

## Third Sunday of Lent



### This Week in Our Parish

March 7, 2010

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am: Mass 9:30 am: RCIA 10:00 am: Spanish Mass PSR 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am: Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> 11:30am: ESOL class 12:30 pm: Youth Group 12:45 pm: Citizenship classes 1:00 pm: Spanish Mass 7:00 pm: Spanish Mass

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

**Tuesday:** 12:15 pm: Daily mass 6:30 pm: Knights 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree

Exemplifications

**Wednesday:** 12:15 pm: Daily mass 1:00 pm: Clementines 6:30 pm: Rosary

**Thursday:** 12:15 pm: Communion Service 5:00 pm: Girl Scouts 7:00 pm: SVdP Mtg.

**Friday:**  Cleaning Team One

6:00 pm: Stations in (Eng.) 6:30 pm: Lenten Meal Sponsored by the R.C.I.A group 7:00 pm: Stations in (Sp.)/Prayer group

**Saturday:** 10:00 am: PSR in Spanish 12:30 pm: PSR Session II 2:00 pm: Sp. Youth Int. Group 5:30 pm: Vigil Mass

**Sunday:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent/ Daylight Savings time Begins

8:30 am: Mass 9:30 am: RCIA 10:00 am: Spanish Mass PSR 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am: Life Teen Mass /Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> 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

Many families struggle to find godparents for their children. A growing number of couples, come to me and say: "Father, none of our family are practicing Catholics. No one goes to church!" or, "Father, we don't know anyone who qualifies."

Someone will often say: "My brother lives with his girlfriend.

Why is that such a big issue? We're all sinners. Why can't he be the godfather?"

Christ and His church have high standards, especially for baptized Catholics, Godparents - really all of us-are expected to be good moral and spiritual examples for others. Perfect? No. But people who are trying, with God's grace, to live good and holy lives. People who are living and witnessing their faith. And want to pass it on to the next generation.

There is a major difference between a person who is trying to overcome their sins and someone who chooses a lifestyle of sin. Between someone who is struggling to stop and change sinful

thoughts, words, and actions versus a person whose primary life decisions involve choosing to live in sin and stay in sin.

It is not the one night stand (as bad as that is). It is the moving in together, the living together, the (indirect or direct) rejection of Christ and His Commandments on an ongoing, long term basis. It is the rejection of marriage and the sacrament of marriage. It is not enough to be civilly/legally married. We must do things God's way. The one night stand can lead to a lifestyle of sin can lead to a lifestyle of sin. Sin should lead to a wake up, to a sense of remorse, to repentance, to the desire and intention to change. To forgiveness and a new way of life.

"Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life." (Rom 6:4) "My point is that you should live in accord with the Spirit and you will not yield to the cravings of the flesh... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires." (Gal 5:16,24)

"You must lay aside your former way of life... You must put on that new man created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth/" (Eph 4:22, 24) It is the person striving for holiness versus the person living in lust. The person falling and getting back up versus the person who stays down, enjoys the sin, and chooses to stay in it.

It is the person who misses Sunday mass due to an unexpected circumstance and is sad versus someone who willfully, intentionally chooses not to attend several times and eventually stops going to church because it no longer is meaningful or important. He/she chooses the sinful lifestyle of not honoring or respecting God or the faith community. He/she instead focuses on self, ignores commandments, is self-centered and lazy.

Others, by their occupation, exclude themselves. These include abortion doctors, prostitutes, those that sell illegal drugs, etc. Drug users, career criminals, gang members, etc. exclude themselves as well.

Others put their job and other things before God and they use work as an excuse for not coming to Church. They come when it's convenient or if they're not too tired. I'm glad Jesus didn't get tired on the cross and change His mind.

Godparents should be willing to run through brick walls for Jesus!

Pope St. Leo the Great reminds us: "No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ... He is the one who teaches the truth of prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace."

Choose godparents who live the lifestyle of faithful believers and strive to imitate Christ. And who will help your children to be strong Catholics. Pray for those lost in the lifestyle of sin who are governed and led by the flesh and earthly desires. And for those not practicing the faith, that they will return during this Lenten Season.

### Follow-up

I have heard recently that some of our parents are still choosing godparents based on money. I know of a couple cases where baptisms have been postponed over money. To save more money for a bigger party or to find godparents who have more money. Choosing godparents should NEVER be about money. It is a faith decision.

The question that should be asked is; "Who will best help us to raise our children to be saints and will help them to find the way to Heaven?" this is how parents and godparents will be judged by Christ: Did you help this child to know me, to follow me, to stay close to me? And did you love them as much as I do?

### Prayer

Last fall, Pope Benedict XVI talked about the importance of daily silent prayer. "The faithful must take time out of their day to seek out a quiet place... It is important to learn how to achieve an inner silence in order to listen to God's voice, he said.

"One can learn god's word and the right path to take in life through quiet prayer and meditation, he said... The faithful also have

to remember not to become completely caught up in their daily activities and concerns, forgetting that Jesus should be the focus of their lives." (Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service)



<b>"2010" Weekly Budget</b> .....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected February 28 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$ 6,232.80
<b>Difference</b> .....	+ \$ 882.80
<b>Misc. Envelopes</b>	
02/28/10 "Building Fund".....	\$ 350.00
02/28/10 "Assorted Envelopes".....	\$ 50.00
<b>Campaign '10 Pledges:</b>	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 02/21/10.....	\$ 90,134.33
February 28 <sup>th</sup> Collections.....	\$ 628.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$ 90,762.33

**Second Collection:** Next week's second collection will be for Catholic Relief Services. The recent tragedies in Haiti and Chile are clear reminder of the great need for the vital work of Catholic Relief Services. CRS assists impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Next week our second collection will be for Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your generosity.



