

THE

Recording Angel

St. Mary Catholic Church
127 Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48162
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Spring 2010

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MARCIINGS

Lent: a season of purification and enlightenment

One of the gifts of being Catholic is our sense of time. While the world rushes from paycheck to paycheck, or to appointment TV, we hold that time is not something that masters us, but something that has been given to us by God as a means of growing closer to God -- our destiny. God gives us time to grow, pray and serve each other as we journey together through Advent, Christmas and Ordinary Time.



We will face the hard choices we have to make when we chose to live as disciples of the Lord. The Lord does not leave us alone in the Lenten desert. He feeds us with his saving word and with the very presence of the Risen Lord. Our Lenten Sundays are a chance to recognize the sacredness of this season, and our week, as we return to the Lord.

In this issue of the *Recording Angel*, you will find many ways to make your Lenten journey worthwhile: worthy ways to spend your Lenten time.

Our Lenten Sundays are a chance to recognize the sacredness of this season, and our week, as we return to the Lord.

This journey through Lent and Easter and to the rest of our lives will require time and commitment. It will demand our presence with the community and time set aside for private prayer and reflection. Like any journey,

our planning and preparation will help us to arrive at our destination safe and sound, and transformed in the process. May God bring us together through this Lent into an Easter of renewed faith and profound joy.

Rev. Marc A. Gawronski
Rev. Marc A. Gawronski, Pastor



The next stage of the never-ending journey will begin on Ash Wednesday, leading us through Lent towards Easter; and then through Easter into a life transformed by Baptism and Confirmation, as well as nurtured and sustained around the table of the Lord.

On the way, we will join Jesus in the desert where he will be tempted by Satan, as we all are. (First Sunday of Lent) We will catch a glimpse of our own baptismal glory as he is transfigured on the mountain after talking about his dying and rising (Second Sunday of Lent).

CLIP & SAVE THIS CALENDAR

2010 LENTEN EVENTS

February

- 5 **Marriage Enrichment**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., SH
- 10 **Mass with healing prayer**, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 **Generations of Faith:** Praying through Lent and Easter, 11:00 a.m. PLC/Gym
- 14 **Bishop Reiss presides** at 3:00 p.m. Mass, Potluck and presentation to follow, GYM
- 17 **Ash Wednesday** Mass times: 8:15 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with ashes: 7:00 a.m., Noon, 4:00 p.m.
- 19 **Marriage Enrichment**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., SH
- 24 **Soup Luncheon**, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., PLC

March

- 1, 8, 15, 22, **Lenten Homecoming**
 - **Exposition of the Eucharist** at 5:00 p.m.
 - **Evening Prayer** at 6:00 p.m., Church;
 - **Soup & Bread Supper** at 6:30 p.m.
 - **Presentation** at 7:00 p.m., PLC

(More information on next page)
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, **Soup Luncheon**, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., PLC
- 13 **SMS Auction**, doors open at 5:30, live auction begins at 7:00 p.m., PLC/Gym
- 21 **Generations of Faith**, "Praying through the Triduum," 11:00 a.m. PLC/Gym
- 21 **Will Our Teens Have Faith?** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. PLC
- 28 **Palm Sunday**
- 27 & 28 **Christian Women Bake Sale** after all Masses

April

- 1 **Mass of The Lord's Supper** at 7:00 p.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00 p.m., PLC
- 2 **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion** Stations of the Cross at Noon; Liturgy of the Word – 1:00 p.m.
- 3 **Easter Vigil**, 9:00 p.m. reception following Mass PLC
- 4 **Easter Mass:** 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. – Misa en Español

- 9 **No Morning Mass**
- 11 **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** following 9:30 a.m. Mass
- 18, 25 **Family First Eucharist**
- 27 **Vicariate Vocation Mass** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 **First Eucharist Rehearsal**, 6:00 p.m., PLC

May

- 2 **Solemn First Eucharist**, 3:00 p.m.; **CSA Sunday**
- 5 **Soup Luncheon** 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Welcome Home

During the Season of Lent in 2010, we are planning a **Lenten Homecoming**, as former Pastors who have served our community come home to invite us to return to the Lord during Lent.



