

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, March 9

St. Frances of Rome

No Mass

Tuesday, March 10

6:00 PM Mass Special Intention
Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, March 11

7:15 AM Mass † Marie Peters

Thursday, March 12

9:00 AM School Mass † Shirley Strauel

Friday, March 13

7:15 AM Mass † Robert Michels

Saturday, March 14

4:00 PM Youth Mass † Robert Mackey

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

9:00 AM Mass Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

Elmer/Cecilia Rolfes 3480 McGowan Blvd; Marion
March 8-13. Rosary prayed at 7:30 PM.

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of March 8, 2009

- Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
- Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
- Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Next Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17;
1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

If you need examples of persons responding to God's call, look at Abraham and Sarah--called in old age to leave their country, and have a child. Then Abraham was asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Answering God's call to be priest, sister, brother or deacon, is taking a great risk!

Please keep the morning of Saturday, April 25 free for the parish grounds clean-up day. Might that be part of bringing out the sacred in the midst of ordinary spring cleaning? Our Lenten resolutions are to make a change in us that lasts "to eternal life." If we go back to our old selves on Easter Monday, then we've missed Lent's purpose. Let prayer in, and care for your parish be one of the fruits of your Lent this year!



FROM THE PASTOR

The Scriptures this weekend center around "the beloved Son." Abraham's trust in God is such that

he will sacrifice his son *whom he loves* Isaac, the one who was the means for God keeping the promise of giving Abraham countless descendents. God would not ask that of Abraham. But, St. Paul then points out that *our Father* in heaven was willing to let us put *His beloved Son* Jesus to death if that is what we needed to believe in God's unshakeable love for us! St. Paul asks "If God is for us" *that much* "then who can be against us"--what can compare in value to you and I in God's eyes? It's a good question for Lent. When we deal with the mystery of human suffering... of what God allows into our lives... we do well to bring those images to mind. First, God would not ask of Abraham what God did for the covenant between us! Second, if God's love is that great, then maybe I can trust that His presence is still unfolding for me, and I can keep believing that God is in the process of "giving me everything, along with Jesus" when I'm feeling abandoned! God does not leave us! How rock-bottom is my conviction about that point of our faith? That question is worth spending Lent on. Our freedom to sacrifice in love depends on the answer! Fr. Tom

The Spring 3-in-1 Appeal will be taken up in our parish on the weekend of March 21-22. The collections included in the Spring 3-in-1 are: **Peter's Pence, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Catholic Communications.** You will be receiving from the Archdiocesan 3-in-1 Office a brochure and offertory envelope by direct mail. Please read the brochure carefully as it gives details of the three collections and how you can choose to have your contribution distributed among them. As difficult as our economic situation is, those in the poor countries addressed by the Holy Father's Peter's Pence and CRS are much more challenging. Please be as generous as possible with your contribution, and remember these important efforts of the universal Church in your prayers.

Note the communal reconciliation service at Blessed John XXIII Church on 80th St. SW at 11 AM Sat, March 7. There will be 12 priests there and the early celebrations are always the least crowded!

All Sponsor Couples: Check to see if you have a copy of the FOCCUS questions at home. If you are not currently working with a couple, please return the Question booklet and old FOCCUS forms to the Sacristy in Church so the booklets can be used by other couples. Thank you!

Technologically gifted? The parish is setting up a technology committee to help us service and update as necessary our phone/computer systems. This group would be called together as needed for projects, or to troubleshoot problems we are having. We would like those with computer, data/phone system, and website skills or knowledge to contact Fr. Tom. Your pastor will certainly do more harm than good if he tries to fix such things! Do him and the parish a favor and offer your abilities soon!

Appreciation

Thank You: Dusty Hoffmann & Roger Steichen for donating the labor and time to bring the Social Hall Fire sprinklers up to Code.

Thank you to all the young adults from the parish who helped Bob Gardner put on a powerful Confirmation Retreat for our candidates last weekend.

Thank you to Brian Elwood and Mary Locher for taking much of Irma Kelly's role with Bingo during her illness.

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week of **Feb 22:** Shirley Sheetz, Betty Skvor, Paul/Leanne Junko, Mary Schulte, Chelo Collier, Gary Stodola, Don Schulte, Bob/Velma Leuenberger, Cliff Klouda, and Vi Bentley.

