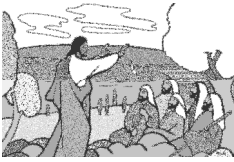


March 1, 2009: First Sunday of Lent



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." — *Mk 1:14-15*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, March 1 (Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15)

8:00 am- Ann & William Butschek

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Monday, March 2 (Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46)

7:00 am- Alvin, Annie & Alvin, Jr. Schneider

10:00 am- Living & deceased members of Victor Grafe Family (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, March 3, St. Katharine Drexel (Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of Julius & Helen Grahmann Family

Wednesday, March 4, St. Casimir (Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32)

7:00 am- Victor Buzek

8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Guntram & Annie Janak Family

12:05 pm- Living & deceased members of Gus & Rosa Werner Family

Thursday, March 5 (Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12)

7:00 am- Johnny Rainosek

10:00 am- Ernest Meyer (Stevens)

Friday, March 6 (Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26)

7:00 am- Mary M. Steffek

8:05 am- Marjorie Chanek

12:05 pm- Edwin & Billy Chovanetz

Saturday, March 7, Sts. Perpetua & Felicity (Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48)

5:30 pm- David Etzler

Sunday, March 8 (Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10)

8:00 am- Stacey Rabel

10:30 am- For our Parish Family



Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Ann Butschek by family & friends.

Radio Broadcast Mass Sponsor: Stevens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center of Hallettsville.

Vigil Light Sponsor: Special Intention.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,455.70; Loose-\$1,205; Children's-\$20; Catholic Ed.-\$597.20; Manna-\$678.

Promise of Marriage: Devonne Michalcik & Charlie Bock on March 14th.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Emma Meyer, mother of Joyce Hermes. *May she & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Anniversaries

Ronald & Gloria Kostelnik	35 years	Mar. 2
Ricky & Diane Stiewert	30 years	Mar. 3

Baptisms in February: Kade Allen, son of Scott & Darlene Immekus; Arie McCoy, son of Christian & Andrea Wood.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

-Confirmation Retreat, 8:30 am-4:00 pm, Family Center. Attendance is mandatory for all Confirmation Candidates.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in the church.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

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

-RCIA Class, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m., Mary's House, 300 S. Dowling.

-Women's ACTS meeting, 7 p.m., Shiner Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

-CCD: Grades K – 11th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.

-Spiritual Book Study Group, 6:00 p.m., Mary's House.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is for *rain*.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

-Stations of the Cross following Benediction.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

-Serra Club Mass, 8:00 a.m., St. Michael, Weimar.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Deacon Marvin Fikac, Mary Laas, Jacque Holchak, Alvin Rosenauer, Frank Luke, Macey Moeller, Margaret Flores, Mary Ann Gaitan, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Debbie Fishbeck, Josie Ohnheiser, Clint Brewer, Mason Leibham, Josie Muniz, David Tomek, Riley Mika, Joyce Svetlik, Louise Tesch, Mary Bonorden, Marie Grafe, Loraine Butschek, Jesse Cavazos, Bernice Woytek, Evelyn Henke, Lillie Sitka, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Thelma Mikulenska, Alphonse Steffek, Bill Chapline, Maggie Volcik, Matthew Walker, Amanda Conniff, Marcella Henke, Margaret Timm, Madeline Lakey, Sylvester Garza, Harry Jackson, Helen M. Appelt, Luke Bludau, Mary Kaiser, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Hedwig Greer, Josephine Matejek, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Milada Netardus, Agatha Janak, Anita Kallus, Leonard Kubena, Hubert Etzler, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Anita Drabek, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, nursing home residents & the homebound.

Raffle Prize Donors are needed for the Spring Picnic.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize, please call the Rectory at your earliest convenience. **Thank you!**

Perpetual Adoration: An adorer is needed on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury, 798-3224.

Welcome to the parish: Chris & Katy Ranly, & sons Braxton & Brody; Shon & Lisa Horan, & daughter Tess.

Bulletin Bloopers: "Irving Benson & Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."

