

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun Mar 19 | Third Sunday of Lent | |
| | 9:15-10:15 AM | Religious Ed. Gr. K-9 |
| | 10:30 AM | Interpreted Mass for the Deaf |
| Tues Mar 21 | 6:10 PM | Bingo |
| Wed Mar 22 | 5:45-6:30 PM | Pro-Life Rosary |
| | 6:30 PM | 8:15 Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 PM | 10:30 Choir Rehearsal |
| Thurs Mar 23 | 9:00-11:00 AM | Eucharistic Adoration |
| Fri Mar 24 | 5:30 PM | Stations of the Cross |
| | 6:10 PM | Bingo |
| Sat Mar 25 | 9:30-10:30 AM | Children's Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun Mar 26 | Fourth Sunday of Lent | |
| | 9:15-10:15 AM | Religious Ed. Gr. K-9 |
| | 10:30 AM | Interpreted Mass for the Deaf |



Mass Intentions

Monday, March 20 St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

8:30 a.m. †Marjorie Pennington (*Husband & Children*)

Tuesday, March 21

8:30 a.m. †Joseph Mannino (*Frank & Anne Kaye*)

Wednesday, March 22

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

Thursday, March 23

8:30 a.m. † Donald Basciani (*Frank O'Dellick*)

Friday, March 24

8:30 a.m. †Mary A. Riccio (*Furrer Family*)

Saturday, March 25 Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Members of the Altar & Rosary Society

5:30 p.m. †James Sanders (*Alex & Liza Seltzer & Family*)

Sunday, March 26 Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:00 a.m. †Paul Beiswenger (*Jim & Betty Allison*)

8:15 a.m. †Betty L. Drabic (*Juliet Fiore*)

10:30 a.m. †Frank & Dorothy Skupien (*Family*)

12 NOON Mass For The People

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING - March 11-12, 2006

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Regular | \$8018.23 | Christmas | \$ 72.50 |
| Capital Campaign | \$ 119.00 | Rose | \$ 129.27 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$ 45.00 | Easter Flowers | \$ 874.00 |
| Catholic Relief Ser. | \$ 15.00 | Black & Indian | \$ 75.00 |
| | | Total | \$ 9348.00 |

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

| | | |
|----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| March 25 | 5:30 p.m. | Kevin & Cindy Boslet & Allison |
| March 26 | 7:00 a.m. | Bernard & Julia Beiswenger |
| | 8:15 a.m. | Pat & Linda Nagle & Family |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Mary Lou Moffitt & Family |
| | 12 Noon | Philip, Christina & Mackenzie Bracken |

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Stations of the Cross, March 24, 2006

5:30 p.m. Jared & Justin Bimle, Stefan & Billy Beard

Altar Servers for March 25-26, 2006

Saturday, March 25, 2006

5:30 p.m. Brittany Boslet, Jessica Boslet, Sara Fromknecht

Sunday, March 26, 2006

7:00 a.m. Julie Fox

8:15 a.m. Tim Link, Justin Bimle, Jared Bimle

10:30 a.m. Alyssa Lower, Megan Danison, Megan Mignogna

12 Noon Jarod Brumbaugh, Zach Bracken, Kathryn Nazaruk

Eucharistic Ministers for March 25-26, 2006

5:30 p.m. J. Shoenfelt, M. Tillard, J. Frena, G. Bettwy, B. Bartley

7:00 a.m. B. Altiero, G. Miller, D. Altiero

8:15 a.m. R. Friedenberger, L. Altiero, D. Cree, K. Woomer,

J. Woomer

10:30 a.m. P. Fromknecht, B. Spinazzola, D. Fraundorfer,

R. Skupien, K. Zelnosky

12 Noon M. Salvi, E. Salvi, M. Wiley

Lectors for March 25-26, 2006

5:30 p.m. Maria Spayd, Frances Hesser

7:00 a.m. Ray Kline, Robert Fox

8:15 a.m. Joseph Campbell, Tim Skarada

10:30 a.m. Pat Condrin, Chris Danison

12 Noon Michael Nazaruk

FROM THE PASTOR

LENTEN AND HOLY THURSDAY ALMSGIVING

As we pray with God throughout our Lenten journey, we reach out to those in need and grow in solidarity with them. 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 done in the name of the rectory's former cook, Gloria Gates. We forward the gathered Holy Thursday offering to the Gloria Gates Foundation that helps the youth of Evergreen Manor. Be abundantly generous in your Lent and Holy Thursday almsgiving.

