

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

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February 28, 2010

Mass Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:15 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 am

Tuesday, Thursday

5:30 pm

Confessions

Saturday 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Parish Staff:

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Pastor

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ALONG THE AVENUES:

This past Tuesday the parish staff devoted our bi-weekly meeting to presentations and discussion on **mental illness**. Three representatives of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) told their stories of mental illness and shared information with us and others from neighboring parishes. On our part, we were seeking a better understanding of how we can be present to the people living with mental illness in our parish and those who come to benefit from our services (like the Supper Program). We wanted information that would help us to be compassionate ministers and, at the same time, to provide appropriate boundaries and referrals to those in need.

There were at least four things that I vaguely knew, but which became clearer as the meeting went on. The first is a clear definition of mental illness. In NAMI's words, "Mental illnesses [note the plural] are medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. Mental illnesses are biologically-based brain disorders. Just like many chronic illnesses, mental illness can be managed by working with a doctor to find the appropriate treatment plan for each individual." My second learning was more of a reminder: people living with mental illness are not confined to people on the street or to some of our guests at the Supper Program. They are among the members of our parish, their family and friends. Approximately one in every four or five families in the United States is affected by mental illness. Statistically that would be true for our parish as well.

Third, however, mental illnesses often remain "in the closet." While we speak fairly easily to others about having diabetes, or diverticulitis or even cancer, we rarely speak of having mental illness. There is still a stigma around it. At best, we are uncomfortable when we learn a person is subject to a mental illness; at worst, there is an immediate judgment of spiritual weakness or moral failure in those with mental illness, and a consequent shunning of them. Those with experience of mental illness speak of it as the "no-casserole illness." If you have hip replacement surgery or are undergoing treatment for cancer, your family, friends and neighbors send in meals and rally to your support. However, with mental illness there is no such rallying, often because people just don't know what to do. We need to learn as much as we can in order to respond to mental illness as we would physical illness.

Fourth, coming to terms with mental illness is a long and constant process, both for the person and for those around him or her. At the very least, the process requires full and honest information about behaviors and illnesses, advocates to support and guide persons through the process, tough love on the part of those who care about the person, and a community of wisdom and care. This is where the parish can be helpful as a haven of compassion, a wellspring of information, and a network of support. The parish needs to be and can be a safe place for people living with mental illness.

This is why the staff decided to spend a whole staff meeting reflecting together on this important concern – and I am sure it will not be the last time. If you share this concern, please contact one of us and continue our education on how we can be a supportive community of care for our brothers and sisters with mental illness.



Christ's peace to you,
Father Bob Kennedy

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:**Tuesday, March 2**

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. — PYC Book Club, Room 11
 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Middle School Youth Group, School
 7:00 p.m. — RCIA, School Library

Wednesday, March 3

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Exposition of the Blessed
 Sacrament
 7:00 p.m. — Contemplative Prayer, Parish Office

Thursday, March 4

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. — Lenten Book Group, Parish Office

Friday, March 5

8:30 a.m. — Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, March 6

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. — PreCana, Church Basement
 9:30 - 11:00 — First Communion Preparation
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. — Sacrament of Penance, Church

Sunday, March 7

8:00 a.m. — RCIA First Scrutiny, Blessed Sacrament
 10:00 a.m. — Pre-School Faith Formation and Nursery
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — K-8 Faith Formation, School
 7:00 p.m. — Monroe-Clinton Parishes Retreat at St. Boniface

MASS SCHEDULE:**SUNDAY, February 28, Second Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - For the Parishioners
 10:00 AM - Mass of Remembrance: Kay Lechleitner
 12:15 PM - Richard Donovan — Loving, wife, children and
 grandchildren

MONDAY, March 1, Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM - Vivian Cupp — John and Jeanne Lyle

TUESDAY, March 2, Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Mary Jane Caines — Nick Caines

WEDNESDAY, March 3, Lenten Weekday, St. Katharine Drexel, virgin

8:00 AM - Frank Tyler — Jeanne Tyler

THURSDAY, March 4, Lenten Weekday, St. Casimir

5:30 PM - Marlene Albrecht — Kathleen Nichols

FRIDAY, March 5, Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM - Harold Handel and Harold Handel, Jr. — Family

SATURDAY, March 6, Lenten Weekday**SUNDAY, March 7, Third Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - For the Parishioners
 10:00 AM - Eleanor Gorges — Bequest
 12:15 PM - For the intentions of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas
 — Anthony Nero



SHARE YOUR GIFTS FROM GOD

*Stewardship... Live It!***FAITH AND MONEY**

Everything we have comes from God; and the return of our gifts to God includes the sharing of our treasure. Our financial giving commitment grows out of that understanding. The biblical standard for this is the tithe (10%) of our gross income. This is generally accepted to be distributed as 5% to the needs of our parish, 1% to the annual diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal, and 4% to other charitable needs such as community programs that meet our standards and help fulfill our values as Catholic Christians.