From the Desk of Father John

Fr. Michael and I are having a weight loss contest during Lent, from Ash Wednesday till Holy Saturday. Parishioners (and others) may pledge so much per pound for either or both of us. Whatever is collected will be used for our youth program.

During Lent, we fast and abstain from meat on certain days. But we also fast by the common practice of “giving something up for Lent.”

When we give up something – something important, something that functions as either a crutch or a pleasure in our lives – we make a sacrifice. This sacrifice helps us in many ways. It is penitential, a way to express sorrow for our sins. It teaches us that we don’t need those things to be happy. We can do without them and depend, as Jesus teaches us, on God alone for our happiness. It is a building block in learning spiritual self-discipline, preparing us for greater sacrifices we will be called on to make further down the road, in imitation of Jesus. It is a way of expressing solidarity, individually and as a whole Church, with the poor of this world, the poor in whom Jesus says we will meet Him.

“Sacrifice” is the key word here. Jesus showed us that sacrifice is at the core of authentic love. Some areas that many Catholics focus on in their Lenten sacrifice are a type of food, television or internet time, unnecessary spending or shopping, alcohol or caffeine.

In prayer, we turn to God, listen to His voice, and let Him fill our hearts and guide us. During Lent, our prayer takes on a special tone: we are especially aware of our sins. We are attentive to Jesus, the suffering Servant. We join in prayer for candidates and catechumens, and we pray for our own deeper conversion to the Lord.

Many find it helpful to go beyond Sunday Mass and use Lent as a chance to broaden and deepen their spiritual lives: celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; attend Mass during the week; read and pray with the Mass readings for each day; pray the Liturgy of the Hours; participate in a Bible study or other parish offering; use one of the many Catholic daily devotionals available; pray the Stations of the Cross, either individually or in your parish; pray the rosary; spend time in Eucharistic Adoration; do some extra spiritual reading.

Being mindful of the poor is not an option for Christians. In fact, Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, and clothe the naked, we are encountering Him.

So, along with fasting and praying, almsgiving has been a traditional Lenten practice. Jesus poured His life out for others. As His disciples, we are called to do the same in our everyday lives, as well as in the extra steps we take outside our ordinary lives and routines. Keeping the Corporal Works of Mercy in mind is helpful as we consider our Lenten Almsgiving: feed the hungry (help out at Manna Food Pantry, donate food); give drink to the thirsty (show hospitality to those in need); welcome the

stranger (be welcoming to those you meet); clothe the naked (donate clothing to the Thrift Store); visit the sick (visit the homebound, hospitalized, those in a nursing home); visit the prisoner (join in a prison ministry team or offer support to them); bury the dead (visit a cemetery, pray for the dead).



The Youth Connexion



March 15: *Firefall* at 6:00 p.m. in church. Youth gathering at the Youth House after *Firefall*.

Religious Education – Janice Busselman 798-3124

March 4: Penance Service for 3rd – 5th Grades.

March 11: Penance Service for 6th – 8th Grades.

March 18: No CCD classes; Spring Break.

April 1: Penance Service for 9th – 11th Grades.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News (361) 798-4251

***2009-2010 School Year Registration:** March 2–April 6. Details & forms will be included in the March newsletter.

***Kindergarten visitation & day in school:** March 23 – April 3 for prospective students for the 2009-2010 school year. Please call the school office for more information.

Dear Sacred Heart Parish,

Your continued support of L.A.M.B. and the Manna Food Pantry exhibits an expression of faith in our organization and we greatly appreciate your partnership. Your generous monthly contributions will be used to further the mission of L.A.M.B. As we strive to be instrumental in the fight against hunger in our community, your gifts enable us to carry on.

Our endeavor is to create an ecumenical network of support. We are dependent upon the support of the community, and your contributions enable us to make a difference in our community.

In our quarterly meetings, we are constantly evaluating ourselves to determine our effectiveness and efficiency. During each meeting, we review the last quarter’s participants to better determine their needs and make great efforts to determine the next quarter’s needs.