Thank you to our bingo volunteers for Feb 22: Fran/Kathy Musel, Carolyn Schulte, Keith Young, Bart Weldon, Matt/Barb Teply, and Denise Benish. Frank Roman delivered soda for us. **Feb 24:** Carol/Janet Hayek, Matt Teply, Pat Wiltgen, Frank Roman, Denise Pudil, and Connie Been.

Thank you to all the volunteers who filled in at the office while I was on vacation: Mary Lou Roman, Chelo Collier, Jeanne Ross, Kathy Musel, Darlene Chmelicek, Esther Belle Steinbach, Mickey Betz, Nancy Netolicky, and Kim Simoens. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you to the Senior Citizens who enjoyed another delicious meal, fellowship, and cards on Feb 18. Thanks to Jeanne Ross for taking care of the kitchen duties; to Judy Schmidt for arranging the entertainment. Again thanks to everyone who filled in for me while I was on vacation.

Thanks to...Mark/Rosann Sandersfeld and Mike/Nadine Hackbarth for sharing their experiences of the Sacrament of Marriage with the RCIA Community recently.

Thanks to...Chuck Kikuts and Mike/Nadine Hackbarth for assisting with the bus trip to St. Raphael Cathedral for the RCIA community for the Rite of Election with Archbishop Hanus on March 1.

Thanks to the following parishioners who assisted with setting up the Church environment for Lent: Susie Vecerka, Fran Musel, Shirley and Chet Sheetz.

Church Environment

1) Thanks to Susie Vecerka for arranging the "ordinary things" around the Baptismal font.

2) Consider being part of the Church environment during the Lenten season: wear a shade of purple!

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

**SUNDAY, March 8**

8:30 AM RCIA, SC

8:30 AM \$crip, CH

10:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH

4:00 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC

4:00 PM Divorce and Beyond, PC

4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

7:00 PM Practice for Youth-Led Stations of the Cross, CH

MONDAY, March 9

1:30 PM Foresters, Country Kitchen Restaurant

6:00 PM Lenten Evening Prayer, CH

6:30 PM KC Rosary for Life, CH

6:30 PM Credit Union, SH

TUESDAY, March 10

11:30 AM St. Monica Circle, Country Kitchen Restaurant

5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM

7:00 PM Finance and Administration, PC

WEDNESDAY, March 11

8:15 AM Sunday by Sunday, SH

12:30 PM St. Anne Circle, Marie's Tea Room

5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC

6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH

6:45 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC

7:30 PM Confirmation Liturgy Planning, PC

THURSDAY, March 12

1:15 PM Legion of Mary, PC

6:30 PM Easter Vigil Choir Practice, CH

FRIDAY, March 13

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross Led by our Youth, CH

SATURDAY, March 14

6:30 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Paula Fries

5:00 PM \$crip, CH

5:00 PM Youth Hunger Meal and Dance, SC

SUNDAY, March 15

8:30 AM RCIA, SC

8:30 AM \$crip, CH

10:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH

4:00 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC

4:00 PM Divorce and Beyond, PC

4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

C/CH: Church, PC: Parish Center, SC: School, SH: Social Hall**"Gifts for the Spirit"; Warm Soup and a Warm Heart"**

On Monday evening Mar 16, there will be a prayer, soup supper & reflection session for all of our parishioners who have been in any way affected by the June 2008 flood. All Parish Partners, volunteers, helpers, flood affected: families, employees, businesses are invited. Just bring an open heart & empty stomach! Enjoy an evening with fellow parishioners who had been, in some way, touched by the flood waters of 2008. We will start with Evening Prayer in the Church at 6 PM, have soup downstairs & enjoy a presentation on "Keeping Your Spirits High", by Kathy Harmon, Catholic Charities & Shelby Humbles, IA Long Term Recovery. You will have an opportunity to sign-up to have your house blessed. Need more information? Dn. Dick Manning, 365-3259.

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:

- People who have suffered from the economy
- Grandma Shirley
- God, Mom, and Dad

Kind Deeds:

- Helped clean basement and get the Christmas lights down
- I behaved
- Helping Others

Lenten Opportunities

Lenten Mondays at 6 PM offer the opportunity to join in sung Evening Prayer.



