



*As a Catholic community,
we witness to the love of
Jesus Christ
in the world.
1860 – 2010*



**January 24, 2010
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

ST. JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TO BECOME A PARISH SCHOOL AGAIN

Last Tuesday evening at a meeting with the parents of the students of St. Joseph’s School, Sister Christina, the school principal, Anne Willkens, the diocesan superintendent of schools, and I announced that our school will become a parish school again. It will no longer be a school in the Monroe County Catholic School System.



This decision has the full support of Bishop Matthew Clark, Anne Willkens Leach, Sister Christina, our school faculty, Liz Barry, the chair of our parish finance council, Debbie Waidl, the chair of the school’s advisory committee, and myself. This decision is good for the diocese, the school, and the parish.

One of the many assets of St. Joseph’s School is that we have an excellent principal in Sister Christina. She sets a high standard for our school of academic excellence, appropriate discipline, discipline in the context of a loving environment, and a deep sense of the spiritual dimension of life. In our Catholic perspective, there is no aspect of the educational experience in which God is not found. As in all of life, God is to be discovered in all of life’s experiences.

The faith formation of our youth is a major, major priority of our parish life. While not the only vehicle of faith formation, indeed St. Joseph’s school will be a most important vehicle of faith formation. I personally welcome the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with our children and to teach in the school class rooms. I am energized by the enthusiasm, the love, and the faith of our children.

Our finance council is given the charge to balance the commitment we have to all of our vibrant parish ministries with our support St. Joseph’s School. Be assured that none of our vital ministries will be compromised by our commitment to St. Joseph’s School. It most definitely will be a win-win situation. All of our ministries will complement one another.

For our school families, this is both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity we have is to more closely connect the church, the school, and family life. In our collaboration with each other, the Christian formation of our youth will be best served. The challenge is indeed to live a life of stewardship – our generosity in sharing who we are and what we have in support of each other in the context of St. Joseph’s Church and St. Joseph’s School. This move ultimately is a wonderful insurance policy to insure the vibrancy, the longevity, and the excellence of St. Joseph’s School.

Schwartz@stjosephspenfield.org

Go Green! Read this bulletin @ www.stjosephspenfield.org

Parish Directory

Parish Office Open 8:30-5 M-F Phone: **586-8089**

PASTORAL MINISTRY Phone/Ext.

Stephen Ministry (*confidential line*)..... ext. 130

Fr. James Schwartz, Pastor ext. 112
schwartz@stjosephspenfield.org

Fr. Bob Kreckel, In Residence..... 899-0098
fkreckel@dor.org

Fr. Jim Boyle, In Residence 264-9615
fboyle@dor.org

Fr. Bill Amann, In Residence 218-9854
wjamann@aol.com

Deacon Bill Coffey *

wcoffey2@rochester.rr.com

Deacon Don Germano *

don.germano@gmail.com

Deacon Duncan Harris..... *

dgharris@frontiernet.net

Cathy Kamp, Pastoral Associate ext. 115
kamp@stjosephspenfield.org

Nancy Veronesi, Director of Worship..... ext. 124
veronesi@stjosephspenfield.org

Matt Curlee, Director of Music ext. 125
curlee@stjosephspenfield.org

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Patrick Fox, Director of Faith Formation ext. 114
fox@stjosephspenfield.org

Eva Mascadri, Administrator..... ext. 116
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Christina Schmidt, Pastoral Associate ext. 113
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OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Eleanor Czarnecki, Office Manager ext. 120
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Bud Gurnow, Plant Manager ext. 123
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Julie Goldblatt, Accounting Manager..... ext. 111
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Kathy Langston, Secretary ext 110
langston@stjosephspenfield.org

OTHER

Tom Glisson, Pastoral Council Chair
pastoralcouncil@stjosephspenfield.org

Liz Barry, Finance Council Chair
financecouncil@stjosephspenfield.org

Sr. Christina Luczynski, Principal..... 586-6968
principal@sjspenfield.com

* please leave a message with the receptionist



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

43 Gebhardt Road,

Penfield New York 14526

Office: 585-586-8089 Fax: 585-586-0674

www.stjosephspenfield.org

Mass Schedule: Mon-Sat 8am

Sat 5 pm, Sun 7:30, 9, 11 am & 5 pm

Reflections On The Word

Readings for the week of January 24, 2010

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31---13:13
or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