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.; St. Demetrius, Gallitzin ~ Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE COLLECTION

The theme for the 2006 Catholic Relief Services Collection is *Jesus in disguise*. The Catholic community in the United States is committed to solidarity with the poor and the vulnerable all over the world. Please help by giving to the collection next weekend, March 25-26. The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic Church agencies that build international solidarity and relief efforts. Ministries include relief and resettlement services to the victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters, development programs to improve the living conditions of the poor, advocacy on behalf of the powerless, and peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence. Please help by giving to this collection next weekend. Please use the envelope that is in your pack of envelopes.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL NEWS

* The Athletic Assoc. will meet on Monday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

* There is a HOME and SCHOOL ASSOC. meeting on Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 in the parish center. Mr. Robert Gervinsky, principal of B.G.H.S., will be the speaker. The sixth and eighth grade science projects will be on display and awards will be given at the meeting.

* St. Rose School will offer an OPEN HOUSE, pre school to eighth grade, on Wednesday, March 22nd from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. PLEASE SEE THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN INSERT.

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

SUNDAY RELIGION CLASS FOR PRE-K (ages 3 & 4) have begun. Classes will be held in the school Pre-K Room. Class time is during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. 3 yr. olds must be potty trained.

ICONS: SACRED DOORWAYS

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 until 3:00 p.m. in the church.

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; Longaberger; 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, Paul & Ethel Norris by Carol Perry, Jane McConahy by Chuck McConahy.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation for the Easter Flowers in the Church, please use your Easter Flower envelope (or a plain envelope) and drop them into the collection basket by April 9. Please print the name of your loved ones on the envelope. Your memorials will be printed in our Easter Bulletin.

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.. 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. **March 25 is the final day to join.** For questions contact Bryce Cossitor at 943-0174.

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.

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASS will be held on March 19. Time 9:20-10:20 a.m. Topic: Putting Flesh on Christ. Presenter: Larry Harker. Class will be held in the school computer room.

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

St. Rose of Lima Chapter of the St. Vincent DePaul will be collecting items for the West Virginia Chapter of St. Vincent DePaul. The following are needed: Baby Clothes, Baby Wipes, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, Bottled Water, Baby Soap, Diapers and non-perishable food items. Place in the wooden bin located in the foyer of the Church.

THE PRIEST

Nowhere does a parish community show forth the mystery of the Church more clearly than in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Mass requires the presence and ministry of a priest. Like John the Baptist, the priest is the "friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29), rejoicing in the union of Christ with his bride, the Church. The priest effectively fosters that union by standing in the person of Christ at the head of the assembly (in persona Christi capitis), by presiding over its prayer, preaching the word of God, and offering the sacrifice of Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Father. "When he celebrates the Eucharist, therefore, he must serve God and the people with dignity and humility, and by his bearing and by the way he says the divine words he must convey to the faithful the living presence of Christ" (Girm, 93).

The priest must be ablaze with what John Paul II calls "eucharistic amazement" (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 6). When the priest speaks the words of consecration first uttered by Christ in the upper room, he places his voice and his whole being at the disposal of the Lord. Then, awed by what happens on the altar before which he stands, he proclaims the presence of the mystery of faith in the midst of the Church. Everything in the life of the priest flows into this moment, and flows out of it.

Prepared by Father Mark-Daniel Kirby, OCSO, PhD. Copyright ©2005, Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications.

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"

Abortion is a big American business. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest provider of abortion, operates approximately 850 abortion facilities. "Those who keep this business profitable, who put abortion providers on Easy Street, are by and large the poor and the young." Father James Gilhooley, *National Catholic Register*, 12/11/05

LITURGICAL REFLECTION...

Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the theme for his Lenten message the Gospel text, "Jesus, at the sight of the crowds, was moved to pity" (Matthew 9:36). The Holy Father speaks of the holy "gaze" of Christ upon the poor of the world. His Holiness states, "In the face of the terrible challenge of poverty afflicting so much of the world's population, indifference and self-centered isolation stand in stark contrast to the 'gaze' of Christ." This Lent is an opportunity for believers to reflect on our response to the poor of the earth. Have self-centeredness and selfishness become so much a part of our lives that we do not even notice the pain and suffering around us? As we intensify our prayer this Lent, may we become more aware that we can responsibly lighten the sufferings of others. Identify one concrete way in which you can ease the suffering of another.
Lenten Message of Our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, 2006

PRAYER CORNER

A Prayer to St. Joseph

O Most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ.

O most loving father, ward off from us every corrupting influence.

O most mighty protector, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield each one of us with your constant protection, so that supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in Heaven. Amen.

