



“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.” *Romans 8:8-11*

For the third Sunday in a row we have heard a lengthy dialogue from the Gospel of John: the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead. “Lazarus, come out!”

That is what the Sacrament of Penance does for our lives. By confessing our sins, doing penance, and making reconciliation, we are called to a new and a fuller life. Sin leads to death; reconciliation leads to life.

Our Lenten Penance Service will be this Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. We will have four priests to hear our confessions.

If we have not done much for Lent yet, this would be a great way to start.

**DAILY LITURGIES AND INTENTIONS:**

- Monday, March 10 Lenten Weekday  
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Tuesday, March 11 Lenten Weekday  
8:00 a.m. Kathleen Flischel
- Wednesday, March 12 Lenten Weekday  
8:00 a.m. Jane Rau
- Thursday, March 13 Lenten Weekday  
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- Friday, March 14 Lenten Weekday  
8:00 a.m. deceased of the McLaughlin Family
- Saturday, March 15 **Joseph, husband of Mary**  
4:00 p.m. Ed and Doris Feltz
- Sunday, March 16 **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
7:30 a.m. Barbara Jazwinski  
9:00 a.m.\* Lil Norris  
10:30 a.m. George & Dorothe O’Connell  
6:30 p.m. St. Mary Community

\* Co-operative nursery available in Parish Center

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** Have you ever come up with what you thought was a great plan or idea, and decided to share it with friends or loved ones? Isn't it almost a sure bet that someone will think of all the reasons your idea won't work, and almost take delight in telling you so? In such instances, you set yourself apart from the rest when you keep going. Remember, everyone told Wilbur and Orville Wright that they didn't stand a chance in getting that thing off the ground! How frustrating it must have been for Jesus to announce to his disciples that he was going to Bethany to "awaken Lazarus from his sleep," only to have his closest friends tell him it was too dangerous. Despite their protestations, he calmly explained that his mission was of a grander importance. And even with this explanation, our friend Thomas replied that if Jesus was going to die, they might as well all go die with him! One of the cornerstones of our faith is the belief in the resurrection. Jesus himself proclaims that he is the resurrection and the life; in order to display this more clearly, he restores his friend Lazarus to life (CCC 994). On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we are called to look once and for all to Jesus' death and resurrection and his ultimate promise to us that if we believe, we too shall be brought from the darkness into new life with Christ.

©2008 Liturgical Publications Inc

**Holy week, Triduum and Easter schedule:**

- March 19** – Wednesday of Holy Week Mass 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- March 20** – Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00 p.m.
- March 21** – Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion 12:00 noon  
Station of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.  
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 7:00 p.m.
- March 22** – Easter Vigil Mass 8:00 p.m.
- March 23** – Easter Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon.

**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S GENEROSITY:  
March 2-3**

\$12,348.48	296 envelopes	Roof (73 env.)	\$1,760.00
\$7.50	8 children		

**Thank you.** Your dedication to the continued fiscal health of the parish is greatly appreciated. Only those who use their contribution envelopes may request a yearend statement of contributions.

**THE "ELIJAH CUP"** is presented to a family each weekend at the end of Mass. The family takes the "Elijah Cup" home and uses it as a focal point while praying daily for an increase in religious vocations. Our Elijah cup is Fr. Jim’s ordination chalice and paten. This week the Whiteley family will be presented the Elijah cup at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The next scheduled families are:



- March 16, Duckett family at 6:30 p.m.
- March 23, Clevenger family at 10:30 a.m.

Call Rich Hobbs at 937-743-2485 to schedule a weekend or use the e-form at the parish website: <http://www.stmaryfranklin.org>.

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday	<b>St. Patrick Dinner 11-2</b> <b>Confirmation at Cathedral</b> at 2:30 p.m. <b>Youth Night</b> cancelled
Monday	<b>Education Commission</b> at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	<b>Parkinson Support Group</b> at 1:30 p.m. <b>Knights of Columbus</b> at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	<b>Parish Reconciliation Service</b> at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	<b>Ladies Society</b> at noon <b>RCIA</b> at 6:30 p.m. <b>Family Life Commission</b> at 7:00 p.m.
Friday	<b>Last Fish Fry</b> at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	<b>St. Vincent de Paul</b> at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr. - HS Youth Night</b> at 7:00 p.m.

