

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

Happy St. Valentine's Day! I hope you all do something spiritual for your Valentine and not just romantic. You can pray with them/for them. Offer something up for them. Have a Mass said for them. Whatever God tells you to do – do it.

Can you believe Wednesday is Lent already? At least it is a sign that spring is coming, eventually! More than that, of course, Lent is the time that we prepare for the Easter Season, the celebration of Life – God's gift of everlasting life in Jesus!

As I talk about every year, as we start to decide what we are going to "give up" for Lent, we need to do more than just what we have always done; we need to look at what the Church is inviting us to do. The three traditional practices of Lent are fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. I would encourage us that we need to do something in each of these areas.

Most people give up something they like - you know, chocolate, pop, etc. That is OK, but it is not enough. I think I can hear Jesus saying sometimes: "I gave up my life for them, and they give up chocolate for Me!" When it comes to fasting, we need to look at where our sins are, and then give up something that will help us deal with that sin. For instance, let us say that we are lazy and that we waste a lot of time watching TV instead of doing what we need to be doing; then give up TV. You get the picture. Fasting should help us to die to self and sin so that we can live more fully for God and others.

In regard to almsgiving, this is something that we should be doing all year, but most especially during Lent. This means taking care of the poor. This would be a great time to adopt a third world child, and, for \$30 a month, you can help someone you will never meet live – what a gift! CFCA (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging) is a great Catholic Organization where you can sponsor a needy child. More info: [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org).

The next practice must be the most important one, and that is prayer. We need to be people of prayer! You can decide to read the Bible every day, GO TO DAILY MASS, say the rosary, come pray with your pastor every weekday morning at 6:00am! SIGN UP FOR A COMMITTED WEEKLY HOUR OF ADORATION! However God is calling you to grow in intimacy with Him through prayer, DO IT! More than anything, this is what God calls us to do this Lent!

And so, "What are you doing for Lent?" I hope I have given you some good suggestions. Please, let us not just go through another Lent doing the "same old, same old." Let this Lent be the Lent that we take our quest to be Holy seriously, and thus become His saints!

Let us pray for one another. God Bless+++

In His love,  
Fr. Larry

**CHURCH CLEANING:** The "Emmanuel Laborers" will be cleaning the church on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 AM. We need lots of extra helpers to keep the church clean during the messy winter months! Teens can get service hours for volunteering. We will be done by 10:00 AM with a bit of extra help!

**PURGATORIAL SOCIETY:** Father Wright will be starting a Purgatorial Society here in the parish. If you are interested, please call the parish office and leave your name and telephone number.

**ATTENTION, LITURGICAL MINISTERS!:** The Liturgical Ministers Schedule for the month of March will be finalized on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to serve during the month of March, call Nancy in the parish office by Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**A REQUEST: St. Martin Center** would like to request donations for a recent increase in the number of immigrants to this area. Please consider donating the very basics: dishes, silverware, blankets, bed linens, towels, curtains, pots and pans (especially rice cookers) as well as beds, sofas, tables and chairs. Anything would be much appreciated. Donations can be brought to St. Martin Center, 1701 Parade St, Erie. To schedule a pickup, call 814-452-6113.

**BEREAVEMENT LUNCHEONS:** We would like to continue offering a Bereavement Luncheon for families of deceased parishioners at the time of the funeral. We are in need of one more volunteer to lead a team of current helpers. If you are interested or need more information, please call Anna Marie May at 825-6759.

**THE FOLLOWING HOURS ARE OPEN IN THE ADORATION CHAPEL:** Sunday 1 AM, 3 AM, 11 AM, 4 PM and 5 PM; Monday 6 PM and 11 PM; Tuesday 1 AM; Wednesday 11 PM; Thursday 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 8 AM, 7 PM, 8 PM and 11 PM; Friday 2 AM, 7 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM and 10 PM; Saturday 3 AM, 4 AM, 5 AM and 3 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM and 11 PM. We are also still in need of a Division Coordinator for the hours from 6 PM to 11 PM; and Hour Coordinators for 1 AM & 2 PM. Call Sherry at 864-0283 or Ruthann at 868-0308.

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME,** having surgery, ill, a death in the family, or they could just use a shawl full of prayers? Then please contact Wrapped In His Arms and we will present them with a prayer shawl. There is no cost involved. All shawls are donated by the ministry. Please phone Laurie at 459-6503.

