



# St. James the Greater Parish Life Newsletter

Lent & Easter 2013

## Is It Here Already?

By Father Thomas Nolker



Some people have barely put away their Christmas decorations. I know one priest of our archdiocese who keeps his extensive decorations displayed until Ash Wednesday. Whether we fit that pattern or not, it does seem that Lent is coming very quickly this year. There are only 4 Sundays between the close of the Christmas season (*the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13*) and Ash Wednesday (*February 13*). It can make us wonder, “Is it (Lent) here already?”

It may be that we are never ready for Lent. We want to put off really doing penance until we have to do it. We may want to think of reconciliation with God and other people in the abstract rather than go through the sometimes difficult work of actually achieving it. More tedious than New Year’s resolution are the decisions we have to make about what acts of penance we will do this year in Lent, since we know how well or how badly we did with last year’s list. That alone can make us grimace at the coming of Lent.

One of the prefaces for the season of Lent which begins the Eucharistic Prayer tells us what the season is all about. It says that we are “more eagerly intent on prayer and on works of charity...” If we grow spiritually through prayer and acts of charity, we will have a good Lent. Focusing on those two goals now, rather than later, can get us ready for Ash Wednesday. Waiting until then to decide what penances to do is like waiting to shop until late on Christmas Eve night.

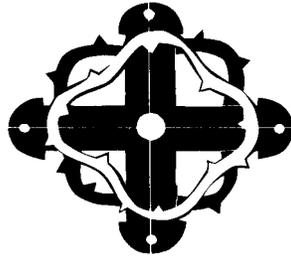
As is our custom, we will have special prayer opportunities on the Mondays of Lent. Join us for these. These community prayers can be the foundation for our own personal Lenten practices.

### Devotions for Lent Mondays – 7:00 p.m.

February 18	Taize service
February 25	Holy Hour & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
March 4	Biblical Way of the Cross
March 11	Holy Hour & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
March 18	Vespers; Vigil of the feast of St. Joseph

Lent is coming soon. Now is the time to carefully pick our penances, penances that will help us be more intent on prayer and charity. We shouldn’t be surprised when Ash Wednesday arrives.

## Holy Week



- March 24**     **Palm Sunday**  
Regular schedule of Masses
- March 28**     **Holy Thursday**  
8:30 a.m.     Morning Prayer  
7:00p.m.     Mass of the Lord's Supper
- March 29**     **Good Friday**  
8:30 a.m.     Morning Prayer  
12:00 noon    Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- March 30**     **Holy Saturday**  
8:45 p.m.     Easter Vigil



- March 31**     **Easter Sunday**  
Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon

### *Lenten Reminders – Fast and Abstinence*

Wednesday, February 13 and Good Friday, March 29 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until their 59<sup>th</sup> birthday (canons 97 and 1252).

## **Sacrifices in Lent: It's Good For Us Not to Have Every Last Little Thing That We Want!!!!**

We don't live on food alone, but on the Lord and His Word. Christ was able to have whatever He wants; He is God after all! One of the Devil's temptations in the desert was for the Lord to create for Himself what His body needs..... food. Christ replies that there is more to life than food. **Christ denies Himself what He could easily have.**

Let's open that up to more things and apply it to us. Whether you have lots of money or are just getting by we all have to remember that there is more to life than what you can buy or eat. **In Lent, we should all make an effort to give up something. This is a healthy practice for us because it reminds us that there is more to life than pleasing our senses with food or our egos with possessions we don't really need.** Each person has to figure their own sacrifice out but be sure that it's at least somewhat difficult.

Everyone's sacrifice is different because for some folks, what might seem little is actually a big thing. For example, not putting salt on your food when you really want to and it's right there on the table. How about not putting sugar in your coffee but the sugar is right there on the table. That kind of self denial helps to discipline the body and the mind because it's a conscious choice and you purposely deny your senses a pleasure. Other people may give up candy, soda, alcohol, extra shopping, commenting or complaining, whatever it may be..... with similar benefits. Sometimes starting good things can be a sacrifice too. Maybe the family could give up 15 minutes of TV time or whatever it is at your home, to stop and read a Bible story and talk about it. Individuals could *easily do this too!*

**It's good for us not to have every last little thing that we want!!!** This builds spiritual strength by self discipline and reminds us of who we really are as Christians.

*Peace,  
Fr. Tony Tozzi*

## **The Students Become the Teachers**

By Deacon Gregg Rose

As we begin to enter the Season of Lent and the final stage of the RCIA leading to the reception of its members, I find myself reflecting on the fact that all that I know has been a gift generously given to me by those I have been privileged to teach. The curious, the restless and the challenging have lead (or pushed) me to examine not only what I teach, but more importantly, why. Every year that I have been associated with the catechumens and candidates of the RCIA, Lent has been a time of personal renewal as I witness the depth of the love that the Lord has for those who seek Him.

