

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT****MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat, March 1, 2008 to Sun, March 9, 2008

Saturday Vigil, March 1: 4:30 PM Church
Grace D'Domenicus (Heather Johnston & Angie Lipa)

Sunday, March 2: 7:30 AM Church
Anniv - Gizella Gerger (Lil, Gizelle, & Peg)

Sunday, March 2: 9:30 AM Chapel
Kay & Ed Zamanski (Sister, Madge Panno & Family)

Sunday, March 2: 11:30 AM Church
For Parish Family of St. John of God

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, March 3: Anniv - Rose Marks (Dgthr, Lisa)

Tuesday, March 4: Special Intention (Nick Solack)

Wednesday, March 5, 8:15 AM, Chapel: Joyce Julian (SJOG School Staff)

Wednesday, March 5: Anniv - Donald Seibert (Phyllis Seibert & Family)

Thursday, March 6: Mark Heller (Jackie Troyan)

Thurs., Mar, 6 Stations of the Cross, 1:15 PM, Chapel

Friday, March 7: Lois Richert (Mary Frydlwicz, Linda, Darrell, & Rob)

Friday, Mar, 7 Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM, Church

Saturday, Mar. 8, 1:00 PM: Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery Chapel

Saturday Vigil, March 8: 4:30 PM Church
Anniv - Anna Bennet (Daughter, Mary DeAngelis)

Sunday, March 9: 7:30 AM Church
For Parish Family of St. John of God

Sunday, March 9: 9:30 AM Chapel
Ernest Funwela (Family)

Sunday, March 9: 11:30 AM Church
Anna Murcko (Clare & Evelyn Knapp)

Readings for the Week of March 2, 2008

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-3a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2: 1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are celebrated in St. John of God Parish every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church and on Thursdays at 1:15 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows.

**Parish Office Hours:**

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Monday thru Friday)
Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday Noon

**ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

The traditional Lenten Ecumenical Services will continue on the Tuesday evenings during Lent in St. John of God Parish, the Church at St. Mary's at 7:30 PM. This year's theme for the services is the "Beatitudes." This Tuesday, March 5, First Baptist Church will conduct the services with Rev. David McFarland as Celebrant focusing on "Blessed Are the Persecuted." A social will follow the services in the Gathering Place. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to join us for these spirit-filled evenings.

FESTIVAL MEETING

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 4:00 P.M.

**AT THE SOCIAL HALL
EVERYONE INVITED
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED.**



FESTIVAL?? NO FESTIVAL?? We need to decide yes or no. Many said last year, "I'm getting too old for this." We'll be looking for commitments to move forward, and we'll review last year's numbers. Tentative dates for 2008 are August 6, 7, 8 and 9. This will avoid the August 15 Holy Day. Come to the meeting and share your thoughts and ideas.

FOUND

Last weekend in St. Mary's Church, a CD holder containing books on CD's was found in the Church. If they belong to you, please call the parish office at 412-771-5646.

FIRST PENANCE AND COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Our children will be celebrating *First Penance* on Monday, March 10, at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church. This will take place during a *Communal Penance Service* to which the whole parish is invited and encouraged to participate in. This would be the most opportune time to go to confession before Easter. For more information, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

**STUDENTS WILL CONDUCT STATIONS**

St. John of God Sunday School's seventh and eighth grade students will be conducting the Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Church at 6:30 PM on Friday, March 7.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



The next Core Team Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:00 PM in the Youth Office. The Core Team is a group of teens in grades 9-12 who meet monthly to talk about our faith, plan the Youth Group's activities, and socialize. We are always on the lookout for new members and hope YOU will join us! For more information contact Steve at 412-331-8573 x11 or sjgyouthmin@yahoo.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to congratulate Carmella Magnelli who celebrated her 95th birthday on Feb. 16, 2008. Happy Birthday! May the Lord continue to bless you.

BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to a Bible Study, led by John Fatula, on Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows. All are most welcome.

THANK YOU

Boy Scout Troop 905, Eagle Scout Project, wishes to thank our parishioners for their generous response in the food collection last weekend for Our Lady's Pantry at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

WHY MUST HE DIE?

