

ST. MARY CHURCH

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tomcox@stmaryfranklin.org

Youth Minister:

937-746-8709

Music Minister: Vicky Brooker

937-748-0947

vickybrooker@stmaryfranklin.org

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

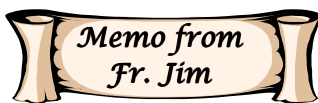
Office is open 8:30-4:30, Mon.-Fri.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 18, 2007

DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:

Monday	March	19	Lenten Weekday 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tuesday	March	20	Lenten Weekday 8:00 a.m. Charles F. Mentrup
Wednesday	March	21	Lenten Weekday 8:00 a.m. Fr. Chuck Mentrup 7:00 p.m. Chris Pancake (birthday)
Thursday	March	22	Weekday 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Friday	March	23	Lenten Weekday 8:00 a.m. Deceased of the McLaughlin Family
Saturday	March	24	Lenten Weekday 4:00 p.m. Harold Balskey
Sunday	March	25	Fifth Sunday of Lent 7:30 a.m. St. Mary Community 9:00 a.m. Robert Burdue 10:30 a.m. Members of the Wojciechowski, Maye & Miller Families 6:30 p.m. Jim Ryan



The Gospel today gives us the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The message is all about forgiveness and reconciliation.

Our Lenten Penance Service will be this Tuesday evening at 7:00. We will have five priests to hear our confessions. Lent is the special time of the year in the liturgical calendar for penance, forgiveness and reconciliation. Easter is all about new life.

In 1980 Pope John Paul II published his third encyclical entitled *Rich in Mercy*. In it he says:

Society can become 'ever more human' only when we introduce into all the mutual relationship which form its moral aspect the moment of forgiveness, which is so much of the Gospel. Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin. Forgiveness is also the fundamental condition for reconciliation, not only in the relationship of God with man, but also in relationship with people. A world from which forgiveness was eliminated would be nothing but a world of cold and unfeeling justice, in the name of which each person would claim his or her rights vis-à-vis others; the various kinds of selfishness latent in man would transform life and human society into a system of oppression of the weak by the strong, or into an arena of permanent strife between one group and another. Forgiveness is the perfection of justice.

May we all remember the words of the "Our Father" when we say the Lord's Prayer! We pray to be forgiven AS WE FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER. How RICH IN MERCY are we?

IN OUR PARISH

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	CONFIRMATION AT CATHEDRAL 2:30 p.m.
Monday	Parish Pastoral Council at St. Augustine at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	PARISH PENANCE SERVICE AT 7:00 p.m. Round Dancing at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	RCIA at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Adult Scripture Study at 7:00 p.m. 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	Youth Night at 7:00 p.m.

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY: The collection last weekend was \$8,112.00 (239 envelopes); children's offering \$4.05 (4 envelopes/boxes). **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.



THE ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL FUND continues this week. Our parish response to the Fund to date is \$6,905 in pledges. As of this writing 51 parish families have responded. We are most grateful to those who have been so generous. To our remaining parishioners, we will soon begin a follow-up program. We urge you to consider a gift or pledge now, as it is not too late. Every gift helps. No gift is too small. We ask that everyone in our parish participate with a gift of any amount.

RCIA

SECOND SCRUTINY THIS WEEK, THIRD NEXT WEEK, A TIME FOR ALL OF US TO EXAMINE OUR LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE. Jesus came to show us how to live as children of God. He trusted His Father and loved all He encountered. How in our lives do we have to trust more? How to love more? **We celebrate the Second Scrutiny at the 9:00 a.m. Mass this Sunday, and the third at the 10:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, March 25.**



CONGRATULATIONS! LET THE COMMUNITY REJOICE! FORTY-SEVEN OF OUR MEMBERS TO BE CONFIRMED THIS AFTERNOON: At St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati Archbishop Pilarczyk will anoint and lay hands on our candidates along with those from St. Bernard and Our Lady of Good Hope. **Let us thank God for His gifts of new life to us and be renewed and refreshed in spirit.**

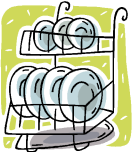
ST. MARY LADIES SOCIETY SAYS "THANK YOU"!!! Last Sunday's St. Patrick's Celebration was a great success! Our members worked hard, but it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of many others. Heartfelt thanks to Steve and Marilyn Ifcic who donated the gorgeous quilt. And CONGRATULATIONS to DEBBI FISH who won it! And a big thank you to Dan and Cathy Zaenglein who donated one week at their Siesta Key condo. CONGRATULATIONS to CATHY GOUGH who was the high bidder and will be on her way to Florida! A list of merchants who donated the great prizes for the Balloon Pop is on the bulletin board at the back of church. Please patronize them. They were so kind to help us. And mostly, THANKS TO YOU, OUR PARISH FAMILY, for your generous support. We made over \$2,700!!! We will be contributing to St. Vincent de Paul, the Food Pantry, and fund a parish landscaping project. (See next week's bulletin for details.) It was a GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH (and the rest of us too)!!!



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 to find out how and when you are needed.



DID YOU BRING A DISH LAST WEEK? It is empty and clean in the Parish Hall waiting for you to claim it and take it home. Thank you for sharing your cooking talent with the Ladies Society!