Following the *Rites of Sending and Election* celebrated on February 17, the RCIA begins a period appropriately named *The Period of Purification and Enlightenment*. At the conclusion of this stage our

members will be fully initiated into the Church. This phase has a spiritual focus which is designed to encourage a purification of the person's intentions, mind and heart, rather than an emphasis on catechesis alone. During Lent, the RCIA members will focus on who they are as needy children before a just but merciful God. Using the Gospel of John on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays, they will be encouraged to see themselves as the *woman at the well*, the *man born blind* and, finally, *Lazarus* lying in the tomb longing for Christ to call him or her forth to new life.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite all of us to benefit from walking the same road as those aspiring to be one of us? And, as we witness the RCIA journey nearing its completion, I pray that we also find the gift of Lent a time to explore the depth of our own relationship with Christ and his Church.

### *A few thoughts...*

By Theresa Hayes, DRE

While working for my undergraduate degree at the University of Cincinnati, I was blessed to interact with individuals of other cultures and religious faiths with whom I had not had the opportunity to interact during my earlier parochial educational experiences. I remember one young man who had the courage to attempt to begin teaching me karate. In return, I was to be his assistant at the classes he taught at the Jewish Community Center. When I began, I was so impressed by the selection of community classes and activities, and was assured that this was just part of the Jewish tradition. I have to admit to feeling a bit envious because as much as I love my Catholic faith I've never been offered the opportunity to learn Catholic folk dancing!

After contemplating things, I was able to reassure myself. Although at that time most Catholic parishes did not seem to offer the variety of activities one sees today, there were highlights in my spiritual experience which seemed not to offer significant parallels for my friend, including the sacraments given to us by the Son of God Himself! Our weekly liturgy (the Mass) offers not only readings from the Old Testament, but also the New Testament, through both of which we come to know God. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass also offers us the opportunity to partake of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord. Just as those of the Jewish faith celebrate various seasons and feasts, our liturgical year also offers a variety of seasons and feasts. We have just completed celebrating the *Christ, Our Light* part of our year, which includes Advent and Christmas. Now we look forward to the *Christ, Our Life*, which includes Lent, Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost portion of the year.

Often, after the Christmas holiday season, one feels a let-down, perhaps even a bit of depression, when viewing the coming months of winter weather and virtually colorless surroundings. However, we can take heart in knowing that after the winter solstice, the days and hours of daylight again grow longer for us. We are moving toward the brightest and most significant holy day and holiday of our Church year, Easter! During our journey, we will be participating in liturgies which offer opportunities to listen to the story of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus, part of the reason Our Father in heaven sent His Beloved Son to us. Without this time, our faith would lack the significant source of God's Revelation to us, the teachings of Jesus handed down through the Apostles for us. We are indeed blessed to be part of the Body of Christ, the People of God!

---

So soon after the end of our Christmas celebrations, we face another season of reparation and preparation during which we have forty days beginning with Ash Wednesday to offer penance for our sins, good works for others, and limit of our earthly desires to strengthen us spiritually, and even physically. Mention Lent and often people automatically offer "I'm giving up chocolate." or "I've decided to give up television, movies, and computer games!" While the strengthening of our self-discipline skills is an admirable pursuit, as most of us are overwhelmed with cultural encouragement to indulge in comfort and human satisfaction virtually constantly, it might prove even more spiritually productive to add things to our daily activities, as opposed to limiting ourselves to self-denial. Perhaps a combined program of self-discipline and additional spiritual practice would be advised (e.g., 20 minutes less computer, to be replaced by spiritual

reading/meditating/praying, or climbing into bed ten minutes later to pray a decade or more of the Holy Rosary, or even just five minutes less lazing after the alarm rings in the morning to deliver an older neighbor's newspaper to the door).

By the same token, let's not forget to partake of a new or old family tradition, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Nothing prepares us better to face the difficult choices of this world, and to make the right ones, than the generous gift of God's grace!

---

Remember the Easter Vigil!

Even to those who are not members of the Catholic Church, the Easter Vigil offers richness of symbolism, rites, and liturgical celebration. Visitors are most impressed and often virtually overwhelmed with the pageantry.

Imagine the dramatic effect: The entire congregation is immersed in darkness inside the church. Each person holds an unlighted candle. Outside at dusk a fire is built, and from this a candle is lighted which symbolizes the Light of the World. Then this candle is used to light two other candles in church. These candles light others, and the light from those is shared until the entire church is ablaze with this light! This is only the beginning. It is a significant amount of time to dedicate to one occasion of worship, but a totally worthwhile means of offering reverent and extraordinary praise and honor to our Creator!

