

The Pastor's Corner

Last week we had our parish mission, and I want to thank all those who helped to make the mission go smoothly. The topic of the mission was suffering, something which we focus on during Lenten season as we prepare for the Triduum, and in particular, Good Friday, when we remember the day our Savior suffered and died. Suffering is a mystery, something we can never understand completely, and it is a part of the Paschal Mystery, which the full Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) celebrates. It is important that we better understand and try to penetrate the mystery of suffering so we can better understand and penetrate the Paschal Mystery. My hope is that with this better understanding of our suffering, we can consciously configure our suffering to the suffering of Jesus, and thus better understand God's Love for each and every one of us even though suffering still exists in the world and in each of our lives.

Last weekend and yesterday we had parish workdays where we were able to spruce up our grounds. On both days workers included parishioners and their families, students from Opelousas Catholic and members of our Confirmation preparatory class. Many thanks to all who helped!

Fr. James Brady

LENTEEN REGULATIONS

During Lent, the Church requires us to participate in worldwide Lenten disciplines in unity as a Church. These disciplines are considered a minimal response to the call of Jesus to go up to Jerusalem with Him in order that we might experience true Christian conversion in our lives. Of course, we should always be looking to do more, and not less, to cooperate with God's Grace in our continuing conversion. The following are our universal disciplines for Lent:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat. Therefore, no meat should be consumed (abstinence) on these days and there is a limit of one full meal and two smaller meals that do not constitute a full meal together (fast) on these days. Abstinence applies to all who have reached 14 years of age, and fasting applies to all those who are between the ages of 18 and 59 years of age.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence, so no meat should be consumed by those who have reached 14 years of age.

Of course, those who may have health issues associated with their diet are exempt from these Lenten disciplines, but are encouraged to replace them with other appropriate disciplines during the season. Those who are exempt from Lenten disciplines because of their age are certainly able to join with the Universal Church by freely embracing these disciplines, so long as it does not endanger their health.

REMINDER FROM FR. BRADY

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

DINNER AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please come join us in Valentin Hall for a Lenten dinner on Fridays during Lent after Stations of the Cross at 5:15pm. The meal will consist of homemade soup and bread. This is an opportunity for us to live our Lenten disciplines as a parish and at the same time share our faith over a meal. Look forward to seeing you there!

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions 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.

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of March 20, 2011

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- Reading I Genesis 12:1-4a The Lord said to Abram: All the families of the earth shall find blessing in you
Psalm 33 Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.
Reading II 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 God has called us to a holy life, not because of our works but according to grace.
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 Atop a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John.

Bulletin Bites

"Rise, and do not be afraid."

Jesus spoke these words to Peter, James and John, who were frightened when they saw Jesus transfigured and conversing with Moses and Elijah. Tradition holds that the Transfiguration occurred atop Mt. TABOR, a cone shaped, craggy mountain that juts up from the floor of the Jezreel Valley and overlooks Armageddon, the place of the final battle between good and evil. Lest we be too harsh on the three disciples for their fear and misinterpretation of the event, let us confess that we would probably have been half way down that craggy mountain before Jesus spoke his first word. That whole event on Mt. tabor is a reminder to us that we are constantly engaged in our own Armageddon—our personal struggle between good and evil, trying to fulfill our responsibility to be all that God created us to be and to do all that God gave us the talents, abilities and gifts to do. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we fail. But when we lay prostrate before Jesus, filled with fear and anxiety, we hope to hear him say, "Rise and do not be afraid." And then, "Good and faithful steward, come into my kingdom."

Man to Man Conference

We are honored to have the blessing of Bishop Michael Jarrell to hold our 3rd. men's conference. His support contributes enormously to the success of the conference.

The 2011 conference will be held at the Cajundome Convention Center on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Guest speakers include Rudy Ruettiger, Fr. Larry Richards, Jesse Romero, Fr. Ted Broussard and Rick Cambre.

Registration is \$30.00 and you can register on-line at www.mantomanc.com. You'll laugh, you'll learn, You'll be inspired!!!

Unveiling the Social Consequences of Pornography

This will be held on Friday, April 8 from 9am to 3pm at the Petroleum Club of Lafayette. The conference will teach you how we can have a positive impact helping Acadiana, especially our young, to steer clear of the hidden dangers of pornography and its addictive forces.

Guest speakers include: Heath Evans, Fullback for the New Orleans Saints, Marl Houck, co-founder/President of The King's Men, Peter Kleponis, Ph.D., Mary Anne Layden Ph. D., and Damian Wargo, Co-founder and Director of Operations for The King's Men.

This conference is being sponsored by Rucks Family Foundation. For more information or to receive a registration packet call 261-5653.

