

**February 14, 2010: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for the kingdom of God is yours.  
Blessed are you who are now hungry,  
for you will be satisfied.”*

— Lk 6:20-21

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass (© 1989, 1993 CELESTINE)

**LITURGY**

**MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS**

**Sunday, Feb 14 (Jer17:5-8/1Cor 15:12,16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26)**

8:00 am- For our Parish Family  
10:30 am- Anton Vavrusa, Stacey Harned, John & Mary  
Mozisek

**Monday, February 15 (Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13)**

7:00 am- Special Intention - Recovery  
10:00 am- Maggie Volcik (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, February 16 (Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21)**

7:00 am- Ben Spanihel

**Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday (Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20; 6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)**

**6:45 am-** Viola Darilek  
8:05 am- Liberto Lerma  
12:05 pm- Julius, Annie & Angeline Pustejovsky  
6:15 pm (CCD) - Joe Konvicka

**Thursday, February 18 (Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25)**

7:00 am- Joe J. & Cecilia Fabian  
10:00 am- Helen Schulte (Stevens Nursing Home)

**Friday, February 19 (Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15)**

7:00 am- Emma Donnelly  
8:05 am- Mass of Thanksgiving - Lester & Dorothy Sicko's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
12:05 pm- Leon Bujnoch

**Saturday, February 20 (Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32)**

5:30 pm- For our Parish Family  
**Sunday, February 21 (Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13)**  
8:00 am- Louis R. Kallus  
10:30 am- Living & deceased members Catholic Life Ins. #22

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Frank & Mary Steffek & Frank & Mary Migl by Robert & Leona Steffek.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Charles & Doloris Leopold.

Vigil Light: In memory of Mike Garcia.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,959.50; Loose-\$1,190;  
Children-\$52; Building Repair Fund-\$537.

**Anniversaries:**

|                           |          |         |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| Clarence & Beatrice Brown | 52 years | Feb. 15 |
| Joseph & Ana Henke        | 30 years | Feb. 16 |
| Vernon & Esther Supak     | 62 years | Feb. 18 |
| A. J. & Jo Kutac          | 45 years | Feb. 20 |
| Louis & Debby Kolos       | 40 years | Feb. 20 |

Thank you to the Dennis Haas Family for donating the Sacred Heart statue on the front porch of the Rectory.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Gladys Dodds Koehn* of our parish family; and, *Steven Kubenka*, nephew of Martha Sitka. *May they rest in the peace of Christ.*

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

-St. Mary's Parish Festival, Victoria Community Center.  
BBQ Brisket & Sausage Dinner 11 am. Auction 1 p.m.  
-Firefall, 6:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.  
-Catholic Daughters meeting, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.  
-RCIA Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.  
-Serra Club meeting, 7:00 p.m., Jalisco's Café.  
-K.C.'s Officers meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

-CCD: Grades K-11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 7:10 p.m.  
-Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.  
-Divine Mercy prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Room.

**AMONG OUR SICK:** Hubert Grahmann, Alvin Rosenauer, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Josie Ohnheiser, Mason Leibham, Riley Mika, Mary Bonorden, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Helen M. Appelt, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Anita Kallus, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Suzanne Romano, Alice Kocian, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Anita Bohuslav, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, Henri Mae Patek, Louise Pesek, Doyleen Drozd, Bryce Saldi, Travis Klimitchek, Judith Koerth, Thelma Mikulenska, Louise Tesch, Sandra Henneke, Mary Ann Koenig, Ronald Kanak, Marcella Henke, Helen Mitchon, Tillie Schott, Robert Vasek, Georgia Schaefer, Geraline Morgenroth, Joseph Ilardo, Dolores Ludwig, Denise Lewis, Evelyn Kutac, Barbara Tesch, Emil Grahmann, Lillie Demny, Henry Morris, Theresa Hemmi, Bruce Fritz, Milada Netardus, Paula Nemecek, Ernest Schulte, Guntram Janak, nursing home residents, & the homebound.

2009 Contribution Statements are available upon request.

**Please call BEFORE coming by the Rectory to give us time to prepare your statement.** Thank you.

“Come & See” weekend, Feb. 27-28, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria for single Catholic women up to 50. If interested, call 575-7111, email [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) or check [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) for more information.

Perpetual Adoration: An adorer is needed 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury 798-3224.

KJT Society #5 (Hallettsville) will meet at 5:30 p.m. on February 24 at Chovanetz Insurance Building. Plans for 2010 will be discussed. All members are asked to attend.

Stevens Nursing Home is in need of a new bingo machine (Cost \$600). If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of a new machine, you may drop off your donation at the Rectory. Thank you.

## From the Desk of Father John

Christmas has just ended and here we are preparing for Lent already. Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>, this Wednesday! Lent's holy drama stirs the senses: the purple banners and vestments; the hush during the Stations of the Cross; the feel of the wood on the crucifix during veneration....all create memories your family will hold in their hearts. Create more memories with your children this year so that "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" become more than just big words for "no video games for 40 days." Turn these three basic elements of Lent into deep, holy experiences for your family.

