



Dear Friends,

Please remember there are two Fast Days in Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days alone, those of us who are eighteen years of age and have not reached our fifty-ninth birthday are asked not to eat meat and to eat only one full meal. The two other meals of the day are to be less than the 'full meal' to maintain strength according to one's needs.

In the dioceses of the United States, the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence to be observed by everyone over fourteen years of age. These days of abstinence are to be meat free. For those of us who do not eat meat, it is down to one basic principle: keep it simple. It hardly makes sense not to eat meat on the Fridays of Lent and then to have a lobster tail, two-dozen shrimp, or you name it. Keep in mind that we are asked to fast and abstain during Lent, not diet. The money we would save or the food we would not use (meat, candy, alcohol, etc.) should be given to the poor possibly through the many charitable organizations who are constantly looking for our help. Thus, we fulfill the obligation to become more charitable and merciful.

Next Friday, February 26, the Sunday 11:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word Group will present the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm and offer a simple supper afterwards at 7:30 pm. The donations will be given to a local charity, Mission of Yahweh.

Now, I have a prayer request for you; something you might like to discern over the period of Lent. Please prayerfully consider giving a commitment of two years to being a member of St. Catherine's to-be-newly-formed Parish Council. I have been reading about all sorts of ways of doing this, and the simplest and fairest way I have come across is to ask people who are at least eighteen years of age and registered members of the parish to put his/her name in a basket. No one will be nominating or putting a name forward; only you will do this. I am proposing that seven names would be drawn out of a basket the Sunday following Easter Sunday. The purpose of the Parish Council is to counsel/advise the pastor regarding the future direction of the parish. No one will represent any group, council, or committee - it is the future of the parish as a whole that we would be considering. Let us discern new ways of allowing the Spirit of God to work in and through us. The archdiocese will give us the necessary training and guidance to

get us started. I would envisage us meeting on average eight times a year. Thus, keeping as close as possible to the school calendar and taking a well-deserved break during non-school time. There is a lot to pray about here, and I will talk about this at mass during Lent. I am always available to field any questions you may have after mass any weekend should you feel so inclined.

Have a great week,
Fr. Niall

THE LUNCH BUNCH: The February "Lunch Bunch" will meet on Monday, February 22 at 12:30 pm at Salt Grass Steak House, 8943 Katy Freeway. Please contact Merryl Piper at 713-465-9089 or mwpfwp2019@hal-pc.org or call Pat Mancuso at 713-461-7764 in order to make arrangements and reservations. Merryl Piper

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS is scheduled for the weekend of February 20-21. "The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has her origin in the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Catechism of the Catholic Church). Many churches and schools in the Native and African American communities depend on the annual evangelization grants to continue their programs and pastoral activities. Please give generously and in doing so bear faithful witness to the message of Christ's Gospel of love.

2010 DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND. If you have not already offered your pledge to this year's Diocesan Services Fund, please do so today. We are counting on you to head Christ's call— "Follow me." (Mk. 2:14). Through your generous support of DSF, we can bring Christ's comfort and support over sixty ministries of the many pressing needs and priorities that cannot be address individually or by one parish alone. For those of you who have already responded with a gift, please accept our sincere gratitude and know of our prayer that your gift will be returned to you through Christ. Please help us reach our parish goal. To donate online, use www.archgh.org/dsf

VOCATION EXPO "UNITED IN PRAYER" will be Saturday, March 13 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm at St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr. All those who would like to promote vocations are invited. Registration may be done by via mail, fax or email. For more information, please call 713-652-8239, fax 713-759-9151 or the vocations department at vocations@archgh.org. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo will be the keynote speaker.



February 20-28, 2010

- Sat. 02/20** 5:00 pm † Charles & Audrey Farrell
- Sun. 02/21** 8:30 am S.I. Margaret & Ron Herzig
11:15 am † Anthony Apollo
- Mon. 02/22** 12:15 pm † Margaret Lauer
- Tue. 02/23** 12:15 pm † Helen Ahlschlager
- Wed. 02/24** 12:15 pm † Diego C. Presedo
- Thu. 02/25** 12:15 pm † Marge Burzawa
- Fri. 02/26** 12:15 pm † Katherine Schooly
- Sat. 02/27** 5:00 pm † Glada Fern McAvoy
- Sun. 02/28** 8:30 am † Marge Burzawa
11:15 am S.I. Antonio Hinojosa

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27;
Phil 3:17 — 4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Israelites show their faith by offering the LORD first fruits of the products of their new land (Deuteronomy 26:4-10).

Psalms — Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Psalm 91).

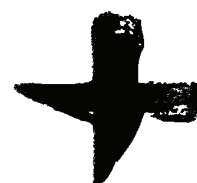
Second Reading — All who express faith in the risen Christ and confess that he is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and was tempted (Luke 4:1-13).

CHURCH CALENDAR



- Sat. 02/20** **First Sunday of Lent**
Black and Indian Collection
5:00 pm Mass
- Sun. 02/21** *Black and Indian Collection*
8:30 am Mass
11:15 am Mass *KC's in attendance*
- Mon. 02/22** 12:15 pm Mass
- Tue. 02/23** 12:15 pm Mass
- Wed. 02/24** 12:15 pm Mass
6:30 pm *CCE Classes*
- Thu. 02/25** 12:15 pm Mass
- Fri. 02/26** 12:15 pm Mass
7:00 pm *Stations of the Cross*
7:30 pm *Lenten Charity Supper*
- Sat. 02/27** **Second Sunday of Lent**
Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)
5:00 pm Mass
- Sun. 02/28** *Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)*
8:30 am Mass
11:15 am Mass
3:00 pm *Indonesian Mass*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Thank you for your faithful support

02/07/10	Regular contributions	\$ 7,525.11
	Capital Improvement	\$ 1,194.60
		\$ 8,719.71
02/14/10	Regular contributions	\$ 6,768.30
	Black Bag	\$ 1,664.76
		\$ 8,433.06