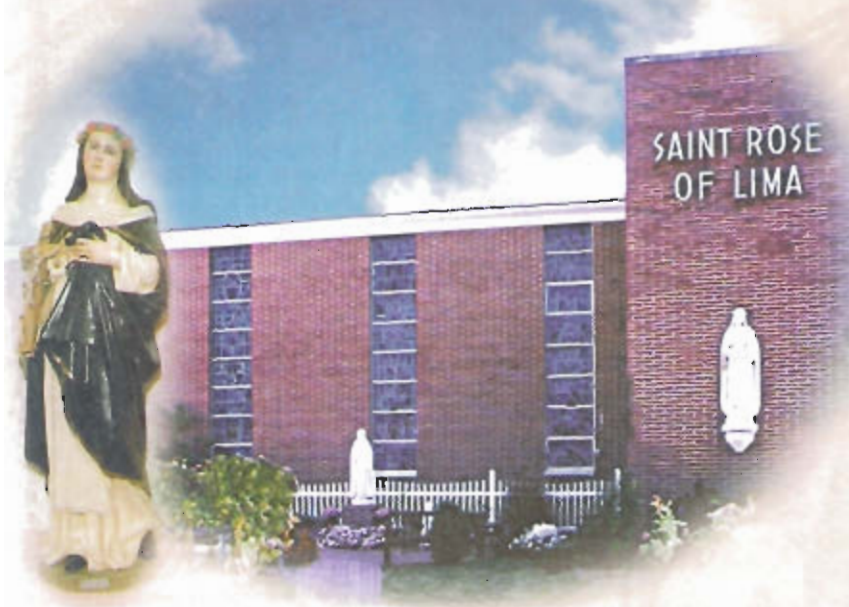


St. Rose of Lima Church

February 13, 2005



*5514 Roselawn Avenue
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16602*

Pastoral Team

Rev. James F. Crookston	Pastor
Very Rev. Carl A. Spishak, VF	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Sylvester J. Bendzella	In Residence
Patricia Ronan	School Principal
Viola Bettwy	Catechetical Leader
Susan Cossitor	Liturgical Ministries
Bryce Cossitor	Choir Director
Patrick Irwin	Pastoral Council
Raymond Askey	Finance Council
Joseph Maschue	Liturgy Council
Larry Harker	Catechesis Council
Michael Kelleher	School Council
Leona Lanzendorfer	Secretary, Parish Office
Sandra Wesley	Secretary, School Office
Cathy Damiano	Maria Parish Center Mgr.

Telephones

Rectory	944-8509
School	942-7835
Social Hall	942-1323
Maria Parish Center	942-7844

E-MAIL
WEB SITE

frjded@stroselima.com
www.stroselima.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekends:

Saturday	5:30 P.M.
Sunday	7:00 A.M. 8:15 A.M. 10:30 A.M. Noon

Weekdays

Monday through Saturday	8:30 A.M.
Holy Day Vigil	7:00 P.M.
Holy Day	7:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 7:00 P.M.

Reconciliation: We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation weekly on Saturday at noon as well as Saturday evening after the Mass.

Baptism of Infants and Young Children: Parents should contact the rectory well before an expected Baptism, before birth when possible, to prepare for and schedule Baptisms. Bonnie Frederick (942-7037) coordinates the Baptismal Catechesis Team.

Christian Initiation Process: Adults and older children considering becoming Catholic may contact Rose Marie Fochler (944-3906) or the priests.

Marriage: Couples interested in celebrating the sacrament of matrimony must meet with a priest at least NINE months before the proposed wedding date.

Families of Sick or Disabled: If illness has confined anyone to his or her home or the hospital, please call the rectory to arrange a visitation and sacramental ministry.

Ministering to Children and Youth:

School of Religion - Children enrolled in public school, kindergarten to grade eleven, are to attend our Sunday School. Contact Viola Bettwy (696-1541).

Confirmation - Preparation begins in grade nine. For more information, contact Father Crookston.

Newcomers: Welcome to our parish family! If you wish to participate fully in our parish life, please register in the office at 5514 Roselawn Ave., Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 2:45 P.M. or complete a Parish Census Form provided in the church vestibule and return it in the offertory collection. To volunteer for parish ministries or discuss how St. Rose may be present to your faith journey, kindly schedule a meeting with either Father Spishak or Father Crookston.