At Home with the Word, page 36

Preaching: Fr. Jim Boyle

Reflection Question: What scripture passages have been a living word for you?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

January 17, 2010 Offerings

	Envelopes		Elect Trans	
	# of Donors	\$ Amount	# of Donors	\$ Amount
Reg.	396	\$15,217	1	\$100
Loose		778		
CIF*	8	150		

*CIF = Capital Improvement Fund

As part of our commitment to Social Outreach, St. Joseph's tithes on our weekly offerings. This week a portion of our tithing will go to *Food for the Poor to help feed the needy in Haiti and other Caribbean countries.*

CMA Update— We thank all of those who made their pledge or offered an incremental gift in last weekend's second collection. *Those dollars are greatly appreciated and will be included in next week's bulletin.*

Prayer and Intentions

Mass Schedule and Intentions

<i>Day/Time</i>	<i>Offered for</i>
Mon, Jan 25 8:00 am	Conversion of St. Paul <i>Stephen Holowka, Birthday Remembrance</i> By daughter, Judy Roth
Tues, Jan 26 8:00 am	Sts. Timothy & Titus <i>Shirley Weissegger, 1st Anniversary</i> By Greg & Cathy Kamp
Wed, Jan 27 8:00 am	St. Angela Merici <i>Suzanne Wiedemer, 1st Anniversary</i> By Chris & Jim Doyle
Thu, Jan 28 8:00 am	St. Thomas Aquinas <i>Bill Kramer</i> By Chris Doyle
Fri, Jan 29 8:00 am	<i>Bernadette Nozzi</i> By Sara & Al Nozzi
Sat, Jan 30 8:00 am	<i>Lucile K. Spaulding, 35th Anniversary</i> By the Perham Family
5:00 pm	<i>Jerry Oesterly, 2nd Anniversary</i> By wife, Rosemary
Sun, Jan 31 7:30 am	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Andrew Yesul</i> By the Brankcz Family
9:00 am	<i>Agnes Bauman, 1st Anniversary</i> By son, George & Mary Ann Paul
11:00 am	Catholic School Week Mass <i>Eleanor & Clarence Wallace</i> By the Wallace Family <i>Joseph DiPrima</i> By the Family
5:00 pm	<i>Ruth Heberger</i> By Michael & Donna Peck & Family

We Hold in Prayer This Week

Those who are sick...

Rose Ascenzi	Jean Glanton	Laura Meintel
Scott Ayers	Thomas Grove	John O'Connor
Carmel Barone	Nancy Hanley	Andrea Patton
William Bey	Dorothy Hefner	Onni Peck
George Bishop	Mary Kay	Linda Pedersen
Mary Bishop	Hintenach	Una Perine
Ronald Bowser	Tom Hughes	Rachel Petkac
Mary Ann Brown	RoseMary Huther	Alice Rommel
Ed and L Burke	Darwin Johannes	Gina Russo
Caroline Burke	Kirk Johnston	Kate S.
Mary Buscemi	Elinor Kreckel	Kevin Sullivan
Anne Bush	Donna Kulik	Jacqueline
Bob Carroll	Deanna LaManna	Stukas-
Patrick Conlan	Gene Langie	Tennenbaum
Barb deBuono	Davalene Layng	Gary Torrey
Gloria DiNardo	Norbert Leibenguth	Madeline Tucker
William Donlin	John Lipari	Brenda Tryon
Richard Elkins	Richard Maccarone	Monika Weiler
Rick Enright	George Maier	Tom Weinhart
Logan Foster	Michael Mandrick	Paul Varghese
Donna Gaiter	Jean & Victor	Amanda & Brenda
John Giannetti	Mastrandea	
Elaine Giuliano	Dolores McMullen	

Those who are serving in the military...

Michael Bartell	A.J. Lytle	Eric Plant
Aaron Bush	A.J. Lopez	Kellen Rowley
David Carley	Christopher	Matthew Sanford
Evan Davies	Marsh	D.J. Scully
David Dougherty	Chris McBride	Adam Servatius
Michael	Justin McCarthy	Jason Smith
Dougherty	Zachary Milne	Michael Stout
Lauren Foley	Daniel Murphy	Evan Wilby
Edward Gerlach	Samuel Nasso	Christopher
Michael Giannetti	Joshua Nyerges	Wilson
Chris Hornig	Jordan O'Brien	Daniel Verbridge
Eric Horton	Thomas O'Toole	



Those who have died in the Peace of Christ...

