally on the Feast of St. Blaise we have the blessing of throats. Especially during this flu season, it is good to have our throats blessed. We will have the blessing at all of the Masses this weekend.

\*Thank you to Donna Shimek for doing the Safe Environment Training for all of our people that are required to take it. Donna has volunteered to do this for the last several years and has been very dedicated to this task.

Deacon Linard Harper will be replacing her in this position. Thank you to Deacon Harper for assuming this position.

\*Congratulations to all of our young people who participated in the Livestock Show this past weekend and especially to those who placed and won in the various categories.

**Religious Education (CCD) –**

**Feb. 10:** 1st Communion Workshop, 2 pm, Family Center

**Feb. 16:** Confirmation Retreat, 8:00 am-7:00 pm, Family Center.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School –**

**Feb. 5:** Elementary Library Magazine Drive begins.

**Feb. 9:** Junior-Senior Prom

**Feb. 14:** Academic Meet. Classes dismissed at 2:00 p.m. No Extended Care.



**Rosaries of the Unborn.** A limited number of Rosaries of the Unborn are available for purchase for \$25 each. Please contact Fr. Tommy.

**Perpetual Adoration:** An adorer is needed on Sundays at 12:00 midnight. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord in prayer and adoration, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

**2012 Contribution Statements for tax purposes** will be mailed out this week to those who normally request them. If you have not received your statement by the end of the week, please call Carol at the Rectory. Thank you.

**The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite you to attend the following:**

**Lenten Vespers (Evening Prayer):** Sundays of Lent, Feb. 17-March 24, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Incarnate Word Chapel. Vespers (or evening prayer) is patterned on an ancient Jewish prayer form that predates the Church.

**Taizé Prayer Service:** February 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Amor Meus Prayer Room of Incarnate Word Convent. Taizé prayer consists of music, song, chant, scriptural readings, meditation, and prayers of praise and intercession.

**For more information, call 361-575-7111.**

**A Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** will be taken up next week. This Collection supports Catholic organizations that provide affordable shelter and train seminarians in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. By providing pastoral care, catechesis, and aid, your donations help restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously to the Collection next week. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (search “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) to learn more.

**Disciples on the Journey** books are available at the Rectory. The books are \$2.50 each.

Deacon Linard Harper will be conducting a Disciples on the Journey program on Thursday afternoons during Lent from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at Mary’s House. Please call the Rectory if you are interested in attending.

**St. Mary Parish Festival**, Sunday, Feb. 10, Victoria Community Center. Roast Beef Lunch 11am-1:30pm.

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time –**

People who play the lottery are always hoping for that big chance to win a super jackpot. Against all odds (literally!) they imagine winning millions. After all, someone has to win. It might as well be me. It’s almost contradictory that lotteries have become part of state budgeting, when many Americans believe in the values of hard work and earning a living as opposed to the gratuitous windfall that a lottery would give someone. State income from lotteries exceeds that of tobacco excise taxes, but is less than the license fees states collect on motor vehicles. Everybody who wants something for nothing is involved. For the outlay of a miniscule amount of cash, a player dreams of an immense return. And the state gets a bonus to its income without having to tax its citizens more.

In today’s Gospel, the people of Nazareth are acting a bit like lottery hopefuls, with high expectations for a significant payout with the investment of very little. They’ve heard about all the great things that Jesus did in Capernaum, and now they are expecting to cash in on the local boy made good. Surely He has got to work some astounding miracles here.

But Jesus is not a lottery ticket. And faith in Him is not a something for nothing proposition in which all the benefits are reaped with very little investment. As we will learn as we read from Luke’s Gospel in the weeks and months ahead, Jesus is headed on a journey to Jerusalem. His destiny lies in that city where He will suffer and die, and finally, through His resurrection, He will usher in the era of the Spirit that is poured out on the church. For us, following Jesus is a lifelong journey to our own Jerusalem in which we empty ourselves in the service of others. It is no lottery that we hope to win, but a share in Christ’s journey through death to resurrection.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2013

**Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches**

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### February's saint

The Year of Faith saint for February is St. Rose Philippine Duchesne.

Born in Grenoble, France, she joined the Visitation nuns at age 19 but suffered when convents were closed during the French Revolution. At its end, she became a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart and came to the Louisiana Territory as a missionary in 1818. She opened the first free school for girls west of the Mississippi river, and the first Catholic school for Native Americans.

### Advice from Brother Lawrence

Have you ever wondered if your desires were in harmony with God's will? Brother Lawrence said to be sure they are, simply develop an attitude of faith, hope, and love. Then you won't want anything else. (*Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence)

### The Cross

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).



## Lent leads us back to God

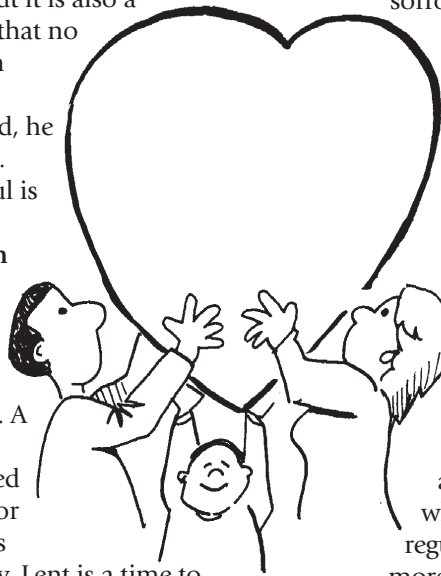
"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment" (Joel 2:12). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, he always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is he.

