

**+++MASS INTENTIONS+++**

**Monday, March 8**

**8:00 AM** In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph  
Req. by Lee Comeau

**Tuesday, March 9**

**8:00 AM** + Henry & Rose Mazan  
Req. by + Son, Henry

**Wednesday, March 10**

**8:00 AM** + Rita Hoyt  
Req. by Friend, Masha Kielian

**Thursday, March 11**

**8:00 AM** + Helen LeBrun  
Req. by Karmela & Ed Galla

**Friday, March 12**

**8:00 AM** + Josephine Gora  
Req. by Florence DeLibera

**Saturday, March 13**

**8:00 AM** + Daniel Adamski  
Req. by St. Casimir Holy Name Society

**5:00 PM** + Walter M. Siejack  
Req. by Eve Siejack

**Sunday, March 14**

**8:00 AM** + Martha Ciesla  
Req. by Edwina Czawlytko

**10:00 AM** + Anthony & Helen Strzegowski  
Req. by Daughter, Gerry

**5:00 PM** + Erin McCarthy  
Req. by Amanda Riser

**POOR BOX DONATIONS FOR HAITI**

Last week our poor box donations totaled \$228 for Haiti. Please remember that because of their great need we will be directing all the proceeds from the poor box to our sisters and brothers in Haiti.

**EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS**

Envelopes will be provided in your packets or the back of church for Easter flowers to remember your loved ones. These envelopes will be placed in the sanctuary throughout the Easter Season for remembrance in prayer.

**PARISH LENTEN SERIES-2010**

**LIVING FREE FROM FEAR**

**Part I:** Fr. Joe Breighner will preach at all Masses the weekend of Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21.

**Part II:** Presentations by Fr. Joe Breighner on Monday, March 22 at 7:00 PM in Church (*Transforming our Lives-Transforming our Fears*) and on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM (*Where's God when bad things happen?*) Fellowship to follow each night in the Kolbe Hall.

**Part III:** Healing Service with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 PM. Several priests will be available for confessions. Fellowship to follow.

**LENTEN SOUP & SALAD**

Prior to our Healing Service (7:30 PM), we invite you to join us for a Lenten Soup & Salad Supper in the Kolbe Center on Wednesday, March 24 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Share some time and a meal together with members of our Faith Community. There will be a variety of delicious soups, salad, good bread and good company. A free will offering for the meal will benefit the needy of Haiti through the Archdiocese and Catholic Relief Services.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

**ST. CASIMIR PARISH**

**February 27/28, 2010**

**Attendance ..... 622**

**Weekly Offering ..... \$7,687**

**Weekly Offering the same Sunday 2009 ... \$6,800**

**Attendance the same Sunday 2009 ..... 625**

*From Fr. Ross: God Bless you for your generosity.*

*An excerpt from the McKenna Newsletter*

A pastor speaks: "The Christian whose trust in Jesus is growing daily thinks in terms of Christ's love and blessings. He knows that he has received more than he deserves and he desires to respond appropriately. Growing Christians know the grace of Christ enables them to look at life and give more freely to help others. The Church isn't seen as one more demand or charity which receives a slice of a small pie, but a vehicle which provides a viable channel through which the Lord works."

***SOUP & SALAD SUPPER***

***Return form by March 15<sup>th</sup>***



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

# HALF OF A CONVERSION – CAN BE WORSE THAN NONE AT ALL

## REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS

We know that Jesus promised his disciples that they would receive a hundredfold of whatever they gave up in order to follow him. He added to that, “And persecution besides.” Jesus never tried to conceal the reality of the cost of discipleship and, that, at times, one would have to suffer for one’s convictions and love for Jesus and others. A few weeks ago we heard Jesus say that when it happens to you, “Rejoice and be glad!” As I always say, “That’s really easier said than done, especially when one is on the receiving end of rejection, lack of appreciation, criticism, gossip, etc.

