

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 8

St. John of God

No Mass

Tuesday, March 9

St. Frances of Rome

6:00 PM Mass † Teresa Schulte

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, March 10

7:15 AM Mass † Joe and Tillie Regan

Thursday, March 11

9:00 AM School Mass Special Intention

Friday, March 12

Friday of Abstinence

7:15 AM Mass † Teresa Schulte

Saturday, March 13

4:00 Youth PM Mass † David Gudenkauf

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

Carmen Bannister - 2235 24th St; Marion

Mar 8-12. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of March 7, 2010

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation Interviews: All Confirmation candidates are reminded that your final interview will be held the week of March 7 in Bob's office in the Parish Center. Your interviewer will call to remind you about the day and time you are scheduled for your interview.

Confirmation Celebration: We have just been informed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque that due to a schedule conflict our parish celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation has been changed from Thursday, April 15, to Wednesday, April 14. The liturgy will be held at 7 PM at St. Ludmila Church, with a reception following the Mass for the candidates and their special guests in the Social Hall. Please mark your calendars with this new date. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



Pastor's
Message
for Lent

Scripture holds two woody plants for us to consider this weekend. What do you suppose is the difference between the barren fig tree and the burning bush? Might they be the same shrub, just at different moments in time?

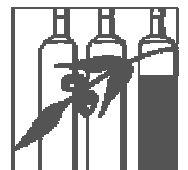
I expect we all can name ways the barren fig tree is **me**. Are there aspects of my life that sin has made unfruitful, but I've never felt I could change? Are there relationships that don't seem to get any better because I've resisted counseling, or seeking forgiveness, or admitting that I have to change how I communicate too? Have I clung to attitudes that faith says are not of the Gospel, but that are "common sense" in the eyes of the world? What have I decided "can't change" that God is trying to do some "hoeing and fertilizing" around with me?

Its comforting to know that Jesus is always working to bring us to life and fruitfulness. Doesn't His "let me work with it" about the barren tree fill you with relief, and hope? But like the barren tree, we do have to draw in His love and let it free us to change. He *is looking for the fruitfulness* of becoming like Him. Christ became fruitful on the tree of His cross where His example of trust in the Father frees us to trust, love, and forgive like Him.

Are some of my branches closed to bearing such fruit? Might the Sacrament of Reconciliation be where I let Christ dig around my life? St. Patrick's (CR) is hosting a communal celebration of the Sacrament on Tuesday evening March 7th at 7 pm. The **Guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation** available in the Gathering Space is a great hoe to put in Jesus' hands for this. Also, the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm on Fridays let Christ's *trust in the face of challenge* work its way into our consciousness. Have I been taking the time for reflection and prayer this Lent? If we pause for a few minutes, we give Christ the chance to turn over our dirt, and make us "Holy Ground" for others to encounter God's presence too.

The burning bush that Moses found so intriguing was on fire with God's presence. The only thing keeping me from being similarly ablaze is my unwillingness, or fear, to let Christ make me fruitful. Spring is 2 wks away. Let Him bring life to your barren branches! Fr. Tom

All are invited to the **2010 Chrism Mass** at St. Gabriel Church in Reinbeck, on Tuesday, March 30 at 2 PM. At the Chrism Mass Archbishop Hanus blesses and consecrates the holy oils for anointing in the Archdiocese of Dubuque during the coming year. Also at this liturgy, the priests of the archdiocese concelebrate and renew their commitment to priestly service. A reception in the Parish Hall will follow the liturgy.



Faith Formation

March Events: Wed, Mar 10: Parent Night for grades 6-8. Parents and students go to your classrooms. Wed, Mar 17: No Class - Spring Break. Wed, Mar 24: Class. Wed, Mar 31: Parent Night for grade 9. Parents and students go to the Social Hall.

Outstanding tuition for the 09-10 school year is due by April 15. Questions? Contact the Religious Education office at 362.8148.

Registration for Faith Formation (Religious Ed.) classes for 2010-11 school year has begun.

