

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Friends,

To not choose is to choose.

When President Theodore Roosevelt was touring the state of Oklahoma, he drove by to see his old friend, Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanches, who lived 12 miles from Fort Sill. With great pride, Chief Parker showed Teddy the house he lived in, the white man's clothes he wore, and his children who attended the white man's school.

"See here, Chief," the President said, "why don't you set your people a better example of obeying the laws of the land and the customs of the whites? A white man has only one wife, and here you are living with five squaws. Why don't you give up four of them and remain faithful to the fifth? Then you would really be living as the white man lives."

Chief Parker considered the proposition. "You are my great white father," he said, "and I will do as you wish on one condition. You pick out the one I am to live with—and then you go tell the other four!"

How difficult it is to make choices in life. It seems to me that anyone who declares that it's easy hasn't faced too many of life's dilemmas.

When I step up to the window of the ice cream stand, I have no difficulty deciding between chocolate or vanilla—I get both. However, when I have to decide the best way to administer the parish finances, I find I'm awfully cautious, and sometimes nervous, about my decision.

Sometimes there are convenient ways to avoid a decision. For example, when I go from one city to another and/or one parish to another, people invariably ask me after a few months, "Say, Father, now that you've been here some time, which parish do you like better, St. Charles or St. Mary? This is one of those no win questions—especially if you happen to be in a crowd where parishioners from both places are present. Thus, my standard response is to use one of Jesus' tricks—ask them a question. "I'll answer you if you tell me whom you love more, your mother or your father?" Gets 'em every time. Phew!

I have encountered some people who have more or less a fatalistic attitude about life and think that it doesn't make any difference what they choose to do, God has already predestined them to Heaven or Hell. There are a significant number who are of the opinion that it doesn't make any difference how they choose to live, God allows all to enter into Heaven anyway. Many choose to avoid thinking about the questions altogether.

Why is it so hard for us to realize that because God loves us totally, he has given us, his creatures, total freedom to decide how we will guide our lives and future destiny. Freedom though, means that we can't abdicate a choice, because not to choose is to discourage within ourselves, each and every act we choose to do or avoid, in some way, influences our destiny. There is no way we can escape developing an attitude. There is no way we can flee from acting. In essence, then, we humans must make choices.

Thank God for grace which enlightens us to make good choices; which encourages us to develop wholesome attitudes. But even with grace, we have a choice—to accept or reject it.

This Lenten season may be a good time to examine our choices, both the difficult and the easy ones. Maybe, too, we could look at those choices which perhaps scare or worry us, and which we have decided to avoid.

Love,

Schedule of Liturgies

February 29 - March 7, 2004

SATURDAY, February 28, Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM Eileen Burke; Michaelina Paulus

6:30 PM Della Fate; Louis & Irma Gaietto

SUNDAY, February 29, First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Ellen Kapelka; Mary Thomas

10:00 AM Michaelina Paulus

11:30 AM St. Mary Parish Family

MONDAY, March 1, Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Mass at St. Francis Convent

8:30 AM Hubert & Dorothy Elchert;

Dan Ruggiero

TUESDAY, March 2, Lenten Weekday

6:30 AM Communion Service

8:30 AM Dick Theis

Nellie Culichia

4:30 PM Mass at St. Francis Convent

WEDNESDAY, March 3, Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Mass at St. Francis Convent

8:30 AM Maurice Lupica

THURSDAY, March 4, Lenten Weekday

6:30 AM Communion Service

8:30 AM Philomena Longo; Sophia Ruffing;

Bob Keller

4:30 PM Mass at St. Francis Convent

FRIDAY, March 5, Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Mass at St. Francis Convent

8:30 AM Dec'd of Albert & Elizabeth Ranker Fam.

Bearl Perry

1:45 PM **Stations of the Cross—Students**

7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross**

SATURDAY, March 6, Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM Britt Hess; Martha Fleck

6:30 PM Jeanne Rothenberger; David & Hilda Tiell

SUNDAY, March 7, Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 AM St. Mary Parish Family

10:00 AM Michaelina Paulus; Evelyn Ward;

Rita Keller

11:30 AM Arthur & Margaret Steinmetz; Tim Smith

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family and friends of *Eileen R. Ardner (83)*, and *Lois P. Overmier, (75)*. We pray the bereaved may find comfort as the soul of their loved one enters into the peace of eternal life.