**PRAYER.** *Seek Sacrament.* Those in your family who have made their first reconciliation should go to celebrate the sacrament during Lent. Help little ones think about to whom they should say "I'm sorry" each day.

*Behold the Cross.* Move your family's crucifix so it is near your front door (or whichever door you use most). It will serve as a daily visual reminder of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

**FASTING.** Fasting is so much more than giving up food. During Lent we fast from things we like to do (eat sweets) or things we should not do (roll our eyes while another is talking). By fasting, we make a sacrifice for God.

**ALMSGIVING.** Almsgiving is so much more than giving money. During Lent, we can give of ourselves. And we can honor Mary, who gave the world the greatest gift – her son, Jesus. Mary's "yes" to God to be the mother of Jesus is a reminder that we all have gifts to give.

**FASTING & ABSTINENCE.** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both abstinence and fasting.

Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat).

Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter, but Lent is considered 40 days long, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent. The reason? Fasting was considered inappropriate on Sundays, the day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.



## The Youth ConneXion



**February 14:** Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. Gathering to follow in Youth House.

**Discount Cards** are now \$5.00 each & offer discounts at various local businesses through Sept. 30th. Cards are available at the Rectory. Proceeds benefit S.H. Youth.

**Music Practice:** Mondays, 6:00 p.m., Youth House.

Amor Meus Lenten Vespers, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, on Sundays of Lent beginning Feb. 21. Evening prayer (or Vespers) is an ancient form that predates the Church. It is a gift from our Jewish brothers & sisters & finds its base in the prayers of the Psalms. It calls us to give praise & thanksgiving to our loving God, & can prepare us for the great feast of Easter.

## Religious Education (CCD) ~~ Office 798-3124

Janice Busselman, Coordinator

Angela McConnell, Assistant

**February 17:** Ash Wednesday Mass 6:15 p.m. 10<sup>th</sup> Grade youth involvement.

**February 24:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade penance service.

## Sacred Heart Catholic School (798-4251)

**February 11-22:** Magazine subscription drive.

**February 15:** President's Day. No school.

**February 18:** Jr. High Academic Meet. Classes dismissed at 2:00 p.m. No extended care.

Amor Meus Lenten Retreat, Feb. 20, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria, for a day of quiet & prayer. For information, call Cris Uristi at 575-7111 or email [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

Your Lenten experience may be enriched & deepened by joining a small group of adults to share faith around the Sunday readings using "Disciples on the Journey" on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Mary's House beginning Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the book is \$2.50 & may be picked up at the Rectory. For free downloadable family & teen Disciples on the Journey materials go to [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) & click on Free Teen & Family Section Downloads under "Links of Interest".

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.** It's unlikely that anyone has wished you "Happy Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time!" And I doubt that any Hallmark store carries fancy cards celebrating the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is Valentine's Day, and many cards and chocolates will be proffered to loved ones on this day named after a martyred Roman priest whose feast has become synonymous with the celebration of love.

While St. Valentine's Day is in full swing, this is also the last Sunday before Lent begins. We'll celebrate Ash Wednesday in just a few days and renew our traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Sunday's Gospel can get us ready for that.

We're used to hearing Matthew's version of the Eight Beatitudes. Luke does things a little differently. He gives us only four beatitudes, paralleled by "woes." And Luke is very concrete. If you're poor, you'll be rich. If you're rich, you'll be poor. If you're hungry, you'll be filled, and vice versa. Luke's blessings and woes provide a good challenge for us as we enter into Lent. Our fasting and almsgiving re directed at balancing out that equation of emptying ourselves to help the poor and the hungry. In doing that, we can become a blessing to others, and at the same time, bring about less woe in this suffering world.

So maybe it is appropriate that we celebrate Valentine's Day (and the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time) with a Gospel about blessings and woes. After all, true love isn't always easy; it demands some sacrifice. We'll be asked to sacrifice during Lent, placing a demand on our love. May we be as faithful as that martyred Roman priest, whose name has come to symbolize love, who imitated his Master, by giving up all.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2010

## One Minute Meditations

### A warm "hello"

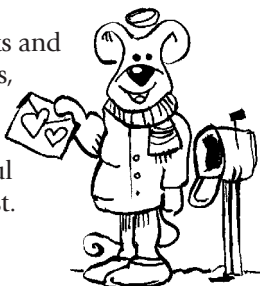
Mass is a community celebration. Try to arrive five to ten minutes before Mass is to begin and greet the people around you. Stay for the entire Mass and visit after it is over. Making others who may be new to your parish feel welcome strengthens the entire Body of Christ.

### Amen

The word "amen" shares the same root as the Hebrew word for "believe." When we say it at the end of our prayer, we affirm our belief in what we just said. "To believe is to say 'Amen' to God's words, promises, and commandments" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1064).

### Your harvest

When you plant tomato seeds in a garden, you will harvest tomatoes. In the same way, whatever is planted in your heart and mind will be your harvest. Avoid seeds like violence, negativity, and self-indulgence. When you plant positive thoughts and attitudes, you will reap a beautiful harvest.