You are invited to an Adult Education session on **“Catholics and the Word of God”** presented by Rev. Jerry Kopacek, Pastor, St. Edward Parish, Waterloo. This session will be on March 11, from 7-9 PM, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Lower Level. *In the fall of 2008, 253 Catholic bishops from around the world gathered in Rome for the World Synod of Bishops on “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” The aim of the Synod was to fashion a creative pastoral response which would help Catholics better understand Scripture and relate it to their everyday lives. In this session, Fr. Kopacek will review the main highlights of the 21-day Synod and explore the important recommendations which the bishops made to Pope Benedict XVI as well as the Pope’s official response.*

Save the Date! Renowned Catholic speaker, Matthew Kelly, will be visiting Immaculate Conception Church, April 25-26, at 7 PM each night. From his passion for life and Catholicism, **Matthew Kelly** awakens our hearts and minds with a vision that sets us free to celebrate ourselves as unique individuals: *“God’s dream for us is that we become the best-version-of-ourselves. It is in pursuing this dream that we find lasting happiness in a changing world.”*

Do not miss this opportunity!

Rite of Christian Initiation

The Scrutiny Rite for those entering the Catholic faith will take place this weekend during the 10:30 AM Mass. The word “scrutiny” means to search. During these weeks of Lent, all of us take a closer look at our lives to search out all that is not “God-like”, to ask forgiveness and to seek healing.



\$crip is Available! Stop by the bell room of the Gathering Space following the 4 PM Saturday Mass and between the 8 and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses to purchase what we have in stock or place an order to be picked up the following Sunday.

Lent

Teaching children about Almsgiving: – Help children understand stewardship of treasure by having them decorate three jars marked with “God,” “College” and “Me.” For each dollar the child receives from gifts, allowance, etc., they place one dime in God’s jar, one dime in the college jar and the rest into their jar. This teaches them sharing and saving. Use the “God jar” money for their donation at Church and for other charitable causes.

Wear a shade of ROSE for the 4th Sunday of Lent: March 13-14. Be part of the Church environment!

Living Last Supper: St. Joseph Church, Marion on Saturday, March 13, at 7:15 PM. Experience this drama and musical presentation performed by a group of men from Dubuque County reenacting a moment in history when Jesus tells his disciples, “one of you will betray me.”

Consider making a **Men’s CEW Retreat** (March 19-21) its a great experience for getting a new focus on Christ in one’s life, and a sense of how one’s fellow Christians can be a great support in following Jesus. I’ll be working on the Men’s retreat so it would be fun to do it with some parishioners! Fliers on the mobile bulletin board; contact Carol or Len Steiner 366.6312; or go to: www.crcew.org/admin/docs/RegistrationFormSpring2010.pdf
Fr. Tom

Catholic Men’s Conference: Sat, Mar 27, at Xavier HS ▪ Keynote speaker: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers ▪ Break out sessions, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation ▪ Concludes with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jerome Hanus ▪ Cost: \$35 by Mar 13; or \$45 at the door - includes lunch ▪ Contact Blaine Miller at 319.654.0050 or log on to: www.catholicmenonline.org

Palm “Braiding” will take place only at select Masses on Palm Sunday, since there are not enough teachers. If you can help, please contact Sister Mary: 362-7282.

From Our Children’s Envelopes

These past weeks the kind deeds and prayers offered back to God who inspires all the good we do included -



Praying For:

- The people in Haiti
- Not to fight with my sister
- My brother’s baptism

Kind Deeds:

- Help grocery shop and donated money to Haiti
- Helping out with Catholic Schools Week
- Helping people in math



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Appreciation

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week Feb 21: Betty Skvor, Natalie Zaehringer, Don Schulte, Vi Bentley, Chelo Collier, and Art/Karen Hoefler.

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries for the week Feb 21: Darlene Chmelicek and Kim Simoens.

Thank you to our bingo volunteers for Feb 28/Mar 2: Fran/Kathy Musel, Mary Vosdingh, Jeanne Ross, Terry Manternach, Rosann Sandersfeld, Rebecca Weber, Mary Weber, Sara Kepros, Chloe Kepros, Scott/Renee Thompson, Matt Teply, Carolyn Schulte, Frank Roman, Jim McEniry, Deb Pasker, Denise Benish, Sara Ruesegger, Betty Krall, Jolene Schulte. Joan Sylvester and Brenda Havlik baked cakes.