Sometimes when people are either encouraged or forced to face themselves and those not-so-pleasant things about themselves, it’s a difficult pill for them to swallow. The result is that sometimes, rather than trying to make things better, they will target the one who has caused them that “reality check experience” and will kind of take it out in him or her. Jesus experienced that on more than one occasion. A few times people were at first taken up with Jesus and what he was saying; they liked what they were hearing. However, when Jesus would take it to the next step and encourage his listeners to change, more than once they got so angry that they were ready to kill him.

It’s not uncommon for people to *begin* the process or journey of change, conversion and/or recovery. At first, it is like falling in love, that is, there is a new found enthusiasm and exhilaration; it can be very liberating. But, like falling in love, that’s just the beginning. We know that people in love have to move beyond that initial stage of infatuation and almost “fall out of love” and begin the journey toward true love which demands a lot of sacrifice, hard work, etc.

The same with conversion. Once the initial stage has begun, it is important to remember that it is just an *initial* stage. If one does not follow through to the end (even though we never really get to the end in this life), one can become stuck and end up in a place that is not good for anyone, that is, the person his or herself and those around him or her.

What comes to mind is Paul’s relationship to the Galatians. There was a group of them that, at first, accepted Christ and Paul’s guidance. However, they didn’t follow it all the way through and they were pushing for a return to old Jewish customs of such

things as circumcision. At one point Paul got so frustrated, that in his letter to them, he says basically (not in these exact words), “Good! If that’s what you want, I hope the knife slips.” It’s a reminder that we cannot accept Jesus just halfway, and that we cannot pick and choose what we like.

I’ve seen at times people who come from very difficult and dysfunctional family backgrounds. It is a painful thing to come to grips with it because no one likes to think that something was/is wrong with their family. Moving beyond that initial stage and joining the road to healing can be very uplifting and freeing. However, if one does not carry it all the way through, one begins to head backwards without even being aware of it. Even though they can mask things over by “saying the right things,” they, like the Galatians, can cause so many problems, creating divisions and disharmony; they start forming their own little cliques and can be seen off in the corner talking in a whisper about this one or that; it’s like a poison. They can come across pious, polite and politically correct, but you get the sense that there is something very wrong below the surface. They don’t participate in the events and happenings planned by others whom they see as *the competition*. Jealousy, envy and resentment are usually the by-products that are produced and nothing is ever good enough or enough; they want more than others can give.

Another thing that can happen is that when people come from a difficult family upbringing, if they do not continue on their road of healing, conversion and recovery, they actually can become just like those very people that were the cause of problems for them. While this often times doesn’t manifest in the same way, the results or impact are the same. It’s a known fact that someone who has been abused can become an abuser if they do not deal with their past and present in a complete and holistic way.

Another way of saying all this is that you and I can never say that we are complete and that we don’t need to work on ourselves. We know that that is really the beginning of the end or what we call “those steps backwards.” During these days of Lent, let us all see what we really need to focus on in our lives so that our conversion and transformation will continue on. If we are faithful to this path, *God’s peace* will truly be ours and we can share that peace with others. fr.ross@verizon.net

# MARCH

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- March 9: **Liturgy Committee**—7:00 PM (Padua Room)
- March 10: **Family Ministry**—7:00 PM (Padua Room)  
**Boy Scout Committee**—6:00 PM (Scout Room)  
**Boy Scouts**—7:00 PM (Scout Room)  
**Lenten Food**—Deadline to place order for Friday
- March 11: **RCIA**—7:00 PM (Padua Room)  
**Cub Scouts**—7:00 PM (Scout Room)  
**Music Rehearsal**—7:00 PM (Church)  
**Night Prayer**—8:30 PM (Chapel)
- March 12: **Stations of the Cross**—7:00 PM (Church)  
**Lenten Food—Order pick up** 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Kolbe Center)
- March 14: **Second Scrutiny-RCIA Program**—During the 8:00 AM Mass  
**Cooking for Christopher Place**—Following the 8:00 AM Mass (Kolbe Center)
- March 15: **Finance Committee**—7:00 PM (Padua Room)
- March 16: **School Board**—7:00 PM (Padua Room)

### CHRISTOPHER PLACE MEAL PREP

Please join us on Sunday, March 14 following the 8:00 AM Mass in the Kolbe Center to prepare a meal for the residents of Christopher Place, a Catholic Charities facility that serves formerly homeless men and for the families that reside in the Children's House at St. Casimir. For information about this program, call Marianne at 410-732-3505.



