

Fourth Sunday of Lent



This Week in Our Parish

March 14, 2010


Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent/ Daylight Savings time Begins
8:30 am: Mass **9:30 am:** RCIA **10:00 am:** Spanish Mass PSR 2nd-8th **11:30 am:** Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1st
11:30am: ESOL class **12:30 pm:** Youth Group
12:45pm: Citizenship classes **1:00 pm:** Spanish Mass
7:00 pm: Spanish Mass

Monday: **12:15 pm:** Daily mass **7:00 pm:** Penance Service (Dalton)

Tuesday: **12:15 pm:** Daily mass **7:00 pm:** Penance Service (Cartersville)

Wednesday: St. Patrick's Day
12:15 pm: Daily mass **6:30 pm:** Rosary
7:00 pm: St. Patrick's Potluck

Thursday: **12:15 pm:** Communion Service

Friday: St. Joseph, Husband of Mary  Cleaning Team Two
6:00 pm: Stations in (Eng.) **6:30 pm:** Lenten Meal Sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul
7:00 pm: Stations in (Sp.)/Prayer group

Saturday: First Day of Spring
10:00 am: PSR in Spanish **12:30 pm:** PSR Session II
2:00 pm: Sp. Youth Int. Group **5:30 pm:** Vigil Mass
6:30 pm: Silent Auction

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent/ Girl Scouts cookie table
8:30 am: Mass **9:30 am:** RCIA **10:00 am:** Spanish Mass/ PSR 2nd-8th **11:30 am:** Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1st
11:30am: ESOL class **12:30 pm:** Youth Group
12:45pm: Citizenship classes **1:00 pm:** Spanish Mass
7:00 pm: Spanish Mass

Why We Do What We Do

Next Monday (March 22) is our St. Clement's Lenten Penance Service. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. A number of priests have committed to joins us to help with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to be instruments of God's grace and forgiveness.

Our sins affect not only our relationship with God, they affect our relationships with family, the faith community, and others. The Bible and Church teaching remind us of the need to confess our sins and be healed and forgiven. Jesus hears Peter's confession after the resurrection (Jn 21:15-19). In the early Church, confession was before the entire community. In the fourth and fifth centuries, private confession emerged as the more common practice. The priest was seen as representative of Christ and of the community.

Over the centuries, there have been different perspectives about Confession. For many centuries it was seen as the judgment seat, an experience of the Day of Judgment when we all go before Christ. In recent years, the spiritual physician model has emerged,

"I have been reviewing your spiritual X-ray and it appears you have some sins that need to be removed."

Sins are like spiritual tumors, a type of cancer that is "fatal to the soul." Some sins are more aggressive tumors that cause almost instant spiritual death without proper treatment. These we call "mortal sins." Others, the "venial sins," still cause spiritual health problems, especially over time. We recommend these be removed as well. Without treatment, they can grow bigger and become "mortal sins." Left unchecked, many sins have caused people to lose out on eternal life. They ignored the warning signs, died with their sins—never having confessed them—and missed out on the joys of Heaven.

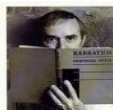
Also, sins are a very contagious disease. You can give them/pass them on to others. There is only one known cure: God's forgiveness obtained in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (NOTE: The Eucharist is medicine to prevent sin, but Reconciliation is necessary once you have sins). If the cancer of sin returns, regular visits are recommended. Sin can cause an immediate spiritual crisis or build up over time. It can cause weakening of a person's character, their moral strength, their conscience, their awareness of sin. It can make a person spiritually weak, causing spiritual apathy, resistance to God's call, spiritual numbness, and a loss of the desire for God.

Its causes are genetic, environment, and lifestyle, similar to cancer of the body. Families pass on certain sins and spiritual attitudes. An openness or resistance to spiritual things. A love and joy or a negativity towards God and Church. A concern about or an ignoring of the seriousness of sin. Environmentally, family and others can pass on sin by being bad examples, by having casual attitudes about sin and sinful behavior, even by teaching others to sin.

Certain lifestyles are sinful lifestyles and lead those who choose those lifestyles deeper into sin. They increasingly sin and commit a greater variety of sins.

God is the only cure for sin. He offers his forgiveness and His grace through His Church and through His priests. Don't miss out. Get your spiritual check-ups March 22.

UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE MASS



For almost 14 centuries, many of the writings and documents of the early church were hidden away in monasteries and caves and castles. They were hidden during the Invasion of the Roman Empire by the Huns, Goths, and other groups in the mid-400s. They were hidden so well they were not found for more than 1300 years!

At the Council of Trent (1545-63), many of these documents were still unfound and so the liturgical reforms did not include a lot of the traditions of our earliest days. By the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), these documents had been found and studied and so a lot of the changes were a reintroducing of Early Church rituals and practices. It is ironic that people want to go back to the "Old Mass"—the Tridentine Mass of the Council of Trent used until 1962—when today's Mass has much older roots and is based on older traditions.

An example is the writings of St. Justin Martyr (100-165) whose "works represent the earliest surviving Christian 'apologies' of notable size." (*Wikipedia*)

"And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the [apostles](#) or the writings of the [prophets](#) are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these [good](#) things. Then we all rise together and [pray](#), and, as we before said, when our [prayer](#) is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers [prayers](#) and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying [Amen](#); and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given." (*First Apology, 67*)

Today we follow the same structure as 150 A.D. and the words of the Last Supper are used to consecrate the Bread and Wine; the Words of Christ and the Holy Spirit change these two ordinary things into the Body and Blood of Christ. The forthcoming changes are a refinement of the reforms of the 1960s and an effort to make sure the words we say faithfully continue and preserve the words of Christ and those who have passed the faith onto us.