Special thanks to Denny Drahozal for his time in the preparation set up of our kolach bakes.

Thank you to:

Denise Votroubek, Michele Hanus, Kari Winders for organizing the lunch for the RCIA community before attending the Rite of Election with Archbishop Hanus at the Cathedral.

Rosann and Mark Sandersfeld for sharing REAL and LIVED insights into the Sacrament of Marriage with the RCIA community last Sunday.

On behalf of St. Patrick choir and parishioners, I want to express my gratitude for your active participation in the success of our Musical CD. Whether you promoted, sold or purchased the CD, your support was truly appreciated. The choir was able to reach our goal toward St. Patrick's continuing flood recovery efforts. Thank you for your interest, because of your involvement we are one step closer in assisting flood affected parish families and the possibility of one day renovating our Parish Center.

Jeff McEowen, St. Patrick Parishioners and Choir

All Liturgical Ministers including

Altar Servers and Ministers of Hospitality

Contact Tom/Jeanette Niccolai 363.6115, if you will be unable to serve or minister for the months of April and May. Keep in mind Memorial Day weekend is **May 29/30**. If there is a possibility that you **CANNOT** minister on that weekend or any other weekends in April or May; please let Tom/Jeanette know by **March 14**. Thank you!

Hospitalized family member? Because of the Privacy Act, hospitals will not inform us when a parishioner is admitted. Please have a family member contact the Parish Office 362.7282 if you are hospitalized and/or seriously ill.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, March 7

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH
 9:05 AM RCIA, SH
 3:30 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 5:30 PM
 4:00 PM Adult Choir Practice, CH

MONDAY, March 8

6:00 PM Credit Union, SH
 6:30 PM KC Rosary, CH

TUESDAY, March 9

11:30 AM St. Monica Circle, 16th Avenue Grill Restaurant
 Confirmation Interviews, PC
 5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM
 7:00 PM Returning Catholics, PC
 7:00 PM Finance and Administration, PC

WEDNESDAY, March 10

1:00 PM St. Anne Circle, SH-Multipurpose Room
 Confirmation Interviews, PC
 5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC
 (Parent Night grade 6)
 6:30 PM Divorce and Beyond (closed session), PC
 6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH
 (Parent Night grades 6-8)
 7:30 PM Youth Practice for Stations of the Cross, CH

THURSDAY, March 11

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC

FRIDAY, March 12

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross, CH
 7:00 PM Pro-Life Hour of Prayer and Meeting, CH

SATURDAY, March 13

6:30 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Paula Fries

SUNDAY, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins
 9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH
 9:05 AM RCIA, SH
 3:30 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 5:30 PM
 4:00 PM Adult Choir Practice, CH

C/CH: Church, PC: Parish Center, SC: School, SH: Social Hall

Parish Life

Czech School (Česká škola) CHILI SUPPER & Bake Sale • Sat, Mar 13, from 4:30-7 PM in the Social Hall • Chili, rye bread, dessert, beverage for \$4 • Carryout available



St. Ludmila Social Concerns annual **Perfectly Pasta Dinner** will be held on Sat, March 20, serving begins at 5 PM in the Social Hall. Cost: \$7 Adults; Children 10 and under \$3.

Proceeds help the less fortunate in our community.

A Kolach Bake on March 27 will benefit the Dubuque Franciscan (Sisters) Water projects in Tanzania and Honduras. Sign up to help or to place orders the weekends of March 13-14 and March 20-21.

St. Monica's Rummage Sale will be held in May. Keep us in mind when cleaning out your closets. Please save good used clothing and household items

Holy Family and Xavier

Forty four 7th and 8th graders from LaSalle earned top honors at the annual **Metro Catholic Schools' Speech Festival** held February 11th at Xavier. All thirteen acts from LaSalle received Superior ratings, with three acts receiving a perfect score of ten from all three judges. The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for our LaSalle students to showcase their talents as speakers and actors as well as develop a stronger sense of community with their Catholic Middle school peers from Regis and St. Joseph. Student participants from our parish were: Ellie Burke, Katie Burke, Ryan Flaherty, Brenna Parke, Ashley Pudil, Anna Springman, Kari Tanberg and Kayla Thompson. We congratulate all of these hard-working students on their outstanding performances... we are proud of you!