The 25 member Teen Chorale of the Tri County Choir Institute will present the Passion Play, *Why Must He Die?* in our Parish of St. John of God, the Church at St. Mary's on Good Friday, March 21, at 12 Noon. The cast is comprised of students from area junior / senior high schools and colleges. This play is a meditation through music, liturgical dance and drama on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. All are cordially invited to come for this spiritually uplifting presentation. A free-will offering will be taken.

SEVEN CHURCH VISITATION

Following our Parish's celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 PM on Holy Thursday, March 20, we will once again have a bus going on the traditional Seven Church Visitation. Everyone is invited to participate in this beautiful old custom of visiting seven churches as prayerful pilgrims. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Church and Chapel if you would like to join us. The bus will leave from St. Mary's parking lot following the Mass and return approximately at 11:30 PM to St. Mary's.

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS

MEMORIAL

On Wednesday, February 20, students, faculty, staff, and friends came together for a Memorial Mass to remember their principal, Sister Margaret Berry who passed away suddenly. The student bell choir and guitar ensemble provided a consoling tone before Mass. Students displayed their feelings of affection and loss with drawings and written messages on hearts, posters, note cards and on hand-made paper flowers placed in baskets on the altar. Class representatives from kindergarten through eighth grades, a teacher and a parent shared their memories and stories of Sister Margaret. Preliminary discussions include establishing a permanent memorial in her honor. Details will become available as they develop.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students who have attained honor roll status for the second quarter:

Highest Honor: 8th grade - Brandon Duerr, Luke Iyengar, Kelly McGowan; 7th grade - Johnny Jumba; 6th grade - Emily Duerr, Tyler Czuczman

High Honor: 8th grade - Jared Hall; 7th grade - Maria DiSanto, Danaya Ellman

Honor: 8th grade - Nathaniel Deemer, Joseph Giles, Keatyn Harrison, Matthew Patton; 7th grade - Danielle Darby, Gary Anderson, Phoebe Schirrhofer, Dominic Weisser; 6th grade - Kendall Paige, Gunnar Dorrenbacher, Victoria Anderson

HELPING OTHERS

During Catholic Schools Week our students participated, enjoyed themselves, and increased physical activity levels by jumping rope during gym classes to promote heart health. We extend a big thank you to all who encouraged and sponsored our student participation in Jump Rope for Healthy Hearts. During the Jump-A-Thon, the students raised \$1,186 for the American Heart Association. Additionally, at the school's Ash Wednesday Mass, 5th grade students in Maria Iyengar's and Kristen Lichius' classes collected over 1,000 new pens and pencils. They are being sent to Father Paul Cruz in Kerala, India for the 5,000 school children he serves who are desperately in need of school supplies.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Failure to forgive blinds us to another's goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today's Gospel: "Go wash and see."

ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH
FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB. 23 / FEB. 24

Saturday 340
Sunday 817
Total Weekend Attendance.....1,157

Total Weekend Offertory.....\$5,380.10
Parish Share Assessment 2008\$87,038.00
Parish Share Collected to Date (Thank You!).....\$14,902.51
Balance on Parish Share\$72,135.49



HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **Marian Manor/Greentree** - Marie Kresak **Veterans/Aspinwall** - Joseph Marczak, Frank Pavlakovich

Also for those ill at home, in nursing homes, and shut-ins, may they continue to receive the Lord's Blessings.

SYMPATHY

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Families of Irene Martonik, Florence M. Derzic, Donna Dougherty, and Michael Pecola whom God has called. Please remember them and all our dearly departed in your prayers. "May the Choirs of Angels receive them, and may they with the once poor Lazarus have rest everlasting."

SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF MARCH 2

St. Mary's - In Memory of William Hoffman, Sr. by Son, William

Mother of Sorrows - In Memory of Mildred Hoffman by Son, William

THE WEEK AHEAD

March 3 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins at 6:30 PM.

March 3 (Mon.) - Making Gnocchi, 6 PM, Pizza Kitchen

March 4 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's.

March 5 (Wed.) - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO** - MOS Social Hall - Doors open 5 PM, Early Birds 7, Reg. Games 7:15

March 5 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Gathering Place.

March 7 (Fri.) - **PIZZA KITCHEN AND IT'S FALAGONE FRIDAY!** To order call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM-1 PM - Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM. See the menu in today's bulletin.