**Thought for today**

Jesus calls us forth from our graves of apathy and passivity. How will your new life make a difference? Consider ministry in the Church. (John 11:1-45)



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Did you know...Catholic men 18 years or older can become a member. Our life insurance program is optional to all members. Membership in Council 14400 is up to 67, and growing every month. We have membership information in the back of the Church on the radiators, and there are knights at every Mass. From the Fish Fry, we have raised over \$300 for Vocations, \$100 for Right to Life, and over \$2,000 for St. Vincent de Paul in our community. We have 1 Fish Fry left and we thank you for your patronage. Our March Blitz Membership Drive is in full swing, so men of St. Mary's please consider joining our ranks and getting involved for our Church, for our Pastor Father Jim, for our community, and for our youth.



**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES.** This Sunday, March 9, our Confirmation candidates will receive the sacrament at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati at 2:30 p.m. Please keep them, their families, and their sponsors in your prayers as they encounter the Holy Spirit in the celebration of the sacrament. May they come to know the Lord ever more deeply as they complete their Christian initiation.

**A COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY AMONG US:** On Sunday, March 16, the Parish School of Religion will be collecting items for the clients of St. Vincent de Paul. Items to be collected include shampoo, conditioner, soap (body and hand), razors, shaving cream, tissues, 4-pack toilet paper, paper towels, lotion, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and mouthwashes. Please bring your items to the Parish Center after all Masses and help support those in need.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL: DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON:** Being diagnosed with HIV and AIDS can be devastating. At first, Angeline and Prosper were in denial, even as they became sicker. Catholic Relief Services helped them to accept their situation, gain access to anti-retroviral medications and other treatments, and meet others living with HIV and AIDS in their village in Cameroon. This new support system helped them face the future with renewed confidence. Angeline and Prosper now work to educate others about HIV and AIDS and how to prevent it. Jesus celebrates the gift of life by restoring it to his friend Lazarus. CRS health initiatives seek to preserve this gift, and inspire local volunteers to work for the health of their communities. Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl helps CRS restore a feeling of hope for millions living with HIV and AIDS across the globe. **A reminder that when returning your Rice Bowl contributions at the end of Lent, please use the envelope provided and write a check payable to St. Mary Church. The parish will then make a single contribution to Catholic Relief Services.**



**THE SCRUTINIES: RITES OF HEALING FOR THE ELECT.** This Sunday, we will celebrate the **third and final scrutiny** with our elect at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, #141*). As we celebrate the Scrutinies with those traveling on the road to the Easter sacraments, we are reminded of our own need for healing and to support the elect with our prayers.

**IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT WE WILL ALL FACE DEATH.** But that's not the end of our stories. Through our Lord's own death and resurrection, we have inherited everlasting life. Come explore this most wondrous promise of our faith by coming to the next RCIA session, "**Dying and Rising in Christ**" on **Thursday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Ministry Center.** The RCIA is for everyone in the parish – we'll save a seat for YOU!

**DID YOU KNOW?** "Jesus, the Son of God, also himself suffered the death that is part of the human condition. Yet, despite his anguish as he faced death, he accepted it in an act of complete and free submission to the Father's will. The obedience of Jesus has transformed the curse of death into a blessing" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1009*).

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** The last Sunday in March is a Fifth Sunday collection for St. Vincent de Paul. This is a special collection to help take care of the needs of the poor in our area. 100% of all money collected goes to the poor in our area. We use none of the collection money to run our organization. All of those expenses are pick-up by the SVdP members. The money collected will provide shelter, heat and electric to our clients. This money is a life saving gift from your family to a SVdP family in our area. We thank you for your continued support.

Sometimes we wonder if our work is helping the people of our area. This week we received a water deposit refund from the City of Franklin. For us to receive this refund, means that the family kept up their payments and were able to move on. It also means that we can help another family get started in a home. We thank the members of our parish for helping give our clients a helping hand. We meet the first and third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Center.



Thank you to our generous parishioners. We are 24% toward our goal of \$17,000 from 7% of our parish families. Your gift to the ministries appeal is never too late or too small to make a difference. These ministries go a long way toward meeting Church family needs through education and support for those who need help through Catholic Social Services and chaplaincy programs at area hospitals and prisons.