"Return to me with your whole heart." Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as becoming preoccupied with material goods or gossiping can keep us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

"Rend your hearts, not your

garments." God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance because they can be performed without real sorrow. Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then determine to practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

"Gather the people, notify the congregation." Help spread God's love to his people. Make a point of inviting someone to attend Mass with you who may not attend regularly or become more active in your parish to build it up. Lent is also the time to attend Mass more often than just once a week and join in the prayers of Christ's Church.



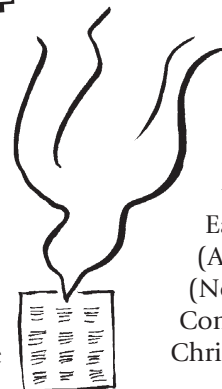
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Holy days of obligation "complete the Sunday observance by participation in the principal liturgical feasts which honor the mysteries of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the saints." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2043)

Different countries can have

## What are Holy Days of Obligation?

different holy days. In the United States we have six: the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), the Ascension (40 days after Easter), the Assumption (August 15), All Saints (November 1), the Immaculate Conception (December 8), and Christmas (December 25).

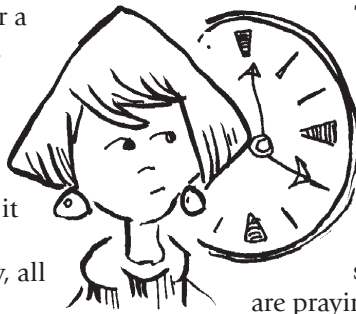




## The keys to holiness

To many of us, prayer means using a Bible or a Rosary and committing exclusive time to God. Yet St. Paul exhorts us to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How can we do that and still function during the day?

**Do God's will.** It can be tempting to reserve God only for prayer time or Mass time and go it alone the rest of the time. However, if we also determine to do God's will throughout the day, all that we do becomes a prayer and we *"pray without ceasing."*



**Think Godly thoughts.** God is always with us. We can speak directly to him whenever we want, especially when we need help or advice, or just want to talk. Of course, this continuous conversation should include praising and thanking him and saying, *"I love you."* But this means rejecting thoughts that won't lead to God – resentments, grudges, or sinful thoughts. Eventually we will find that we are praying without ceasing and our prayers will be fruitful beyond our imaginings.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 9:28-36, Transfiguration of the Lord

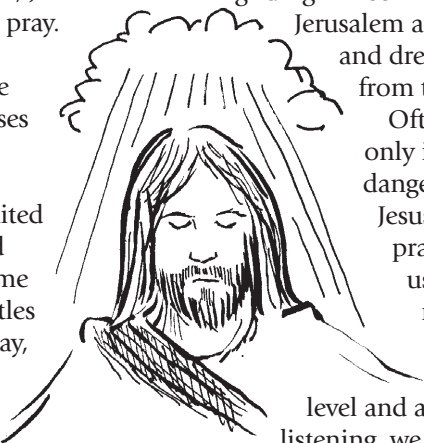
The Transfiguration of the Lord is one of the most spectacular events in Scripture. Jesus took Peter, John and James up a mountain to pray. While there, Jesus was transformed and became dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared and the three discussed Jesus' travel to Jerusalem and what awaited him there: his death and resurrection. A cloud came over them and the Apostles heard a heavenly voice say, *"This is my chosen Son, listen to him."*

This Gospel shows that Jesus was a man of prayer. In fact,

one interpretation is that this was a glimpse into Jesus' prayer. He was girding himself for the final trip to Jerusalem and what awaited him and drew prayerful comfort from the great prophets.

Often we turn to prayer only in times of trouble or danger but, by example, Jesus showed us that prayer is something for us to learn and to do regularly. When we do so, our prayer reaches a higher

level and a greater meaning. By listening, we learn to hear God's voice in us.



### Q & A How do we know Mary was conceived without sin?

This is called the Immaculate Conception. Contrary to what many think, it refers to the conception of Mary, not of Jesus (that's the Annunciation).

When the archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary at the Annunciation, he greeted her with, *"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you"* (Luke 1:28). *"Full of grace"* is the key to the Immaculate Conception.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they committed the first (Original) sin and their descendants (us) were all born with the stain of Original Sin. We also have personal sins we commit. We are not full of grace until we are baptized. Of course after baptism we still commit sin. At that point we need the Sacrament of Penance to get back to a state of grace.

For Gabriel to say Mary was full of grace means that she was without sin, even Original Sin. God granted Mary this gift since she was to be the mother of the Savior. She was a pure vessel for carrying Christ in her womb.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

### Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins this month, and it is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross in church and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

**February 10 - St. Scholastica (543?).** Twin sister to St. Benedict, St. Scholastica established a community of religious women about five miles south of her brother's monastery.

**February 13 – Ash Wednesday.** Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes from the burnt palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed

on the forehead as a sign of penance. Lent is our chance to amend our ways and become "new" at Easter.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).** Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Before being martyred, he faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion.