SCAT DRIVERS for March 7 are Joseph Buckley and Barb Kuhn.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY BREAKFAST: Friday, Mar. 5, sponsored by the Calvert Spiritual Boosters. Marla Shultz will present, "Let Your Faith Shine" during a free breakfast, 6:30 -7:30 AM in the cafeteria. Contact: Catherine Gase, 447-9074.



BINGO WORKERS for today, February 29: Coordinator, Scott Swartz; Gate, Scott Swartz, Dick Gaietto; Instants, Dan Scherger; Art Gaietto, Pete Reinhart; Floor, Harold Bickley, Chris Casale, Jim Buchman; Concessions, Jim Weaver

IRISH REVERSE RAFFLE: How about an evening out in commemoration of St. Patrick's Day?! It promises to be a fun occasion for everyone attending, and word has it that Father Dave and Father Tim's entertainment is fantastic! The food is great! The spirits are high! A few tickets are still available; cost per ticket is \$100.00, which admits two people for dinner, entertainment, side boards, consolation prizes for every 25th ticket drawn, and a chance to win \$5,000.00. For information, ticket and table reservations, contact: Paul & Jane Dell Burtis, 447-6181; Mark & Barb Debarbrie, 447-6397; Buster & Vanessa Ardner, 447-0127; Mark & Libby Zimmerman, 443-0617; Matt & Theresa Dysard, 443-9383.

RCIA-RITE OF ELECTION CEREMONY: Last week, Catechumens and Candidates from St. Joseph and St. Mary Parishes completed step one of the rite at the parish level, in which they manifested that they are ready to take the step of committing themselves more fully to Christ. Today, the RCIA Team will accompany the above to St. Michael Church, Findlay, and present them to the Bishop. This rite seeks to manifest the other primary element in the Rite of Election: the call to the Easter Sacraments by the Church in the name of the Bishop. Names of catechumens and candidates from St. Mary Parish are: *Penny Dianne Kreais, Kimberly Kerschner, Amanda Fresch, Lela Naomi Gaietto, Ryan Patrick Hampshire, Mary Alice Longanbach and Kimberly Ann Simonds.*
Please Pray For the Catechumens and Candidates.

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 Apr. 5, 7-9 PM, Activity Center, "Triduum;" 419-422-2646



Sacrificial Giving — February 22, 2004

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Env.</u>
Amt. Needed Each Sunday	\$ 13,000.00	
Sunday Offering (Includes loose money \$792.76)	\$ 9,195.76	409
Difference	\$ 3,804.24	
Repair & Maintenance	15.00	3
Deposit	\$ 9,210.76	
Home Missions	\$ 26.00	6
Tuition Assistance	5.00	1
High School Offering	\$ 18.75	19
Children's Offering	\$ 45.62	56
Total Sunday	\$ 9,306.13	

"52" Club Winners

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Eugene J. Phillips | |
| 2. Jordan Lange | 4. Roger Welter |
| 3. Barbara Baumgardner | 5. Dottie Frank |

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. Please ask for a card with St. Mary School pictured on it, so our school will receive a percentage of all purchases made. If your present VISA card has St. Joseph School pictured on it, you may request one for St. Mary School. Please pick up an application form today and support our Catholic Schools.

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?"

OPTIMA Rehabilitation Services, Ltd.

541 W. Market St., Tiffin
419-448-3600 - FAX: 419-448-3610
A partnership between P. T. Services, Inc. and Mercy Hospital of Tiffin

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 beginning 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.

FISH FRY: All you can eat, Friday, March 5, 12, and 19, 4:00-7:00 PM; Pork sandwiches also available; Sentinal Career Center; Sr. Citizens, \$6.00, Adults \$7.00, under 12, \$3.00

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 .

SATURDAY NIGHT BINGO, March 6; St. Mary's Rec Room, doors open-5:45 PM; games-6:30 PM; regular bingo, 5 specials and instants. All proceeds to benefit Calvert After Prom.

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