Rather than focus on a particular amount of money, the stewardship approach to financial giving asks our parishioners to look responsibly at how we use the gift of our money for the support of Christ's mission in the world, and to make a conscious decision to contribute a portion, a percentage of yearly income to help the needs of the parish in this mission. The amount of our contribution should be based on these principles: planned, proportionate, sacrificial, and in thanksgiving.

As *planned*, the decision requires the thought and prayer of the individual and family making the commitment. It should be based on income, budgetary needs and special individual/family circumstances. As *proportionate*, our planning should ensure that we give the "first fruits" of our monetary treasure to God. Through prayer and sacrifice we should seek to determine what percentage of our income we can contribute, always striving to increase that proportion. As *sacrificial*, our contribution should be from "the top," not from our abundance or what was left over; that is, it should be from the substance of our resources. And in the end, our contribution should always be in grateful response to our blessings, *in thanksgiving*.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

This past week Father Bob was at Blossom South Nursing Facility celebrating Mass with the residents. At the end of Mass, one resident motioned him over and handed him a dollar bill tightly folded up. "Here, take this for the parish," she whispered. Father Bob tried to decline because her needs were obviously much greater than the parish's. "No, no," she said. "I am supposed to support the Church. Please take it." He did. She had caught the spirit of stewardship – and, every little bit helps!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARISH

Sunday collection received: February 21, 2010	\$ 6,922
Budgeted weekly need	\$ 7,850
Difference - (under) weekly need	\$ (928)
Received year to date	\$ 252,405
Budgeted need - year to date	\$ 266,905
Difference (under) budgeted year to date need	\$ (14,500)

Envelope users gave \$5,531 and loose plate total \$1,391

Thank you for your generous support of our ministries

MCPG RETREAT 2010
Theme: "Turn Away from Sin and Be Faithful to the Gospel"

The Lenten season invites us to turn our hearts more completely to the following of Christ in all things. When there is so much change taking place around us – in the world, in the Church, and in our own lives – it is both a challenge and a comfort to be faithful to the gospel! This retreat will help us open our hearts to conversion (change of heart), reconciliation and peace to which Christ calls us.

Sunday, March 7

7:00 PM

Saint Boniface Church

Father William Graf will facilitate a session about the scriptures, and especially the New Testament themes related to conversion of heart, reconciliation and peace.

Monday, March 8

7:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Church

Sister Patricia Schoelles will facilitate a session about change and reconciliation in society and what we can learn from it as Christians and as parishes.

Tuesday, March 9

7:00 PM

Saint Mary's Church

Mr. Daniel Meyers and Ms. Kathleen Whelehan will facilitate a session about how we personally manage the many changes in our lives.

Refreshments will be served after each session

PENITENTIAL RITE

This Rite, held on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, is celebrated with the baptized (Jessica Payne, Dannis Matteson, Anita Folts, Shane LaDue and James Phelps) who wish to complete their Christian Initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Please pray for our Candidates who will celebrate this Rite during the 11:00 Mass at St. Mary's on February 28th. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming Catholic, contact Sister Kathleen Wayne 271-7240 or kawmercy-roch@yahoo.com.

TODAY AT 11:00!

Christ Over Coffee

With Bryan and Crissi Harrison

Take a deeper look at the Sunday Scripture.

Pick up some historical facts and theological insights.

Meet in the Supper Program Dining Room.



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NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Book Club for "My Life with the Saints" by Fr. James Martin.

Sponsored by the Parents with Young Children Group

Three Sessions- March 2, March 16 and March 30 from 6:30-7:30 PM

Book \$11.00 See Sue Howard For details.

Child Care Available Free

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT-SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

Monday Nights 7:00-8:00PM

St. Boniface Church

Want to learn what Lent is all about?

Come and study the Scriptures we hear on Sunday.

Leaders: Sr. Luke Hardy and Sr. Phyllis Tierney

Open to All!

COMING SOON- THE GREAT PANCAKE RACE!

Parents with Young Children (ages infant to 5 years old).

Sign up for the **Family Pancake Breakfast**.

Sunday, March 21st at 11:00 in the School Gym

Dad's will flip the Flap Jacks while Mom's and Tot's make a craft.

SAVE THE DATE

Third annual Tri-Parish Picnic is Sunday, August 15, 2010

Want to help? Planning is already under way. New ideas are always welcome. For more information contact Beverly LaBelle at 271-7240 or blabelle@dor.org.

BLOOD DRIVE: A SUCCESS

Twenty-five individuals came out in the snow to help make our February Red Cross Blood Drive a success. Special thanks go out to our parish Blood Drive Coordinator, Gerry Yawman who has so faithfully served in this position for many years. Thanks Gerry and thanks also to the parishioners who helped with recruitment efforts earlier in the month.

