

February 22, 2009



St. Columba ~ St. Patrick Parish

198 North Street

Caledonia, New York 14423

A Member of 5 Saints West Pastoral Planning Group

Lent

In the cycle of weekday readings (and in the Divine Office), Lent falls into two parts. The first part, including the "pre-Lent" of Ash Wednesday, and the rest of that week, runs through to Saturday of Week 3. In these three and a half weeks, the Gospel texts are taken from the Synoptics and the Old Testament readings are chosen accordingly. The message running throughout, is a call to a life of Gospel conversion. The pericopes speak of beginning anew, of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; of conversion; of mutual forgiveness; of hardness of heart; of love of enemies; of absolute claims of justice and love over ritual and cost; of the call to holiness, and so forth. (Occasionally, what appears to be salvation history narrative is interspersed among these moral texts—a story like the call of Naaman or the workers in the vineyard, for example—but, in this context they are meant to be read as call to conversion rather than as referring to Christ or to the Easter mysteries.)

The readings for the second half of Lent are taken from the Gospel of John, beginning on Monday of the fourth week of Lent at 4:43 and going through, omitting passages read on Sundays and during Easter, to chapter 13. It is clear that these readings from John do not constitute a kind of "crash course" in the life of Jesus, so much as a presentation of the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of who John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Christ is presented as the healer and life-giver, as the one who gives life through his confrontation with death and gathers into one, the scattered children of God.

How do these two sections of the lectionary fit together and what can they tell us about the spirit of Lent? The shift from the "ethical" to the "Christological" is no accident. The purpose of the first part of Lent is to bring us to compunction. "Compunction" is etymologically related to the verb "to puncture: and suggests the deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to any self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus. By hitting us again and again with demands which we not only fail to obey, but which we come to recognize as being quite beyond us, the Gospel passages are meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves. "Remember, you are dust..." From this perspective, Lenten penance may be more effective if we fail in our resolutions than if we succeed, for its purpose is not to confirm us in our sense of virtue but to bring home to us our radical need of salvation.

It is in answer to this profound awareness of need that the lectionary shifts from the Synoptics to John, from the demands of discipleship to the person of Jesus. John presents Jesus as the Savior, but Jesus can only save those who know their need for salvation. Confronted with our sickness and powerlessness, we pray for our salvation.

Taken from "The Spirit of Lent," Mark Searle, in *Assembly*, Volume 8:3. Copyright Notre Dame for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN





**The Sanctuary Candle
at St. Columba
will burn this week
for
The People of the Parish**

Mass Intentions for this week

Saturday, February 21

5:00 p.m. - Anniversary - Roger Sheehan (his family)

Sunday, February 22 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. - Joe Gustainis Sr. (Brian & Nora Brunette)

10:00 a.m. - Claire Baleno

Monday, February 23

8:00 a.m. - People of the Parish

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 a.m. - Deceased members of the Ruby & White Families

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

12:10 p.m. - Deceased members of the Parish & Community

Lector: Barb Kelly

Ministers of Ashes & Communion: Milly Romano & Bill McGinnis

Altar Server: Bryan Hitchings

Greeters: Barry & Sharyn Ganzhorn

7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word Service

Lector: Cindy Oltmann

Ministers of Ashes & Communion: Beth Bullen & Vicki Dutton

Server: Jacob Oltmann

Greeters: Don Pullyblank & Lori Bickford

If you are a Communion minister taking Communion to a shut-in, please stop at the Rectory this week and pick up a package of ashes to take with you on your calls. Packages will be available after Mass next weekend in the area where Father vests.

Thursday, February 26

8:00 a.m. - Fr. Elmer McDonald & all the Priests of our Diocese

Friday, February 27

No Mass Today

Saturday, February 28

5:00 p.m. - Judy Reed (her family)

Lector: Anne Paluskiewicz

Communion Ministers: Helen Marie Drexel & Gary Bubel

Altar Server: Hanna & Michael Anderson

Greeters: Mike & Judy Stephany

Mass Intentions for this week (cont.)

Sunday, March 1 - First Sunday in Lent

8:00 a.m. - Ruby Didas (Don & Ruth Coyle)

Lector: Barbara McVean

Communion Ministers: Barb Kelly & Teresa Lang

Altar Server: Donald Bullen

Greeters: Sam & Anna Serio

10:00 a.m. - Betty Coyle (Janice & Peter Weiss)