With your contributions, even in these difficult economic times, you spread the message of God’s mercy through deed, word, and prayer. Together, we are working to change the lives of our neighbors in need.

Sincerely, Jackie Robertson, Director, Manna Food Pantry

Contribution Statements for 2008 are available upon request. **Please call to request your statement BEFORE coming by the Rectory to give us time to prepare your statement.** Thank you.

KJT Society #43, Wied meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wied Hall. All members are invited.

Catholic Daughters Tri-District meeting, Sunday, March 8 at St. Joseph's Family Center, 209 Schrimsher, Yoakum. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP by Wed., March 4 to Margaret Steffek at 798-5064 or 798-2969.

Christian musician John Michael Talbot will perform in concert on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. John Michael's concert ministry has blessed millions over the past thirty years & thousands of lives have been transformed. Admission at the door will be \$10 per person. No advance tickets will be sold. For information, please call the Rectory at 798-5888.

KC's Fish Fry, Friday, March 6 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the KC Hall. All-you-can-eat catfish meal with french fries, buttered noodles, coleslaw, pinto beans & hush puppies – \$8 per person. Dine in or plates to go.

The Gabriel Project is in need of volunteers. Workshop & Training Class will be held 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church Trinity Hall, 206 W. River St., Victoria. To register, please call Esther (655-9951) or Barbara (649-1612).

St. Isidore Society Fried Chicken Dinner, March 22 at St. Mary's Hall. Plates to go only 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets (\$7) for sale at Hoffer's Drive In, Morton's Drive In, Peoples State Bank, Moravia Store & Blasé's Place.

Retreat for women, March 26 – 29, Elks Retreat Center, Ottine, sponsored by the Catholic Community of Gonzales & Waelder. \$100 per person. For information or to register, call Fr. Paul Raaz (830) 672-2945, Berny Klapuch (830) 672-3276 or Linda Bazan (830) 672-8068.

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Keith Foxell & Sandy Horton	40.00
Welden & Virginia Lell	20.00
Pat & Debbie Wagner	20.00
Brenda Grahmann, Greg & Mark	20.00
Pam, Randy & Tori Dornak	10.00
Don & Barbara Rainosek	10.00
Robert & Louise Pesek	10.00
James & Marsha Steffek	10.00
Melanie Davis	5.00
Lawrence & Laura Henke	5.00

In memory of David Etzler:

Herbert & Georgie Etzler	100.00
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SACRED HEART CHURCH BUILDING & REPAIR FUND

In memory of William E. Schindler:

Mike & Helen Technik	20.00
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SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAYCARE

In memory of Rita Grafe:

Jeff & Roslyn Guenther	10.00
Alton & Bernice Michalcik	10.00
Conrad & Betty Donner	20.00
Adam Hemmi	20.00
John & Frances Bock	20.00
David & Kathy Bujnoch	10.00
Leon & Kay Steinocher	20.00
Debbie Orsak	10.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND

In memory of Rita Grafe:

Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
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1st Sunday of Lent

He spent most of his college days creating or recovering from hangovers instead of studying. While his parents had taken him to various Protestant churches as a young boy, God was the furthest thing from his mind. He was expelled from school and soon found himself in the military where his off-duty hours were spent behaving much as he did in college. After his discharge, he aimlessly wandered through life and jobs until a priest who was building a new parish in Chicago offered to introduce him personally to the Catholic faith. At the Rite of Initiation, the man realized that perhaps his own angels had been with him as he wandered through the desert of his former life.

Have you experienced a bit of desert wandering of your own? In today's Gospel from Mark, it is the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Upon His baptism by John, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus out into the desert where He remains for forty days. During this time, He is immediately challenged by Satan, but as the Gospel states, "He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him." Can we recognize our beasts, and still rely on our angels?

