

ST. MARY CHURCH

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Franklin, Ohio 45005

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937-748-0947

Council President: Mary Steed
937-746-6571

Stephen Ministry: Barbara Abney
937-748-9479

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline
937-746-1355

Prayer Chain Ministry: Louise Kohl
937-746-4050

Office is open 8:30-4:30, Mon.-Fri.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 18, 2007

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

Monday	February 19	Weekday 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday	February 20	Weekday 8:00 a.m. Lewis Welschofer
Wednesday	February 21	Ash Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Jim Ryan 5:30 p.m. Father Chuck 7:00 p.m. St. Mary Community
Thursday	February 22	Weekday 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Friday	February 23	Lenten Weekday 8:00 a.m. Charles F. Mentrup
Saturday	February 24	Lenten Weekday 4:00 p.m. Josephine Alexander
Sunday	February 25	First Sunday of Lent 7:30 a.m. Deceased of the McLaughlin Family 9:00 a.m. St. Mary Community 10:30 a.m. James and Alice Carberry 6:30 p.m. Bea Skinner

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,...Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Luke 6:27-38



Once again the baptismal-penitential season of Lent is upon us. According to The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist: “The Lenten season has a double character, namely to prepare both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. The catechumens, are prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of initiation; the faithful, ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises.”

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 8:00 a.m., 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. We Catholics are not only people of the Word, but also a Sacramental People. On Ash Wednesday, the ashes will do the preaching. “Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” If ashes do not call us to repentance, neither will the words of a homily. The ashes speak for themselves.

Throughout the remainder of Lent, along with the regular schedule, there will be an additional Mass every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., devotions on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and confessions every Saturday from 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Perhaps the quotation from the homily last Sunday would be a good tone-setter for Lent.

“The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people for thousands of years. That’s because we typically start at the wrong point--ourselves. We ask self-centered questions...Contrary to what many books, movies and seminars tell you, you won’t discover life’s meaning within yourself...You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not about using Him for your purpose. Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us into the open, into a spacious free life.

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Penance as self-sacrifice is the greatest expression of love of self and self care.

The title of the book mentioned in my homily last Sunday was A Catholic Perspective on the Purpose Driven Life by Father Joseph, M. Champlin, Catholic Book Publishing.

IN OUR PARISH

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Parish Pastoral Council at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Ladies' Society at 7:00 p.m. Round Dancing at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Masses 8:00 a.m., 5:30 & 7:00 p.m. RCIA at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Square Dancing at 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Fish Fry at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	High School Youth Night at 7:00 p.m.

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY: The collection last weekend was \$18,189.50 (276 envelopes); children's offering \$3.00 (5 envelopes); additional St. Vincent de Paul donations \$885 (13 envelopes). **Thank you for your generosity** and continued support. Thank you for using your offering envelopes. Your dedication to the continued fiscal health of the parish is very appreciated. Those who have used their contribution envelopes may request a statement of 2006 contributions by calling the parish office at 937-746-5404.

IT'S QUILT WEATHER! And have we got a quilt for you! This year's ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION RAFFLE is featuring a gorgeous, hand-quilted, Amish quilt in beautiful subtle tones. The pattern is called "Boston Commons" and would grace any home. Stop by the Parish Hall to see this lovely quilt! Raffle tickets are one dollar (\$1) each or six for five dollars (\$5) and are included in this bulletin. They will also be available in the Parish Hall following all Masses the weekends of February 24-25 and March 3-4.



RCIA

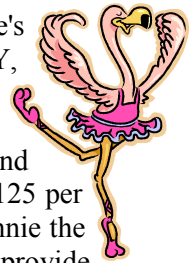
PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PREPARING TO BECOME CATHOLICS. Next Sunday our catechumen and eight candidates will be sent to the Bishop for the Rite of Election as the next step in their journey into the Church. We will formally send them at the 9:00 a.m. Mass next Sunday, February 25, 2007.



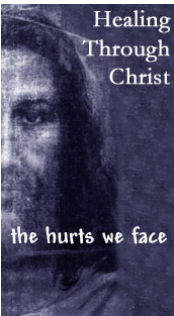
OVER FORTY TEENAGERS ARE ON RETREAT SATURDAY TO PREPARE FOR THE FINAL SACRAMENT OF INITIATION. Please, pray for these young people as they journey toward full membership in the Church. May they experience God's love and respond with a life of love and willing service.

PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS: Banner kits and catalogs are available this week in the Parish Center before and after PSR classes.

"FRANNIE THE FLAMINGO would love you to stop by at the Parish Hall and say "Hi". She's ready to show you pictures of a fabulous 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom CONDO in SIESTA KEY, FLORIDA. One week's rental of this beautiful condo will be awarded to the highest bidder in the SILENT AUCTION going on right now! It would easily accommodate a family, has a well-equipped kitchen, a heated pool just steps away, and it's a very short walk to the sugar-white sand beach. AND it's just 90 minutes to Disneyworld! A hotel room in the area would cost at least \$125 per night. Bidding for this WEEK-LONG rental is starting at only \$150.00. Place your bid with Frannie the Flamingo now and start making your summer vacation plans. Remember every dollar goes to the provide essential services for those in need by way the Ladies Society's



LADIES! Due to the winter weather last week the February meeting of the Ladies' Society has been rescheduled for **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** at 7:00 p.m.. So bundle up, be brave and join us for a fun evening. Remember, Ladies, if you belong to St. Mary Parish you automatically belong to St. Mary Ladies' Society. There are no dues, just lots of fun, wonderful friendship, and an opportunity to serve your church. So come along! That's **THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** at 7 p.m.



ANSWER THE CALL 2007 The Catholic Men's Conference will be on Saturday, March 3 at Music Hall, Cincinnati. This is a prayerful, spirit-filled day which can be life changing. The day begins at 8:45 a.m. ending about 4:00 p.m. A dynamic line-up of speakers is scheduled, including: Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, Archbishop for the Military Services, Danny Abramowicz, former NFL player for the New Orleans Saints and San Francisco 49ers, and Jesse Romero full time lay evangelist. Ticket price is \$35 including lunch. St. Mary is obtaining a block of 35 tickets. For information and tickets call Paul Puffenberger at 937-748-0754.

HEARING FROM THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL:

The first year I went to the Catholic Men's Conference it changed my life. I came home and was moved to get more involved in my parish. Each year that I return, I seem to receive a new grace to recharge my Christianity. Last year, I invited both of my out-of-town brothers. This year, they asked to come back. I am looking forward to my 7th Men's Conference.

As men we at times wonder why or how. There comes a time when we know that we need to follow God/ Jesus a little closer, but are not sure how. The how can start with the Catholic Men's Conference as many have done, and hopefully I am a better man for it by following closer to Him. Make and take the time to *Answer the Call*. Come with me and other men of the parish to the Catholic Men's Conference on March 3, 2007. Pray for us and may God bless you.

You can hear testimony from a wide variety of speakers: firemen, soldiers, politicians, priests, entertainers, businessmen, and even the homeless. Sin affects all of us. No man is without temptation. God has changed the life of many, and it gives me strength to hear others tell about their walk with the Lord.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007. God loves us all and wants us to experience that love and the new life of the resurrection into which we have all been baptized. But in order to experience that we must prepare ourselves and be open to that love. Lent is an opportunity to do something to open ourselves to God's love shown us by Jesus. How are you going to open yourself to God's love? **Come and discover your way to God's love.**



OUR DOORS ARE OPEN: No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self-image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. Mary Parish.

LENT IS COMING. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON?

The parish is planning several ways to help you:

- ✠ On **Wednesday** evenings at 7:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated. This will give us a time to remove ourselves from our hectic lives and spend time in liturgical worship.
- ✠ On **Thursday** evening, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center we will begin a new session of scripture study for any adult who wants to join. Whether you are an old hand or a beginner come and prepare for Easter by exploring God’s Word. No reservations needed, just show up. Any questions, contact Tom at 937-746-1404 or tomcox@stmaryfranklin.org.
- ✠ On **Friday** evenings at 7:00 p.m. following the fish fry, there will be an opportunity to pray the Way of the Cross with others.
- ✠ On **Saturday**, 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. there will be an opportunity for individual confession each weekend of Lent. A Parish Communal Reconciliation Service will be held March 20.