Lector: Tom Robinson

Communion Ministers: John & Jill Formella, Aminta

McNulty & Pat Rountree

Altar Servers: Sean & Rachael Dollard

Greeters: Carol Matthews & Pat Rountree

This week in the parish

Sunday, February 22

Marriage Encounter speakers at Masses

10:00 a.m. - Faith Formation, grade 1; Children's Liturgy of the Word

Middle School Youth Group meets

Monday, February 23

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study begins

Tuesday, February 24

11:00 a.m. - Parish Staff meeting

Wednesday, February 25 - Ash Wednesday

12:10 p.m. - Mass w/ ashes

6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation, grades K, 2 - 6

7:00 p.m. - Liturgy of the Word Service w/ ashes

Thursday, February 26

7:30 p.m. - Knights of Columbus meet

Friday, February 27

7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28

Second collection

Sunday, March 1

Second collection

10:00 a.m. - Faith Formation, grade 1; Children's Liturgy of the Word

7:00 p.m. - Holy Hour w/ Benediction

High School Youth Group meets

New Ministers' schedule

The next schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers & Greeters for the months of March, April & May will be ready next weekend, February 28/March 1. There will be sign-up sheets posted for Holy Week & Easter liturgies toward the middle of March.

WANTED - Missing booklets

We're missing some of our copies of "Through Death To Life" funeral planning booklets. If you have one, please return it. It can be left on the pick-up shelf in the side entrance of the rectory. Thank you.

Catholic Ministries Appeal - update

Goal: \$21,691.00

Given to date: \$16,943.00 – 146 Donors - 78.11% of our goal

Stewardship at Sts. C / P

For February 16

Attendance.....	312
Number of Sunday envelopes used.....	109
Sunday offertory.....	\$2,835.53
Amount needed weekly to reach our budget.....	3,816.00
Difference (under budget).....	(\$ 980.47)

SACRIFICIAL GIVING COUNTERS for February

23 - Team #2 - Ernie Cripps, Bill Goodburlet, Jim Hef-fer

SACRISTAN for February - Julie Molisani

ST. PATRICK CLOTHING CENTER volunteer for March 7 - Meg Geer & Charlene Sayers

CHILDRENS' LITURGY OF THE WORD volunteer for March 1 - Laurie Sheer

Stewardship thought

St. Paul is often misquoted as saying: "Money is the root of all evil." He said no such thing. Money helps feed the hungry, helps clothe the naked; it helps to building homeless shelters, and churches.

Bible Study to begin

We are offering a 10-week study of the Gospel According to Mark. We will begin this Monday, February 23 at 7:00 PM in the church hall. Prior registration is required. The cost is \$15.00 for the study guide and the commentary. Please register soon so the correct number of books can be ordered. Contact Deacon David for more information or to register.

Souper Bowl

We collected over 50 cans of soup for the Cal-Mum Food Pantry in Mumford. Many thanks to our Youth Group and all who donated.

Married Couples!

Come and spend an entire weekend with each other on the next Marriage Encounter Weekend to get back to the romance of your courtship, early marriage, to rediscover each other and to enrich your Sacrament of Marriage by bringing it closer to God. The date is March 20-22, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in Batavia.

Contact Mike and Michelle Hunzek at (585) 421-9471 / mhunzek1@rochester.rr.com or Karl and Piroska Mersich at 585 739-5913 / mersich@rochester.rr.com

Stations of the Cross begins

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This beautiful prayer service traces the last footsteps of Christ, it only takes 1/2 hour, and is a meaningful Lenten devotion. Why not make a Lenten sacrifice to "give up" 1/2 hour a week for Stations of the Cross.

Little Black Books

Once again, the parish is offering the "Little Black Books" to use during this Lenten Season. The "Little Black Book" is a booklet of 6 minute daily meditations. They are available in the foyer of the church.

St. Joseph's/St. Patrick's Celebration

Come join us on Saturday, March 14 at 6:00 PM, in the church hall, for a dish-to-pass dinner. We will be entertained with Irish music and learn/taste the customs of St. Joseph Ta-ble. Signup sheets are in the church.



Prison Reform and Re-Entry

In association with the 5 Saints West Parishes, the Social Ministry Committee will be a part of sponsoring a "Just Faith" program dealing with Prison Reform and Re-Entry.

The program will consist of six sessions. It was designed and written by Jens Soering, an inmate who has written extensively about prison reform. Soering introduces the Christian principle of restorative justice and points out the critical need for comprehensive reform. The critical need for effective re-entry programs will also be studied.

The program will focus on the power of prayer and the Christian messages of reconciliation and redemption. Using the tools of reading, dialogue, videos and the possibility of guest speakers, the participants will:

- engage the issues of prison reform from many angles
- Identify common myths and misconceptions concerning prisons and the corrections systems
- Explore the concepts of rehabilitation and restoration
- Study and discuss the critical importance of effective re-entry programs

To cover the expense of one book and other materials, there will be a fee of \$23.00 per participant.

This promises to be an important and stimulating study. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please call Jim Dollard at 538-2242 by next Sunday, March 1st.

We plan to have our first gathering on Monday, March 16th. Location and time will be announced.