

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Friends,

I was reading the other day of some school officials in the Southern part of the United States who were confused and amused by some of the excuses parents sent in when their children were absent or unable to participate in some activity.

One parent wrote, "My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P. E. today. Please excuse him." Another, who obviously wanted to make sure her daughter was healthy said, "Please excuse Mary for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot."

Fred's mom, who was somewhat of a philosopher wrote, "Please excuse Tom being absent on January 28,29,30,31,32, and 33." Some calendar, huh?

A mother who probably had to leave medical school wrote, "Alice could not come to school today because she was bothered by very close veins." And finally, a parent who was a little lax wrote, "Please excuse Mary from being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps." To be human is to make mistakes; and to do so even when we don't realize it. A lot of us, though, are of the opinion that if we are mistaken, we are less than human. Perhaps it's our pride that gets in the way.

You know, one of the great things about being a Catholic Christian is that it's expected that we'll make a certain variety and number of mistakes in our life. Perhaps I ought to use another word—sin. Often times many of us are of the opinion that Jesus came to show us how we could love one another. This is true, but there's more. We forget that he humbled himself to become human, so that he could "take away the sin of the world"—our sin.

It may not sound all that positive, but nonetheless it's true; each of us is a sinner. Why is it so difficult for us to admit this? Do we think it will make us think less of ourselves, or foolish in the eyes of others? I have found in my priesthood that I am humbled when others would come to me to confess their sins and reconcile themselves with God and His community. I do not think the less of them; on the contrary, I think more of them. I can see how those who admit sinfulness are responding to the grace of God. They're not trying to delude themselves or others. When I myself go to the sacrament of Penance, I feel unworthy, but at the same time I experience happiness, because I know I'm just like everybody else—in need of grace.

In commenting upon the sin of Adam and Eve, St. Augustine called it a "happy fault." He meant that because of the sin of our first parents, we have been fortunate and privileged to reconcile ourselves to the Father through Jesus. During the Lenten Season, why don't you stop over to confession and discuss your "happy faults" which allow you to be in closer contact with the Lord.

Love,

Schedule of Liturgies

February 21 - February 29, 2004

- SATURDAY**, February 21, Vigil: 7th Ordinary Sunday
4:30 PM Margaret Fleck; Donald R. Gibson;
Frank & Mary SanGregory; Mildred Lucius
6:30 PM Arthur & Margaret Steinmetz; Evelyn Ward
- SUNDAY**, February 22, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM Weinandy & Donpian Families; Martha
Fleck; Intentions of H & K
10:00 AM Charles & Jean Ray Family; Paul Lang;
Rick Ritzler; Adam Perna
11:30 AM St. Mary Parish Family
- MONDAY**, February 23, Polycarp, bishop, martyr
7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**
8:30 AM Hubert & Dorothy Elchert;
Elizabeth Rohrbach;
Norman & Ruth Cassidy
- TUESDAY**, February 24, Weekday
6:30 AM Communion Service
8:30 AM Regina Bogner
4:30 PM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**
- WEDNESDAY**, February 25, **ASH WEDNESDAY**
7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**
8:30 AM Wilbur Taylor (All School Mass)
12:10 PM Prayer Service
7:00 PM Michaelina Paulus (CCD Mass)
- THURSDAY**, February 26, Lenten Weekday
6:30 AM Communion Service
8:30 AM Michaelina Paulus
4:30 PM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**
- FRIDAY**, February 27, Lenten Weekday
7:00 AM **Mass at St. Francis Convent**
8:30 AM Dick Theis
7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross**
- SATURDAY**, February 28, Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent
4:30 PM Eileen Burke; Michaelina Paulus
6:30 PM Della Fate; Louis & Irma Gaietto
- SUNDAY**, February 29, 1st Sunday in Lent
8:00 AM Ellen Kapelka; Mary Thomas
10:00 AM Michaelina Paulus
11:30 AM St. Mary Parish Family

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 25

ASH WEDNESDAY: *Please note - 12:10 PM will be a Prayer Service instead of a Mass. Ashes will be distributed at the Masses and the Prayer Service.*

PALM BURNING: Tues., Feb. 24, at 1:00 PM in the Friendship Circle. Bring your old palms to the parish office before Tuesday. The ashes will be blessed and used on Ash Wed.

ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE: Saturday, 9 AM.

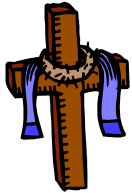
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: St. Mary, midnight Monday through midnight Tuesday; St. Joseph, midnight Tuesday through midnight Wednesday.

TIFFIN PRAYER GROUP: Meets every Thursday at 7:45 PM, in private homes. Call Walter Beat at 419-447-1174 for any prayer requests or for the location of the gathering.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family and friends of *Rita Keller (80)*. We pray the bereaved may find comfort as the soul of their loved one enters into the peace of eternal glory.