## Update on the Building Fund/Renovation

By Amy Klosterman, Business Administrator

Everyone can see the Renovation has begun, we are now worshipping in the hall and you see the construction trucks coming and going. The next question is how are we going to pay for it? I would like to give you an update on the fund drive. As of December 31, 2012 we have collected \$802,391 in pledges, so we are doing well. Father Nolker had asked if it was financially possible for people to pay ahead on their pledges and they have. Our pledge drive was for 3 years and a little over 1 year into it we have 54% of the pledges collected. Since our renovation started January 2<sup>nd</sup> and ends May 1<sup>st</sup> we did have to secure a loan for the difference. We have that loan with Wesbanco and our hope is that our pledges continue so we will not have to borrow as much. Please let me know if you have any questions about the fund drive or if you were unable to pledge and now your finances have changed please contact me at [aklosterman@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:aklosterman@stjameswhiteoak.com). Thank you for your generosity it is appreciated and we look forward to seeing the new worship space!

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE FOR CONSTRUCTION UPDATES/PICTURES:**

[www.stjameswhiteoak.com](http://www.stjameswhiteoak.com) go to the Parish Info Tab, then Renovation.

## Festival News

July 26, 27 & 28



**Mark your calendars now!** Our Family Festival will be July 26,27 & 28. You don't want to miss the fun! Call or email with comments and/or questions. Festival Chairmen: Mary and Kevin Lackman, 385-7409, [klackman@cinci.rr.com](mailto:klackman@cinci.rr.com). **The Jewelry Resale Booth** will return. Where else can you pick up unique pieces at a steal! Last year we made \$1000 with this booth. We are asking parishioners to check your jewelry collections for those unworn pieces of costume jewelry that are taking up space. We are not asking for genuine gems, gold or silver. We want the costume jewelry that you may not want anymore. We will clean it up and resell them to others. Collections will begin in June by dropping items off in boxes at the church doors. If you have

some items now give us a call. We will also accept small jewelry boxes and slightly used small purses or canvas bags. **Baskets and Bid-n-Buy** will also return. If you happen to see a great deal on something, or have some items or service that you are willing to donate, we would love to accept it into this year's offerings.

A great way to get involved is by joining the committee to gather goods for the baskets and help to create the baskets as we get closer. We hope to find a number of individuals to help send out letters, do follow-up calls and pick up items as they are donated. A committee would make this a much easier task. We foresee meeting about once a month until June. The more hands the easier the task. Don't forget to save the baskets and containers that would help us to arrange the items.

If you have never been involved in the festival as a volunteer you are missing out. There are many jobs either inside or out, standing or sitting, and early or late in the day. If you want to help, we would love to accommodate you. This is also a great opportunity to volunteer as a family especially for clean-up or set-up. You could have your family or group of friends help with clean-up on one of the nights. We had a few individuals volunteer to wipe off tables in the food tents which really helped out our grounds crew. There are so many ways to get involved and have a great time as well.

**Saint James School Update**



**SAINT JAMES SCHOOL NOW ENROLLING FOR 2013-2014** – Saint James School is currently accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year. If you are interested in finding out more about our school or to schedule a tour, please contact Jeff Fulmer,

Admissions, at 741-5333 or email at [jfulmer@stjameswo.org](mailto:jfulmer@stjameswo.org). If you would like to register for next year, please contact the school office at 741-5333.



*The 2013 Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass*  
**this year will be held at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral  
on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 2:00 pm.**

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

March 24 – 10:00 am	July 28 – 10:00 am	Nov. 24 – 10:00 am
April 28 – Noon	August 25 – Noon	Dec. 29 - Noon
May 25 – 4:30 pm	Sept. 28 – 4:30 pm	
June 30 – 8:00 am	Oct. 27 – 8:00 am	

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



Roberta Sparto, 11/29/12  
 Harold Distler, 12/5/12  
 James Collins, 12/19/12

Anna Beck  
 Joseph & Heather Bradshaw & Family  
 Anthony & Kristie Browning & Family  
 Michael & Sharon Elliott & Family  
 Michael Korfhagen & Lissa Comarata & Family  
 Laura Niedhamer  
 Jerome & Barbara Richmond  
 Geoffrey & Cynthia Sturgill & Family  
 Shirley Williams

 **BAPTISM**

Lydia Soland Sherwood, daughter of Matthew & Abigail

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Feb. 13	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 17	First Sunday of Lent
Feb. 24	CMA (Catholic Ministries Appeal) Sunday
March 2	Parish Penance Service
March 24	Palm (Passion) Sunday
March 28	Holy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday
March 30	Holy Saturday
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 7	Divine Mercy Sunday
May 12	Mother's Day
May 18 & 19	First Communion
May 19	Pentecost Sunday
May 26	The Most Holy Trinity
June 2	The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
June 2	Wedding Anniversary Mass

**FAMILY INFORMATION FORM UPDATE**

**In order to keep our information current**, please cut out this form and mail to the Parish Office at 3565 Hubble Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45247 or call the office at 741-5300 and give us your new information. No longer a parishioner ( ); New Address ( ), New phone # ( ), New email ( ), or adult children no longer living in your household ( ).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_