Prayer for a child or children's return to the Faith

Dear Jesus, You became man, suffered, and died to win salvation for all souls. Look graciously on the souls of my children who have drifted away from You and the Faith. Grant them your grace to see the error of their ways and to return to the fold in your care. Teach me to stay close to them during this trying time and strive to convert them by actions and prayers more than by words that may antagonize. Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust you to do everything to bring My children back to you. AMEN

MASS INTENTIONS AND CELEBRANT



Saturday, Mar. 19. 8:00am Father Brady Valentin Hall

Mary Aline J. Bihm (DA)

4:00pm Father Brady Jeanette Lalonde, Noemie F. Greco (BD), James E. Martin, Guy & Hattie Elder & daughters, Louis (DA) & Regina Burleigh, (DA), Cleo & Thelma Aucoin

Sunday, Mar 20. 8:00 a.m. Father Brady

Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard, Youle & Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St.Amand, Joseph & Ruby (BD) Lalonde, Brian Dendy (Deployment), Willard Andrepont, Gertrude A. and Alvin Marks, Amar, Maryina & A.B.Courville Sr., Souls in Purgatory, Eddie DeKerlegand and Olivier & DeKerlegand families

10:00 a.m. Father Brady

Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Daniel & Louise Lagrange, Frank Miller, M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull, Mae H. Moore

5:00 p.m. Msgr. Melancon

Monday, Mar. 21. 12:05 p.m. Father Brady

Edval Jannise Sr., Harry Jannise, James Jannise, Theresa Jannise, Janis Courvelle

Tuesday, Mar. 22. 12:05 p.m. Msgr. Melancon

M/M Jesse J. Pitre Sr., Janis Courvelle (BD)

Wednesday, Mar. 23. 12:05 p.m. Father Brady

Thursday, Mar. 24. 12:05 p.m. Msgr. Melancon

Friday, Mar. 25. 12:05 p.m. Father Brady

Guy & Hattie Elder and daughters \*\*Celebrants subject to change

Confessions, Saturdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your Stewardship To God

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Regular Collection (\$6,464.14), Maintenance/Repair Fund (\$558.00), Bishop's Services Appeal (\$25.00), Black & Indian Mission (\$770.17), and Ash Wednesday (\$1,237.00).

Every Gift Comes From Above.



Thank you for your generosity!

Second Offertory Today Eastern Europe and Africa

Second Offertory Week of March 27, 2011 Bishop's Services Appeal

Third Offertory Week of March 27, 2011 Opelousas Catholic Foundation

The collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe supports the essential and unmet pastoral needs of the church of the region. Poor Clare nuns in Poland received a central heating system through your previous generosity. Without the heat, the sisters had been falling ill frequently in the long, cold Eastern European winters, affecting their ministry of prayer. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe where great needs remain. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more about the important projects funded by the Collection.

REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Activity. Includes Sunday, Mar. 20 (10:55am Choir Practice, 6:15pm Religious Ed.), Monday, Mar. 21 (5:30pm Choir Practice, 6:15pm Rosary), Tuesday, March 22 (HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. BRADY), Thursday, March 24 (5:30pm 1st. Comm. Class), Friday, March 25 (5:15pm Way of the Cross), Saturday, March 26 (8:00am Regional Music Workshop).

Thank You

To the Friends of the Bereaved, We would like to thank all of you for the food we enjoyed at the funeral home for Mama's wake. What a beautiful ministry! With appreciation, The Palmer family

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 Courville, 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., Lillian Hooks, 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, Gil Ortego, Yvonne F. Pellerin, Ruby Pitre, Helen Richard, Joseph James Robin, Jimmy Roy, Novella Sebastien, Carrie Soileau, 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

Opelousas Catholic and Msgr. Melancon invite parents, grandparents, and family members to join together with classes during Lent for masses in the school chapel at 8:00am Monday through Thursday.

The OC Athletic Council is holding its Spring Barbecue Dinner Sale this Sunday, March 20th. Dinners (choice of chicken or pork) are being sold for \$6.00 per dinner in the OC cafeteria. Your support is appreciated.

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.lafayettece.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.

Around the Diocese

Fish Fry: Every Friday during Lent from 5pm to 7pm. St. Leo Hall in Leonville. \$6.00 each no advance. Tickets needed. Sponsored by Youth for Christ.

Day of Renewal: "Come Back to Me" Day of Renewal hosted by prayer groups of the Lafayette Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal, 1:00pm, Saturday, March 26 at the Meeting room at St. Pius X Church in Lafayette. Registration is \$5.00 per person. The afternoon session will be followed by a supper.

A Spirituality for the Later Years

Saturday March 26 at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau. Participants will reflect on the elements of spirituality for later life, which emerges as a rich time, a time to harvest gifts of one's past life and to foster a new and deeper relationship with God. Call 662-5251 for more information and to register.

Trip to Angola

Have a loved one at Angola? Want to visit? A bus will be leaving from St. Paul's Catholic Church in Lafayette at 7am on April 10, 2011. To Reserve your seat or for more information, call Ed Boustany at 337-261-5545.

Mother's Day of Reflection: Will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, from 8:30am to 2:00pm in the Fusilier Auditorium Immaculata Center Building. Pre-registration is required by noon on Monday, April 18, 2011. The registration fee of \$35.00 includes a catered lunch, supplies and books for each participant. For more information call 261-5653.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCH.....Victims of the Tsunami CHAPEL.....Thanksgiving for a successful mission

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group VI..... Gwen Fruge, Week of Mar. 26, 2011 Group I..... Alverda Deshotels, Week of Apr. 2, 2011