**Q** What does John's account of raising Lazarus from the dead say concerning our Lenten faith journey?

**A** Lent is primarily a baptismal preparation and The raising of Lazarus, unique to John's Gospel, is the narrative proclaimed on the fifth Sunday of Lent in Year A. The account is rich in affirmations concerning who Jesus is and what his ministry is all about. The structure and purpose of John 11 is similar to the healing of the blind man in John 9. The former focuses on Jesus as the giver of life in the midst of death, while the latter highlights Jesus as the light of the world in the midst of darkness. Both accounts offer illuminating insights into the Lenten faith journey.

The "I am" statement that Jesus asserts as he raises Lazarus from the dead is rich with Lenten meaning. Jesus proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die". (John 11:25-26)

Death, the ultimate boundary to be crossed, is now, through Jesus, removed of all its sting and darkness. Jesus is the Lord of life for all who believe. No matter what death brings, it will not endure, for Jesus has overcome death. Anyone who believes will share in that eternal life.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter Vigil, the ultimate celebration of the victory of life over death, ask God to give you the strength to deal with the many deaths that occur in your everyday life.

©2008 Liturgical Publications Inc, New Berlin, WI 53151

#### THE FRANKLIN PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

will meet Tuesday, March 11 at 1:30 p. m. in the Parish Center. Gene McClory, MA, Coordinator of the Caregiver Assistance Network, Catholic Social Services of Southwest Ohio will speak on "Communicating Effectively with Doctors, Nurses, and Hospitals", which is imperative to the quality of care when treating a chronic illness such as PD. It depends on a partnership between the patient, supportive persons and the health care system. Persons with Parkinson's Disease, their caregivers, relatives and friends are invited to attend this meeting. For more information, call Rose M. Wurst at 1-937-231-3362.

#### **LAST ONE!! LENTEN FISH FRY sponsored by the Knights of Columbus with fish prepared by the chef from The Pub at the Greene. THIS FRIDAY All-You-Can-Eat**



Fish Buffet complete with drinks and desserts (donated by Kroger), from 5-8 p.m. with carryout available. Choice of baked or fried fish and multiple sides. All proceeds benefit K of C charities and St.

Vincent de Paul Society. Cost is adult \$10.00, seniors (60+) \$ 7.00, children (11 and younger) \$ 5.00, take-out \$7.00, family eat-in maximum \$30.00. 50/50 raffle tickets are available at each Fish Fry and Raffle tickets for a white afghan to be raffled on March 14.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!** Irish or not - it's time to wear your green and celebrate! Good food, family, and a chance to support your parish. St. Mary Ladies Society's St. Patrick's Celebration is this weekend - Sunday, March 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner of baked ham, au gratin potatoes, veggie, rolls, beverage, and **HOMEMADE** salad and dessert bars. Come to the Parish Hall and join in the celebration!



- ☞ Don't forget to purchase your RAFFLE tickets for the beautiful afghan.
- ☞ Bid on a reconditioned Singer sewing machine!
- ☞ KIDS - put your name in the TOY RAFFLE to win fun prizes. It's ABSOLUTELY FREE!
- ☞ POP A Balloon for fun prizes!

**Come to the St. Patrick's Celebration and be prepared for a good time!**

**LENT EVENT:** Children pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade come to our Lent Event, a celebration preparing for the coming of Christ, on March 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon. We will make resurrection eggs and stained glass window crosses, decorate cookies, and play fun games. The event is free but you must RSVP by March 14 to Cassidy at 937-743-1358.



#### **NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT THIS WEEK:**

There will be no High School Youth Night this Sunday. We look forward to a special Youth Night on March 16. The high school group will host a special evening meeting for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have just been confirmed! We will meet in the Parish Center at the usual time, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

**Don't Miss It!**

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT OPPORTUNITY:** Young adults, age 21 and up are invited to attend a singles retreat on April 18-20. **River**, a group of single adult Catholics from Greater Cincinnati, Dayton, northern Kentucky and surrounding areas, is hosting a retreat for singles at the Moyer Spiritual Life Center in Melbourne, KY. Topics include celebrating single life, communication, living God's will and self-evaluation. The fee is \$95 per person, with a \$20 deposit required by April 15. Please contact Janet Huelsman for more information at 937-746-8709.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH**

