



St. James the Greater Parish Life Newsletter

Lent & Easter 2014

Lent and Holy Week 2014

Lent calls us to repent of all that obscures God's life within us. It is a time to rejoice in the mercy of God and to know that God's love is greater than any sin we may have committed.

Lent is not so much about what we do for God but what God has done for us and how we respond to the mystery we will celebrate in the Triduum [Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday] and Easter. Let joy fill our hearts during this Lent.



Ash Wednesday

Masses are at 6:30, 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
The school children will participate in the 8:30 a.m. Mass.



Monday Evening Devotions 7:00 p.m.

March 10	Taize Service
March 17	Stations of the Cross [contemporary meditations]
March 24	Evening Prayer for the Feast of the Annunciation
March 31	<i>One Hour Retreat</i> with Father Del Staigers
April 7	Stations of the Cross [traditional meditations]

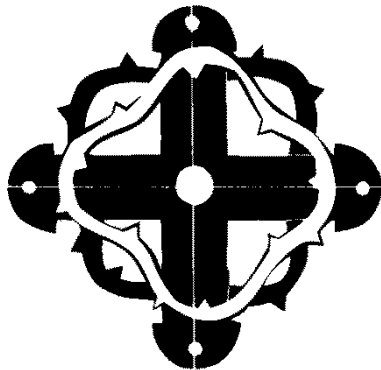
On March 31st we will have a *One Hour Retreat* led by Father Del Staigers. Father Staigers is the pastor of St. Veronica Parish in Mount Carmel. For several years he was the professor of preaching at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati. He holds a doctorate in homiletics and is recognized as one of the best preachers in our area. We are fortunate that he will lead us in prayer on this Monday and help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

The Light is ON  for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This year, in addition to our regular opportunities for confession, every parish in the Archdiocese will be open on **Tuesday evening, March 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for hearing confessions.**

Archbishop Schnurr has said, “This initiative is not simply about spending two extra hours in the confessional on the evening of **March 18th**. Rather, it is about priests and parish communities embracing the gift of Christ’s mercy given to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is about priests and parish communities becoming conduits of the compassion, mercy, and love of Christ. This is an important way to join Pope Francis in his mission of creating a culture of encounter with Christ.” More information about this will be in the weekly bulletin.

Our regular time for confessions is every Saturday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. except Holy Saturday. One can also make an appointment with a priest to celebrate this sacrament.



Holy Week & Easter

April 17	Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Mass of the Lord’s Supper
April 18	Good Friday 8:30 a.m. 12:00 Noon	Morning Prayer Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
April 19	Holy Saturday 9:00 p.m.	The Easter Vigil
April 20	Easter Sunday	Masses are at 8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Lenten Joy

By Father Nolker

We don’t often think of Lent as a joyful season. There is the starkness of both the physical church space and in the liturgy itself. No flowers are allowed in church. We simplify the music and the melodies are more subdued and somber. We don’t celebrate any feast days except for St. Joseph [March 19] and the Annunciation of the Lord [March 25]. And of course, there is the constant call to recognition of sin in our lives, repentance and penance. These don’t tell us that this is a joyful season.

What underlies this season, though, is very joyful. Jesus died and rose from the dead so we could be freed from our sins and enter heaven. That is the great message. Yes, we have to change our lives through repentance for sins and confession so we are able to accept the Lord’s gift. Yes, we have to prepare ourselves through penance to be holy people, worthy disciples of the Lord. All of that allows us to be closer to Jesus who is the source of all true joyfulness.

Having a joyful Lent doesn’t mean we are excused from the fast and abstinence on Fridays or from even more severe penances. It means we look beyond the penance and the difficulty of admitting our sins to find joy in the more perfect union with Christ and the promise of spending eternity with God.

Lenten Reminders – Fast and Abstinence

Wednesday, March 5 and Good Friday, April 18 are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast that is limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97 and 1252).