Marilla Vick

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week:

In Loving Memory of:

The Deceased Members
Parish

Meetings, Gatherings & Events

Sunday, Jan 24 - Java & Juice sponsored by

The Development Committee after 9 & 11 Masses

9:00 am	RCIA	Ch/Lng
Noon	Children's Choir	Rm 4
6:45 pm	F.A.I.T.H.	Gym

Monday, January 25

7:15 am	SGM Monday Morning Grp	ALC
6:15 pm	Family Program	ALC
7:00 pm	SGM Evening Grp—Long	Lng
7:00 pm	Tithing Committee	Rm 3
7:30 pm	Ensemble Rehearsal	Rm 4

Tuesday, January 26

6:15 pm	First Reconciliation Classes	Sch
7:00 pm	Development Recruitment	MB
7:00 pm	Family & Friends Choir	Rm 4
7:30 pm	St. Joseph's Prayer Group	Lng

Wednesday, January 27

9:15 am	Women Growing in Christ	Rm 1
1:00 pm	Sophia Seekers	Lng
6:15 pm	Wed Faith Formation Classes	Sch
6:30 pm	Family Program	ALC
7:15 pm	9:00 am Choir Rehearsal	Rm 4
7:30 pm	Men's Bible Study	ALC

Thursday, January 28

8:30 am	Exec New Horizons	Rm 1
5:30 pm	Handbell Choir	Rm 4
7:00 pm	Morningstar Choir Rehearsal	Rm 4
7:30 pm	Men's Over 40 Hoops	Gym

Friday, January 29- SJS—Book Fair All Day

Saturday, January 30- SJS—Book Fair All Day

9:30 am	Confirmation Retreat	Gym
5:00 pm	Bunko Night	Fyr

Sunday, January 31—SHS—Book Fair All Day

Java & Juice—Catholic School Week Parents

9:00 am	RCIA	Ch/Lng
Noon	Children's Choir	Rm 4
Noon	SJS Catholic School Week Reception	Gym
6:45 pm	F.A.I.T.H.	Gym



Coming Up...



Looking for a fun way to beat the winter blahs, join us Sat., Jan 30 from 6:30 pm—9:30 pm for a BUNCO/EUCHRE PARTY.

All proceeds support **St. Joseph's School**. Cost: \$10/person if preregistered, \$15 at the door.

Free babysitting will be provided for children ages 4-10, however **preregistration for sitting is required**. Registration forms are available at the St. Joseph School office. For more information, please contact Debbie Waidl at dwaidl@rochester.rr.com.

Boy Scout Troop 260 Annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 7, 2010 8am - Noon

in the St. Joseph School Gymnasium. Tickets available at the door, or from any Troop 260 Boy Scout \$5 per person, or \$15 per family.

Proceeds support camping, advancement activities and community charities. We look forward to serving you before or after Mass on Super Bowl Sunday!

PARISH NURSERY: Located in the Parish Resource Center Room 2. *Volunteer Schedule:*

Jan 24:9am- Anne Werner, Judy Hoffer, Charlene Costello

11am -Lori Kocher, Natalie Zaccardo, Nathalie Pearson

Jan 31:9am- Liz O'Toole, Caitlyn O'Toole, Lori Kocher

11am -Melissa Atzl, Nathalie Zaccardo, Irene Viola

Nursery Ministry

After a successful first year of the Nursery being reopened, in October 2009 we expanded the service to include the 9am mass. It was our hope to gain additional volunteers to help staff the additional mass. We have lost a few volunteers and have yet to gain any new volunteers. In order to keep the Nursery open during the 9am mass, we need additional volunteers. Our volunteers are currently working (1 & 1/2 hour slot) once every 4-5 weeks, but with additional volunteers we can up that to once every 6 weeks. If you are interesting in helping out in the Nursery, please call Lori Kocher at 388-9585.