From the St. Joseph Prayer Book

The Commission for Life & Justice of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese scheduled a lecture on "Benedict's Labor of Love: A Consideration of the Pope's First Encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*." Dr. Anthony Dragani, Asst. Prof. of Religious Studies at Mount Aloysius College will conduct the lecture. Held on Tuesday, April 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Cosgrove Hall, Mt. Aloysius College, Cresson. Admission is \$5.00; students free with valid ID. Master Catechist credit available for Catholic educators and catechists. Reservations necessary by March 10. Send registration to Commission for Life & Justice, c/o Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St., Lilly, Pa. 15938 -814-886-5551.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ALTOONA REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM and The American Cancer Society present: *I Can Cope Educational Program*. This eight session course is designed to educate cancer patients and their families about the disease and its possible effects. Course content includes:

- Learning about your disease
- Learning how to cope with daily health problems
- Learning how to express your feelings about having cancer
- Learning how to like yourself
- Learning how to live with limits
- Learning about helpful resources

Classes will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Allegheny Room on the sixth floor of the Outpatient Center of the Altoona Hospital Campus.

Spring 2006 – April 3-4, 10-17, 17-18, 24-25

Fall 2006 – October 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24

For more information or to register for this free program, please call the Education Department at 814-889-2731.

Protecting God's Children.

An answer to a common question...Isn't this program just a response to sexual abuse by clergy? Why do I have to spend my time attending a session and reading updates?

Anyone who has read a daily newspaper or listened to the news is aware of the prevalence of sexual and other abuse of children in our world. In 2001, nearly three million reports concerning the welfare of approximately five million children were made in the U.S. alone. In two-thirds of these cases, the information reported was sufficient to prompt an investigation. As a result of the investigations, approximately 903,000 children were found to be victims of abuse or neglect. Abuse by members of the clergy is only a very small percentage of these cases of abuse. Our concern and awareness of the dangers of abuse to our children must reach beyond our own schools and parishes if we are to be real protectors of children. Preventing abuse by members of clergy is simply not enough if we really want to make a difference in the life of a child.

Children & Youth Protection and advocacy Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at 814 886-8250.

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is sponsoring the second annual BGHS-Altoona High Alumni Basketball game Sunday, April 23, 2006, at the BG Gym on Pleasant Valley Blvd. The game is open to all graduates, men and women, who participated in BG or Altoona basketball who can provide \$100.00 in sponsorship, which will benefit the Society and its Mission to serve the needy in our area. For more information, call 942-5732 or emailcaconsiglio@aol.com

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

There will be a series of non-credit computer workshops held at Saint Francis University starting April 22. The workshops are \$35 each or four for \$130 and will be held in the Library on campus. The schedule is as follows: **MS Word** from 9 a.m. to noon on April 22 or July 11, **Advanced MS Word** from 1 to 4 p.m. on April 22 or July 11, **MS Access** from 9 a.m. to noon on April 29 or July 13. **Advanced MS Access** from 1 to 4 p.m. on April 29 or July 13. **MS Excel** from 9 a.m. to noon on May 6 or July 18, **Advanced MS Excel** from

1 to 4 p.m. on May 6 or July 18, **MS Power Point** from 9 a.m. to noon on May 13 or July 20 and **Advanced MS Power Point** from 1 to 4 p.m. on May 13 or July 20. For more information or to register for any of these programs, please contact the Office of Continuing Education at (800) 457-6300 or email us at oce@francis.edu.

Readings for the Week of March 19, 2006

Sunday: Mar 19 Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19;
1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Sunday: Mar 26 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10;
Jn 3:14-21

SPRING FESTIVAL

St. Demetrius Parish, Gallitzin will have a Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday, March 26, 2006. Adults \$7.50 Children \$3.50, under 4 free. Games, Baskets, Bake Sale.

Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Loretto, Pa will sponsor their Annual Men's Turkey Dinner, on Sunday, March 19- 12 Noon until 4:00 p.m. Adults \$7.50. Children 12 and under \$4.50. It is prepared and served entirely by the Men of the Parish. Served in the School Hall.

The Youth Ministry of Holy Name Parish, in Ebensburg will hold a Basket Social on Sunday, March 26. Tickets \$5.00 for 25 chances. "**A Tea Party**" is the theme. Refreshments will include biscuits and scones with a dessert and beverage. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. and auction starts promptly at 2:00. Advance tickets can be purchased at Holy Name Rectory or by contacting Diane Bopp 472-4331

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, until 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 58th St on Poland Ave. near Ebner Elementary School Take out available. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.