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at the 10:00 AM Mass. Please have the children join us in the vestibule of Church before Mass begins.

### LENTEN "GIVING TREE"

Please look for our "Giving Tree" in the back of Church. Gifts of new children's clothing are being sought. Tags will appear on the tree with type of clothing and size.



### YOUNG ADULT CORNER

**Gathering:** Our Young Adults will be gathering for a *Meet & Greet* after our 5:00 PM Mass this Sunday (March 7) at the Firehouse Coffee Co. located on O'Donnell Square. Future plans and events will be discussed. Please bring your ideas and also bring a friend or two.



### YOUNG ADULTS

**Tuesday Night Basketball:** Every Tuesday evening from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM in the Kolbe Center Gym (upstairs) there are a number of young adults who gather to choose-up sides and play basketball. All are invited to just show up and play. For more information, please call the parish office.

### CLARIFICATION OF "CASH IN HAND"

Last week when I was talking about the *Caring for God's House Campaign*, I said that we have over \$800,000 in pledges and contributions and over \$740,000 "cash in hand." The cash in hand figure is what we've actually collected so far. These funds were used to pay for all church renovation bills and reimburse savings that we had to use when renovations first began.

### NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Mark Braunscheidel & Anne Talabisco,  
Matthew & Kelly Allbritton, Kara Daniel,  
Rosemarie Bollino, Nicholas Hondrum,  
Joseph Maheady, Cheryl Elliott,  
Andrew Leed & Kim Franklin,  
Erin & Michael Norton, Karen Ballet,  
Matt Kaercher & Julia Petrie, Emily McConville, and  
William & Katherine Murphy & Son, Declan



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

### PISANKI (POLISH EGG DECORATING CLASS) AND PALM WEAVING CLASS

The Polish-American Heritage Committee will hold a Pisanki Class on **Friday, March 19 at 7:30 PM** in the Kolbe Center. The cost is \$4 per person. To enroll, call Betty Piskor at 410-675-1154 or Bernadine Kordaz at 410-675-0415.

On **Friday, March 26 at 7:30 PM**, a Palm Weaving Class will be held in the Kolbe Center. The cost is \$3 per person. Call Bernadine at 410-675-0415 to enroll.

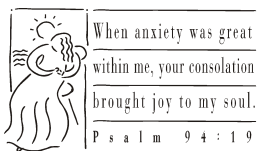
The Faith Community of St. Casimir invites you to our:

**Parish Lenten Series**

**March 20-24**

**Presenter: Fr. Joseph Breighner**

Fr. Joseph Breighner is a well-known priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has been with us on several occasions in our recent past. Fr. Joe's voice has been heard over the air waves on his weekly radio program for many years, offering his listeners guidance, hope, optimism and consolation. Fr. Joe has a weekly column in *The Catholic Review* addressing many of the issues that we face in the trenches of our daily lives as we try to be those faithful disciples of Jesus. Many, many people have also attended his retreats, talks and lectures.



**Fr. Joe will preach at all Masses**

**Saturday, March 20 at**

**5:00 PM Sunday, March 21**

**8:00 & 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM**



**On Monday, March 22 at 7:00 PM**

*Fr. Joe Breighner will present*

***Transforming our lives—Transforming our fears!***

**On Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM**

*Fr. Joe Breighner will present*

***Where's God when bad things happen?***

**On Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 PM**

**Healing Service & Confessions**

***Praying for freedom from our fears***

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments each evening after the presentations and Healing Service.

There will be a *Lenten Soup & Salad Supper*

Wednesday, March 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Kolbe Hall.

For more information, call the parish office at 410-276-1981.