RIDE TO CHURCH



One elderly member of our St. John of God parish family is looking for a ride to the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday at the Mother of Sorrows Chapel. If you can help, please call the parish office, 412-771-5646. Thank you.

CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE PARENT MEETING

All parents of students in grades 5-8, both SJOG School and Sunday School are to attend a parent meeting on Thursday, March 13, from 7-8 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows. We will discuss the Catholic Vision of Love program, outline the curriculum materials, explain the parent's role and answer any questions you might have. If you need further information, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH RAFFLE

The Sisters of St. Joseph are holding a raffle in conjunction with their 46th Annual Spring Luncheon. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Winners are based on the PA Big Four 7 PM Number. A total of \$5,000 will be awarded from May 17-21. If you wish to purchase a ticket, please contact Sister Theresa Kunzler at 412-771-5646. Many blessings and a grateful thanks for your support.

4th SUNDAY OF LENT



CRAFT SHOW

An Easter/Spring Craft Show sponsored by Holy Trinity School will be held from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 8, 2008 in the Holy Trinity School cafeteria and Fr. Hermann Hall. You will have over 100 tables to choose from in selecting the perfect gift or decoration for your home. Hot lunch and baked goods will be available. For further information, please call 412-264-0452.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday, March 9, a second collection will be taken for the Parish Share Program. There is a blue envelope in your packet of envelopes for this purpose. If you forget your envelope, you may bring it any time that is convenient. Thanks in advance.

PIZZA KITCHEN MENU



TO ORDER CALL 412-331-8530
 ON FRIDAYS BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 1P.M.
 ALL ORDERS MUST BE
 PICKED UP BY 3:45 P.M.
 FALAGONES AVAILABLE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
 OF EVERY MONTH

PIZZA:

Pizza w/Romano	\$6.50
Pizza w/Romano & Mozzarella	\$8.00
Pizza w/Romano, Mozzarella & Pepperoni	\$9.50
Pizza w/Romano & Sausage	\$8.00
Pizza w/Romano, Mozzarella & Sausage	\$9.50
White Pizza	\$5.50

EXTRAS:

Hot Sausage	\$1.50
Mushrooms	\$1.50
Mozzarella	\$1.50
Pepperoni	\$1.50

EXTRAS:

Sweet Peppers	\$1.00
Hot Peppers	\$1.00
Spinach	\$1.00

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Sausage Roll (one size only/the former small roll)	\$6.50
Spinach Roll (one size only/the former small roll)	\$6.00
Pepperoni Roll	\$6.50

Pasta & Beans (large) our container	\$2.75
Pasta & Beans (small) our container	\$1.50
Fried Cakes	1 for \$.40
Fried Cakes	4 for \$1.50

FALAGONES:

Potato Falagone - Regular	\$6.00
Potato Falagone - Hot Peppers	\$6.00
Potato & Hot Sausage Falagone	\$6.00
Spinach Falagone	\$6.00
Spinach Falagone - w/Crushed Red Peppers	\$6.00
Spinach Falagone - w/Raisin	\$6.00

**SPECIALS AT THE PIZZA KITCHEN
 DURING LENT ONLY:**

Homemade Gnocchi: 2 lb. bag for \$6.00
 Homemade Haluski: 1 pt. for \$2.50

***** EASTER BREAD *****

Anna Marie Stropkaj, President of the Women's Guild, along with the Ladies of the Guild (and their helpers, too) will be baking their traditional, delicious Easter Bread again this year on Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11. Please fill out the order form below. You MUST pick up your order on the date indicated beginning at 4:00 P.M.

DONATIONS

We are asking for donations of ingredients (flour, sugar, eggs, margarine, oranges) or money to buy these ingredients to help defray the cost of this project. You may bring your donation any Thursday or Friday morning to the Pizza Kitchen or Wednesday evenings to the Bingo. Monetary donations can be put in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Easter Bread" or given directly to the parish office. Thank you in advance. For more information, please call Anna Marie at 412-771-2392.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

If you can help out anytime during the two days, we can put you to work. Please call Anna Marie at 412-771-2392 or the parish office. Don't forget, we make enough bread to share with the shut-ins of the parish to let them know they are always remembered in our daily prayers and are still an important part of St. John of God Parish. If you are looking for a special Lenten service, helping with the Easter Bread would surely be something worthwhile.

