

MARCH 29, 2009

Stewardship News!

One of the first steps in stewardship is to realize your talents. If you are not aware of your talents, you cannot choose how best to share them in service of others. Talents are special gifts that we receive from God. These abilities should be fostered and developed and proclaimed to others as God-given gifts.

Stewardship . . . Live It!

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OPERATION RICE BOWL PRAYER

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that judgment, repentance, and dying to sin are necessary before we can truly know the joy of God's mercy, forgiveness, and new life in Christ.

Jesus put it this way: "if you love your life, you must let it go . . . If you want to serve me, you must follow me and do what I do . . ." As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that human beings are not only sacred, but also social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of the families and communities that are hungry. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services help those in need.

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CROP WALK

Sunday, May 3 at 1:30pm

Meet at the Baptist Church on South Ave.

For sponsor forms please call Carol Van Atta -671-7832.

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**PARISH
EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sunday, April 5 from 1:00-3:00
in the Parish Center Gym**

The Youth Group is hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parish ages 1-11. Please pick up a registration form in the back of church. The "entrance fee" is 12 small plastic eggs and one (1) small bag of candy along with your registration form. **Please return your form and "fee" to the parish office ASAP.**

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Did You Know? Our bulletin is available each week **on-line at www.saintrita.org – check it out!**

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**ALL ARE WELCOME TO
ST. RITA SCHOOL 5th & 6th Grade
PRESENTATION OF: "OZ"**

**Shows are on Thursday, April 2
at 1:00pm and 7:00pm
in St. Rita Parish Center**

**SUNG EVENING PRAYER
for Palm / Passion Sunday**

**Sunday, April 5
at 4:00pm in Church**

Join together in Church for this wonderful opportunity to reflect on music and readings for Passion (Palm) Sunday, led by an a capella vocal ensemble.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Communal Celebration of Reconciliation**

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 7:00 pm

**INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES
For the Celebration of Reconciliation**
Every Saturday in Lent 3:30 – 4:30 pm



Registration for this year's Vacation Bible School is now open. The program, Saints and Virtues, is from July 13-17, 9:00am to 12:00pm and is limited to 200 participants entering Pre-K through Grade 5. For more information or to sign up a student, please visit the on-line form at <http://www.saintrita.org/committ/faith/VBS.shtml> or forms are available in the back of church. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please email us at saintritavbsvolunteers@yahoo.com.

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BREAKFAST CLUB Served Sundays 8:30-11:00am
APRIL SPECIALS Sharon Pucher and Jane Kunzog, managers

April 5 Dick Sorce and team will offer **Waffles with Fruit Topping** served with your choice of bacon or sausage and a bottomless cup of coffee for \$4.00.

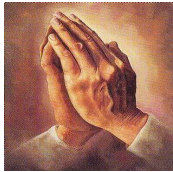
April 12 No Breakfast Club – **Happy Easter!**

April 19 Team 3 will be cooking their delicious **Eggs Benedict** and a bottomless cup of coffee for \$4.50.

April 26 The Clemens family and Team 4 will feature their special **Egg Bake** served with warm buttered toast and a bottomless cup of coffee for \$4.00.

May is our final month of Breakfast Club for the season. Our last Sunday service will be on May 17 – so plan ahead if you haven't joined us yet – there is still time to come in, be waited on, and served a great meal.

Happy Spring!
Jane



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

Pastor's Perspective



MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

7:00AM LOUIS MAZZO – Justin & Nancy Tubiolo
9:15AM BARBARA CORBELLINI – The Grobe Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

9:15AM PEGGY SMITH – Joanne Carr

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

7:00AM SAM CASALE – Donna Miceli
9:15AM ANTONIA BLASZAK – Bob & Liz Muscuto

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

9:15AM SHIRLEY VITALE – Family

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

5:00PM JOHN RICHARD HUDY – Verna & Phil, Bill & Dorothy

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

7:30AM JOHN & MAE MURRAY – Eileen Murray
9:00AM STANLEY POSLUSNY – Wife & Children
10:30AM ANTONIETTA & MICHELE PICCIRILLO – Ralph & Rita

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**This week the Tabernacle Light will burn
in loving memory of Dorothy Bushart**

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As part of our *Spirit Alive!* Initiative throughout the diocese we are focusing on the Gospel of Mark

**For the week of March 29
Read the Gospel of Mark Chapter 16**

Mk 16:1-20 Who did Jesus send to you to tell you he had risen? Where have you experienced the risen Christ now that you have finished the Gospel of Mark? What images in the Gospel of Mark remain with you?

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**MERCY RESPITE DAY FOR CAREGIVERS
Tuesday, April 21 from 9:00am to 3:00pm
in St. Rita's Parish Center**

This day is set aside for those struggling with caring for a sick, disabled, or elderly loved one, meant to relieve caregiver stress; physical fatigue, and stress, enabling them to continue caring for their loved one. Our Respite Day is presented by Mercy Respite for Caregivers, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy through the WPC Health Ministry. The cost is \$30 which includes lunch. Registration forms are available in the back of church or at the parish office. To register, or for more information, please call Rose Leisenring at 671-1100 x 17. The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 14.

HUMAN DIGNITY & CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

On March 10, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, proposed *rescinding* federal regulations that protect health care providers from being coerced into performing abortions.

The current regulations enforce laws making it illegal to insist that a doctor, nurse or other health care provider participate in acts that violate their moral or religious principles. Rescinding these regulations puts providers at risk of either violating their consciences or leaving the medical field.

Citizens must object to the proposal to remove conscience protections no later than April 9, 2009. E-mail comments to: proposedrecission@hhs.gov. The suggested message is *"Please retain the conscience regulation and enforce the laws protecting the right of health care providers to serve patients without violating their moral and religious convictions."*

To see how the US Catholic Conference of Bishops is speaking out on this issue please go online to: www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection. Thank you for taking the time to protect our religious liberty during this Lenten season.