### Stewardship

Thank you to Wayne Blair and his friend Kenny Rogers for repairing and improving the electrical wiring to the floodlights around our "street sign" and Pro-Life Monument. Also, thank you to Mike Towe who identified and researched the problem and "got the ball rolling." And for all the other maintenance and repairs Mike does. What great gifts of time and talent.

Recently Calhoun Utilities discovered that the water line for our fire protection sprinklers downstairs does not have a backflow system or valve. Not installing one subject's us to a \$100,000.00 fine. Installing one will cost \$7,000.00. Thank you for your contributions to the Building Fund (maintenance fund for surprises).

## Third Sunday of Lent March 7, 2010

**First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15**

"I AM" sent me to you.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

The life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down as a warning to us.

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did.

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Suffering for suffering's sake is not what transforms us so that we can bear fruit the dying that leads to new life is how we bear fruit. The dying that repentance requires forestalls meaningless dying; the dying we do in order to bear fruit is the result of cultivating an attitude of openness to constant transformation; the "fertilizer" is the charity, fasting, and prayer of our Christian penance.

Repentance is changing one's mind, letting go of the narrowness of our own perception of how life should be and embracing the expansiveness of God's plan for salvation. Repentance, in terms of changing's one's mind, is really the same as conversion. The dying to self of repentance and coming to new life through God's gracious mercy characterize our Christian living, and make real and concrete our baptismal commitment. If we wish to bear fruit we must die to ourselves. Here is an interesting paradox: if we don't bear fruit, we die, but we must die to bear fruit. The choice before us is about

dying: meaningless dying (selfishness) or fruitful dying (to self for the sake of others).

The gospel parable says for "three years" the owner of the fig tree had been waiting for good fruit. God waits more than three years for us to bear fruit God waits each and every day of our lives for us to bear fruit. The good news is that God never gives up on us. God continually cultivates and fertilizes especially by the ongoing proclamation of God's word and the invitation to God's table. All we need do is respond by dying to self. God does bring forth new life in us. ~Living Liturgy

### Stewardship Thought

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like te fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

Saturday March 6, 5:30pm.....	The people of Chile (Health & Safety)
Sunday, March 7, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 7, 10:00am.....	Alexandra & Fermin Pacheco (Thanksgiving)
Sunday, March 7, 11:30 am.....	Paul Galarneau (Health)
Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm.....	Sheila Damaris (3yr presentation)
Sunday, March 7, 7:00pm.....	Crecenciano Preciado (RIP)
Monday, March 8, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Tuesday March 9, 12:15 pm.....	Daily mass
Wednesday, March 10, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, March 11, 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, March 12, 6:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (English)
Friday, March 12, 7:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (Spanish)/Prayer Group
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)

### Upcoming Changes to the Mass

What does the Mass mean to you? What do you get out of it? Do you come because you want to or you feel you have to? A wise person once said: "Anything worth doing is worth doing well." What are you "doing" to make mass better for you and for others? Listening, Singing, Serving, or Smiling? Try it.



### U. S. Catholic History

St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Ala., began in 1891 when a group of six Benedictine monks established and formed the abbey community and school.

"In the 1840s monks from Metten Abbey in Germany, a monastery founded c.700 A.D, came to America to introduce the Benedictine Monastic life in the United States and to minister to the growing German speaking population in North America.

"St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Penn. Became the first foundation, and in the 1870s monks from St. Vincent's were sent to Alabama to serve the needs of German Catholics here... Composed largely of German natives for most of its history, St. Bernard is now thoroughly American." (From Abbey welcome materials)

Brother Joseph Zoettl, O.S.B. (1878-1961) "came to Saint Bernard Abbey at the age of 14 to attend school with the intention of becoming a monk." (Abbey brochure) Ave Maria Grotto grew out of a hobby of building miniatures. It was dedicated on May 17, 1934 and "Brother Joseph continued his labor of love for over 40 years, using materials sent from all over the world." The grotto (or cave) has grown into four acres of miniatures "of some of the most famous historic buildings and shrines known to man." (Grotto/Abbey brochure)

### **St. Clement's Parish History**

One of our original members, Erna Wyatt, is from Bavarian province of Germany, the same area as the original monks of St. Bernard Abbey. In 1948, Erna married Henry Wyatt, an American soldier, and moved to Adairsville, Ga.

Imagine coming from predominantly catholic Bavaria to a place where there were almost no Catholics! Three other women from Adairsville were attending mass in Calhoun at the Log cabin (women's club/library) and one invited Erna to go with her. Today Erna is 84; our only current member going back to the Log Cabin days of the 1940s.

### **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**



Lent need not be a time to live in guilt and shame. Instead it may be a time when we find ourselves in the place where we pay attention to our stirrings—in that place of deep stillness where the hunger of our souls and the heart of God meet.( [explorefaith.org-par.9](http://explorefaith.org-par.9))

### **Archdiocesan News**

The St. Augustine Chapter of the Order of St. Luke is hosting a **HEALING RETREAT** on Sat., March 20, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The cost is \$10. There will be no charge for clergy, sisters or monks. Contact: Georgia Hill at (770) 787-3381 (evenings) or [oogaj@yahoo.com](mailto:oogaj@yahoo.com).