**ST. CASIMIR'S LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Archdiocesan Youth & Young Adult Pilgrimage—Saturday, March 27**

***Palm Sunday Weekend, March 27 & 28—Regular Mass Schedule***

***Holy Thursday, April 1—Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM***

***Good Friday, April 2—Stations of the Cross at 12:15 PM***

***Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM***

***Meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ at 7:00 PM***

***Holy Saturday, April 3—Blessing of Easter Food at 1:00 PM***

***Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM***

***Easter Sunday, April 4—Masses at 8:00 & 10:00 AM***

## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are happy to announce that Ms. Patricia Jonas will be our new Director of Religious Education here at St. Casimir. Ms. Jonas is the current chairperson of our Adult Education and Faith Formation Committee of which she has been a member for a number of years.



She and Ms. Patricia Hartnett have been working with the children (and their families) who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist and with the children in our non-sacramental home-based religious education program. Along with her work in the area of Religious Education, Ms. Jonas serves as a Parish Corporator, Lector and member of the Liturgy Committee. Welcome!

## FAST & ABSTINENCE PRACTICES

As part of our Lenten journey, we are asked to fast and abstain from meat on Good Friday and all the Fridays during Lent. The “pinch” we feel from doing penance and other sacrifices has a purpose to remind us of God and our need for Him. “We do not live on bread (food) alone.”

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will pray the Stations of the Cross beginning on Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday) beginning on February 19 in the Church.



“WERE YOU THERE...?”

## CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

If you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, please give Fr. Ross a call at the parish office. The Archdiocesan initiative, *The Light is On for You*, reminds us of the very special place that this Sacrament has in our life of faith. Lent is the opportune time to reconcile ourselves with God and others. On Thursday’s, Fr. Ross will be available in the chapel from 8:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Confessions are also available on Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30 PM and before the weekday Masses.

## TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2010-2011

**One** of the requirements for tuition assistance from the parish is that you sign up to work at least one Saturday Bingo from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM before June 2010. If you have not signed up to work the bingo or need the list of other requirements, please call the parish office at 410-276-1981.

## SCHOOL NEWS



You are all now well aware of the results of the year-long Archdiocesan Blue Ribbon Committee’s work concerning



Catholic Schools. For all those involved it has been an exhausting, stress-filled, worrisome and anxiety-provoking experience. Our principal, Mrs. Melanie Conley and I attended a meeting this past Wednesday at the Catholic Center. During the meeting we heard which schools will not be opening in the fall and which schools will remain open and become receiving schools. As you have probably heard, **St. Casimir Catholic School will remain open** and will be considered a receiving school for those students of the schools that will be closed and/or consolidated.

While we are extremely grateful, pleased and happy by the confidence shown by the Archdiocese in keeping our school open, we are, at the same time, very aware of the sadness, disappointment, worry and even resentment of those negatively impacted by the announcement and closings. Our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers go out the schools, faculties, staffs, parishes and families. It is important to remember that we are all part of the same Church and that we are all brothers and sisters. St. Paul says that we are all members of the Body of Christ and when one member suffers, all suffer. For many this is like a death in the family and that there will be a time of grieving and mourning this loss. Let us continue our prayers.

Over the past few years we have worked very, very hard to build up our school and we can be proud of the fact that as a Faith Community we decided to take over the school once again and make it an integral part of our ministry and who we are. With the good news that we have received, comes the increased and awesome responsibility to become even more welcoming and helpful to those who might be coming to us. Hopefully we can help ease their burdens and fears during this time of transition.

In addition, with the St. Casimir Catholic School faculty, staff and families, and our Faith Community, we have a renewed challenge to make our school the best that it can be in the areas of our Catholic Identity, Excellence in Education and Financial Soundness. We all can and should play a part in this ministry. Please think of how you might be able to contribute a little something to *our* school. As I always say, if each of us does what we can, even if it seems just a little, when you put it all together and add to it the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, great things can and will happen. While all this will be a lot of work, we should consider ourselves blest and commissioned now to share the blessings of our Faith Community and School with others.

*fr.ross@verizon.net*