Eucharistic Exposition: The heart of our parish family life is our communion with Christ. Foster our oneness with Christ at Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday morning: 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Rosaries to End Abortion: Pray the Rosary with us in the Church every Wednesday at 5:45 P.M. to promote the sanctity of human life and an end to abortion in our society.

Christian Mothers meet the second Monday of every month. Contact: Mary Engelman (943-3796).

Cristo el Salvador: Please keep our medical mission in Lima, Peru, in your thoughts and prayers. Please use the special envelope for your offerings to the Mother/Child Clinic in Villa Salvador.

St. Rose School Athletic Association meets the third Monday of every month during the school year. Contact the School Office.

Maria Parish Center: Contact Cathy Damiano at the school or her home (943-7242) for information on scheduling the center's facilities.

Web Site: The Parish Web Site promotes our parish via the World Wide Web. Information regarding the Parish Liturgical Schedule, Sacraments, Family Life, Parish Ministry, Upcoming Events - parish and community, and the Sunday Weekly Bulletin are at www.stroselima.com. Contact: Pattie Fromknecht (949-9130)

Ministry Directory: This helpful, descriptive guide to our parish ministries is available at the rectory. Discover and celebrate Christ through service.

Bulletin Deadline: Please submit articles by Tuesday, 9:30 A.M.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Feb 13 First Sunday of Lent
 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
 10:30 AM *Interpreted Mass for the Deaf*

Mon Feb 14 6:00 PM Christian Mothers Mass

Tues Feb 15 6:10 PM Bingo

Wed Feb 16 5:45-6:30 PM Pro-Life Rosary
 6:30 PM 8:15 Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 PM 10:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thurs Feb 17 9:00-11:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration

Fri Feb 18 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
 6:10 PM Bingo

Sun Feb 20 Second Sunday of Lent
 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9
 10:30 AM *Interpreted Mass for the Deaf*



Mass Intentions

Monday, Feb. 14 Ss. Cyril & Methodius

8:30 a.m. †Hilda Blendl (*Joseph & Heather Macharola & Children*)
 6:00 p.m. †Matthew Zakrzwski (*St. Rose Christian Mothers*)

Tuesday, Feb. 15

8:30 a.m. †Betty Drabic (*Ron & Mariann Eberhart & Boys*)

Wednesday, Feb. 16

8:30 a.m. † Edwin Beckel (*Leonard D. Pacifico*)

Thursday, Feb. 17 Seven Servite Founders

8:30 a.m. † Sarina & Salvatore Fiore (*Juliet Fiore*)

Friday, Feb. 18

8:30 a.m. †Stanley Kawtoski (*Michael & Lois Mignogna*)

Saturday, Feb. 19

8:30 a.m. Members of the St. Rose of Lima Altar & Rosary
 5:30 p.m. †William K. Osmolenski (*Betty Cronauer*)

Sunday, Feb. 20 Second Sunday of Lent

7:00 a.m. †Mary E. Fiore (*Sally Dumm & Family*)
 8:15 a.m. †Nellie Roebuck (*St. Rose of Lima Altar & Rosary*)
 10:30 a.m. †Dorothy Skupien (*Family*)
 12 NOON Mass For The People

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING -Feb. 5-6, 2005

Regular	\$8553.15	Christmas	\$ 136.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 286.00	Rose	\$ 144.10
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 2.00	Candle	\$ 20.00
Easter Flower	\$ 20.00	Peru	\$ 10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 43.00	Good Friday	\$ 5.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 5.00	Black & Indian	\$ 50.00
Candlemas	\$ 336.00	Easter	\$ 25.00
Bishops' Relief	\$ 5.00	Total	\$ 9640.25

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Altar Servers for Stations of the Cross-February 18
 5:30 p.m. Sean Dillon

Altar Servers for Saturday, Feb. 19 8:30 a.m. Max Sheedy

Altar Servers for Feb. 19-20
 5:30 p.m. Johnny Brown, Brittany Boslet, Loretta Bobetick
 7:00 a.m. Julie Fox
 8:15 a.m. Tessa Donnelly, Kaitlyn Lersch, Daniel Lersch
 10:30 a.m. Anthony Zelnosky, Ethan Dombrowski, Andy Pagliara
 12 Noon Sully McConnell, Thomas Myers, Mark Wqsicki

