

The Pastor's Corner

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of our annual Lenten journey. The season of Lent is a time of focusing on repentance and the forgiveness of our sins and we are also asked to focus on three things: **Prayer, Almsgiving and Fasting.** As Pastor, it is my job to provide you with the tools you need for your spiritual growth, and this Lent our hope is to provide you with an opportunity to fully experience the Graces of Lent and its fulfillment in Easter.

On **repentance**, we have increased the time available to you for Confessions, namely Monday through Friday from 11:30am to 12:00pm in the Church and Saturday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Also, there will be a city wide Penance Service here at St. Landry on Monday, April 18 at 6:30pm.

In the area of **prayer**, we have increased the number of daily Masses, so that daily Mass will be offered at 12:05pm in the Church on Monday through Friday. Also Mass will be held in Valentin Hall on Saturdays at 8:00am. Mass is our greatest and most important prayer, so the hope is that many of you will attend Mass regularly, if not daily, during the Lenten Season. In addition, one of our parishioners generously made available a Lenten daily reader, "A Clean Heart Create in Me." The booklet contains a brief daily reading for each day of Lent for reflection and prayer. You can find these booklets in the back of the Church on the table. In addition, our parish mission will be introduced on the weekend of March 12-13 and will take place on the evenings of March 14, 15 and 16. The theme of the mission will be suffering and how we handle suffering as Christians. Finally, the Way of the Cross will be held every Friday at 5:15pm.

In the area of **almsgiving**, there is always the traditional sense of giving of money to charitable organizations. Besides considering increasing your gift to your Church parish, you might want to consider two other local charities. First, the Bishop's Service Appeal, which we introduced last fall. We have not quite reached our goal, and it would be good to hold up our end of helping to fund the various services the Diocese provides to us collectively as a parish but also to many of our individual parishioners. Also, the Lafayette Catholic Service Center provides much help to the poor of our Diocese. Both these organizations help fund the New Life Center here in Opelousas. Of course, besides the traditional sense of almsgiving, increased acts of charity in service to God, our Church, and each other is certainly a part of the Spirit of Lent. We will have several parish work days to help restore and maintain our grounds. The first work day is Saturday, March 12 beginning with 8:00am Mass in Valentin Hall and followed by work until about midday, when we will stop and have lunch together. There is an infinite number of ways one can serve, so be on the lookout for opportunities for charity: visits to the hospital, visits to a nursing home, visits to a prison, bereavement services, volunteering for any number of local community service organizations.

One last thing, which is a bit off the topic, is that many of our men are on their yearly retreat this weekend in Grand Coteau. This is a great time for them to take time away from the hectic pace of this world and to prepare for Lent in a meaningful way. Please keep them in your prayers this weekend that they have a fruitful retreat and return to us refreshed and renewed in the Holy Spirit.

Finally, my hope is that the things regarding Lent mentioned above will help you discern your Lenten practices and provide an opportunity to grow in faith over the next 40 days. Know of my prayers for you in this regard, and please keep me in your prayers for the same.

Fr. James Brady

LENTE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, March 9

8:40am School Mass
12:05pm and 5:30pm

Thursday, March 10 through Wednesday, April 20

12:05pm Monday through Friday (in Church)

All Saturdays through April 16

8:00am in Valentin Hall Chapel

CONFESSIONS

Monday through Friday: 11:30am – 12:00pm
Saturdays 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Way of the Cross 5:15pm – All Fridays through April 15

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of March 6, 2011

Page 78 in Missalette

Reading I Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32
Observe the Lord's statutes and decrees.

Psalm 31 "Lord, be my rock of safety."

Reading II Romans 3:21-25, 28
Justification by faith.

Gospel: Matthew 7:21-27
The house built on rock.

REFLECTION:

Moses' words to his people are inspiring for us as we prepare to listen to God's word today: "Take these words of mine into your heart and soul." Today these words call us to deeper faith. The Lord Jesus tells us that listening to these words is not enough; we must act on them. Once we do this we build our spiritual house on solid foundations. We open mind and heart to the action of the Holy Spirit through the proclamation of God's word.

Parish Lenten Mission

Our Lenten Parish Mission will take place on March 14, 15, and 16, 2011. The theme of the mission is "The Mystery of Suffering: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"

The mission will be presented by Fr. Brady and will be introduced at the Sunday Masses on March 12 and 13, 2011.

The mission will begin each night at 6:30pm with Mass and the mission talk will take place after Mass beginning at about 7pm. Each talk will last 45 minutes to an hour, so the mission should be concluded by 8pm each evening.

The mission will address issues related to the mystery of suffering, beginning with how God created the world "good", the fall of mankind, suffering in the Old Testament, and how Jesus redeemed suffering in his life, death, and resurrection. Some of the topics addressed will be the fallacy of the gospel of prosperity, what does it mean when we say suffering is "redeemed", what does it mean when we "offer up" our sufferings, and what is the meaning of "sacrifice" in our lives.