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A GIFT FOR OUR YOUTH

We at St. Rita Parish are very grateful to be a beneficiary of a recent bequest from the will of a long-time parishioner who wished to remain anonymous. This is a wonderful example of a person whose foresight and generosity will enable the parish to strengthen one of its important ministries in the years ahead.

As specified in the will, a fund of approximately \$20,000 has been established at St. Bernard's Institute to be used to provide training for those engaged in Youth Ministry at St. Rita Parish.

In your prayers, please remember this person, and all of our benefactors past and future. If you have any questions about including St. Rita Parish in your own will or estate planning please contact Fr. Chuck.

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PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED – NEXT WEEKEND! FOR THE PROCESSIONS ON PALM SUNDAY

People are needed to carry banners and palm fans. If you would like to be part of a procession, please sign up in the narthex. Singles and Families are most welcome!

PLANS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 29, 2009

SUNDAY 3/29

8:30-11:00am Breakfast Club – Gym

MONDAY 3/30

4:30-5:30pm Faith Formation Classes
6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

TUESDAY 3/31

9:00am MOMS Group – Rm 3
1:00pm Recovery – Rm 3
3:45-4:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
4:30-5:30pm Faith Formation Classes
7:00pm Communal Penance Service – Church

WEDNESDAY 4/1

2:30-3:15pm Children's Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
7:00-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
7:00-9:00pm Scripture Study Group 1 – Rm 1
9:00-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

THURSDAY 4/2

1:00pm School Play "OZ" – Parish Center
7:00pm School Play "OZ" – Parish Center
7:00-9:00pm Scripture Study Group 2 – Rm 1

FRIDAY 4/3

12:30-1:30pm Eucharistic Chapel is Open
5:00-7:00pm Fish Dinner – Gym
7:00-7:45pm Family Stations of the Cross – Church

BIBLE READINGS:

29 Sun **5th Sunday of Lent** Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4,12-15 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33
30 Mon Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11
31 Tue Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3,16-21 Jn 8:21-30
1 Wed Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42
2 Thu Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59
3 Fri Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42
4 Sat Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56
5 Sun **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion** Mk 11:1-10 Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47

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ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED

Next Weekend ~ April 4 & 5

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Alex Vargas, Marisa Vargas, Andrew Chmiel

Sunday, 7:30am:

Jack Samuelson, Josh Kwiatkowski, Sean McGrath

Sunday, 9:00am:

Vicky Ritzel, Noah Ritzel, Tyler Kohrt

Sunday, 10:30am:

Austin Korol, Steven Fantigrossi, Phil DeMarco

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SACRISTAN:

Week of March 29

Shirl Mintz

LINENS:

Week of March April 4

Kathleen Guentner

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From the desk of Mary Jo DiNoto, Youth Minister
671-1100 ext. 18 or mdinoto@dor.org



Youth News

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome in getting together with other youth who share their faith and want to have fun together. **Check our website at www.saintrita.org** for more information and events.

Friday, April 3 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Fish Fry Bake Sale in the Gym. Thank you for supporting our Youth.

Would you like to help out children less fortunate?

Well here's your chance... please bring your gently used or new **children's books** to church the next two weekends. There will be a bin set up in the greeting area. The books will be donated to a school in the city through the Scott Spino Foundation. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

WHAT TO DO WITH LAST YEAR'S PALMS?

Do you know that you can dispose of your palms from last year? They need to be burned (in a fireplace or grill for example) or bury them in the ground.

PARISH SUPPORT
For Last Weekend March 21 & 22

| Last Week | Weekly Goal for Mar. 2009 | Variance |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| \$13,268 | \$14,900 | -\$1,632 |
| Year to Date | Year to Date Goal | Variance |
| \$567,687 | \$588,300 | -\$20,613 |

(Our fiscal year is 7/1/08 – 6/30/09)

Monthly Parish Center Mortgage Payment \$2,725
Mortgage Balance as of March 1, 2009 \$187,276

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS!

Join us in the parish center for a delicious breakfast on Sunday mornings! We offer a "Special" and a full traditional breakfast menu as well!

Next Week's special: Waffles with Fruit Topping served with your choice of bacon or sausage and a bottomless cup of coffee for \$4.00.

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LENTEN FISH DINNERS - Every Friday during Lent
5:00-7:00pm in the Parish Center

Fried or Baked Haddock are available as well as **Cheese Pizza**. Fish dinners include coleslaw, french fries and a roll ~ \$8 for adults and \$7 for Seniors. Children's portions are available for \$4. **Come in for great sit down table service or take out.**

HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY? ~ Contribution envelopes and year-end tax statements have been returned to the parish office for those who have been "Temporarily Away". If you were away and did not receive these please call the parish office at 671-1100.

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**Support your local, organic farmer
and benefit not-for-profit organizations:**

Porter Farms, located in Elba, NY, is a local organic farm, which has a thriving "Community-Supported Agriculture" (CSA) group. The CSA Project started with 100 members in 1996, and now has over 600 member families from Genesee, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Ontario, Livingston, and Wyoming counties. For the modest cost of \$340 (\$320 if paid by April 15th) for the 22-week season you can expect to receive weekly a wonderful shopping bag full of local, fresh, and organic produce. In addition to supporting a local farm and eating healthy organic produce, for every 15 faith-community members, Porter Farms will donate one bag per week to a not-for-profit organization of our choice. If you are interested in joining a group of members from St. Rita Parish contact Eileen at ejs2pjp@frontiernet.net or call 288-5933. For more information on the Farm visit their website at www.porterfarms.org.

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