Eucharistic Ministers for Feb. 19-20, 2005
 5:30 p.m. J. Brown, M. Kooman, B. Kooman, S. Baker, J. Scarfone
 7:00 a.m. L. Altiero, R. Kline, R.M. Fochler
 8:15 a.m. J. Heiss, B. Spinazzola, D. Cree, P. Engelman, M. Engelman
 10:30 a.m. K. McGraw, J. Fromknecht, A. Ansman, K. Madariaga, K. Mrdjenovich
 12 Noon R. Fiore, M. Wiley, J. Eberhardt

Lectors for Feb. 19-20
 5:30 p.m. Joe Maschue, Jean Chiridon
 7:00 a.m. Frank Fochler, Robert Fox
 8:15 a.m. Tony Labriola, Randy Donnelly
 10:30 a.m. Jim Klueg, Todd Cammarata
 12 Noon Michael Nazaruk

FROM OUR PASTOR

LENT'S SACRAMENTS We continue to experience what the young Christian Church celebrated in its first centuries -- sacramental birth, growth and renewal during Lent and Easter.

At this Sunday's 8:15 Mass, we will send forth to Bishop Joseph three candidates for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church: Triena Beisel, Kelly Charlesworth, and Todd Negola. Bishop Joseph will recognize their spiritual progress and encourage them as they journey toward the reception of sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Lent and Easter mark happy occasions for second school-year young people who will celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Juniors in high school advance to completion of their initiation in the faith with the celebration of Confirmation. Gifted by the Holy Spirit they receive the commission to share their spiritual gift for the work of Christ in our world. We, the fully initiated members of the Church, witness to and support the faith of these special members of our parish. We also make our annual penitential renewal in the sacrament of Reconciliation and the keeping of a spiritually meaningful Lent. Our communal penance service is Sunday afternoon, March 13, 4:00.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU February is census month. We invite you to complete both the census and ministry, time and talent portions of the census. With the publication of the pictorial directory, we want to include current and accurate addresses, family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

member names, and home phones (only for those who want their number listed). It has been nearly a decade since we gather other member information. We appreciate your cooperation in helping all of the Saint Rose Faith Community to learn who we are.

LENTEN AND HOLY THURSDAY ALMSGIVING

During Lent, our second collections are our alms for our brothers and sisters in Lima, Peru and the diocese of Mandeville. We also invite your daily home alms to Operation Rice Bowl. We gather your Rice Bowls during Holy Week.

Holy Thursday, the day of the Lord's Supper, is also our occasion to honor the continuing good work that is done in the name of the rectory's former cook, Gloria Gates. We forward the gathered Holy Thursday offering to the Gloria Gates Foundation. The Foundation helps the youth of Evergreen Manor. Be abundantly generous in your Lent and Holy Thursday almsgiving.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to Joann and Bob Reese for their donation to the school library in memory of Hilda Blendl.

The **SCHOOL COUNCIL** will meet on Thursday, Feb. 17th at 7:00 PM in the computer room.

There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, Feb. 18th and Monday, Feb. 21st due to the Presidents' Day break.

The students will pray the Stations of the Cross each Thursday during Lent at 1:25 in the church. All are welcome to join us.

Registration for next year's kindergarten is Feb. 28 from 8:30 to 10:30 and 1:30 to 2:30. The school nurse will be here to go over your child's immunization records with you. Please bring those updated records along with your child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate and social security number. There is a \$50.00 registration fee payable at the time of registration.

Registration for next year's kindergarten is Feb. 28 from 8:30 to 10:30 and 1:30 to 2:30. The school nurse will be here to go over your child's immunization records with you. Please bring those updated records along with your child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate and social security number. There is a \$50.00 registration fee payable at the time of registration.

The St. Rose of Lima School will be having their second annual **Longaberger Basket Bingo** on February 28, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are now available in the school office or by calling Kim Irwin at 942-6892. This is a fun women's night out so purchase your tickets soon – they are not available at the door. The price of the tickets is \$20.00 for admission (15 games) or \$55.00 for a value pack (15 games, door prizes, and special games). Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

"Support Black and Indian Missions"

The National Collection for Black and Indian Missions in the United States will be taken at all Masses this weekend. Because of the generosity of the people of this parish and parishes around the U.S., last year, over eight million dollars were contributed to the Collection and – 98 cents of every dollar was distributed. The support went to some of the neediest people across the United States; from the inner cities of the rural South and from the deserts of the Southwest to Alaska's cold wilderness- 131 Dioceses received assistance from the collection. Through your gifts, you join your sacrifice to those who sacrifice daily to lead others to Christ. You become a Co-missionary. Please give what you are able. Please use the envelope that is located in your pack of envelopes.