COME JOIN US FOR THE FAMOUS ST. MARY LENTEN FISH FRY! An All-You-Can-Eat Fish Buffet complete with drinks and dessert is served every Friday in Lent, except Good Friday, from 5-8 p.m. with carryout available. All proceeds go to support the activities of St. Vincent de Paul Society. Cost is adult \$10.00, seniors (62+) \$ 7.00, children (5 - 11) \$ 5.00, take-out \$7.00, family eat-in maximum \$30.00. If you can give some time to help, stop by and ask Rocky for a job or better call now either the SVdP helpline, 937-746-1355 or Rocky at 937-743-0226.

REMINDERS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE: Ash Wednesday, **February 21, 2007** and **Good Friday, April 6, 2007** are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled:

Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind (*Constitution on the Liturgy, No 110*) The other Fridays of the season 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).

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of Pope John Paul II may be simply paraphrased: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

NEXT WEEK’S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

February 24-25	4:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	6:30 p.m.
Servers	Casie McCurley Sean Gleason	Allison Moore	Tommy Carter Taylor Lauricia	Joshua Plandowski	Isaac Brewster Erica Reese
Eucharistic Ministers	Connie O’Neill Joe Borosic Ashley Calvert Larry Strimpfel	Mike Hutchinson Susan Marine Connie Fields	Addi Murphy Jane Murphy Wilse Nickerson Dave Potts	Cindy Brazie Martha Ilg Richard Hobe Teresa Hobe	Jeff Rohde Karen Schriml Carlos Yopez Judy Martin
Lectors	Mark Givens	Paul Puffenberger	Pat Simpson	Brian Howard	Tim Werling
Gift Bearers	Ambach	Ramps	Williams		Gast

PARISH LIFE INFORMATION

Office Phone No. 937-746-5404

Office Hours 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday

Anointing of the Sick: Call immediately in case of a serious illness. Hospitals can no longer call for you.

Communion to the Homebound: Call the rectory to arrange a visit.

Reconciliation: available at announced Reconciliation Services; on Saturday 3:00 p.m. during Lent

Matrimony: Call the rectory for an appointment before setting a date. Six months of preparation are required.

Baptism: Preparation is required before Baptism, preferable during pregnancy. Call the rectory to make arrangements.

Religious Vocations: Check www.cincinnati vocations.org or call Rev. Kyle Schnippel, 513-421-3131

Bulletin Deadline: noon the Tuesday before the weekend. E-mail notices to Annelpasmf@sbcglobal.net.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Lonnie Acree	937-748-2960	Andrea Dapkus	937-885-0487	Pat Monnin	937-885-1630
Rocky Adams	937-743-0226	Dan Fedders	937-746-4123	Roger Stebelton	937-855-6897
Eileen Avellano	937-748-0043	Mark Fields	937-743-9077	Mary Steed	937-746-6571

BEYOND THE PARISH

PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT: Project Rachel, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for women who have lost a child through an abortion, is holding a retreat at Bergamo Spiritual Center March 16-18. For more information/reservations, please call the confidential helpline 513-784-0531.

SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars for Sunday March 25 for the 3rd annual **Fenwick Fashion Show**. This year's show promises to be even bigger and better...previous years have sold out! With raffles, music, slide shows, food and over 90 models waiting to entertain you, you'll enjoy the evening. Reservations are required so get ready to reserve a table. Watch future bulletins for more details.

ST. HENRY'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held Saturday, March 10 beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Holy Communion and rosary in the church followed by breakfast in the Parish Activity Center. Consider spending time with guest speaker Father Jim Manning to renew your spirit and help you on your walk with God. Please respond to St. Mary Parish office at 937-746-5404 so preparations can be made.



WAS YOUR WEDDING IN 1957 OR

1982? Couples celebrating their golden or silver wedding anniversaries during 2007 please contact the parish office at 937-746-5404 no later than **March 3**. The

2007 Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Saturday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. Those celebrating **60, 70 and 75 years** of marriage are also included in this celebration and should call the parish as well.

WANT TO HELP OTHERS? The Franklin Food Pantry is in need of workers any day of the week from noon to 3 p.m. to stock shelves, fill baskets, greet clients. If you think you might like to help call Terry at 937-746-7791 to find out more.

INCARNATION SCHOOL'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE will be Sunday March 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All interested families are invited to attend. Come tour the school and visit with our teachers and staff. Early registration for new students will be held during the Open House. For information contact Kim Shields, Registrar at 937-433-1051 ext. 134.

Thought for today

"Love your enemy and do good." What would our world be like if we really did live this directive? You can make a difference!
(Luke 6:27-38)