BINGO WORKERS for today, February 22: Coordinator, Phyllis Hays; Gate, Phyllis Hays, Nick Collet, Marguerite Bernard; In-stants, Nancy Warnement, Randy Hunt, Tina Schank, Lori Sherman; Floor, Janet Coffman, Steve Gosche, Deb Daughenbaugh, Dale Fitch; Concessions, Ruth Laibe

LENTEN REMINDERS: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are *days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast* that is limited to a single full meal. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday.



The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there is frequent question about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of the Holy Father may be simply paraphrased: The obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or "substantially," the penitential

days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion.

LEONARD RISNER BENEFIT to raise money for his liver transplant, Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 - 11 PM, Tiffin Knights of Columbus. Donations will be accepted. If you have any questions, contact Mystique (Risner) Thompson at 614-834-2939.

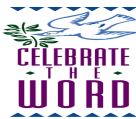
BEGINNING SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS: Saturdays, Mar. 6-April 24, 10:00 AM-12 noon, St. Ann's Church, 1021 W State St., Fremont; to register call 800-926-8277, Ext. 515.

ST. FRANCIS SPIRITUALITY CENTER: 419-443-1485 Mar. 10, Living the Passion with Mary, a mini retreat, 1:00-4:00 PM, \$6.00; Presenter: Sr. Bea Koerper, OSF.

Mar. 11 and April 8: Women's Night: 6:30-8:00 PM, free will offering.

WOMEN A. C. T. CONFERENCE: Camden Falls, Saturday, Mar. 13, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM. All women of the parish are invited. For information, please contact Mindy Wise, 448-8130 or Becky Price, 448-9852.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, FINDLAY, will be offering an education series for the ongoing formation of adults. Next session will be Mar. 1, 7-9 PM, Activity Center, "Intro to Prayer & Spirituality;" reservations or questions 422-2646.



"52" Club Winners

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. John & Rose Stritt | |
| 2. The Josephines | 4. Lew Orians |
| 3. Dave & Phyllis Seislove | 5. Rocky Durso |

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



for the general public continues to be open. Please call 419-447-5202 or stop in the school office to register.

VISA CREDIT CARD APPLICATIONS from St. Joseph Federal Credit Union are available in the St. Mary School and parish offices. All members of St. Mary Parish are eligible to apply for this card. A percentage of all purchases are paid back to benefit our school. Please pick one up today and support our Catholic Schools.

TIFFIN K OF C BINGO: Every Thurs. at K of C Hall, 49 E. Perry St. Doors open at 5:30 PM; Early birds at 6:30 PM. Proceeds to benefit the Ritz Theatre.

PARENTING CLASSES: at PatchWorks House; learn new skills & techniques, strengthen communication & increase involvement in the lives of your children. *Free* classes, call 419-447-0080.

OUR LADY OF THE PINES RETREAT CENTER: "Celebrate Men"...An Evening for Men: Mar. 11, 5:30 PM, cost: \$25.00, Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., speaking on experiencing the sacred in the ordinary.

Gift of the Harvest Years: for those in their wisdom years; March 16, 9:30 AM and concluding with Liturgy at 2:00 PM, cost: \$15.00 per person; Rev. David Ross, will present "Who's Responsible for All This?"

Hoffmann-Gottfried
Funeral Home

David A. Gottfried - Funeral Director
236 S. Washington St. - Tiffin, OH
(419) 447-2424



Thank You to Our Sponsor of the Week

NAMI FAMILY-TO-FAMILY: The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot Counties will present a *free* comprehensive 12-week course designed specifically for families of persons with major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. Class time: Tues., Mar.9 at the NAMI office in Fremont, 6:30-8:30 PM. For information call Joanne Kosta at 419-334-8021 or Lois Waggoner at 419-332-2743.

K of C FISH FRY: at Attica K of C Hall, Mar. 5 & 19, 5:30-7:30 PM and at Republic St. Aloysius Church, Feb. 27 & Mar. 12, 5:30-8:00 PM .

Sacrificial Giving — February 15, 2004

Description	Amt.	Env.
Amt. Needed Each Sunday	\$ 13,000.00	
Sunday Offering	\$ 8,931.31	415
(Includes loose money/checks \$ 1,377.31)		
Difference	\$ 4068.69	
Deposit	\$ 8,931.31	
Home Missions	\$ 30.00	2
High School Offering	\$ 18.60	17
Children's Offering	\$ 37.73	49
Total Sunday	\$ 9,017.64	

ST. MARY SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB

Sunday Night BINGO

...in the Recreation Room of St. Mary School

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early birds at 6:30 p.m.

Two Specials Two Jackpots

Handicapped Accessible * Snacks Available