Monday, March 1, 2010
Coming home to Jesus, the Savior, who dies and rises to save us: What will help us to focus on Christ, who is the goal of our Lenten journey, and our lives?
Rev. Jim Roth, OSFS
 Weekend Associate, 1996–2004



Monday, March 8, 2010
Coming home to a God who heals us from suffering.
Rev. Tim Babcock, Pastor
 2002–2005



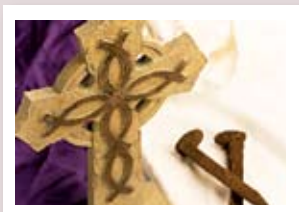
Monday, March 15, 2010
Coming home to the Forgiving Father: the Sacrament of Reconciliation from the other side of the screen.
Rev. Tony Sulkowski, Pastor
 1996–2002



Monday, March 22, 2010
The Adulterous Women: Coming home from regret and starting a new beginning: God of Second Chances.
Rev. Brian Chabala
 Pastor, 1987–1996

The schedule for our Lenten Monday evenings will be:

- 5:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Church
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in Church
- 6:30 p.m. Simple meal of Soup and Bread in the Parish Life Center
- 7:00 p.m. Presentation by our guest, incorporating reflections on the Gospel of the Sunday to come
- 7:30 p.m. Questions & Answer session
- 8:00 p.m. Closing prayer and time to visit with friends old and new



Lenten journeys begin

Lorie and Terry Bronson

To celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary we decided to visit Rome, the Eternal City. In preparation we consulted with our pastor, Fr. Tim Babcock and Bishop Francis Reiss, past and knowledgeable visitors to this Italian city. Being familiar with the city, they delighted in sharing their experiences and recommendations regarding affordable lodging, points of interest and safety tips. We carefully planned the details of this trip with the hope that this journey would intensify our passions of faith, history, art, adventure and romance.



Church, seeing God in all people, a thankful heart, sharing the gifts freely given to us and growing in charity as we reach out to those in need.

This Lenten journey may not

always be a straight path, but may take you down narrow twisting alleys past interesting – or challenging – settings. In prayer, as you discern God’s direction in your life, you may experience realizations and insights not always found in your guidebooks. What is found on this walk with God will be what He wants you to see and experience. You may be led to pray a simple morning offering or attend a weekday Mass or discover the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Some may hear God’s call to do acts of charity such as helping the homeless and working poor or visiting the sick. Whatever you are guided to do, it will be an essential part of the journey toward that closer union with God.

Like the trip to Rome, Lent, too, is a journey – with a beginning and a destination

While in Rome we attempted to follow a map or guidebook. In doing so there were many times we found ourselves being lead down streets no wider than narrow alleys. We discovered some places not even mentioned in the guidebooks: a 1st century Roman building under excavation, a 4th century church still an active parish; plaza squares where people sang or played music for coins.

Like the trip to Rome, Lent, too, is a journey – with a beginning and a destination. The starting point is who we are today; with our joys, challenges, desires for growth, and the belief in our ability to change with the grace of God. Our Lenten goal is a deeper relationship with God; an awareness of God’s faithful presence in Sacred Scripture and the sacramental life of the

When we took those “detours” in Rome we felt lost. But we were never really lost. Eventually we would find a familiar landmark and reach our ultimate destination. So it is with the spiritual journey of Lent. Our restless hearts search for God. Lent is a good time to pull out the spiritual maps and compasses of our faith. Our rich Catholic traditions rooted in the maps of Scripture and Sacrament lead us to our Eternal Destination of life in and through Jesus, the Christ. It is a journey like no other, full of adventure, challenge and growth! So pack your suitcase and let our Lenten journeys begin!



Solidarity will transform the world

Solidarity is a Christian virtue. It helps us to see the 'other' – whether a person, people or nation—not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful; but as our 'neighbor,' a 'helper' to be made a sharer on a par with ourselves in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God.

This Lenten season, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) invites Catholics to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

We believe that through solidarity we can transform the world.

Operation Rice Bowl, the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, is a program for the home, classroom and parish. The program is intended to deepen participants' spiritual journey through the six weeks of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Every year individuals use Operation Rice Bowl as a guide to observe Lent through its traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Locally, the God Works! Family Soup Kitchen has been a recipient of CRS monies.

The cardboard bowl is a symbol of both the hunger and the hope that exists in the developing world. The bowl is used to collect the sacrificial donations made during Lent as a way for Catholics to actively respond to the needs of the poor.