Throughout Jesus' forty days, His thoughts were always first and foremost with His Father. This saving grace protected Him from danger and temptation. Yet we all too frequently choose to seek God's intervention only as a last resort (CCC 2732). Whether we spend our days in the presence of life's temptations or try to battle the beasts and demons that come our way, how can we be so bold as to believe we can do it on our own, when Jesus Himself relied on God as His Savior and Protector? Faith is, was, and shall always be our greatest shield.



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SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND

In memory of Rita Grafe:

John & Evelyn Pavliska	10.00
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In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
Bruce & Kelly Schimcek & family	10.00

In honor of John & Evelyn Pavliska's 60th Anniversary:

Robert & Leona Steffek	20.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Rita Grafe:

Ray & Terri Palmer	25.00
Elizabeth Green	25.00
Bob & Louise Pesek	10.00
Urban & Theresa Hemmi	15.00
James Hemmi & Family	20.00
Charles & Anna Neumeyer	20.00
Wes & Robyn Michalcik	5.00
Alice J. Summer	10.00
Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann	20.00

In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Hallettsville Livestock Commission	50.00
Joe Mike & Diane Spanihel	40.00
George & Dorothy Bujnoch	25.00
Dennis & Cynthia Matula	20.00
Evelyn & Phillip J. Bujnoch	20.00
Georgia Bujnoch	20.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Stephen & Vivian Spanihel	20.00
Bill & Virginia Grafe	10.00

In memory of Blasé Konvicka, Sr.:

George & Dorothy Bujnoch	15.00
Pam, Randy & Tori Dornak	10.00
Cleo Muras	10.00

In memory of Lillie Bohuslav:

Bill & Margaret Bludau	10.00
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In memory of Eugene Novak:

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Hollek	20.00
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In memory of John Jalufka:

Charles & Dorothy Jansky	10.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUNDIn memory of Rita Grafe:

Dennis & Gerardette Haas	20.00
Larry & Doris Grubert	20.00
Bob & Carol Franks	15.00
Alphonse & Cheryl Jansky	10.00
Phillip & Rosemary Hemmi Family	25.00

In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

David & Joyce Smolik	10.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of James Kouba:

Robert & Leona Steffek	10.00
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In memory of Douglas Bludau:

James & Camille Bigham	100.00
Frank & Jo Nell Janecek	20.00
Bobby Pavliska	10.00
Everett & Pam Bludau	50.00
Leroy & Alice Janak	15.00
Don & Nancy Hale	10.00
Amco Fence Corp.	100.00
Frank & Elrose Migl	20.00
Leon & Nancy Etzler	25.00
Becky & Larry Stastny	15.00
Head to Toe – Betty Marcak	10.00
Larry & Maggie Christ	10.00
Glenn & Carol Drozd	20.00
Peoples State Bank	10.00
Arthur Etzler, Jr.	25.00
William & Sharee Rainosek & sons	10.00

In memory of Rita Grafe:

Tommy & Diane Kainer	10.00
Paul & Sandra Migl	15.00
Paul & Dolores Janak	20.00
Jimmy & Liz Kouba	10.00
Frank & Elrose Migl	20.00
Bill & Virginia Curley	20.00
Frank & Jo Nell Janecek	20.00
Leroy & Alice Janak	15.00
Peoples State Bank	10.00

In memory of William E. Schindler:

Kenneth & Annie Mae Henneke	20.00
Raymond & Virginia Steffek	20.00
Robert & Leona Steffek	20.00
Leroy & Alice Janak	20.00

In memory of Adela Pohl:

A.J. & Margie Hanslik	500.00
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In memory of Lillie Bohuslav:

Snow & Irene Matula	30.00
Roger & Beverly Janak	20.00

In memory of Thelma Owen:

Linard & Dot Harper	10.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of Blasé Konvicka, Sr.:

Robert Pavliska	10.00
Tommy & Evelyn Dornak	10.00
Rosemary Hermes	10.00
William & Charlene Bradbury	10.00
Vernell Bozka	15.00
Trey & Jennifer Kraatz & family	10.00
Helen Mitchon	20.00