What happened to.....

During the remodeling of the church, people were asking what would happen to the sanctuary furnishings. The altar and chairs were reused, as were the Stations of the Cross. You know what happened to the pews; maybe you have one in your house! We are very happy that the **baptismal font**, **ambo** and the **large hanging crucifix** found a new home at St. Leo the Great Church in Fairmount. Each has now been properly installed at St. Leo and these pictures show how beautiful they look. We're glad they found a new home at St. Leo the Great.



Ash Wednesday and a Guide for Lent

Time flies! Lent will soon be upon us! **Wednesday, March 5th is Ash Wednesday.** Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The ashes are a reminder that we won't live forever. We need to repent to "get right with God" and do good while we can, however we can. It's meant to be a kind wake-up call. From time to time we all need a jolt to help us focus on the things that will last forever because it's so very easy to get too caught up in passing things. This is the wisdom of the Church and the wisdom of having Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Throughout Lent the Church encourages three tried and true practices to help us. The first is **prayer**. This seems obvious and easy but perhaps it's not. If you've stopped praying, it's time to start again. If you are good at saying your prayers then perhaps you could add more or seek to enter deeper into your prayers. Perhaps you say your prayers but your mind drifts too much and you end up spending your prayer time thinking about work, the grocery list or something else instead of God. We can all grow in **prayer**.

The second is **fasting**. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday we all fast together as a worldwide Church. We are asked to have one normal meal in the day. Two other small meals may be eaten. No snacking! Of course, if you have diabetic issues, medicine issues, etc. then please do what your doctor recommends. While there are only two official fasting days in the Church year, feel free to add more privately into your life as a spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Lenten Fridays are also meatless days. All of this discipline bears great fruit spiritually because it teaches us lessons in self-control.

We all (hopefully) privately give up things for Lent. I've heard many different things over the years: candy, TV, pop, "grown up drinks," internet, Facebook, coffee, the list goes on. *When you give up things that you could easily have, you'll probably find that you want them MORE than EVER! Then ask yourself who is controlling who here? Remind yourself that there is more to life than getting all the pleasure and nice things that you can. Examine your own thought processes and you'll learn a lot about yourself. Does your heart lie with the Creator or with His creations?*

The third is **almsgiving**, or being generous with giving to charity or showing kindness in a tangible way to someone. This is to help us to detach our hearts from possessions and to focus on the physical and spiritual needs of others. This is especially important because our human nature can be quite self-centered. Almsgiving helps to combat pride, selfishness and vanity. Don't look for praise when you do this! Your almsgiving should be kept as quiet as you can and your praise will be given not by people, but by your Father in Heaven.

May the Lord bless your undertakings so you will grow closer to Him throughout this Lent.

**Peace,
Fr. Tony Tozzi**



We are happy to announce that our fish fry is back, beginning with the **first Friday of Lent, March 7th**, and continuing each **Friday until April 11th**. Please plan to join us in the church hall from 4:30 till 8 p.m. and enjoy fried or baked fish dinners and sandwiches, North College Hill Bakery bread, LaRosa's pizza, Servati's pretzels and so much more. In addition to the good food, come and enjoy the companionship of fellow parishioners, always a nice social occasion. And, bring your friends, neighbors and family. **We look forward to our 6th annual God & Cod Fish Fry!**

Go in Peace... Now What?

By Deacon Gregg Rose

The four options for the Dismissal at the conclusion of the Liturgy have always caused me to reflect on the wonder and beauty of our Catholic faith. Of the choices, the formula "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life" holds great meaning for me personally.

Yes, regardless of which of the options is proclaimed by the deacon or priest, the dismissal brings to a close the Liturgy. But the final note of the Recessional Hymn does not mean that we end our celebration. The grace of the Eucharist and the prayers of the community give us the courage to "go in peace" and continue the work of salvation begun at our baptism and nourished at the Mass.