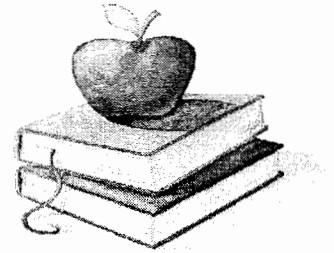
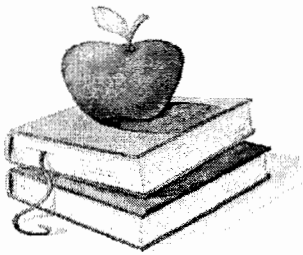
FISH DINNERS

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.

ST. ROSE of LIMA SCHOOL

5519 - 6th Ave.

Altoona, PA



OPEN HOUSE

Pre K to Grade 8

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006

6:30 pm until 8:30 pm

**Talk to our teachers, meet our parents, and
tour our school.**

**Please call the school for additional
information: 942-7835.**

Third Week of Lent

Prayer for a Generous Heart

Loving and Generous God,
We have been blessed with many
good things.
Help us to assess honestly all that we
have to give.
Draw us toward those who are most
in need
of the love, compassion, and kindness
we can offer.
Increase our awareness of those
who struggle
to feed, clothe, and house their families.
Let our efforts expand our capacity
for generosity
and deepen our commitment to justice.
Through the alms we give,
may we recognize and praise you
for the depth of your love and care for us.
Amen.



March 19, 2006

Sharing Our Wealth

Giving to those in need is an intrinsic part of the Christian life. As followers of Jesus, the giving of alms is a year-round obligation and spiritual practice, one that takes on particular importance during Lent. Partnered with two other traditional practices—prayer and fasting—it represents our intention to focus mind and heart on God. Almsgiving involves more than putting money in the collection basket; it is an act of self-sharing. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us in *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*, “the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally not only through the distribution

of money, but through the sharing of our time and possessions and through work of many kinds for a just world.” Offering to others some of our personal comfort, privacy, time, and energy can be even more difficult than parting with our money. Yet it also effects a conversion and an awareness of our abundance that check writing cannot match. Expanding our notion of almsgiving opens up a wealth of possibility. The end result is often an expansion of the heart that leaves us sensitized to those in need and brimming with gratitude for the multiple treasures our lives hold.

This Week at Home

Monday, March 20

Saint Joseph

Particularly in Italy, it is customary to observe the feast of Saint Joseph with a banquet for the poor. If your parish observes this tradition, help with the preparations this year. If not, in your own home honor Saint Joseph with a simple meal of pasta, bread, and vegetables. Place something extra aside for your alms box (see tomorrow) and pray for all those who will go to bed hungry tonight.

Tuesday, March 21

Lenten Practice: Almsgiving

Alms boxes have been placed in worship spaces for centuries. Why not create your own receptacle for monetary donations, prayers, and resolutions that your household is giving to those who are poor? Cover a shoebox with a collage of pictures and headlines on issues of poverty and injustice that you clipped out of the newspaper. Place this with your Lenten centerpiece to remind your family of the importance of almsgiving.

Wednesday, March 22

Noticing Our Efforts and Changes

One way to pay more attention to your household's Lenten efforts is to designate something as a visual reminder of the little sacrifices we make during Lent—little objects that accumulate into something transformative. For example, each time a member of the household abstains from a word of anger, an act of impatience, or a temptation to complain, a kernel of popcorn is dropped

in a glass jar. Then during the first days of the Easter season these are popped for a party and the dead-looking seeds burst into white blossoms, emblems of new life.

Thursday, March 23

Hymns and Chants for Lent

The Church has a wonderful treasury of hymns and songs for Lent. You may find one echoing in your mind during the week. The Responsorial Psalm refrains are often especially haunting. The words and melodies of our liturgical songs can be wonderful ways to pray and meditate as we go about our weekdays. If your parish uses printed worship aids, bring one home to help you remember a song you especially liked or spend a little time studying the parish hymnal after the service. Perhaps your household would even want to purchase a hymnal for your home. But often the most meaningful phrases are the ones that float into your mind without any conscious effort.

Friday, March 24

Anniversary of the Death of Archbishop Oscar Romero

In 2005, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Archbishop's death, Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSI, spoke on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "His memory and his message are as alive today as ever, not just in El Salvador but throughout much of the world. He continues to inspire people who thirst for peace and for justice in our war-torn and broken world. . . . The formal process of beatification . . . is moving forward."

Saturday, March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord . . ." (Luke 1:46). The feast of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Jesus. Her response opened the way for Christ to come into the world, to live among us, to teach us, and to eventually save us. Although there was much Mary could not know as she heard the angel's mysterious news, her prayer of praise is indicative of the faith that would sustain her throughout her life. Use the Magnificat as a prayer of reflection today and let its lyrical phrases speak to your heart about the "greatness of the Lord."