 **Prayer** 

"Create a clean heart, within me, O God/And I shall be cleansed, I shall be made in the likeness of Jesus. Create a clean heart, within me, O God/And I shall be free, Free to love in the likeness of Jesus.

Lord I have sought for You, God I'm in need of You, Give me the grace of Your love.

For a pure heart is gift from You/All things becoming new, Gladness and joy replace fear.

A clean heart brings life to prayer/Joy of salvation bears fruit for a hungry world. For a life lived in You, Creator God renews all who dare enter Your heart." ("Create a Clean Heart," Tom Booth, OCP, based on Psalm 51)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected March 8 th	\$6,479.02
Difference	+ \$ 1,129.02

Second Collections

03/07/10 "Building Fund".....	\$2,365.52
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Campaign '10 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 02/28/10.....	\$90,762.33
March 7 th Collections.....	\$ 611.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$91,373.33

Second Collection: Next Sunday's second collection will be for our St. Vincent de Paul and Easter flowers. If you receive envelopes you will find the St. Vincent de Paul envelopes marked March 28th where they should have been marked March 21st. This is the last of the errors we found for the month of March. We extend our most sincere apologies for the confusion, and many thanks for your patience and understanding.

*Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2010*

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother was dead and had come to life again.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Our human tendency is to think we can make a go of life on our own. If we are happy to settle for minimums, some of us can muddle through life reasonably happy. This parable reminds us that God offers us much more.

If we choose to die to self ("coming to [our] senses") and return to God, we are greeted with forgiveness and feasting. Even more, at our heavenly Father's feast we aren't simply welcomed back as the sons and daughters we were, but we are transformed into more perfect sons and daughters sharing in divine life. We feast on much more than a fattened calf; the Feast to which we are invited id

nothing less than the Body and Blood of the Son. Receiving God's forgiveness and mercy, and offering the same to one another, is how we pass from Wednesday ashes to Easter feasting.

~**Living Liturgy**

Stewardship Thought 

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

Saturday March 13, 5:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 14, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 14, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 14, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 14, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 14, 7:00pm.....	Ana Linares (Thanksgiving)
Monday, March 15, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Tuesday March 16, 12:15 pm.....	Daily mass
Wednesday, March 17, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, March 18, 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, March 19, 6:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (English)
Friday, March 19, 7:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (Spanish)
Saturday March 20, 5:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 21, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 21, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 21, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 21, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 21, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

REVISING PARISH OFFICE PROCEDURES



We currently are evaluating office procedures and seeking ways to improve upon them. One thing we are looking at is the number of walk-ins we have. Every week we have several people who come into the office seeking an immediate *meeting* with

Father Joe, Sister Carmen, or our Administrator Wendy Sosa, however, very few are emergencies.

I'm not speaking of ordinary office things such as: parish registration, sign-ups for classes, requests for mass intentions, etc. These are expected office visits.

I'm speaking of individuals and families wanting on the spot *meetings*. Some even come in and interrupt appointments in progress. This especially is happening with Sister Carmen.

With a parish of more than 750 families—and approximately 2,500 members—stopping what we are doing at the present moment is not always an easy task. It is a rare day when Father, Sister, and Wendy don't have a lot on their calendars including the major events that we are now scheduling for 2011. As you can see the inner workings that are already in progress consume much of our time making drop-ins hard to fit in.

A parish office is sometimes like an emergency room. Sometimes it's slow. Sometimes we have a lot of requests at once. When it gets busy, we have to prioritize based on the nature of the requests and Church priorities. Funerals get priority. Hospital visits get priority. Life crises get priority. Confirmation with the Archbishop gets priority. Christmas gets priority.

Other things are lower priorities, and especially at busy times, have to wait: house blessings, letters from the pastor for the government, requests for special masses in nine months where people want to schedule and confirm the date *today* (to reserve the reception hall and send out invitations), etc. Even marriage preparation. Those requests will require more patience. The family that called three times in one day for a quinceañera that was *12 months away* really got under my skin. Especially when I discovered they had reserved the hall before calling the church.

We strive to treat everything as important. Not everything is urgent. If you need (or think you need) something today, please call first and see if that is possible. Requests and appointments we get to as fast as we can. And sometimes we forget during the busy times. We are human. Each person we strive to treat as a person, but we must prioritize each request.

Soon we will have specific hours for walk-ins who want to "meet" with a certain person. True emergencies always are an exception. Otherwise, outside of those hours, walk-ins will have to schedule an appointment. We also will have more specific time frames for certain requests. We are not a fast food restaurant. We are more like a doctor's office. As we grow, we make changes so we can better serve. Especially to address the priorities we have not been getting to.

Please pray for the people who are suffering:

Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry-prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Teresa Howard-health, Lou Brown-brain cancer, Jim Robertson-cancer, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, The people of Haiti & Chile-health & safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Pearl Turner-Parkinson's, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health.

Lenten Reflection

"Luke has Jesus teach us that God loves all and welcomes all, that he forgives us and the Pharisees, and that we, too, should be open and generous to all..." (stmarys.edu)

Auction...Come one come all

The St. Clement Youth Group is sponsoring a silent auction on Saturday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. There will be a variety of baskets and many items to bid on. So, grab a neighbor call the family, and come on out for an evening of food, family, and fun.