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Feb. 19	5:30 p.m.	St. Rose School Children
Feb. 20	7:00 a.m.	Harold & Alma Dumm
	8:15 a.m.	Religious Education Students
	10:30 a.m.	Mary Lou Moffitt & Ron Skupien
	12 Noon	Ushers Pick

WELCOME

Last weekend Emily Grace Burwell, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Burwell received the light of Christ in the sacrament of Baptism

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Conrad and Marie Elder whom we honored with Christian Burial during the past week. May God give comfort to their families.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT Class will be held on Feb. 20 2005. We will meet in the St. Rose Reading Room from 9:15 –10:15. Topic: **Seven Last Words of Christ**. Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Adult Formation Team (AFF). Join us whenever you can. You are welcome to one or all of the gatherings.

CANDLES

For the Men & Women in the Military who are serving our Country by the Christian Mothers. Special Intentions by Rose Marie Creppag, Fritz & Mary Werkmeister by Joyce & Toby Kjarsgaard, Joan S. Smith-Sister by Mr. Wallace Hoyer, Wallace S. Hoyer-Husband by Mrs. Lillian Hoyer

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS NEWS

The Christian Mothers will hold their meeting following the 6:00 p.m. Mass on February 14. A pot luck dinner will be served after Mass. A group of children from St. Rose School will entertain. All old and new members are invited to attend.

On February 27, the Fun Afternoon for Kids will be held in the Social Hall for children up to age 12. Clown Bob Smith will entertain. Games -Prizes-Pizza and Punch will follow.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you would like Our Prayer Chain to pray for your intentions, please call Bernice Shoenfelt at 942-5659

MUSIC NOTES

Children's Choir Rehearsals will take place in the choir loft on Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. beginning **February 19, 2005**. We are preparing to sing for Palm Sunday at the 8:15 a.m. Mass and Easter morning at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please note that a group picture will be taken at the first rehearsal for our Church Directory. New members ages 7 to 13 are always welcome – No experience necessary! For questions contact Bryce or Sue Cossitor at 943-0174.

The Carmelite Community of the Word will sponsor **Lenten Prayer Opportunities** at their Incarnation Center during February and March. Two mini-retreats "Go to Your Room & Pray in Secret" will be offered on February 25-16 and March 11-12. A Morning of Reflection will be offered on March 2: "Following Jesus Along the Way to Calvary in Daily Life." Pre-Registration for these programs is required. Please contact Incarnation Center at 814 886-4098 for registration information.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

February 13 Matthew 4:1-11
In today's gospel, notice that Jesus "was led BY THE SPIRIT." The promise of the gospel is that no matter what situation or temptation we may face as a parent or spouse the same Spirit of God is with us – walking with us in our wilderness-giving us the support, wisdom and courage to make life giving decisions.

END OF YEAR STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

May God's blessings be upon all those who have so generously supported our parish family throughout 2004. Those individuals or families who for tax purposes would like to have a statement of your contributions for 2004 are asked to call the Rectory. We would be most happy to provide that information for you!

"IN DEFENSE OF LIFE"

No one can tell the truth about abortion like a woman who has had one. Martha Wenger, the mother of an aborted child, describes the aftermath of abortion for her. "The whole procedure toughened me. I became hateful. I had no compassion...A lot of women think they're getting rid of a problem. But they don't have an idea of the problems they'll face afterwards."

PRAYER CORNER

LENT IS SOMETIMES CALLED A JOURNEY

We should expect to find ourselves somewhat different at the end of our journey than where we started. An important difference could be more prayer in our lives. During lent the prayer committee plans to provide a Lenten prayer for each week of lent. Week One:

Merciful God,
You called us forth from the dust of the earth;
You claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.
Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days
Bearing the mark of ashes,
And bless our journey through the desert of Lent
To the font of rebirth.
May our fasting be hunger for justice;
Our alms, a making of peace;
Our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.
All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,
For in his cross you proclaim your love
For ever and ever.
Amen

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

MILITARY PORTRAITS of our parishioners are being gathered for printing in our 2005 Pictorial Directory. Color black and white photos are being accepted for a special "military page" in the book. Those of our parishioners who are on active duty or in the reserves may submit their picture to our parish office or by dropping them in the collection basket. Please attach the name of the individual to the photo. The deadline for submitting the pictures is February 26, 2005.

PSAS Financial Aid Applications Available

Any parent with children enrolled in a Catholic school who wishes to apply for financial aid for the 2005-2006 school year may do so at this time. Parents may gain an application from their school's office or from the web sites www.daj.k12.pa.us or [www.Second Century Fund.org](http://www.SecondCenturyFund.org). This year will be the first that pre-school children may apply for a limited amount of available grants through the Second Century Scholarship Fund. Questions may be directed to your school's office or the Diocesan Education office. All completed applications are due on February 23, 2005 for high school students or March 2, 2005 for pre-k through 8th grade students.

Hollidaysburg Catholic Home School Association

will present a Basket Bingo on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Fr. Kelly Hall, St. Therese Church, 5th St. & 25th Ave., Altoona. More info or tickets call Beckie Krol at 695-1950.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

On Sunday, February 20, 2005, Bishop Gregory Pile of the Lutheran tradition will host an ecumenical service at Simpson-Temple Church, 2212 6th Ave. Altoona. The service begins at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Joseph will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

Fish Dinners every Friday during Lent at **Our Lady of Lourdes Social Hall**, 2700 Broad Ave. Altoona. Dinners Served from 4:30 -7:00 p.m. Adults \$6.75 Children under 12 \$4.75.

St. Patrick Church, Newry will have a Seafood Buffet every Friday during Lent including Good Friday at the school cafeteria. It will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Children under 6 free-Ages 6-12, \$4.00. Ages 13-55, \$8.75 and Seniors 56+, \$7.75

ST. VINCENT SEMINARY

On March 6-8, 2005, St. Vincent's Seminary will host a "Live-In Retreat" for men age 18 and over who are interested in knowing more about seminary life and the life of a diocesan priest. There is no charge for the retreat. For further information and registration, contact Fr. John D. Byrnes at 814-472-5441 or email at jbyrnes@dioceseaj.org

PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

On March 31 to April 3, 2005, the Office of Vocations will host a College Live-In at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio for young men who are seniors and juniors in high school and college students who are interested in knowing more about seminary life and the life of a diocesan priest. The Live-In schedule

will include a tour of the campus, discussions, meals and prayer with the college seminarians, attendance at classes, and time for recreation. There is no charge for the weekend, and transportation will be provided. Parents are cordially invited to attend the Live-In along with their sons. Guidance will be provided by the Director of Vocations. For further information contact Father John D. Byrnes at 814 472-5441 or email at jbyrnes@dioceseaj.org

LITURGICAL REFLECTION... In this Year of the Eucharist it is opportune to review the Church's teaching on the EUCHARISTIC FAST. These directives are found in Canon Law. A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine *Canon 919:1*. The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour *Canon 919:3*.

The custom of fasting before Mass arose after the third century and was mandated by early councils. The Church considers fasting a means of spiritual preparation for the Eucharist and a way of showing reverence for the Sacrament.

One Day Women's Conference – "Heart's Afire" – May 14th.

Catholic women face greater challenges from an increasingly secular culture. In today's world women search for ways to remain faith-filled in our day to day interactions. This conference's goal is to help us respond to these challenges and answer the call to live our lives as Jesus commands. Plan to join other women on May 14th at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson for the day of faith, intercession and liturgy. We will be joined by two dynamic speakers and musical ministry group, *Living Praise*. Watch the Catholic Register for more information or to register visit our website at www.Geocities.com/catholicwomenalleghenies/index.html or contact Carol Galioto at *814) 946-3796.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

The Altar Society thanks the women for cleaning the church last week- Judy Wood, Betty Davis, Shirley Cobler, Mary Engelman, Donna Daley, Regina Friedenberger and Ronna Lee. Also, if you have not as yet joined the Altar Society for this year, please put your dues in an envelope and drop in the collection. \$5.00/family. Many graces will be yours.

The first week of Lent

Prayer at the Beginning of Lent

Lord Jesus Christ,
you began your ministry
facing temptation.
With God's help and God's grace
you overcame desires
that threaten us.