The Way of the Cross (Stations) devotion each Friday during Lent in the Church. All are welcome to join in this prayer.

CEW is a **renewal weekend** for adults, designed to enable you to more deeply 'experience' yourself as well as your relationship with God and the Christian community. The men's CEW weekend is Mar 13-15. Brochures are on the mobile bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Cost \$35. Call: Lenny/Carol Steiner 366.6312 for more information.

You are welcome to attend the Adult Education session on "**Apocalypse Now! Passion as Revelation,**" presented by Chris Seeman, Assistant Professor of Religion, Coe College. The session is Mar 18, 6:30-8 PM, at St. Pius X Parish Hall. "What is reading/hearing the Passion story supposed to tell us that we don't already know? Why is Mark's account of the Passion so different from the other gospels? How does Mark connect Jesus' suffering, death/resurrection to the life of the Church today?"

Liturgy

Easter Vigil Choir has begun rehearsing! Come and join us: Thursdays, Mar 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30-8PM in the Church. Anyone interested in singing with the choir, are welcome to attend!



Future Catholics. Several who are inquiring about the Catholic faith will meet Tues, Mar 10, at 5 PM in the Gathering Space of the Church, near the elevator. If a friend or relative of yours is interested or curious, please invite them. Questions? Call Sister Mary at 362-7282.

Parish and Community Life

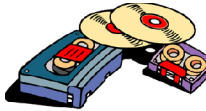
The Foresters will be having their meeting at the Country Kitchen Restaurant on Monday, March 9 at 1:30 PM

St. Monica Circle will hold their monthly meeting at the Country Kitchen Restaurant on Tues, Mar 10 at 11:30 AM.

St. Anne Circle will meet at Marie's Tea Room in Czech Village at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, March 11.

Religious Education

Needed: One VCR player and one DVD player for a Religious Ed room in the Parish Center. If anyone has one they could donate, call Sue Berger 362-8148.



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 13, 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 today Sun, March 8, from 7-8:30 PM in the Church. Please plan to join us for this special Lenten devotion.

Join the F.A.S.T: All Cedar Rapids area high school teens are welcome to *Join the FAST* (Fight Against Starvation Today) on Sat, Mar 14 at St. Ludmila. The evening will start with the 4 PM Youth Mass, followed by a hunger banquet & conclude with a dance. The evening will concentrate on hunger awareness & prevention. Admission is 2 non-perishable food items. Registration forms are due Wed, Mar 11. Questions? call Bob Gardner 298.9525.

Confirmation Liturgy Planning Session: All St. Ludmila Confirmation candidates are invited to help plan the Confirmation liturgy on Wed, March 11 from 7:30-9 PM in the Parish Center.

Confirmation Retreat: Thank you to everyone who helped to make 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, Andy Becker, Megan Popenhagen, Jared Ireland, Kelsey Simoens, Zach Kuntz, Tessa Hurlbert, Tony Green, Laiken Whitters, Bo Anderson, Kristina Craft, Mackenzie Manternach, David Slater, Nikkie Hernandez, Justin Cervantes, Kaila Leggat, Drake Whitters, Riley Freiling, John Slater, Beth Siegel, Colton Christner, Madison Smejkal, and Kenzie Philipp. Special thanks to our support crew moms - Jeannie Davison and Nancy Pitli - for providing our meals as well as Fr. Tom for giving your time and support. You are all deeply appreciated!

N.C.Y.C. Money Due: The next payment of \$100.00 for all youth and young adults from St. Ludmila who will be attending NCYC 2009 must be turned into Bob's mailbox in the Parish Center by Sunday, March 15!

Holy Family

Thank you to those who donated to Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future Tuition organization.