How do we carry on the celebration of the Liturgy? The words of dismissal tell the faithful to "glorify(ing) the Lord by your life". And by doing so, we will continue to live as adopted children of such a loving and merciful Father.

In my brief time as part of the pastoral team at St. James, I have daily witnessed Our Lord being glorified by those around me.

I have seen a beautiful new worship space imagined, financed and constructed by the parishioners of St. James as a physical sign to the larger community that they know the source of their being and the need to give thanks for the spiritual treasures they have received.

Even more beautiful than the building that houses the celebrations, are the families (some new and some multi-generational) that worship under its roof. I have been gratified by the witness of parishioners who have also supported the many essential works of the parish. The over four hundred and sixty teachers, coaches and volunteers who have taken part in the VIRTUS training to protect the precious gift of God's children; the Eucharistic Ministers for the homebound who bring the gift of Holy Communion to those who find great comfort and joy in glorifying the Real Presence; members of the church community who have invited, sponsored and prayed for those in St. James RCIA program (over twenty in the past two years) bringing them to the fullness of faith that only the Catholic Church can share and an amazing parish staff that is second to none and a blessing for all.

As I move on to my new position at St. Teresa, the words of the Dismissal ring truer to me now than two short years ago. I will go in peace and know better how to glorify the Lord in my life because of my time among you. All I have left to say is, "Thanks be to God."

A Reminder of God's Gifts -

Ah, Spring! Just noticing how quickly the official first day of the season of new life and fresh beginnings is approaching seems to provide a spiritual and sometimes physical lift, even if we have enjoyed much of the taste of winter we've been granted this year (and especially if we have not!).

With the coming of Spring comes the Season of Lent, during which we are encouraged to accomplish the spiritual conditioning that acts as a complement to our physical preparations for the celebration of Easter and the enjoyment of outdoor warmth and sunshine. We are urged to partake of the healing gift of Reconciliation, in addition to undertaking extra spiritual exercises of prayer, penance and almsgiving. In these ways, we renew ourselves as temples of the Holy Spirit, and remind ourselves of our true mission in this life – to give honor and glory to God in all that we are and all that we do.

We recognize that we have been created in the image and likeness of God, and each day of our earthly lives we have the opportunity to share this special presence with those around us. Being truly present in this way can be as effortless as offering a simple welcoming smile to someone, slowing the pace of activity to give several minutes of true and complete attention to the problems a friend or acquaintance feels it important to share with us, stopping to hold a door for someone following us, or stooping to pick-up a dropped slip of paper. It could also include inviting someone to join one's usual social group for lunch or late-afternoon refreshments or discussion, or early evening activities, but really does not have to be so obvious. Being truly present can also mean taking a few extra minutes to remember someone needing help in our prayers.

When we avail ourselves to others even in uncomplicated ways we could be offering not only simple, straightforward presence, but could be offering an effective form of healing. Not everyone is granted the gift of physical healing, but with the grace of God, we all are empowered to offer healing presence to our fellow humankind. If we have the desire, we have the ability to be of service in this way. Healing presence can reach the very core of the recipient's being – no matter how broken they may be feeling – and awaken there a glimmer of hope which will enable them to continue through their personal challenges in their journey toward eternal life.

God be with us all in our efforts to use His gifts to serve Him!

By: Theresa Hayes, Office of Religious Education

Census 2014

By Amy Klosterman, Business Manager

The Parish Office is in process of sending information to our parishioners to make sure we have accurate information of our parish families. Through the years families change, kids grow up get married and start their own families, but unless you contact the parish office we still may have those adult children listed in your family. Many families have abandoned their home phones and gone solely to cell phones. Some families prefer email, but we do not have an accurate email for them. These are just a few of the things we would like to update in our records. So please take the time to check your records and return them to the parish office in the envelope provided. You may also call the parish office and update your information as well and then we will not have to print it out and send it to you. Thank you for your help in this task. We appreciate your timely attention to this. We are upgrading our database and would like to have the most accurate information.