Announcements

COMMUNITY BUILDING/EVANGELIZATION

Valentine's Day Celebration at St. Joe's!—Come for a Valentine's feast as we prepare to enter into the season of Lent. Spaghetti and meatballs by Bernice McGrath—not to be missed! Bring a decadent dessert to pass. **Sun., Feb. 14 following 5PM Mass, in the Gym.** 40 Days/Gift of Prayer small group materials will be distributed as well as other Lenten prayer aides. RSVP by Feb. 5, 586-8089 x.115, kamp@stjosephspenfield.org.

My Life with the Saints—Join us as we continue with a discussion of **Blessed Pope John XXIII and Dorothy Day, Wed., Feb. 3, 7:30pm, PRC Lounge.** Copies of the book available; call Cathy, x.115.

PASTORAL CARE/SOCIAL OUTREACH

Bethany House Ministry Kickoff - Save the Date!—**Sun., Apr. 11, 3:30pm at St. Joseph's.** Learn about ways to get involved with our expanded ministries to Bethany House, a Catholic worker house of hospitality for homeless women and their children. If you would like to know more about volunteering at Bethany House, join others at a new monthly St. Joe's dinner at the house. Watch the bulletin for dates to be announced in the next few weeks.

FAITH FORMATION

First Penance—We begin our sessions for Candidates and Parents this **Tues., Jan.26, 6:15-7:45pm** in the school. We will meet with those attending on **Saturday on Feb. 6. 9 - Noon**, also in the school.

Family Ed—The Monday group will meet this **Mon., Jan. 25, 6:15-7:15pm** in the ALC. The Wednesday Family Program meets this **Wed., Jan., 27, 6:30-7:30pm** in the ALC.

CYO Sports Committee—Will meet this **Mon., Jan. 25, 7:30pm** in the ALC.

Safe Environment Training (CSE)—Will be offered on **Thurs., Feb. 4** in the ALC. Anyone volunteering with children or vulnerable adults needs to complete this training. Call Patrick Fox, x. 114 to save a spot.

YOUTH MINISTRY

30-Hour Famine—Join teens from other local churches in an overnight experience for grades 8-12 on **Feb. 26-27.** Have fun bowling, engaging in service projects, and gaining awareness of the problem of hunger here in Rochester and around the world by fasting for 30 hours. \$12 covers cost of bowling. RSVP by **Feb. 12.**

7 Last Words of Christ —Looking for Sr. High students to prepare a prayerful Good Friday mime presentation of the Passion of Christ- **Apr.2.** Sunday night rehearsals begin Feb. 28 and continue through March 28. Dress rehearsal March 25. Contact Christina if interested!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Haven't received the Sacrament of Confirmation? — To any young adults, ages 18-40 and beyond... who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, we invite you to join us in preparing for this special initiation into the Catholic Church on April 27th, 2010 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. We will meet at Don's Original on **Wednesdays Feb. 3, 10, 24 and Mar. 3, 6:30-7:30 PM** over a light bite or drink to discuss our faith and prepare for the sacrament. Call or e-mail Christina Schmidt, schmidt@stjosephspenfield.org for more information or to register!

PUBLIC POLICY: Building Peace with Justice

In today's second reading St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that we are all baptized in one Spirit and each member of the body of Christ has a particular function that affects the whole. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it..." Today migrants and others who have been labeled "illegals" struggle because they have no means to achieve legal status in the United States. How can we turn deaf ears to those who tend the crops we eat, and do the most menial tasks just to feed their families?

Reflection: Are we listening to voices that condemn migrants and preach hate? Are we willing to raise our voices for justice for immigrants? On the weekend of February 6/7 we will have an opportunity to sign postcards to our legislators asking for immigration reform.

Contrary to public belief:

Immigrants are needed to grow the tax base for an aging workforce. Immigrants are needed to grow the labor force to support the retiring generation. Immigrant workers are suffering alongside native workers during this recession.

- Growth in the foreign-born population began slowing following the onset of the 2007 recession.
- Immigrant workers are just as vulnerable during recessions as native workers due to their lower levels of skill and education, their relative youth, and their overrepresentation in the most vulnerable U.S. industries.
- Unemployment rates for foreign-born Latinos have exceeded that of non-Hispanic workers during the current recession.

(Sources for data included in this article are available upon request).



The weather is changing, do you feel you are too? If you have a job change, a child returning to college, a new baby or any other change in your life you might want someone to share with right now.