The **Xavier Instrumental Music Department** will be presenting its spring concert on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 PM in the Regis-LaSalle Theatre. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Xavier Cheerleading Tryouts for grades 8-11 will begin with a **mandatory parent meeting** on Monday, March 15 at 5:30 PM in the Schubert Commons. Cheerleading clinics/tryouts will be Mon, March 15 from 6-9 PM; Wed, March 17 from 4-7 PM; and Thurs, March 18 6-9 PM. (If a make-up day is needed we will have it on Fri, March 19 from 4-7 PM.) Please contact Joy St. Andrews with questions at 294-6635x314.

Each year Loras College in Dubuque makes available to each parish in the Archdiocese a scholarship of \$500 (renewable) for one new student. To be considered for this year's Loras Parish Scholarship, please submit to Fr. Tom a 250 word essay that answers the questions: 1) What has been my involvement in my faith and parish up to now? 2) What difference will a Catholic College education make in my life. Submissions must be received by March 22nd. The selection committee will inform you who was chosen to receive it by April 5. Loras has also added two additional scholarship opportunities for students wanting to enrich their Catholic faith life: the John Paul II Memorial Scholarship and the Breitbach Catholic Thinkers and Leaders program. Information on these two scholarships can be acquired by contacting Loras College at 800.245.6727 or julie.dunn@loras.edu

Youth Ministry



Youth-Led Stations of the Cross: As part of our parish's Lenten tradition, the youth of St. Ludmila will dramatize the Stations of the Cross on Fri, Mar 12, at 5:30 PM. Any senior high youth interested in participating as an actor or reader is asked to call Bob 298.9525 a.s.a.p.! Our one (and only) practice will be Wednesday, March 10, from 7:30-9 PM in the Church. Please plan to join us for this special Lenten devotion.

Confirmation Retreat: Thank you to everyone who helped to make our St. Ludmila Confirmation Retreat last weekend such a meaningful experience for the candidates! Serving on the team were: Chris Miller, Erin Miller, Amanda Venditti, Adam Tiedt, Kate Camp, Megan Popenhagen, Josh Steichen, Mike Noonan, Kelsey Simoens, Zach Kuntz, Tessa Hurlbert, Colton Christner, Beth Siegel, Tony Green, Bo Anderson, Alison Brodsack, Sami Wehr, Nikkie Hernandez, Danielle Heckart, Tim Bouchard, Ben Janney, Kaila Leggat, Riley Freiling, Stephanie Winders, Megan Hurlbert, John Slater, Dylan Martin, Ashley O'Brien, Jen Dobrochowski, and Kenzie Philipp. Special thanks to our support crew moms - Barb Manternach and Teri Billick - for providing our meals as well as Fr. Tom for giving your time and support. And thank you to Theresa Detert for sharing your time and talent. You are all deeply appreciated!

In Our Community

The **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** will meet in Scotus Hall at 6:30 PM on Tues, March 9. The program will be presented by Xavier Speech Department.

St. Joseph Parish is seeking a Coordinator of Music Ministries. This position will be responsible for the integration of music into the liturgy. The Coordinator of Music Ministries **must have keyboard proficiency**, someone who can work well with a variety of existing musical groups in our parish, and have the ability to identify and foster talent from within the community. Please submit a letter of application along with a resume or statement of qualifications before April 1 to: St. Joseph Parish: Fr. Rod Allers; 1790 14th St; Marion IA 52302

Young Adult Group meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at St. Pius Parish: Pastor's Hall from 7 PM to 8 PM. Social time from 8 PM to 8:30 PM. Everyone from ages 18 to 40 are welcome whether you are married, single or engaged! Meet new people; discuss aspects of our faith; and many social events too! So come be apart of this great experience in a safe community of young adults today!

Catholic Singles Group offers men and women 18 years and older an opportunity to expand their social and spiritual life and to meet new friends. Contact Lori 447.9218 or by e-mail: lbyrne10@hotmail.com or Teresa at 210.1557 for more information.