ST. JAMES FESTIVAL - 2014

The planning is beginning for this year's event. The committee still has a few vacancies to fill. Some of the positions take less time than others and there are also positions that require little time at all. Working or chairing a booth prior is helpful, but is not a necessary pre-requisite. It is helpful for members to be able to use email and have a cell phone/use text. You would be provided with all the background information needed. We work together very well to accomplish our goal of a terrific festival. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. You will have a great time, meet new friends and experience a sense of accomplishment! Please consider one of the following positions:

- Gambling Division: Plan and organize the gambling booths both on the grounds and in the parish hall. The main responsibility lies with staffing the gambling booths with booth chairmen. Most of the chairmen return each year. The gambling in the parish hall is being downsized which will lessen the need to find as many dealers. Ultimately it would be great to have two or three couples to share this position but one could do it without difficulty. Preliminary set up and post tear down requires making sure materials are ordered/returned and staffing is sufficient.
- General Division: Plan and organize booths like Ham, Baskets, Bid-n-Buy, Jewelry, First Aid, Major Awards and Table Clean-up under the food tents. The main responsibility lies with staffing the Ham, Major Awards and First Aid and checking on all these booths during the weekend. Baskets, Bid-n-Buy and Jewelry run as sub committees.
- Food Division: Plan and organize the food booths. The main responsibility lies with staffing these booths but again many chairmen come back year after year. We have a couple who handle the food and will continue for the next two years but it would be wonderful to have another couple or two to help especially throughout the weekend. This position requires ordering and working with vendors to be sure we have adequate supplies and working equipment.
- Grounds Division: This division is active the most during the week of the festival. They plan and organize the set-up and tear down of the grounds along with clean up each night. We have a couple who handle this job and will continue but would love to have another couple or two to assist with these duties.
- Permit/Grounds Division: This person would have the responsibility of putting together and attaining the needed permits for the festival. We work together to do the grounds layout and need someone to assemble the needed paperwork and go to the area offices to attain the permits.
- Publicity: This division would be responsible for contacting TV, Radio and Newspapers, getting out posters, yard signs and window clings, and use our Facebook page to promote coming attractions and build support.
- Baskets Sub-division: We would love to have a small committee of people to organize our baskets. This year we had 84 baskets with values of \$150 or more. This is only accomplished by spending hours and hours soliciting donations from area business and individuals. It would be great to have a number of individuals who could take on small parts of the process. Once all donations are collected a small committee could help to sort them into baskets with themes. Take on as little or as much as desired.
- Jewelry Sub Division The work for this division is mainly done in June and July by collecting the jewelry from donations at church, sorting and pricing. We set up the jewelry during the week of the festival.

Don't forget that the Bid 'n Buy/Basket Booths are always looking for large containers, baskets and items. We would love any new or gently used items or collectibles that you do not need any longer. If you have a donation, call Mary Lackman or bring to the Parish Office during business hours. We would like feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions, share them with us by sending them to the church office, contact us through Facebook (Saint James Festival) or our website (www.stjamesfestival.com). Call or email Mary and Kevin Lackman direct at 385-7409 or klackman@cinci.rr.com.

Saint James School Update



Dear St. James Parishioners,

Lent is always a good time for us to look closely at how we are living our faith and to turn to God asking that He draw us nearer to Him. Our students and teachers use this time to prepare for the Risen Lord at the celebration of Easter. It is our hope that our students' faith will be strengthened and deepened during Lent. Please continue to keep our students and staff in your thoughts and prayers.

St. James School is currently accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year. If you have a child entering kindergarten or first grade next year, we are confident you will find St. James to be a caring and challenging environment for your child. Perhaps you are looking for a change for your child. We also accept registrations for students transferring in grades 1-8. If you are interested in finding out more about our school or to schedule a tour, please contact us at 741-5333 or by email at jfulmer@stjameswo.org.