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

First Baptist Church, 622 Russellwood Ave., McKees Rocks is hosting a special event presented by Jews for Jesus called "Christ in the Passover" on Sat., March 8, at 7:00 PM. Using a visual display of traditional Passover accouterments, the presentation enhances the Christian's understanding and appreciation of the Jewish background of the Christian Communion. A table is set with the traditional Jewish Passover items, including representative foods which are explained, but not eaten. Ancient as well as modern Jewish customs are discussed and described with an emphasis on the aspect of redemption which Christ accomplished at Calvary. There will be literature available to purchase and a free will offering will be taken to support the evangelism of Jews for Jesus. All are welcome. For further information please call First Baptist Church at 412-771-6332.

EASTER BREAD ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Date of Pick-up (check one) Beginning at 4:00 P.M. each day

_____ Monday, March 10

_____ Tuesday, March 11

How Many: _____ 2 lb. loaf - \$6.00 (Only one size available)

Drop order form in the collection basket or bring to parish office by Friday, March 7, 2007.

PASTOR'S CORNER*Fr. Lou Vallone*

The Book of Ecclesiastes says: "To everything, there is a season." One of the Prefaces of the Mass says: "All times and seasons obey Your laws." St. Paul says: "I preach the Lord in season and out of season." Old Testament, New Testament and Liturgy all recognize the sacramental nature of seasons of the year. Weather changes and goes through cycles in the normal course of things and this is seen as good. Even our language betrays a liking for this change: don't we call our spices, those tasty additives to our food, "seasoning" to show how fond we are of variety? God keeps our lives interesting, and we are fortunate here in Pittsburgh to live in an area of the world that has four separate and very distinct seasons. Praise God for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. But, dear God, enough of Winter already, please?

I am tired of snow, sleet, wind chill factors, frost, icy roads, numb ears, stiff hands, goose bumps, shivers and all the other by-products of a Winter that, although just started, has already lasted too long and been too intense. One or two slight snowfalls, especially around Christmas, some very nippy mornings and a few cold, crisp nights are enough to give us the idea, as far as I am concerned. Calling off school, work, meetings, shopping, and all other aspects of life, as we must sometimes do, is going a bit far. God doesn't really need to overplay His hand to drive the point home.

I wonder what our religion would be like if Moses and the Children of Israel had set out from Egypt into a blizzard, rather than a desert. Or if the Red Sea had been frozen over like the Allegheny and the Mon do when Pharaoh's chariots started to cross. Forty years of wandering around snow drifts rather than sand dunes might have had some effect on the Jews, not to mention trying to find manna on a ground that is already blindingly white from frost.

continued next column .

What if John the Baptist had been raised in a wilderness of hail and sleet? Would he have bothered to come out of his cave to an icy river to baptize, or would he have stayed snug and warm, huddled in his cured animal-skin clothing?

Would 5,000 people have turned out for the Sermon on the Mount if they had to strain to hear above a squall's howl? Would they have sat still on frozen ground, waiting for the distribution of loaves and fishes, or would Jesus' miracle have been to multiply sweaters and blankets?

How far would St. Paul have gotten in preaching tours if he had been snow-bound in every port? God in His mercy and goodness gives us what we need, not necessarily what we want - but right now the thought of going into the desert, as Jesus did, for 40 days and nights sounds rather an appealing way to escape the Winter.

**FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF GOD**

Next Saturday, March 8, is the Feast of Saint John of God, our Patron Saint. Let us continue to pray to Saint John of God and ask for his continued guidance and intercession for all of us.

**BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR
NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS**

The next program will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows. Please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

THE P.V. REPORT*Fr. Al Semler*

We're in the PINK. Actually, the color of our chasuble this week is called Rose. We rejoice and celebrate a bit because Lent is now over 1/2 over and the end of our fasting is in site. It's a good time to evaluate just where we are and how we are doing. Easter is only three weeks away. Let us prepare well.

St. John of God Parish Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

CHECK ONE:

New Registration Change of Address Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory.