

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sun Mar 5</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9</b>
	10:30 AM	<i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>
<b>Tues Mar 7</b>	<b>6:10 PM</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Wed Mar 8</b>	<b>5:45-6:30 PM</b>	<b>Pro-Life Rosary</b>
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>8:15 Choir Rehearsal</b>
	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>10:30 Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs Mar 9</b>	<b>9:00-11:00 AM</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>Fri Mar 10</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
	<b>6:10 PM</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sat Mar 11</b>	<b>9:30-10:30 AM</b>	<b>Children's Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sun Mar 12</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9</b>
	10:30 AM	<i>Interpreted Mass for the Deaf</i>



**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, March 6**

8:30 a.m. †Terry Longstreth (*Joyce Longstreth*)

**Tuesday, March 7 SS. Perpetua & Felicity**

8:30 a.m. †Armida & Antonio Santarsieri (*Dr. Joseph & Kathleen Santarsieri*)

**Wednesday, March 8 St. John of God**

8:30 a.m. †Helen Sutton (*Brian Baracaro*)

**Thursday, March 9 St. Frances of Rome**

8:30 a.m. † Marie Trexler (*Tony Labriola & Family*)

**Friday, March 10**

8:30 a.m. †Al Mignogna (*Bob & Debbie Fisher*)

**Saturday, March 11**

8:30 a.m. †Vincent Engelman (*Paul & Mary Engelman*)

5:30 p.m. †Ernest Unverdorben (*Family*)

**Sunday, March 12 Second Sunday of Lent**

7:00 a.m. † John L. Glunt (*John & Carol Bismark*)

8:15 a.m. † Phyllis Miller (*Vince Wolf & Family*)

10:30 a.m. † Orlando DeCriscio (*John & Mary Lamb*)

12 NOON Mass For The People

**PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING -Feb/ 25-26, 2006**

Regular	\$7308.42	Christmas	\$ 69.50
Capital Campaign	\$ 136.00	Rose	\$ 180.58
Ash Wednesday	\$ 18.00	Candles	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flower	\$ 10.00		
Easter Flower	\$ 10.00	Total	\$7742.50

**.MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Stations of the Cross**, March 10, 2006

5:30 p.m. Alex Baker, Trevor Baker, Kathryn Nazaruk

**Altar Servers** for March 11-12, 2006

Saturday, March 11, 2006

5:30 p.m. Bradley Spayd, Brittany Spayd, Brianna Spayd

Sunday, March 12, 2006

7:00 a.m. Julie Fox

8:15 a.m. Jared Bimle, Tai Irwin, Justin Bimle

10:30 a.m. Jillian Lemme, Andy Pagliara, Alyssa Lower

12 Noon Polly Macharola, John M. Berger, Francis Macharola

**Eucharistic Ministers** for March 11-12, 2006

5:30 p.m. J. Brown, J. Scarfone, J. Frena, B. Shoenfelt, S. Askey

7:00 a.m. G. Miller, C. Sharbaugh, J. Wustrow

8:15 a.m. T. Heiss, D. Cree, D. Smith, L. Altiero, R. Novack

10:30 a.m. M. Kooman, B. Kooman, R. Skupien, B. Spinazzola, M. Wiley

12 Noon D. Shrift, J. Eberhardt, C. Anslinger

**Lectors** for March 11-12, 2006

5:30 p.m. Maria Spayd, Joe Maschue

7:00 a.m. Frank Fochler, John Kenny

8:15 a.m. Laverne Previte, Tom Irwin III

10:30 a.m. Patrick Labriola, Ken Haney

12 Noon Michael Nazaruk

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**RITE OF SENDING** At this Sunday's 7:00 Mass, we will send forth to Bishop Joseph our catechumen Zachery George and candidates Amber Altiero, Adam Earnest, Ben Forshey, Sue Ann Hall, Kaitlyn Kuzio, and Lori Wills. They and their sponsors will celebrate rites of enrollment and encouragement as they reach the period of enlightenment and purification on the way to Easter Sacraments.

**PARISH AND AREA RECONCILIATION** Our Lenten reconciliation service is Sunday, April 2, 4:00 P.M. We will have three priests in the reconciliation rooms as well as other priests stationed throughout the school. **Other opportunities for your celebration of sacramental reconciliation are:** St. John's, Lakemont ~Monday, March 27, 6:30 P.M.; Cathedral ~ Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 P.M.; Our Lady of Lourdes ~ Friday, April 7, 5:30 P.M. and St. Mary's, Hollidaysburg ~ Sunday, April 9, 4:00 P.M. Additionally Sacred Heart will have sacramental reconciliation nightly at 7:00 P.M. during its Novena, March 27 - April 4. These communal services heighten our awareness that we are a pilgrim people in need of forgiveness and that as a community we celebrate God's saving grace. Times for individual celebration of reconciliation at St. Rose are the usual Saturday times (Noon and after the 5:30 evening Mass), and following morning Mass Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### ST. ROSE SCHOOL NEWS

\* Thank you to John and Shirley Donoughe for their donation to the library in memory of Francis Ackerman. Thank you, also, to Jim and Doris Klueg for their donation to the library in memory of Geraldine Brown.

\* The Technology Committee will meet on Monday, March 6 at noon in the computer lab.

\* If anyone has questions concerning registration for the 2006-2007 school year, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. Registrations are due on Friday, March 10.

\* The students will pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 1:30 in the church. All are welcome to join us.

\* The students will participate in a "Hop-a-Thon" for Muscular Dystrophy on Thursday, March 9 at 1:30 in the parish center.

#### WANTED: DIRECT SALES/PARTY PLAN VENDORS

We are planning a "Party Plan Expo" as a fundraiser for our school. This fun Ladies afternoon will be held on April 23. We are looking for vendors from within our school/parish families. If you are involved in any of the following organizations, please call Leigh McCall 943-6726. Creative Memories; Stampin' Up; Tastefully Simple; Lia Sophia; Silpada; Tupperware; Longenberger; Home & Garden; Home Interior; Party Lite; Princess House; Fuller Brush; Avon; The Body Shop. (If your business is not listed, please call!) Craft vendors are welcome too! This is a great opportunity to help our school while growing your business.

#### ST. ROSE BASKET BINGO

St. Rose of Lima School will be having their Third Annual Longaberger Basket Bingo on Monday, March 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are \$20.00 with an additional value pack available for \$35.00. You may purchase tickets at St. Rose of Lima School Office during school hours or by calling Kim Irwin at 942-6892. This is a fun women's' night out with food, refreshments and great prizes.

**CANDLES** – For the Men & Women in the Military who are serving our Country by the Christian Mothers, Fritz & Mary Werkmeister by Toby & Joyce Kjarsgaard, Geraldine E. Brown by Loretta & Bill Amerine, Special Intentions.

#### MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Geraldine E. Brown whom we honored with Christian Burial during the past week. May God give comfort to her family.

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

### OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

March 11	5:30 p.m.	Dr. & Mrs. Juergen Wustrow
March 12	7:00 a.m.	Connie Glunt & Family
	8:15 a.m.	Basil & Donna Mannino
	10:30 a.m.	Jeff & Mary Shultz & Family
	12 Noon	Joe & Heather Macharola & Nicholas

### 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 March 11, 2006. 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. New members ages 7 to 13 are always welcome – No experience necessary. For questions contact Bryce Cossitor at 943-0174.

### RITE OF ELECTION

Our parish will celebrate the first Sunday of Lent by sending an unbaptized catechumen, Zachery George to sign the Book of the Elect, which includes all who are baptized in Christ, signifying his desire to become a Christian. We also send our baptized candidates: Amber Altiero, Adam Earnest, Benjamin Forshey, Kaitlyn Kuzio George, Sue Ann Hall and Lori Wills with their sponsors, family and friends to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament where they will meet with Bishop Joseph and will proclaim their desire to begin their final period of preparation to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

### ICONS: WINDOWS INTO HEAVEN

Come, learn about icons – which have been called "scripture in picture form." Iconographer, Teresa Futrick, will be present to present information and answer any questions you might have about this often misunderstood art form. Over 100 icons and icon prints of all types will be displayed, including a rare collection of ancient Russian hand painted icons. Please join us for this Lenten journey into one of the Church's great treasures at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. The presentation, on Sunday, April 2, will be from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the church.

### PRAYER CARDS

Please take a Prayer Card that is on the tree in the foyer and pray for one of the candidates of RCIA, Confirmation and First Communion during Lent.

### ALTAR SOCIETY

March is the month to use the Altar Society envelope. To be a member of the Altar Society gives you many spiritual benefits including a monthly Mass and your membership pays for the candles, flowers, etc for the Altar.

### SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

This year, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday of Lent. It is a day of fast and abstinence. I hereby dispense from that obligation all those who are of Irish ethnic background in any degree and those who will be celebrating with them. This I do on the condition that they pray at least once for more vocations to the priesthood.

**STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS:** Parishioners who would like a statement of their contributions are asked to call the Rectory between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**“IN DEFENSE OF LIFE”**

“That a life begins at conception is a biological fact, not a theological tenet. The agonizing question for thoughtful people concerns when, if ever, abortion is a victimless act.”  
George Will, syndicated column 2/2/05.

**MIRACLE OF LIFE**

Pro-Life billboard volunteers will be here at St. Rose of Lima Church on March 11 & 12 seeking your continued support. To date we have raised 27 permanent Pro-Life billboards, over 200 yard signs, 2,500 car plates, and hundreds of Pro-Life T-shirts and sweatshirts. This work is made possible in part by Father Crookston and the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima. This year we plan to add 5 more sites. Please be generous and thank you.

**LITURGICAL REFLECTION...**

Pope Benedict XVI states, “Lent is a privileged time of interior pilgrimage towards Him who is the fount of Mercy. It is a pilgrimage in which He Himself accompanies us through the desert of our poverty, sustaining us on our way towards the intense joy of Easter.” At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, the Faithful will be asked to renew their baptismal promises. These forty days of Lent invite us to join the Lord Jesus in the desert. We need to reflect and meditate on the mercy and love of God found in the death and resurrection of His Son. In the poverty of our human dependence on the Lord, we make the Lenten journey. We use this privileged time of Lent to meet our Redeemer who accompanies us on the pilgrimage of life.

**LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES-**

Sisters from the Carmelite Community of the Word are conducting 4 different mini retreats. Christian Mothers will arrange a car pool or even a bus for those interested in participating in one or more opportunities. For more information, see the sign up sheets in the foyer.

**MEN & WOMEN OF THE MILITARY** – If you have a family member or loved one serving in the Armed Forces and would like to have them remembered in pray and with cards. Please provide their name, address and if possible a photograph to the rectory.

**SUPPER CLUB** – Our first supper club meeting was a great success and enjoyed by all. Keep Sunday, March 5, 2006 open as we will meet at 5:00 p.m. at King’s Restaurant on Sixth Avenue. If you need transportation or interested in starting a luncheon club, please call Janette 946-4342. Everyone is welcome.

**A FUN AFTERNOON FOR CHILDREN** ages 5 thru 12 years of age. Saturday, March 4, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. we will welcome children to participate in large group games, an arcade, religious workshop and crafts area. The arcade will include a pool table, air hockey, foosball and ping-pong, plus more. We will meet in the St. Rose Social Hall and have the activities in the Maria Parish Center. The afternoon will end with hot dogs and refreshment back in the Social Hall. There is no cost for this activity however donations of hot dogs rolls and baked goods are needed. Parents are welcome to join in the fun and youth are invited to bring a friend. Please call Janette 946-4342, Dave Stein 942-0445 or Jim Mock 942-0142 with questions or to register. This activity is brought to us by St. Mary’s (Altoona) C.R.O.S.S. (Children Remembering Our Sacred Savior) youth ministries

**PRAYER CORNER**

Father, during this time of Lent,  
give me the wisdom to understand the meaning of Your Son’s death and resurrection,  
grant me the depth of feeling to experience the genuine love He gave us at Calvary,  
and most of all,  
guide me in my thoughts, words, and actions,  
that I may reflect Your wondrous Love. Amen

**SAINT OF THE MONTH**

Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary

Feast Day: March 19

Patronage: cabinet makers, carpenters, pregnant women, married people, laborers, immigrants, interior souls, happy death, house hunters, against doubt, and hesitation, protection of the church.

Profile: St. Joseph was a descendant of the house of David He was a layman and a carpenter. He was the earthly spouse of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father of Jesus Christ. He was a visionary who was visited by angels and was noted for his willingness to immediately get up and do what god told him. He was the earthly protector of the Holy Family He died in the first century, prior to the Passion, of natural causes.

**Prayer to St. Joseph:**

Oh, Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great and so strong before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son, all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Kiss Him in my name and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, Patron of departed souls pray for me. Amen.

### SACRED VESTMENTS

The praying Church makes use of sacred vestments: festive clothes different from those worn in everyday life. Liturgical vesture imparts a certain grace to the movements of the priest, deacon, and other ministers; more deeply, it is a call to adoration "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). Both for those who wear them and those who see them worn, the liturgical vestments are a compelling invitation to "worship the Lord in holy array" (Psalm 96:9).

The *alb* is a long white robe common to priests, deacons, and to those entrusted with a special liturgical service. An *amice*, or white neck scarf, is worn under the alb to cover the ordinary clothing at the neck. The alb is tied at the waist with a *cincture*.

The vestment proper to the priest celebrant at Mass is the *chasuble*, an amply tent-like garment. The chasuble is worn over the alb and stole, a long narrow band made of the same fabric and color as the chasuble. The priest wears the stole around his neck, allowing it to hang down in front. The deacon wears the stole over his shoulder and drawn across the chest to the right side where it is fastened; over the alb and stole the deacon wears the *dalmatic*, a kind of tunic with wide sleeves.

In the United States, acolytes, altar servers, lectors, ministers of Holy Communion, and other lay ministers may wear the alb or other suitable and dignified clothing. Sacred vesture remains for all Catholics a reminder that going to church calls for modest and appropriate attire. Clothes do not make the Christian, but can express reverence for the presence of God and respect for those with whom we worship. "Above all these," says Saint Paul, "put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).

*Prepared by Father Mark-Daniel Kirby, Ocist, PhD. Copyright c2005, Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications.*

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul will hold an orientation at Bishop Guilfoyle High School on Saturday, March 18, 2006. The orientation is open to anyone wishing to learn more about the society and its Mission in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. There is no charge for attending but you must pre-register by Friday, March 10. For more info or to register call 942-5732.

### LENTEN FISH BUFFET

Every Friday in Lent (except Good Friday) **St. Mary's in Altoona** will be having a Fish Dinner Buffet in the Memorial Hall Cafeteria. The price of the buffet is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. (4-12) and will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Proceeds to go to the elevator fund.

### St. Patrick's Newry, All You Can Eat Lenten Seafood Buffet

All Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. St. Patrick School Cafeteria-South St. Newry. 4:00-7:00 p.m. Children under 6 Free. Ages 6-12 \$4.50. Adults 13-55) \$9.25. Seniors 56+ \$8.25. Free Desserts and Beverages. Take-outs available.

**FISH DINNER** will be held at the Kittanning Trail Vol. Fire Dept. on all Fridays, March 10 through April 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Baked or Fried Haddock, French Fries or Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw or Apple Sauce, Roll. Located just off 58<sup>th</sup> St on Poland Ave. near Ebner Elementary School Take out available. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.

### FISH DINNERS

Every Friday during Lent, Our Lady of Lourdes will be serving Baked or Fried Fish, Baked Macaroni or French Fries, Coleslaw, Stewed Tomatoes, Roll, Butter, Beverage & Dessert. Adults \$7.00- Children \$4.75. Dinner served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m..

**Protecting God's Children.** Parent/adult reminders to keep our children safe.

Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home.

It is important to let children know how to connect with *you* if they become lost in a store, park or other location. Always select a pre-determined, public location for your child to wait for you if he/she is lost. Make sure they know who to approach if they cannot find you. Many children will become frightened and hide in remote locations of a store or park rather than going to a safe adult and asking for help. Thus they could become easy targets for sexual predators if they seek out a location that is not within the view of other caring adults. *Children & Youth Protection and Advocacy Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at 814-886-8250.*

**Minutes**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**October 10, 2005, 7:00 PM, Computer Room**

**Opening Prayer**

Mike Fox opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Members present were:**

Father Crookston, Father Spishak, Sue Cossitor, Pat Irwin, Frank Fochler, Judy Rossi, Cindy Boslet, Todd Cammarata, Jim Woome, John Brown, Paul Engleman, Mike Fox, and Dave Kibblehouse.

**Minutes**

The minutes of September 8, 2005 were corrected to read that the St. Rose Endowment Board will have representation from the Parish Council, the *Finance Council*, and the *School Council*. Todd Cammarata made a motion to approve the minute as amended. John Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Committee Preferences**

Mike Fox and Todd Cammarata gave their first and second choices for committee preference to Father Crookston. Pat Irwin and Father Crookston will determine committee assignments.

**Committee Reports**

Liturgy Sue Cossitor reported the following:

- The Liturgical Commission met on October 6, 2005.
- The commission suggested that quality wall hangings for seasons be researched. A subcommittee was formed to investigate different examples of wall hangings and the cost involved. The members of the subcommittee are Bea Shoefelt (Chairperson), Bonnie Bartley, Rosemarie DeKoning, Doris Silveri, and Father Spishak.
- The foyer and the back of the sanctuary need clutter organized and/or removed. A subcommittee was formed to investigate how to improve the foyer décor. The members of the subcommittee are Janette DiGiacobbe (Chairperson), Bonnie Bartley, Linda Turcovski, and Judy Rossi.
- Parish Council is investigating solutions to improve the main sign facing Sixth Avenue. It was suggested that perhaps a digital sign at the road and a traditional sign on or near the main entrance of the church be considered.
- The adult choir along with the children's choir is planning a concert for December 11, 2005. Any upcoming events could be published in the concert program.
- Father Crookston will conduct a workshop meeting for lectors in November to distribute workbooks and touch on details to improve reading, clarity, diction, etc.
- Father Crookston will meet with the Eucharistic Ministers in November to review and practice the giving of communion...allowing time for the communicant to bow before offering the Host.
- Father Crookston will be looking for visitor cards that can be placed in the pews at Christmas.
- The next meeting of the Liturgical Commission will be November 3, 2005, at 7:00 PM in the Computer Room.

**Other:**

- Regarding the sound system, Father Crookston indicated that the current budget is very tight and that the sound system is temporarily on hold.

Education

**Parish School:** Father Crookston reported the following for Pat Ronan who is recovering from surgery.

- The enrollment for the school 2005-2006 school year is 223. The optional full day Pre K 4 is a success. There are 24 children enrolled; nineteen of whom stay the full day.
- The school welcomed a new sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Grace Damiano. Mrs. Damiano taught at St. Patrick School in Newry, but for the last several years she ran her own childcare in Tyrone. Mrs. Damiano brings a wealth of experience to the children, and she will be a wonderful addition to the school staff.
- Some changes to the building have occurred. The "old" reading room is now part of the Pre K program. The reading room is now in the previous 8<sup>th</sup> grade room. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has moved into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade room, and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade now has their homeroom in the science lab. Thank you to Father Spishak for installing new shelving and coat racks to accommodate the students in the science lab.
- The school was awarded a \$500.00 grant from First Energy for a science and computer class project dealing with solar energy. Thanks to Mrs. Dombrowski and Mr. Maschue for designing the project and applying for the grant.

- Since October is traditionally the month of the Rosary, the school students will pray the Rosary weekly in the church.
- There will be a “school Mass” on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

**Other:**

- Father Crookston reported that the closing of adoration on Thursdays has been moved to begin at 11:10 AM so that the school children can join in the closing of adoration and benediction.
- Father Crookston praised the school staff and parents for pitching in and helping out with school proceedings while Principal, Pat Ronan, recovers from surgery.

**Catechesis:** None

**Finance**

**Stewardship:** Father Crookston shared with council a handout report of the 2004-2005 stewardship at St. Rose. He indicated that there is a need for a 10% increase in giving for the coming year. During the last Sunday Masses in October, Father Crookston and Father Spishak will be asking for an increase in giving from the parishioners. On the flipside of the handout is a report of the current parish support contributions and data on parish ministries. Also included are ministry stories: *YOUfest Celebration* and *St. Rose Triduum Spanish and Anointing Liturgies*. Other suggested ministry stories that may be included are music, faith formation, vacation bible school, the pictorial directory, or special features of parish members who have had longtime ministry involvement in the church. The handout will be included in the October 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mass bulletin.

**Saint Rose Endowment:** Father Crookston reported that an endowment board is being established with representation from the Parish Council, the Finance Council, and the School Council as well as two people at large. Also included on the board will be the pastor of St. Rose and the principal of the school. The bylaws of the endowment board were shared with council. John Brown made a motion to nominate Marty Kooman to be the representative elected by the parish council to serve on the endowment board. Jim Woomeer seconded the motion. The motion passed. An explanation of the Saint Rose Endowment Plan to parishioners will be forthcoming at future Masses. The endowment will be launched in December.

**Maintenance**

**Other:**

- Father Spishak indicated that the January Project is on hold. Father Spishak also indicated that the fence around the playground needs to be painted. John Brown volunteered to help with that project.
- Cindy Boslet asked how those who volunteered at the Ministry Fair are notified. Father Crookston asked Father Spishak to look into how that information has been processed.

**Family Life/Activities**

**Hospitality:** Cindy Boslet stated that the greeting of new parishioners will begin with the start of the new year. It was suggested that Cindy call Father Crookston to find out who has handled specific events in the past.

**Social Justice** No report.

**Formation:** None

**Old Business**

***Appreciative Inquiry:*** Various ministries are continuing to work through the Action Plans.

**New Business**

***Commissioning at Sunday Mass:*** Commissioning of parish council members will be Sunday November 6, 2005, at the 10:30 Mass.

**Pastor’s Comments**

No additional comments

**Schedule of Meetings**

November 10, December 8 (note time change to follow Holy Day Mass), January 5 (Ministries Dinner), February 9, March 9, April 6 (note date change to a week earlier due to Holy Week), May 11.

**Next Meeting’s Opening Prayer**

Paul Engelman will give the opening prayer at the next meeting.

**Closing Prayer**

Father Spishak offered the closing prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Rossi*

# First Week of Lent

## *A Prayer for the Beginning of Lent*

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.**



**March 5, 2006**

*The Gift of the Desert*

The Greek word for desert, *eremos*, means deserted, a place too extreme for human habitation. Jesus was drawn to such a wild place after his baptism. There he was utterly alone, prey to temptation. This fierce, unsettling story ushers us into Lent.

Our own deserts tend to be more metaphoric: deserts of despair, depression, and loneliness where we feel isolated and abandoned, or the deserts of overload and over-commitment that leave us parched and aching for “greening” time. In these barren places we can easily be seduced by the illusion of relief through “things” or distracting activities.

Surviving a wilderness is only possible with the right supplies—food for the journey, sturdy footwear, sensible clothing, compass, and plenty of water. In the desert we jettison what is extraneous and retain what is essential. The desert offers spiritual respite from hauling around old resentments, oversized guilt, and oppressive fears. What a relief to travel unencumbered!

Spring in the desert is startling to behold. Lent’s springtime promises similar growth. The Forty Days beckon us to simplicity and solitude marked by prayer, restraint, and generosity. Entering Lent’s landscape allows us to emerge into the full bloom of Easter, ready to greet Christ resurrected.

## This Week at Home

### Monday, March 6

#### *Lenten Practices: Prayer*

People pray in different ways. For some, the recitation of familiar words at familiar times is the doorway to their spiritual practice. For others, prayer rises up from everyday actions performed with God in mind—expressing love, praise, gratitude, and trust in a God of endless generosity and grace. How will you spend this Lent putting prayer into practice?

### Tuesday, March 7

#### *Saints Perpetua and Felicity*

Perpetua and Felicity were third-century Christians who suffered martyrdom for their refusal to renounce their faith. It is appropriate that their feast falls on the eve of International Women's Day, a celebration of women's strength and gifts. Do you know a woman of fortitude and faith? Why not send her a note thanking her for the inspiration she is to you and to others.

### Wednesday, March 8

#### *A Theme of Lent: the Desert*

One way to enhance the Lenten practice of prayer this week is by setting up a visual focal point to remind you of the Sunday scripture. Create a simple centerpiece on the table that serves as a gathering place for your family. On top of a purple swath of cloth, place a candle and a bowl of sand, a cactus, or a stark arrangement of bare branches to remind you of the desert that Jesus entered for forty days of prayer and fasting. (The cloth and candle

can remain throughout the season, accompanied by different objects each week to evoke an aspect of that Sunday's scripture.)

### Thursday, March 9

#### *A Traditional Lenten Hymn*

These eloquent words ascribed to Gregory the Great, a sixth-century Pope, express our aspirations for this season:

Again we keep this solemn fast,  
A gift of faith from ages past,  
This Lent which binds us lovingly  
To faith and hope and charity.  
More sparing, therefore, let us make  
The words we speak, the food we take,  
Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense;  
Learn peace through holy penitence.

### Friday, March 10

#### *Charity and Justice in Action*

Today's Gospel reading (Matthew 5:20–26) shows us Jesus' deep concern for the way we treat each other. Not only must we refrain from violent behavior ("You shall not kill"); we must also renounce our anger for one another. This rigorous demand for right relations is echoed in the passionate, self-sacrificing work of Harriet Tubman, who died on this day in 1913. Born into slavery in Maryland in 1819, she managed to escape in 1849, then risked her life 19 times to guide 300 other slaves to freedom through the underground railway. Learn more at <http://www.nyhistory.com/harrietubman/life.htm> and pray for righteousness and charity in your own relationships.

### Saturday, March 11

#### *Pray All Day*

Saint John Chrysostom once noted that prayer could be incorporated into all aspects of our lives, including the most mundane parts of our days. Before getting out of bed in the morning, make a mental picture of the responsibilities you will undertake, the people you will meet, and the places you will go. Try offering each aspect of your day to God. In so doing, you are likely to find yourself more attuned to God's presence as the day unfolds.



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**PASCHAL MISSION**  
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