YOUNG ADULT BOWLING PARTY

March 12 7:00-11:00PM

At St. Boniface Men's Club

\$12.00 for unlimited Bowling, Shoes, Pool Table and Pizza.

Bring Your Friends!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Our parish Contemplative Prayer group will gather at 7pm this coming Wednesday, March 3 in the living room of the parish office building. Please consider joining us especially during this Lenten season. Our format is silent, meditative prayer followed by informal discussion of a spiritual text or personal sharing about our own spiritual journeys. New participants are always welcome. Please contact Beverly Labelle at 271-7240 or blabelle@dor.org for further details

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 7, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM Mass:

Exodus 17: 3-7

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

John 4: 5-42

10:00 AM and 12:15 PM:

Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Luke 13: 1-9



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

High School Youth Group!! Will move to St Boniface, following Confirmation Session. February 28th we are back to Revelation – the Apocalypse!! Does this book really predict the end of the world?? Supper 5:30-6:30 (with Confirmands) and our meeting will be in Room 1, 6:30-8:30 pm

Middle School Youth Group! Tuesday, Feb 24th – 7-8 pm at Blessed Sacrament School What's a "true" friend? How do you be a good friend, but not get pushed around? How do you be assertive without being aggressive? Learn these important people skills this week at Youth Group!

Last chance to get those service points! Monroe Community Hospital Middle School & High School Volunteers are needed to help Seniors at Monroe-Community Hospital go to Mass! Sign in at the Volunteer Office in the Faith Building at 10:30 am, then help folks get from their rooms to Mass and return them to their rooms after Mass. You'll be finished about 12:15 pm.

For information on any of the events above or to register call Barb Legere at 465-2665 or email blegere@dor.org

DO YOU DESIRE TO GROW IN UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH?

Consider borrowing a DVD presentation produced by the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. We have several presentations that would be good to view during the Lenten Season: **Conscience Formation** (presented by Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ); **Examination of Conscience** (presented by Father Bob Kennedy); **Moral Development** (presented by Patrick Fox) and **The Passion Narratives** presented by Father George Heyman. To borrow any of these presentations contact Sister Kathleen at Faith Formation Office 271-7240 or kawmer-cyroch@yahoo.com. The DVD initiative is funded, in part, by our contributions to the Catholic Ministries Appeal.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

Jesus' transfiguration was a moment of hope for the disciples, giving them the strength to endure the future sacrifices they would make as they formed the early Church. As we continue our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us be mindful that our Lenten sacrifices help to give hope to our brothers and sisters in need.

Weekend Masses at our Partner Parishes

St. Mary's - Sat. 4PM, Sun. 9:00 and 11:00 AM
St. Boniface-Sat. 5PM, Sun. 8:30 and 10:30AM
OLVictory/St.Joseph-Sat. 4:30PM, Sun. 10AM & 7:30PM

NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

The National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) from 2001-2005 UNC Chapel Hill conducted the NSYR interviewing over 3,000 13-17 year olds and produced some very interesting results. Here's a small selection: **The single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents.** "The best social predictor, although not a guarantee, of what the religious and spiritual lives of youth *will* [emphasis added] look like is what the religious and spiritual lives of their parents *do* look like"

More Good News

The study found that, generally, young people like being Catholic.

76% of Catholic youth plan to attend a Catholic parish and to remain Catholic in their adulthood.

83% say they will or maybe will attend church when they are 25 years old. The findings describe the religious beliefs and practices of Catholic young people generally: 85% believe in God, 15% are unsure or don't know, and less than one percent say not at all.

64% believe in a personal God involved in their lives.

67% believe in a judgment day (McCorquodale et al. 53).

You can find much, much more data and conclusions at www.youthandreligion.org

JustNews

...from Blessed Sacrament's Social Justice Community.

Lent is a good time to reconnect with God's good creation, to think about how our actions impact the earth. Consider learning more about climate change and changing a few of your habits in order to reduce your own contribution to the problem. Consider a carbon fast.

The Archdiocese of Washington's Environmental Outreach Committee has produced a calendar listing 40 carbon fasting actions for lent. Have an "embrace the silence" Sunday; after church, stay home and turn everything off-- the TV, the radio, and the phone. Good for the planet and the soul. Or simply try to incorporate reverence for creation into your daily routine-- drive the speed limit, replace an incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent, carry your own mug when you go out to get coffee. There are lots of possibilities. For the complete list, go to:

catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Lenten-Carbon-Fast-Calendar-2010.pdf

We welcome you to journey with us. Contact Holly Rockwell at hrock@rochester.rr.com or 473-1990 for more details.