Operation Rice Bowl invites us to become members of an Online Lenten Community at www.CatholicRelief.org/ORB. Weekly emails offer a new way to focus our prayer, guide our learning, and challenge us to live our faith more deeply in relationship with those who are poor.

Throughout Lent, articles in the Sunday bulletin will focus on the lives of people in four countries, telling stories and circumstances. Through the use of your rice bowls and with our collective prayer we will transform the world!

"Jerusalem, My Destiny"

Refrain:

*I have fixed my eyes on your hills,
Jerusalem, my destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me,
I cannot turn away.*

*We have set out hearts for the way;
this journey is our destiny.*

Let no one walk alone.

The journey makes us one.

Other spirits, lesser, have courted me with lies.

*Here among you I have found
a truth which bids me rise.*

*See, I leave the past behind;
a new land calls to me.*

*Here among you now I find a
glimpse of what might be.*

*In my thirst, you let me drink
the waters of your life.*

*Here among you I have met
the savior, Jesus Christ.*

*All the world I have not seen
you open to my view.*

*Here among you I have found a vision,
bright and new.*

*To the tombs I went to mourn
the hope I thought was gone.*

Here among you I awoke to unexpected dawn.

Each Lent we sing this upbeat hymn. The images of hope keep us focused on the destination and the promise of eternal life realized in the Resurrection. May our Lenten acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us as we fix our eyes on the hills of Jerusalem.

Consider joining the more than 300 other parishioners on a virtual, imaginary Walk to Jerusalem.

Exercise the muscles of your body and grow spiritually as you reflect on a weekly scripture verse! No pledges are needed. Only a commitment to strengthening ourselves both physically and spiritually is needed.

Engaging in any exercise qualifies for "miles" that we will keep track of throughout the weeks of Lent. Every twenty minutes of exercise equals 1 mile. The goal is to add up all of the miles that the more than 300 participants accumulate. Together we seek to walk 6,680 miles. The miles are logged in an artificial passport (\$3.00 fee) that can be obtained from the parish office (734-241-1644) or the Office of Faith Formation (734-241-6097). Yellow cards found in your passport envelope provide the means to record your exercise.

We "walk on" to Jerusalem, remembering Christ's journey to that same destination. With love for each of us He carried the cross. This cross has become the symbol of our salvation. Reverencing our body and spirit, let us "walk on" physically and spiritually to our Jerusalem destination.

Back to Basics for St. Mary Students

Melody Curtis, St. Mary School Principal

The saints and mystics of the church, in tandem with the scriptures, speak of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as the three pillars of discipleship. The pillars form the foundation of Christian living; disciplines that form us as disciples. During Lent we try as best as we can to get back to these basics. We teach the children to absorb this principle deep into their bones and make it shine in all that they do. (Peter Mazar)

In getting back to basics during Lent, we focus on what needs work. Our classroom prayer may feel healthy, but we know there is always room for refinement. Uncovering traditional ways to fast and then deciding how to accomplish it takes hard work. Even among small children, the spirit of the fast can be kept by not sharing between-meal treats in the classroom. Hunger, so Jesus tells us in a parable, brought the prodigal son to his senses.

We teach the children at St. Mary's that fasting be accompanied by prayer and almsgiving. The money children gather in their "rice bowls" during Lent benefit Catholic Relief Services, an agency that helps people of any or no religion. The book of Tobit reminds us that "prayer with fasting is good, but better than both is almsgiving with justice." We are mindful of those who have less and it becomes a way of life.



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BE SURE TO VISIT OUR FRESH, NEW, EASY-TO-USE WEBSITE!
Includes calendar of parish-wide events, Mass times,
"The Chronicle," Liturgy Schedule and more!

www.stmarymonroe.org

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A Lenten Prayer



Fast from judging others; feast on Christ in them.
Fast from wanting more; feast on being thankful.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from worry; feast on trust.
Fast from complaining; feast on enjoyment.
Fast from negatives; feast on positives.
Fast from stress; feast on prayer.
Fast from anger; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from fear; feast on truth.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from gossip; feast on silence.
Fast from fighting; feast on peace.

AMEN.

Adapted from a Lenten prayer by William Arthur Ward