Our Stephen Ministers might be just what you need. If you'd like more information, please call our confidential number of 586-8089 ext. 130 and one of our Stephen Leaders will call you back.

Bethany House Ministry

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO RE-ENTRY?

Approximately 90% of the women at Bethany House have been incarcerated at some point in their lives. These women face a myriad of obstacles in their quest to rebuild their lives.

Many former prisoners return to communities where crime and poverty are rampant, and where positive role models are hard to find. It is very tempting to hook up with old friends who encourage old behaviors. Disproportionately large numbers of prisoners are released to a relatively small number of communities that are already challenged by high unemployment and poverty rates, and few job opportunities.

It is difficult to meet basic needs like housing, food, employment, medical care and clothing. Lack of appropriate identification causes problems when they try to access public services. Depending on their conviction, many are barred from a variety of job categories. Medicaid coverage begins 45 days after release, leaving many ex-offenders without needed health care.

One of the greatest obstacles facing prisoners as they transition to life "on the outside" is isolation and rejection. Sometimes even family members have severed ties. With no job and limited social contacts, they struggle to fill their time with positive activities.

More so than in the past, prisoners have had limited access to education and training programs in prison that are proven to lead to a more successful transition. Far fewer participate in work release programs which are also linked to easier integration after release. In 1994, more than 27,000 people were in this time-tested program that helps them manage the transition back to their communities. Today, about 2,500 are enrolled. With all of these obstacles to overcome, it is challenging for ex-offenders to keep themselves in the right track and surround themselves with positive environments.

The good news is Bethany House offers the support for the first 45 days, and we in St Joseph's plan to support the re-entry of these women into the community.

Pastoral Care/Social Outreach

HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS: SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND

We will have a second collection this week, Jan. 23-24, for the support of relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti last week. All funds raised will go directly to **Catholic Relief Services** (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. CRS has already committed \$5 million and is responding in a variety of ways, including immediately moving in food, water and medical supplies to survivors and providing shelter. Long-term, CRS will help with re-building efforts in the region. Generous donations are aiding this effort. Learn more about their efforts at www.crs.org. If you missed the collection you can donate directly:

- Call 1-877-HELP-CRS;
- Donate at www.crs.org; or
- Send a check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD; 21203-7090.



And, most importantly, continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR—Call the Parish Office to reply or place a Neighbor to Neighbor ad.

Parishioner # 39 Is looking for work cleaning your home. Rates negotiable, references available.

Parishioner #40 is in need of transportation each week to Mass. She lives on Jefferson Road in Fairport, NY. Any weekend Mass would be fine.

Parishioner #41 is seeking in home child care for three children ages 6, 3 and newborn, three days a week for 10 to 12 hours/day. References required. Rates negotiable.

Parishioner #42 is seeking in home child care for their 8 month old son. They live off the Gananda Parkway. Job is five days a week from 7:30am to 4:30 pm. References required. Rates negotiable.

- The Church is looking for diaper genies to be installed for use in the Church's rest rooms. If you have one to donate, please the office at 586-8089.

Worship

HOSPITALITY AND CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Children are the future of the church.” Although there is truth to it, the statement is incomplete. **Children are a genuine part of the church now.** By reason of the *sacrament of Baptism* they share with us in the call to worship, to witness and to serve. They are called, as we are, to hear God’s Word, to praise God in prayer, to show others by their example what they believe, and to reach out in care and concern for the needs of others. In being hospitable to our children, we are being hospitable to their parents. It isn’t always easy to pack up a family, especially with younger children, to bring them all to Mass, but our families do it every weekend. We are encouraged to go to a family if the child is crying or in need and ask if we can help. **All of us are ministers of hospitality to one another.** If we are seated near a family in need, we can offer assistance. We thank God for blessing us with so many wonderful families and children.

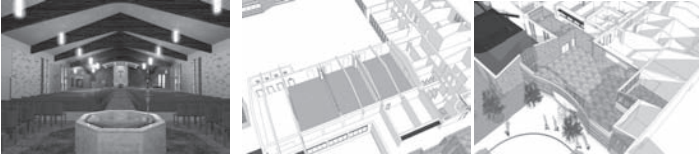
All Are Welcome!