In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Arthur Etzler, Jr.	25.00
Allan & Evelyn Lanik & family	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Haas & family	20.00
Leo & Joyce Janda	20.00
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Steffek	10.00
Leon & Nancy Etzler	10.00
Tommy & Evelyn Dornak	10.00
Pat & Theresa Brewer & sons	10.00
Glenn & Donna Leopold	10.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL VOCATIONAL SHOP FUNDIn memory of Douglas Bludau:

Kenneth & Annie Mae Henneke	20.00
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In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

June Pence	25.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL LIBRARY FUNDIn memory of Douglas Bludau:

Audrey & James Poche	25.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL BAND FUNDIn memory of Rita Grafe:

Arthur Etzler, Jr.	25.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL CAFETERIA FUNDIn memory of Thelma Owen:

Mary Lee Wallace	20.00
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In memory of Johnny Rainosek:

Mary Lee Wallace	20.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETICSIn memory of James Kouba:

Ella Mae Bludau	10.00
Victor & Magdalen Steffek	15.00
Ronnie & Debi Sevcik & Family	10.00
Larry & Agnes Greer & Sons	10.00
Andrew & Jane Pesek	10.00
Victor & Magdalen Steffek	15.00

In memory of Douglas Bludau:

Larry & Doris Grubert	20.00
Ella Mae Bludau	20.00
Larry & Agnes Greer & Family	10.00
Jonathan Pesek	10.00
Andrew & Jane Pesek	20.00
Daniel & Dorothy Rother	10.00
Johnny Havel & Mandi	20.00
Glen Bludau	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Steinocher, Jr.	20.00
Roger & Beverly Janak	30.00
David & Mary Polasek	25.00

In memory of Blasé Konvicka, Sr.:

Victor & Magdalen Steffek	15.00
Andrew & Jane Pesek	10.00

In memory of Lillie Bohuslav:

Daniel & Dorothy Rother	10.00
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JEROME HAAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND













<u>In memory of Tim Kostelnik:</u>	10.00
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<u>In memory of Douglas Bludau:</u>	10.00
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Georgia Haas	
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2009 Lent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February				
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).</p>						
			25 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	26	27	28
			Attend an ash Wednesday liturgy and wear the cross of ashes all day.	Choose Lenten offerings of prayer, penance, and almsgiving.	Abstain from eating meat today, and make your meals truly penitential.	Pick a saint to learn about and imitate. Ask for his or her special help and protection during Lent. 
1 March	2	3	4	5	6	7
After Mass, decide what you need to move aside in your life in order to truly experience Jesus during Lent.	Raise the level of your prayer and really think about the meaning of the words you are saying.	Put a cross, crucifix, or other image of Jesus in each room of your home to help keep you focused. 	As an extra Lenten offering, give up something you enjoy — just for today.	Resolve to say only positive things about yourself today.	Pray for the people in the world who can't afford to have meat as a regular part of their diets. 	Make a list of the ways you can support the poor and resolve to do one activity each week.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Choose someone who has passed away or needs extra help as your Mass intention today.	Pray an extra Rosary today and every day this week. 	Forgive someone who has hurt you.	Ask Jesus to heal whatever separates you from feeling God's bountiful love.	Read the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and renew your commitment to keep them. 	Share a meatless meal with friends and tell them why you are abstaining.	Visit a local nursing home and read to a resident, take one for a walk, or just give someone your attention.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Take one idea from today's Gospel reading or homily to implement during the coming week.	At the end of the day, make an examination of conscience. Resolve to amend your life.	Look for evidence of God at work in your life today.	Deal with anyone in your life who may be interfering with your relationship with God.	Try to find the time to read an entire Gospel at one sitting. 	Make a fresh start on your Lenten journey today. Renew your Lenten observances.	Attend a parish Reconciliation Service or go to Confession on your own. 
22 <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
Celebrate the half-way point of Lent. Do something fun after Mass today.	Go to a private room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. 	Ask God for a new grace today that will bring you closer to him.	Resolve to go the entire day without judging or criticizing anyone. 	Pick one way you can simplify your lifestyle to make more room for God.	Figure out how much money you saved by not eating meat today and give it to the poor.	Trim down your possessions and give what you don't need to the poor.
29	30	31	1 April	2	3	4
Look around your neighborhood today for signs of new life. 	Get up an extra 15 minutes each day and spend that time in prayer.	Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS, www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can help.	Make a conscious effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.	Today, pray for someone you don't like. 	Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, butter, eggs, cheese, cream, and meat.	Perform some act of service for your parish. Ask at the rectory for suggestions.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Place Palms around each of the images of Jesus in your home. Welcome the Messiah into your heart.	Recite the Profession of Faith or the Apostle's Creed each day this week.	Notice someone who may be hungry for love or attention and satisfy that hunger.	Try to find a reasonable explanation for some offense you may have suffered and let God be the final judge.	Look for someone who is poor or homeless and share your food.	Meditate on the Stations of the Cross today. Try to imagine yourself at the scene of each one. 	Think about a way in which you might have betrayed Jesus today. Ask his pardon.

Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2009

One Minute Meditations

Follow the crowd?

Many of us feel tempted to follow the crowd to be accepted and admired. That means letting others make our choices. The difference with following God instead is that he doesn't want to make our choices. He wants us to choose the good and not the evil, but he wants us to be the ones who choose. Following God frees us to be completely ourselves.

Unforgivable sin

Is there something you have done that you fear God won't forgive? Do you think God's justice is greater than his love? Jesus made it clear that God forgives sins if we repent, confess our sins, and turn to him in faith for his forgiveness. God is eager to forgive us if only we will ask.

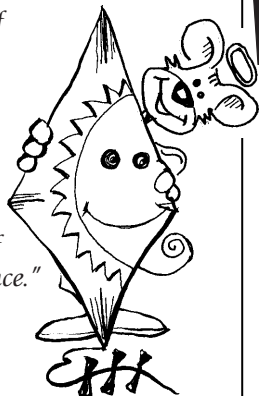
Mother Teresa said ...

"The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love and

The fruit of love is silence."



Jesus always gives more than you ask

In his mission on earth, Jesus always exceeded people's expectations. He always gave more than was asked – but exactly what was needed.

A paralyzed man looked for a cure but Jesus gave him what he really needed (Mark 2:1-12). When a man's friends brought him to Jesus for a cure for his paralysis, Jesus said, *"Son, your sins are forgiven."*

As God, Jesus has the power to heal. As a man, he identifies with our deepest needs or sufferings and gives us what we really need to overcome them.

People were hungry and Jesus used a small meal to feed thousands (John

6:1-15). Phillip told Jesus he thought feeding such a large group was impractical yet five loaves and two small fish fed them all.

Don't allow your estimate of a task keep you from taking it on. Let Jesus provide the resources.

A widow was about to bury her son but Jesus restored him to life (Luke 7:11-17). The widow couldn't have imagined that such a miracle was possible.

Yet, *"When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her ..."* God's love for us is bigger than we can imagine and moves him to shower us with miracles. Don't hesitate to ask him for what you need and praise him when he delights you with the result.



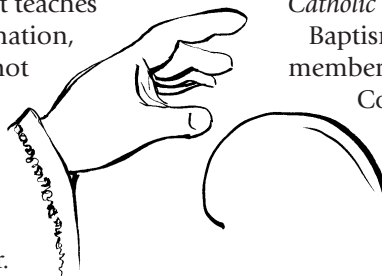
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe some Sacraments can't be repeated?

The Council of Trent teaches that Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders cannot be repeated because they place upon the soul an indelible sign. Their power leaves a distinctive mark that lasts forever. (See the *Catechism of the*

Catholic Church, 1582.)

Baptism marks us forever as members of the Body of Christ, Confirmation marks us as soldiers of Christ, and Holy Orders marks someone as a priest of Christ. No matter where we go or what we do, these marks remain.