March 9 – St. Patrick's Dinner – Volunteer opportunity 11-2  
**NO** High School Youth Night  
 March 16 – High School Youth Night with 8<sup>th</sup> grade 7:15  
 March 23 – Happy Easter! – No Youth Night  
 March 30 – High School Youth Night 7:15

# BEYOND THE PARISH

**COLLEGE AGE MEN AND OLDER:** you have a first-rate opportunity to see if the priesthood is for you. If you have ever thought about being a priest, if you desire to be a force for the Lord as a priest, to spend your life for the salvation of souls, you are invited to an informative **Welcome Weekend** at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. The weekend will give you an excellent sampling of what it would be like for you to be in training for the priesthood. The date is Friday, March 28 and Saturday March 29 2008. To get more information and to make your reservation, please call the Vocation Office at 513-421-3131 or register online at [www.cincinnati vocations.org/frm03282008.php](http://www.cincinnati vocations.org/frm03282008.php) by March 13

**A DAY FOR SOLDIERS AND SPOUSES:** The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein is sponsoring a day of sharing and support for soldiers and their spouses on April 19, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This day is open to all veterans and is fully funded by a grant from the Sisters of the Precious Blood, so there is no charge. A highly qualified team of presenters will facilitate the day and will be led by Fr. Phil Salois. Phil entered the priesthood after combat in Vietnam. He has directed veterans' couples retreats for over 20 years. For more information or to register call the Spiritual Center at 877-925-7625. Please share this information with soldiers and their spouses you may know.

**JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is still accepting registrations for the 2008-2009 school year. Registration forms can be picked up in the school office, 3806 Manchester Rd., Middletown from 7:30-3:30. New families must provide: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, social security card, current picture and previous 2 years report cards. Questions, call the school office at 513-424-1196.

**THE ATHENAEUM OF OHIO LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM** is accepting applications for both the Masters in Pastoral Ministry and non-degree Certificate programs. For more information or for dates of upcoming informational meetings please call 513-231-1200 for the Cincinnati area or 937-277-0116 for the Dayton/Northern area.

**A RACHEL'S VINEYARD** weekend retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion will be held in Cincinnati on April 25 – 26, 2008. The confidential, supportive retreat is for anyone hurting inside from abortion. For more information, please call Peggy at 513-588-0080 or email Peggy at [pffeirstine@cinci.rr.com](mailto:pffeirstine@cinci.rr.com). You can also visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) or call a national toll-free hotline at 1-800-HOPE-4-ME.

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

March 15-16	4:00 p.m. Sat.	7:30 a.m. Sun.	9:00 a.m. Sun.	10:30 Sun.	6:30 p.m.
<b>Servers</b>	Brian Fry Arizona Craycraft	Claire Brownfield David Brownfield	Reggie Gast Rhys Gast Mae Gast	Kyle Kennedy Joshua Plandowski	Marissa Werling Matthew Werling
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Paul O'Brien Sandi Traud Joe Borosic Pat Bosway	Doug Brooker Kristine Brown Linda Brownfield	Linda Harvey Debra Kapolka Dan Liberti Walter Mauck	Teresa Knapke Anne Langsdale Judy Martin Bob Matson	Ron Onderko Jeff Rohde Carlos Yopez Andrea Dapkus
<b>Lectors</b>	Chuck Dallavo Mark Haenni	Steve Dungan Catherine Fagan	Wayne Simpson Pat Simpson	Walt Beatty Sarah Koss	Ken Fish Mark Givens
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Sommer	Foley	Sillies		Onderko

### Readings for the Week of March 9, 2008

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45  
 Monday: Dn 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11  
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30  
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42  
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59  
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13,16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a  
 Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14 - 27:66

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rocky Adams 937-743-0226  
 Eileen Avellano 937-748-0043  
 Dan Darragh 937-746-1914  
 Dan Fedders 937-746-4123  
 Mark Fields 937-743-9077  
 Roger Lorelle 937-885-1230  
 Ron Onderko 937-748-4281  
 Don Quigley 937-748-5362  
 Roger Stebelton 937-855-6897



**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.