**THIRTY-ONE CLUB:** The following parishioners will be offering Mass for vocations during this week: February 14<sup>th</sup> – Mary L. Murphy; February 15<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Murray; February 16<sup>th</sup> – Chris Brzozowski; February 17<sup>th</sup> – Dorothy M. Knoll; February 18<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Shouse; February 19<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Schlosser; February 20<sup>th</sup> – Shirley Ireland.

**LAST CHANCE -- WE WANT TO KNOW!:** Parish Council Parishioner Surveys are available in the parish office, on the table in the back of the church, and online at [www.stjoes.bol.org](http://www.stjoes.bol.org). Please fill out the survey and return it to the parish office, in the collection basket, or in the mail **as soon as possible**. The results will be tabulated and available for your information.

**LENTEN REGULATIONS:** Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday are days of **abstinence** from meat for those 14 years of age and older. In observance of the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19<sup>th</sup>, Catholics are NOT obliged to abstain from meat on that day. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of **fasting** for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

**DEVOTIONALS FOR LENT:** Please join with the other members of the parish in making our Lent one of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Lenten *Magnificat* devotionals and Rice Bowls are available in the vestibule of the church. Your donation for the devotional is greatly appreciated, but not necessary. First come – first served!

**ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN MASSES:** Masses for Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 AM, 12:10 PM, and 7:00 PM – **all in the church**. Both daily Masses – 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM – will be held **in the church** for the duration of the Lenten Season.

**ST. JOSEPH NOVENA & HOLY HOUR:** There will be no Novena and Holy Hour on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> because of the 7:00 PM Mass for Ash Wednesday. It will resume on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 PM. Come to pray and worship!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Stations of the Cross will be held on the Fridays during Lent, beginning with this Friday, February 19, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the church. Please come and be a part of this wonderful Lenten devotion. Benediction will follow the Stations. We still need a few altar servers to help with the carrying of the Cross and candles. Please call Nancy in the parish office to volunteer.

**Masses For the Week**

- Saturday (2/13) *Anticipated Mass for Sunday***  
5:15 PM + The Living & Deceased of the Parish
- Sunday (2/14) *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
8:30 AM + Joseph Spano (Wife, Linda)  
11:00 AM + Maryellen Reilly (Brian & Jenny Calvelage)
- Monday (2/15) *Weekday***  
7:00 AM + Walter & Stella Tatar (The Tatars)  
11:30 AM + Sr. Kathleen Blair (Sr. Maria Assumpta)
- Tuesday (2/16) *Weekday***  
7:00 AM + Aaron Knoll (Mary & Bob)  
11:30 AM + John Schweitzer, Sr. (Family)
- Wednesday (2/17) *Ash Wednesday***  
7:00 AM + Connie Lehner—Anniv. (Cheryl & Doug Konzel)  
12:10 PM + Bob Tarkowski, Sr. (Gert)  
7:00 PM + William & Arthur Krayner, Jr. (Matson Family)
- Thursday (2/18) *Lenten Weekday***  
7:00 AM + Patricia Murphy (Family)  
11:30 AM + Deceased of The Gerry Baker Family (Gerry Baker)
- Friday (2/19) *Lenten Weekday***  
7:00 AM + Joseph Nagle (Family)  
11:30 AM + Michael Serafini (Family)
- Saturday (2/20) *Anticipated Mass for Sunday***  
5:15 PM + George Froberg (Cynthia Manna)
- Sunday (2/21) *First Sunday in Lent***  
8:30 AM + The Living & Deceased of the Parish  
11:00 AM + Hillie Newman (Diane Kiehlmier)

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**Week February 7, 2010**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6384.74</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 920.00</b>
<b>On-line Giving</b>	<b>\$ 1352.00</b>
<b>Weekly Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8542.00</b>

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**Weekend of February 20th & 21st**

<b>Saturday, February 20th</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Fr. Dennis</b>
<b>Sunday, February 21st</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Fr. Wright</b>
	<b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Fr. Dennis</b>

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**Wedding Banns**

**Banns II—Laurie Firman & Jeff Gottschling**

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*If you have a special prayer intention for the month of February, please call Dolores Jagodzinski at 454-3634 or Chris Smith at 459-2236.*