## Catholics leave their mark on the world

As Catholics, we believe that it is possible to build a just society despite the challenges of modern life. In fact, the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching can help us to understand how we can work to create a better world. As Lent begins this month, why not use these principles to figure out

where you can make a greater difference:

**Life and dignity of the human person.** People are the clearest reflection of God among us. That makes human life sacred and Catholics act to uphold the dignity and rights of all people.

**Call to Family, Community, and the Common Good.** Catholics work for the good of everyone, especially working to support marriage and family.

**Rights and Responsibilities.** All people have a right to life and basics required for human decency such as food, shelter, health care, education, and employment.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.**

Jesus brought hope and compassion to the less fortunate, and he asked that we continue his work.

**Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers.** The economy exists to serve people, not the

other way around. Workers have the right to productive work and to fair wages

**Solidarity.** Loving our neighbor recognizes no boundaries.

**Care for God's Creation.** Out of love for God, we care for the earth and all that he created.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics observe Lent?

Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church year. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Easter Triduum, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before his



public ministry.

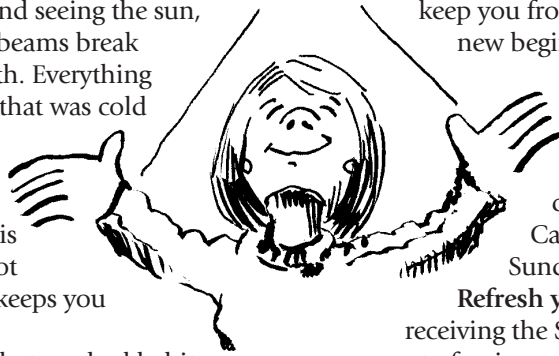
This helps us remember the great events of salvation history. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

# Stand in the Light during Lent

Imagine looking up to the sky and seeing the sun, so powerful and bright that great beams break through any gray to touch the earth. Everything that was dark is now light and all that was cold feels warmth.

Jesus is like that sun. His glory shines rays of hope on each of us, warming us with the strength of his love. During Lent this year, why not remove anything in your life that keeps you from standing in his light?

**Refresh your sight.** Eliminate whatever bad habits



keep you from seeing Christ's light. Let Lent be a new beginning to your lifelong journey down the right path.

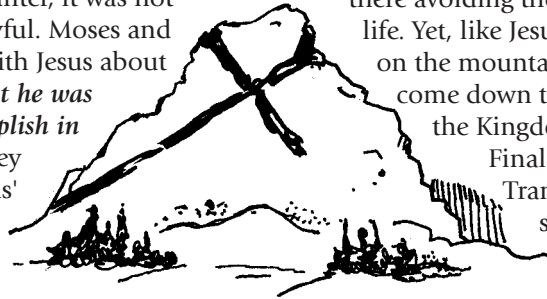
**Refresh your faith.** Find your way to the light. Recommit to the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation. (You can find them at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).) Sunday Mass can help you stay on track.

**Refresh your soul.** Clear your way to the light by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is ready to forgive us if we ask.

## from Scripture

### Luke 9:23-36, Linger on the mountaintop.

While the Transfiguration was a fantastic encounter, it was not particularly joyful. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." They referred to Jesus' death, as the shadow of the Cross loomed.



Like Moses' exodus from slavery in Egypt however, Jesus' exodus would deliver his people from the slavery of sin.

When he offered to build shelters for the three men, Peter clearly wanted to remain on the mountaintop in this holy moment. Sometimes we have an

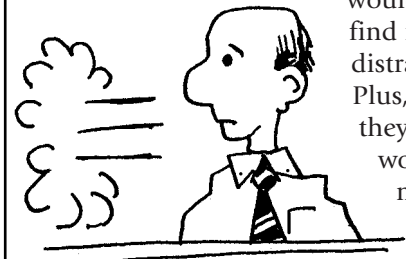
inspiring experience and want to stay there avoiding the realities of daily life. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot linger on the mountaintop but must come down to take our place in the Kingdom.

Finally, God used the Transfiguration to speak a message – the same one he spoke at

Jesus' baptism. He confirmed Jesus as his son, the Messiah, and added, "Listen to him." The son of God has God's power and authority. If we believe that Jesus is the son of God, then surely we will want to do what he says.

## Q & A Is it permissible to leave Mass early after Communion?

Imagine if some of your dinner guests gobbled their food and bolted when they finished. Not only would you think it rude, your other guests



would find it distracting. Plus, they would miss out on

the rest of the evening.

The same is true for Mass. Jesus is present for the entire Mass, so ducking out before it is over means walking out on him. Can you imagine meeting with an earthly king and leaving before he concluded your time together?

Lastly, participating in Mass is intimately linked to our call to go forth and live the Gospel. The final blessing and dismissal prepares us to share what we have received with our brothers and sisters. If we leave directly after Communion, we miss this important component.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858)** A heavenly lady who called herself, "The Immaculate Conception," appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France. After the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spring with miraculous healing waters emerged from a nearby cave.

**February 17 – Ash Wednesday.** Marking the first day of Lent, ashes from the palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. One form of Lenten observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross, meditating on

Jesus' walk to Calvary.

**February 22 – St. Peter's Chair (1st century).** We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).**

As Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before being martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



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