ORDINARY TIME

The color green in the church tells us that we are back in Ordinary Time. Actually the word “ordinary” does not mean routine but “counted” or “ordinal” time. We enter into these 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays; all counted one after another. **Winter Ordinary Time** is just a few short weeks until we enter into the season of **Lent**. **Summer and Fall Ordinary Time** comprises the longest portion of the **Liturgical Year**, covering as much as six months of the Calendar. **Ordinary Time** challenges us with the demands of building the Kingdom. We listen to the Word of God which keeps reminding us of our call as Christians to internalize the teachings of the Lord and to live out what we proclaim. The miracles and the parables of Jesus are, for the most part, the subject of the Gospel readings. The task that we are given is the same task Jesus had—to proclaim the reign of God in our midst—so this is hardly an ordinary mission. The prayers of the Mass ask for the gifts necessary to accomplish this task and they carry the same message: *ō D t k p i " h q t v j " v j g "*

Reflections adapted from Resource Publications, Inc.

Campaign for a Mission Driven People



Baptismal font area, Flexible meeting rooms, Atrium gathering space

PONDER THE POSSIBILITIES...

How is God calling you to participate in this campaign? How can you stretch to return to God all that you have so generously received?

If every family that currently gives to St. Joseph's annually, each committed \$20 per week for 36 months we would surpass our goal (which equates to a \$3,120 family pledge over three years)

How much can you reach to give over three years?

- \$100/month=\$3,600**
- \$200/month=\$7,200**
- \$300/month=\$10,800**
- \$500/month=18,000**
- \$1,000/month=\$36,000**
- \$1,388/month=\$50,000**

Several families have pledged \$20,000 - \$30,000. More than 95 others have committed to more modest levels that are nonetheless sacrificial for them. Combined with Today & Tomorrow funds, \$518,316 is already designated to the *Campaign for a Mission Driven People*.

JOIN US! Make a pledge online or return the recently mailed Campaign for a Mission Driven People pledge card. Or come today to Java & Juice after the 9 and 11AM Masses.



Community-Building/Evangelization

MAKE A COMMITMENT NOW TO ENRICH YOUR PRAYER LIFE THIS LENT—

During the 40 Days of Lent, St. Joseph's will focus on the Gift of Prayer, offering our traditional Tuesday evenings of prayer throughout Lent as well as small group experiences centered on prayer.

Tuesday Evenings of Prayer 2010:

- February 23—Taizé Prayer
- March 2—Stations of the Cross
- March 9—Prayer and Movement
- March 16—Evening Prayer with Benediction
- March 23—Taizé Prayer



LENT 2010

40 DAYS
OF SPIRITUALITY
GIFT OF PRAYER

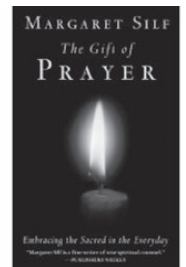
Join a small group!

Lent is a great time to experience faith-sharing and study in a small

Christian community environment. This year we will read and reflect on a book called *The Gift of Prayer* by Margaret Silf (2004: BlueBridge). The book offers a guided meditation, an opportunity to ponder what prayer really means to you and offers new ways to think about how you pray. Prayer reflections will be in the context of the Sunday Lenten readings and the ultimate question of discipleship: *Who is God calling me to be?* Groups will be provided with the Silf book as well as a workbook that includes questions for reflection and scripture commentary. Register online, call Cathy at x. 115 or come to our **Valentine's Day Celebration, Sun., Feb. 14 following 5PM Mass.**

Each week has a theme:

- What is Prayer?
- Why Would I Pray? Who Am I Praying To?
- When Can I Pray? Where Shall I Pray?
- How Do I Pray?
- Does It Work?



The program wraps up with a prayerful look at opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in parish justice activities, especially our expanded...

Bethany House Ministry.