THINK SPRING! Spring is just around the corner and the Gardening Group at St. Mary's is having a planning meeting on Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m. We will be meeting in the Parish Center. If you want to help in any way with the church landscaping or simply taking care of the blooms just come to the meeting. Come prepared to stay and help ready the beds for mulching before Easter. Please call Martha at 937-748-5496 if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile project.



HOW GOOD DOES IT FEEL TO LET GO OF OUR SINS AND HURTS? SOME OF YOU EXPERIENCED THIS LAST SUNDAY. There is another opportunity to let go of our sins and experience in a real way in our lives the forgiveness of God. We come together as a sinful people needing to experience this forgiving love of God this Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Why not join in?

PLAN AHEAD. NEXT YOUTH NIGHT NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 25. Join us as we explore the journey of Jesus during His last earthly days. What would it have looked like if you were there?

EXPERIENCE WALKING WITH JESUS TO HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION BY BEING PART OF THE GROUP TO LEAD STATIONS. The Youth have been asked to help people meditate on the stations by using their talent to lead the stations on Friday, March 30, 2007. Sign up at Youth night next week or contact Tom, 937-746-1404 or tomcox@stmaryfranklin.org.



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.

PARISH LENTEN PRAYER AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

- ✠ **Wednesday** evenings at 7:00 p.m. Mass is celebrated. This is a time to remove ourselves from our hectic lives and spend time in quiet liturgical worship.
- ✠ **Thursday** evenings at 7:00 p.m. there is a session of scripture study for adults. Whether you are an old hand or a beginner come and prepare for Easter by exploring God’s Word. Any questions, contact Tom Cox at 937-746-1404 or tomcox@stmaryfranklin.org.
- ✠ On **Friday** evenings at 7:00 p.m. we come together to pray the Way of the Cross with others in the church.
- ✠ On **Saturday**, 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. there is time for individual confession each weekend of Lent. A Parish Communal Reconciliation Service will be held Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.



PARISH COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE. What an excellent opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. We will come together as a community this Tuesday evening March 20 at 7:00 p.m. for a celebration of the sacrament with five priests. Take this time to be reconciled, forgiven and begin to pass that gift on to others.

HOLY WEEK, TRIDUUM AND EASTER SCHEDULE:

- April 1** – Palm Sunday regular weekend Mass schedule
- April 4** – Wednesday of Holy Week Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- April 5** – Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 p.m.
- April 6** – Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 12:00 noon
Station of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 7:00 p.m.
- April 15** – Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.
- April 16** – Easter Sunday Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon

NEXT WEEK’S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

March 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	Vince Haenni Leo Haenni	Claire Brownfield David Brownfield	Clint Kohl Taylor Lauricia	Hunter Cone Kyle Kennedy	Marisa Werling Paul Dapkus
Eucharistic Ministers	Karen Streit Pat Bosway Betty Reznor Sandi Traud	Diane Kinsworthy Connie Fields Mark Dietsch	Walter Mauck Cathy Zaenglein Doug Schaaf Wilse Nickerson	Cindy Brazie Martha Ilg Connie O’Neill Judy Martin	Jeff Rohde Karen Schriml Carlos Yopez Ken Fish
Lectors	Mark Haenni	Mike Hutchinson	Wayne Simpson	Joe Couture	Tim Werling
Gift Bearers	Sommer	Williams	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 office 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

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Would You Like to Swing From a Star? – Every woman has the potential to embrace her dreams. March 31 will be a day when you are called to envision a new beginning, and challenged to make it happen. Come spend a day with Jeanne Hunt, Judy Muething and Barb Fisher as they teach you how to “swing from a star.” For more information, call 513-248-3500, ext. 10.

ATTENTION SENIORS: The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton program starts March 19 and covers over 50 subjects with no exams, grades or formal education required. For a single registration fee of \$80 you can register for as many seminars as you wish. Call 937-229-2347 for information and a brochure.

CAN YOU HELP? Catholic Social Services needs volunteers to help refugees or family caregivers. Arriving refugees need help with a wide range of things including housing, child care, transportation, acculturation, employment and household goods. If you can help refugees, call Cindy at 513-241-7745 X287.

APRIL 14, 9:00-12:00, "HERP WALK" with naturalist, Wayne Wauligman at Michaela Farm, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis, located

in Oldenburg, Indiana on SR 229 just north of the town. All ages will have fun learning about animals that creep, reptiles and amphibians. This is a good time to explore since they will be coming out of hibernation to breed. **Fee:** Donation appreciated. **Pre-registration required** 812-933-0661.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE CINCINNATI is offering a healing weekend for the divorced, separated and widowed at Comboni Mission Center, 1318 Nagel Rd. in Cincinnati, April 13-15. Participants make a personal inward journey with the hope of beginning a new life of renewed courage and joy. Grief and regrets, confusion and self-doubt...No one needs to go through it alone! For information Call Mary Ellen at 1-800-300-2937 x 1141 Deadline is March 16.

HAS YOUR MARRIAGE GROWN COLD, distant, unloving or uncaring? Then please consider Retrouvaille (ret'ro-vi) a program designed to help heal and renew marriages. Retrouvaille is for marriages that have lost some of their spark, for marriages having difficulties in communication and even those marriages on the edge of separation or divorce. The next program begins May 18-20. For more information call: 513-922-6045 or visit cindayretrovaille.org. Other weekends and locations are available. Call for details.

Thought for today

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)