Be with us now as we begin our journey.
Help us see that only God
fulfills our needs.
Help us know that
power belongs to God.

Lord, be our companion.
In your name we pray. Amen.



Sunday, February 13, 2005

WITH JESUS IN THE DESERT

Lent opens with the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). It is a good way to begin our reflection on the challenge of being a disciple of Christ amid the world's temptations to be anything but a disciple. We are surrounded daily with persuasive advertisements to gather more and more material things in order to achieve happiness. But Jesus reminds us that we do not live by bread alone (or by stereos, cars, books, houses, or clothing). His refusal to test the devotion of his Father puts us to shame when we expect God to cater to our wishes. And as we watch Jesus refuse to compromise his own integrity for the sake of power, we feel strengthened to resist the suggestion that power and worldly success measure our true worth.

At each temptation, Jesus quotes a passage from Deuteronomy, one of the great books of the Torah, or Law, of the Jews. He shows that he understands the challenge of obedience that the covenant with God implies. Only when he has done this can he begin to teach, preach, and heal others in God's name. In the same way, it is only when we face the world's temptations and realize that God alone can provide the satisfaction we seek that we can accompany Jesus on his journey. Lent calls us to recognize that we are tempted by many things. It reminds us that Jesus passed through these same temptations and was able to resist them as a frail human without resorting to his own divine power. We are fortunate to walk beside him this Lent.

This Week at Home

Monday, February 14

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Valentine's Day is a day for sending messages of love to special people in our lives. In the Church, today also celebrates the missionaries, Saints Cyril and Methodius, who sought to spread the message of the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ to the Slavic nations in the ninth century. To that end they translated the Bible and the liturgical prayers into Slavonic. Cyril invented an alphabet (the Cyrillic alphabet) that became the basis for several languages, mainly in Russia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe. Let us thank God for these early evangelists.

Tuesday, February 15

THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER

Prayer is the first of the three Lenten disciplines proclaimed by the Church (pray, fast, give alms). It helps us deepen our relationship with God. Jesus is our best model of prayerfulness—he took time to go apart from his disciples for meditation. Make it a family practice to pray together during Lent. Even five minutes spent praising God can be effective. Taking time for prayer before meals, at bedtime, or just before Mass will help you remember God's presence all through the day.

Wednesday, February 16

THE DISCIPLINE OF FASTING

During the Forty Days of Lent, the Church urges people to remove everything that is not essential from their lives so that God might be more fully present. In addition, the Church invites us to fasting and abstinence on special days in Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics abstain from meat and eat only one large meal each day while fasting between meals. On the Fridays in Lent, Catholics abstain from meat. Such practices let us live in solidarity with the hungry and remind us that when we take in a little less, God can enter a little more.

Thursday, February 17

THE DISCIPLINE OF ALMSGIVING

Giving alms is the third Lenten practice of the Church. Our Christian obligation to care for those in need has been clear since the early Church when the apostles gathered the resources of the community and "gave to everyone according to their need" (Acts 2:45). Caring for the poor can take many

forms. We can donate money to local, national, or international charities or organizations. We can give our time and talent to help local organizations. We can also increase our giving to Catholic Charities, Operation Rice Bowl, or Oxfam America.

Friday, February 18

CALLING OURSELVES TO ACCOUNTABILITY

At the end of the first full week in Lent, it may be good for families to talk about how things have gone in their prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. A visual reminder like a chart will help small children to remember the Lenten disciplines, and adults to set an example for others. Your chart might look like this:

	Prayer	Fasting	Alms-giving
Mom	5 minutes each morning	No meat Friday; no cola	Gave \$1 to Operation Rice Bowl
Dad			
Daughter			
Son			

Saturday, February 19

DOING WHAT IS NOT EASY

Today's Gospel reading (Matthew 5:43-48) challenges us to go beyond what anyone would do and embrace what Christians would do. Loving those who love us is easy. Loving those who hate us or who are mean to us is not. Jesus' expectation of all those who follow him is that they will do the unexpected because God loves the good and the bad, the just and the unjust. Jesus also promises that the grace of God will help us do just that, however hard it might seem. Begin by offering prayer for someone who has hurt you this week.



© 2004 Liturgy Training Publications, 1-800-933-1800.
Written by Mary Katharine Deeley. Illustrated by Sue Todd.

PASCHAL MISSION
LENT • TRIDUUM • EASTERTIME • 2005