A Very Catholic Conversation

Volume 4 Number 19



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 11:11-18—This section is a continuation of last week’s story. Peter is making the case for the Gentiles. He makes his case by stating fact. He goes

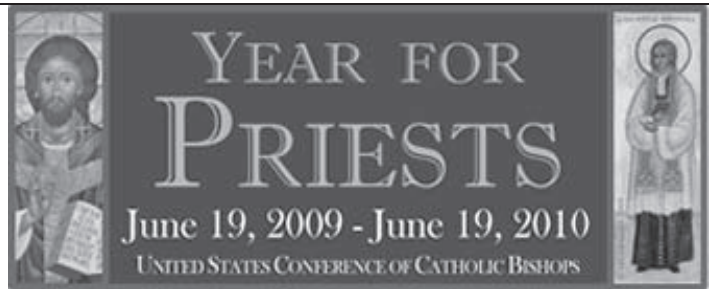
to this house and as he begins to speak the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This is, if you will, a trump card. Peter is harkening back to John the Baptist and he declares that they are claimed not by him but by God. There is also a subtle piece inserted into the story. He brings six men with him and adding himself makes seven. In both Egyptian and Roman law that was the requisite number of witnesses to make something official. So our scripture author puts that into the story as an added emphasis. The key element is that Peter acknowledges that God is calling all to follow. Setting the stage for the time when followers of Jesus become more than a way within Judaism, but rather a church themselves.

Faith Formation

As I write this the last few days have been filled with the stories of the tragedy of the earthquake in Haiti. The devastation is almost too hard to comprehend. We do not, as I write have any firm idea as to how many have died and how many more are severely injured. We can pray and to the degree we are able donate through various sources to assist the effort.

For now I would invite you to join me in prayer for the church in Haiti. Early reports indicate that the archbishop was killed and that the seminary severely damaged and many of the students injured. In this year of the priest let us all hold the people of God and those serving God in ministry in Haiti in our prayers each day.

May I suggest the following prayer: “Loving God be with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Hold them in your care, bring them comfort and consolation and give them the strength of your Spirit to rise up again in your service. Grant them your loving embrace and comforting touch.” Amen.



The document we began to look at last week, “Optatam Totius,” calls for a spirit of openness in fostering vocations. We are all called to do our part to pray for vocations to the ordained ministry and to be open if those we know express an interest in moving in that direction. It might be good to reflect on that prayerfully, as in most recent times, it is not clear whether everyone has been open. We need to call ourselves to an accountability that exposes our young people to the possibility that they are being asked to consider service to the people of God in the form of ordained ministry.



LAITY AND CHURCH

“Christian husbands and wives are cooperators in grace and witness of faith to each other.” This sentence from the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity is a clear call of the very deeply rooted place that the vocation of marriage has in the Christian economy of salvation. It is from parents that children first hear of the faith not only in words but more profoundly by example.

So we can assist each other in coming to know, developing into and fully practicing our vocational response to our good and loving God. It is also the opportunity to witness to and realize how the bond of marriage is a model of the ministry that Jesus called his followers to practice. Marriage reflects commitment, adaptability and sharing for the sake of all. That is why the church speaks of rights and duties of parents and sees the family as a domestic church.

Other Announcements

The Fantastic Finds Sale—PHS, **Sat., Jan. 30**. Clean out your basement, closets, kids' rooms, etc. and drop off any donations Thurs., Jan. 28, 3 - 9pm or Fri., Jan. 29. Or just come and shop. Some of the finds are truly fantastic!

Directed Retreat Weekend—**Rochester's Mercy Prayer Center, Fri., Jan. 29, 7pm - Sun., Jan. 31** after brunch. In the depths of winter, come experience a retreat grounded in solitude, silence and prayer with daily meetings with a spiritual director. Facilitators: Pat Bauman, Giovina Caroscio, Sr. Jody Kearney, RSM. Fee: \$150. Call 473-6893 or visit www.mercyprayercenter.org.

Join Rochester Magnificat—**Feb. 6**, as we peel off the mask. . . **St. Pius Tenth Church, 3000 Chili Ave., Mass at 8:30am.**, followed by continental breakfast, and teaching by Fr. Mike Mayer. The local winner of the Magnificat raffle (trip to Rome) will be drawn and there will be an opportunity for personal prayer. The program will conclude at 11:00am. Please RSVP to Kathy Murty 436-1284.

"**The Parents for the Advancement of Catholic Education (PACE)** is sponsoring a fund raising Gala/Auction for St. Joseph's School. **March 13 at Casa Larga.**



Everyone is invited to attend.

- If you have any items you would like to donate, i.e. "new in box" or "collectibles," please contact Kim Vita at 598-3452.
- If you own a business and would like to be featured in the Gala brochure, please contact Diane Miller at 425-4106. More information is available at www.sjsgala.org.
Thanks for supporting St. Joseph's School!"