In March, we are excited to kick off this year's Panther Prowl walk-a-thon! We will be reaching out to our school and parish families to help support our students' efforts to raise funds to benefit our school. More information will be shared next month about the exciting projects we are planning for our school community. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

March also brings the return of the Everybody Counts program to St. James. Students will learn about disabilities with the goal of all students not only understanding the disability, but also valuing all people for their uniqueness. During the week of March 10, we will welcome parent volunteers to lead student learning activities as well as guest speakers to share firsthand knowledge with our students. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of St. James School. Our students give life to St. James each day and our families and parishioners support us in the mission and ministry of education at St. James School. For this reason, we have an amazing community here at St. James. We are blessed to lead our school as we continue our tradition of excellence. The children here have always been, and will continue to be, our number one priority. It is their spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional growth and well being that are at the heart of each and every decision we make.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hinton
Principal

Jeffrey Fulmer
Assistant Principal



The 2014 Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass
this year will be held at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral
on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 at 2:00 pm.

The St. James Memorial Fund Masses will be celebrated on the following dates:

2014

March 30 – Noon
April 26 – 4:30 pm
May 25 – 8:00 am
June 29 – 10:00 am

July 27 – Noon
August 30 – 4:30 pm
Sept. 28 – 8:00 am
Oct. 26 – 10:00 am

Nov. 30 - Noon
Dec. 27 – 4:30 pm

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for those enrolled in the Fund.

The following deceased members have been enrolled in the Memorial Fund:

William J. Busker and H. Vincent Lonneman



Joyce Mae Cunningham, 11/19/13
Janet Ryan, 11/28/13
Leslie Andrew, 12/5/13
Doris Reisinger, 12/20/13
Barbara Sucietto, 1/13/14
Beverly Merritt, 1/22/14
Bernardine Flanigan, 1/23/14

Joseph & Kathleen Beckman & Family
Timothy & Christine Berger
Jerrod Blust & Chelsea Burbrink & Family
Thomas Buller
James Cunningham
William & Holly Danford & Family
Jeff & Rachel Hartmann & Family
Ervin & Betty Kattelman
Nic & Jamie Kovatch
Kenneth & Melissa Mason & Family
Michael & Donna Mootz
Alexis Moser-Schulze & Family
Garett & Abbie Pace & Family
Ryan & Jillian Prendergast & Family
Brian & Vanessa Schweer & Family
Troy & Kristy Spratt & Family
John Tipon



Charlotte Jane Albright, daughter of Brandon & Alison
Madalyn Lee Albright, daughter of Brandon & Alison
Mary Catharine Barwell, daughter of Christopher & Sarah
Katherine Marie Girardot, daughter of Thomas & Debora
Thomas Matthew Girardot, son of Thomas & Debora
Rachel Elizabeth Honan, daughter of Michael & Stephanie
Brayden Robert Lasita, son of Jeffrey & Lisa
Keegan Liam McCann, son of David & Ashley
Camden Alexander Roth, son of Brian & Jennifer
Matthew Lawrence Schroer, son of Andrew & Jenna
Luca Alexander Randall Schweer, son of Brian & Vanessa
Emmett Richard Spratt, son of Troy & Kristy

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 5	Ash Wednesday
March 9	First Sunday of Lent - Rite of Election
March 16	Second Sunday of Lent - Reception of Candidates
March 23	Third Sunday of Lent - 1 st Scrutiny of the Elect
March 30	Fourth Sunday of Lent - 2 nd Scrutiny of the Elect
April 6	Fifth Sunday of Lent – 3 rd - Scrutiny of the Elect
April 13	Palm Sunday (Passion)
April 17	Holy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 19	Holy Saturday
April 20	Easter Sunday
April 27	Divine Mercy Sunday
May 3&4	First Communion Weekend
May 11	Mother's Day