Tune in to God

The Holy Spirit is everywhere but the fast pace of our lives may make it hard to find him. Try these tips to open up and tune in to the Holy Spirit in your life.

Slow down. Most of us move at a fast pace that is often dictated by the demands of modern life. If we are to be attentive to the Spirit, we have to close the day planners and turn off the phones and computers for a time every day. God wants us to pay attention to him. Remember, he knocked St. Paul to the



ground to get his notice.

Put on the brakes. Create silence so you can listen for God's voice. Try deep breathing, slow walking, Eucharistic Adoration – whatever helps you avoid distraction both inside and outside your mind.

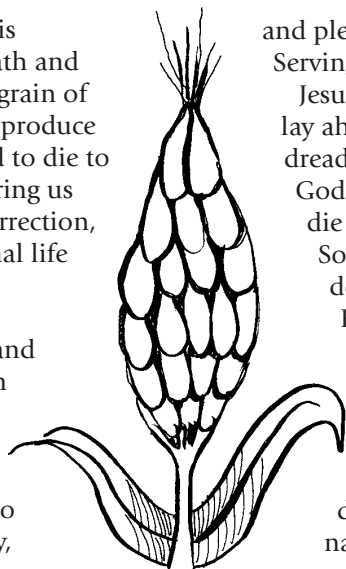
Reorganize. Where does the Holy Spirit fit in your life? If you have trouble finding him, you may need to reorder your life to remove the barriers between you and the one who loves you most.

from Scripture

John 12:20-33, Obedience yields new life

Jesus tried to warn his disciples about his death and prepare them for it. A grain of wheat dies in order to produce new life, and Jesus had to die to pay for our sins and bring us new life. With his resurrection, he proved he has eternal life and can offer it to us.

Then he said that we must "hate" our lives and be willing to lose them so we can live. He meant that we have to be ready to lay aside our attachment to goods, worldly security,



and pleasure to serve God freely.

Serving God brings eternal life.

Jesus knew that his crucifixion lay ahead and being human, he dreaded it. He also knew that God sent him into the world to die for our sins in our place.

So, Jesus said no to his human desires in order to obey his Father. Although we will never have to face such a difficult task, we are still called to obedience.

Whatever the Father asks we should be willing to do and bring glory to his name.

Q How can I keep & from losing steam during Lent?

Lent can seem like a long penitential season but it is meant to be the Church's gift to you. Instead of just giving up a favorite food or a bad habit, try thinking

of Lent as a time for changing your perspective.

Lent is a great time to reorder our priorities. The Gospel call is to provide only what

you need and share the rest. We all need food, clothing, and shelter. Beyond that, see what you can share with others who have less.

What can you move out of your way so you can grow closer to God? For example, fasting from television or computers during Lent will free up time you can spend in prayer. Giving up a favorite food like chocolate or beer makes you more conscious of people who always do without.

When you say "no" to something during Lent, say "yes" to something better. For example, the extra time you spend in prayer may bring you greater peace or a renewed sense of God's love for you.



Feasts & Celebrations

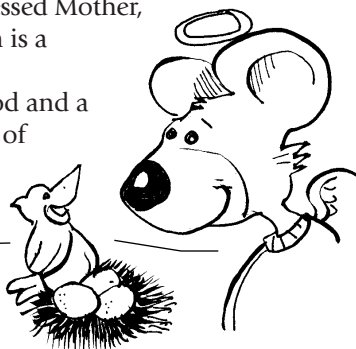
March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel (1955). A Philadelphia heiress, St. Katharine Drexel gave up her fortune to become a nun. She established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states and founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first university for African-Americans in the U.S.

March 4 - St. Casimir (1483). Born a prince of Poland, St. Casimir's strong conscience was instilled by a great teacher, John Dlugosz. When Casimir's father sent him to take over Hungary, fifteen-year-old Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his

troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again.

March 17 - St. Patrick (493). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. Although he escaped, he later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is established the Church there.

March 20 - St. Joseph (?). Husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.



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