The Archdiocese raised \$2,824,774.00 and Holy Family had 33 donors that designated our schools for specific aid. For more info about the 2009 campaign or for tuition assistance, visit our website www.OurFaithSTO.org

Parents should request a PSAS form from school to apply for tuition assistance. STO qualifying income levels for 2009-2010 are:

Two	\$43,710	Five	\$77,370
Three	\$54,930	Six	\$88,590
Four	\$66,150	Seven	\$99,810

We are working to make Catholic education affordable for all. Please take advantage of these efforts by filling out the PSAS form. March 16 is the last day you can send your PSAS forms to our business office. We do not want these tough economic times to keep students from attending our Holy Family Schools. For more info, contact Mindy Coleman 390-6512 or one of the building administrators: Rick Louk 396-7792, Janet Whitney 362-1943, or Ronda Krystofiak 390-0952.

Xavier

The Xavier **Instrumental Music Department** is presenting their spring concert Tues, Mar 10 at 7PM in Regis-LaSalle Theatre. Free admission.

Xavier Cheerleading Tryouts for grades 8-11 will begin with a **mandatory parent meeting** on Mon, Mar 16, 5:30PM in the Schubert Commons. For more info: Joy 294-6635 x314.

Franciscan Common Venture Summer Service Trips to Texas, Mississippi and Iowa: Give a gift this summer! How about serving among people who are poor for a week (or longer) this summer? Your heart will never be the same! Join Franciscan Sisters/others in prayer, community & service. There will be 8 teams of Sisters and volunteers (women/men) serving in Texas, Mississippi, & Iowa this summer. If interested and age 18+, contact Sr. Marie Therese Kalb before April 1: 563-583-9786 x6164 or e-mail Kalbm@osfdbq.org website www.osfdbq.org An informational brochure to view along with applications are on the mobile bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

St. Vincent de Paul Center needs donations of household items: dishes, linens, pots and pans, small appliances, decorative items, and furniture. Drop off 9AM - 3:30PM at 928 7th Street SE or phone 365-5091 for pickup.

A number of parishioners have reported losing their **2000 edition of the St. Ludmila Cookbook** in last year's flood. They are unable to purchase a new one, because we are sold out. If you have an extra copy in good condition that you're willing to part with, or if your copy failed to survive the flood, contact: Paula Fries 848-4852.

In Our Community

Natural Family Planning class series (Sympto-Thermal Method) will begin Sat, Mar 14 at St. Pius Parish (Pastor's Hall). Class time is 9-11:30 AM. Subsequent classes will be April 25 and May 16 at the same time. Cost is \$135. Pre-registration is required. All classes are taught by professionally certified teaching couples. All engaged and married couples are invited to attend. We believe this can be a blessing to your marriage! For more info or to pre-register, please contact Kirk and Alicia 377-4562.

Czech School (Česká škola) Chili Supper and Bake Sale
 • Sat, Mar 14, from 4:30-7 PM in the Social Hall • Fresh-made-that-day chili, rye bread, dessert, beverage for \$4
 • Carryout available • Questions: Call Bernie 364.5268.

The following are updated times and locations for the 40 Days for Life: **Monday:** 7-8PM Rosary/private prayer at Immaculate Conception Church; **Tuesday:** 2PM Rosary at Planned Parenthood; **Tuesday:** 6PM Mass and Eucharistic Adoration following until 8:15PM Benediction: Mar 3, 10, 24, and 31. March 17 we will have prayer in the Eucharistic Chapel from 7-8PM at St Ludmila Church; **Thursday:** Adoration at St. Matthew Church from 9 AM-6PM; **Saturday:** Rosary outside Planned Parenthood at 11AM. 40 Days for Life runs through April 5. For more info, call Sue Martinek 366-1684.

Catholic Charities Disaster Recovery Update: In its rebuild effort, Catholic Charities and metro area Catholic parish volunteers are working on about thirty houses. To date, twelve of those houses have been completed; ten are being worked on at the present time with a May completion date. The remaining homes working with Catholic Charities are in different stages of the rebuild process. Catholic Charities is entering into a partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to add 8 - 10 volunteer Recovery Advocates to the ten (10) UMCOR volunteer Recovery Advocates who were recently recruited and trained. Thus, the partnership will result in a total of up to 20 volunteer Recovery Advocates. These advocates will be based out of the UMCOR Volunteer Center at the Marion First United Methodist Church.

Coffee and Donut Sunday is Sunday, March 15. Join your fellow parishioners following the 7:30 and 9 AM Masses. The committees of Pro-Life with Love and the Fun Group are hosting.