Suffering is something we don't talk about enough, and at times may not be prepared to be more cognizant of God's love for us and each other in our suffering...

The mission will be recorded and will be available on the internet each evening, in case you are not able to make a night.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Pope Benedict XVI's Intention for March

General: That the nations of Latin America may walk in fidelity to the Gospel and be bountiful in social justice and peace.

Mission: That the Holy Spirit may give light and strength to the Christian communities and the faithful who are persecuted or discriminated against because of the Gospel.

Bulletin Bites

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven..."

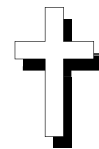
"Jesus, here's the deal. I have worked hard and done fairly well for myself in this 'dog-eat-dog' world. I am willing to call you 'Lord, Lord.' I'm even willing to drop a couple of dollars in the basket on Sunday and give a few bucks to the missionary priest when he comes begging. But do you actually expect me to do all the things you said? There is that 'love your neighbor' thing; and even worse, that 'love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for people who persecute you' stuff. And what's with that ridiculous idea, 'If someone asks for your coat, give him your shirt as well'? Come on, Jesus, get real." Does that sound like a conversation we have had with Jesus? If so, it is time for us to have another conversation with Jesus. But be warned, he does not mince words. He really meant it when he said, "Only those who do the will of my Father will enter the kingdom." Just saying "Lord, Lord!" won't get us in.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group V Betty Leleux, Week of Mar. 12, 2011

Group VI Norma Hargroder, Week of Mar. 19, 2011

MASS INTENTIONS AND CELEBRANT



Saturday, Mar. 5 4:00 p.m. **Father Brady**
Jeanette Lalonde; Ronnie J. Vidrine; M/M Robert Going Sr.; James E. Martin; James (BD) and Callie Palmer; Cleo & Thelma Aucoin

Sunday, Mar 6 8:00 a.m. **Father Brady**
Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard; M/M John FaKouri Sr., John Jr., and Jacob; Youle & Theresa Fontenot; Martin J. St.Amand; Brian Dendy (Deployment); Tessie LaFleur Frost; Eddie DeKerlegand and Olivier & DeKerlegand families

10:00 a.m. **Father Brady**
Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith; Frank Miller; Bobby & Julie Mouton, Steve & Ronnie Ardoin and the Rider family; M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull; Mae H. Moore

5:00 p.m. **Father Brady**
St. Landry Church Parishioners; Terrell Wayne Fontenot; M/M Lee Martin; Harold Savoy

Monday, Mar. 7 12:10 p.m **Father Brady**
Bobby & Julie Mouton, Steve & Ronnie (BD) Ardoin and the Rider family; Etha & Nestor Joubert; Cyndi Durcho (DA)

Tuesday, Mar. 8 **NO MASS**
Ash Wednesday, Mar. 9 12:05 p.m. **Father Brady**
M/M Jesse J. Pitre Sr.; Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard;; Sam & Helen Guillory; Chester, Maius and Myra Rozas; Oliver & Dully Fruge; Nestor & Etha Joubert

5:30 p.m. **Father Brady**
Eddie DeKerlegand and Olivier & DeKerlegand families

Thursday, Mar. 10 12:05 p.m. **Father Brady**
Sol Reed (DA) and Katherine Reed

Friday, Mar. 11 12:05 p.m. **Father Brady**
Rena Duplechain

Saturday, Mar. 12 8:00 a.m. **Father Brady**
4:00 p.m. **Father Brady**
Jeanette Lalonde; Una Moreau; Walfred LeBlanc Sr. and Wally; Cleo and Thelma Aucoin

Sunday, Mar 13 8:00 a.m. **Father Brady**
Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard; Youle & Theresa Fontenot; Martin J. St. Amand; Brian Dendy (Deployment); Linda & Pat Artall (WA)

10:00 a.m. **Father Brady**
Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith; Marie Grace Stelly Soileau; Frank Miller; Joseph & Ruby Lalonde; Edward-Perrault family; Mae H. Moore

5:00 p.m. **Father Brady**
St. Landry Church Parishioners; Terrell Wayne Fontenot; M/M Lee Martin; Harold Savoy

****Celebrants subject to change**

Confessions, Saturdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Second Collection

Week of March 13, 2011

Black & Indian Missions

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your Stewardship To God

Regular Collection\$6,452.73
Maintenance/Repair Fund\$300.00
Bishop's Services Appeal\$622.50
Opelousas Catholic School\$402.58

Every Gift Comes From Above.



REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Sunday, Mar. 6 10:55am Choir Practice for 10:00am Mass
Monday, Mar. 7 **Office Closed**
5:30pm Choir Practice for 5:00pm Mass
6:15pm Rosary at Monument
Office Closed
Tuesday, Mar. 8 6:00pm CDA
Wednesday, Mar. 9 8:40am All School Mass
12:05pm **Mass in Church**
5:30pm **Mass in Church**
Thursday, Mar. 10 5:30pm First Communion Class
7:00pm KC Meeting
Saturday, Mar. 12 8:00am Mass and Work Day
10:00am Institution of Lector for Deaconate Candidates (Dwayne Joubert) at Immaculata Chapel

RELIGIOUS RAMBLERS

On May 6th the Religious Ramblers are going on a 1 day trip to Shangri La Gardens and the Starks Museum in Orange.

Please call Bonnie Wyble at 337-942-6940 for more information or bbwyble@bellsouth.net

Prayer Intentions

Betty Jane Andrus, Janet Andrus, Clifford and Jane Ardoin, John Aucoin, Gervis "BB" Babin, Anna Lee Beadle, Steve Bienvenu, Nita Bordelon, Jerry S. Bouchereau, Gerard Boudreaux, Wilbur Briley, Chris Brewster, Dr. Dan Buller, Holly Burleigh, Brandon Castille, Raylyn Chapman, John Clary, Maryina Courvelle, Lou D'Avy, Robert Danaher, Glenn Derington, Dr. Seldon Deshotels, Harley Doucet, Vickie Duplechain, Kacey Dupre, Wanda Dupre, Shirley Emonet, Tristen Estes, Linda and Terry Fontenot, Craig S. Guillory, Ted Guillory Jr., Agnes Kidder, Renella Lavergne, Brittany LeBlanc, Marcel & Pat LeBlanc, Norma Jean Leger, Deacon John & Mrs. Laura Miller, Charlene Mistic, Julie Mouton, Lonnie and Cindy Ortego, Yvonne F. Pellerin, Ruby Pitre, Helen Richard, Joseph James Robin, Jimmy Roy, Novella Sebastien, Vernita Stelly, Patrick Steward Jr., Tommy Strange, Mary Thomas, James Touchet, Lou Vidrine, Annette Voorhies, Gene Williams, Brandy Willingham, Warren Wyble

It is Diocesan policy that to put someone on the Prayer List, you must first have his or her permission.

OC Corner

Classes will resume on Ash Wednesday beginning with an all-school Mass at 8:40am in St. Landry Catholic Church.

OC congratulates Brittany Lognion, an 8th grade student, for being honored as the "Opelousas Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year".

As Spring approaches, OC reminds everyone about recycling! Please bring recyclable materials to the St. Landry Parish Recycling Center, and ask them to apply it to OC's account to help Catholic education.

ENGAGED COUPLES

Spend a weekend away from the cares and distractions of everyday living. Attend a **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend** in preparation for your marriage. Upcoming weekend date is April 8-10.

For other dates and to learn more, visit our website at www.lafayettecee.org OR call 984-7954.

Pray for our Troops

Jonathan David Ardoin, Christopher Briley, Brandi Darbonne, Jacob DeKerlegand, Brian James Dendy, Dakin Doyle, A.J. Korn, Andre Ledoux, Benjamin Pitre, Danny Pitre, Joshua Thomasse, Julian Wiltz
Please call the office (942-6552) to add names.

All Powerful God, we pray for your continued guidance and blessings on all who serve our country in the military.

Jesuit Spirituality Center

Saturday, March 12

These 40 Days: Prayer in Lenten Season

Presented by Fr. Dan White, SJ, this day of prayer and reflection will explore the spiritual aspects of Lent. Participants will consider and pray over the ways these forty days before Easter lead into a deeper understanding of the central mystery of Christian faith: the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Friends Day

Friends Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at the Community of Jesus Crucified, 421 ½ Carmel Dr., Lafayette. The day begins at 9:00am. and ends at 12 noon.

Fr. James Brady, the guest speaker, will speak on the topic of "What constitutes a sacramental marriage? Everything About Annulments". Find answers to questions about annulments: how long the process takes and why?; Why can't Catholic couples who are waiting an annulment enter into another relationship? How much does it cost and why does the Church grant them?

Everyone is invited to attend, registration is not necessary. Contact Gloria Matte at 337-896-0524 for more info.

Vocation Supper for Young Men

On Monday, March 21, 2011, at 6:30pm. Bishop Michael Jarrell will host a vocation supper for young men high school age or older. This will be held at Bishop Jarrell's residence.

To register phone 337-261-5690 by March 17. Space is limited to 15, so register early.

REMINDER FROM FR. BRADY

Children, don't forget to get your bulletins from Fr. Brady after Mass.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCHSol Reed
CHAPELFor help carrying our crosses

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