



The Holy Season of Lent begins this week with the celebration of Ash Wednesday, on February 25. The Lenten Season is a special time for us to pray and reflect on our mission to follow Jesus by living out our baptismal promises. In these promises, which were made at baptism and are renewed every Easter Sunday, we make a commitment to believe in Jesus and all that the Word of God teaches us through the scriptures and the Catholic Church.

Lent affords us the opportunity to look deeply into our hearts and see whether or not we are following Jesus as we have promised. This does not mean that we are perfect. It does mean that we are making every effort to follow Jesus by using all the gifts He has given us such as the sacraments, the scriptures, and the teaching of Church.

Lent calls us to take to heart the words of Jesus to pray, to fast, and to give alms to the poor, as a way of making up for our sins and a way of growing closer to the Lord. Our efforts to put the words of Jesus into practice helps us grow in faith and love; love for God and for our neighbor.

The call and the challenge of the Lenten Season is no different than our call to follow Jesus. Lent gives us a little more incentive to focus on really making Jesus the center of our lives.

Please take advantage of the many opportunities available, for example, daily Mass, Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings, the on going Bible study of St. John's Gospel every Friday at noon, and our Parish Mission. This year our parish Lenten Mission is titled **BUILDING THE KINGDOM IN A CHANGING WORLD**. The mission will be held **Sunday, March 21 through Wednesday, March 24, in the church from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. Please mark your calendars and tell your family and friends.

We should all make a special effort to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Lenten Season. Our parish Penance Service will be held during the Parish Mission on Monday, March 22, at 7:00 PM. As usual, there will be several priests to hear confessions, so this is a very good chance to confess our sins in order to better know the love and mercy of God.

I hope that this Lent will be a special time of spiritual growth in our parish. May the Lord bless our efforts to follow Him more closely and love Him more deeply.

On February 14, 85 of our children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We congratulate them and their parents on this milestone in their lives and offer our prayers for them so that they may continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus by knowing His love and forgiveness in their lives. I am very grateful to the teachers and parents who have done so much so that these children could be so well prepared for this sacrament.

Next Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending for those who are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children (RCIA & RCIC). We, as a community, will be sending these candidates and catechumens to Bishop Pilla in Cleveland where they will celebrate the Rite of Election with parishes throughout the Diocese of Cleveland. It is a very impressive and meaningful ceremony as we see the wider Church gather in prayer for those who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, or to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please continue to pray for these people whom we will welcome into our faith community at the Easter Vigil in April.

The sexual abuse scandal that has occurred in the Catholic Church is indeed, a great sadness which presents a tremendous challenge to the Church, as we try to discern how to better protect our children and teach our priests, religious, and laity, to be aware of this serious problem and what all of us can do to help.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, a study of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy dating back to 1950 will be published. This study, commissioned by the bishops and conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, will provide necessary information on such questions as whether the incidents of sexual abuse of minors by members of the Catholic clergy in the United States occurred at a higher rate than in other groups in the male population. The information provided by the study should provide a candid analysis of possible systemic problems in the training of candidates for the priesthood.

This study can prove to be helpful for the Church as we strive to do all that is necessary to protect our children in the future. At the same time, I am somewhat apprehensive about how the media will treat the report and use it to attack the Church again. Please remember as we read about the report, that **the Church commissioned the report in the first place**. The Church did this in order to help prevent future sexual abuse and to try to understand the problem to help past victims of abuse and those who perpetrated such acts of abuse.

Please continue to pray for all the victims of sexual abuse, so that by grace, they can live a life full of faith and love.

*Mass Intentions*



- Saturday, February 21, St. Peter Damian**  
 5:00 p.m. .... Barbara Roth [Don & Gertie Brolot]
- Sunday, February 22, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Jim & Lucille Isaac [Jim & Cas Isaac]  
 9:30 a.m. .... Ray Tricomi, Jr. [Family]  
 11:30 a.m. .... Scott Hauser [Bellinger Family]
- Monday, February 23, St. Polycarp**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Alma McDonald [Altar & Rosary Society]
- Tuesday, February 24**  
 8:00 a.m. .... For Our Parish
- Wednesday, February 25, ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 7:00 a.m. .... Anne Rowe [Steve & Jean Benya]  
 9:30 a.m. .... Intentions of Ed Michener Family  
 .... [Jim & Maryanna Hamburg]  
 7:00 p.m. .... George Bechtold [Mary Beth Palmer]
- Thursday, February 26**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Communion Service  
 9:30 a.m. .... Serge Gadoury [Children]
- Friday, February 27**  
 8:00 a.m. .... John Lewis [Legion of Mary]  
 7:00 p.m. .... Stations
- Saturday, February 28**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Communion Service  
 5:00 p.m. . Intentions of Joseph & DeSales McGuire [Albina]
- Sunday, February 29, First Sunday of Lent**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Living & Deceased Members Rabatin/Chesko  
 .... Families [Tom Chesko Family]  
 9:30 a.m. .... John, Gertrude, & Harry Hollinger  
 .... [Ethel Geisinger]  
 11:30 a.m. .... For Our Parish

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT -- FEBRUARY 15**  
 [\$5% of our collection was given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society].

Offertory.....	\$12,026.50
One Time Gift .....	\$2,500.00
Support Our School .....	\$431.00
Debt Reduction.....	\$205.00
El Salvador.....	\$40.00
Number of envelopes used:.....	424

MANY THANKS for your generous offerings.



**COME PRAY THE ROSARY AT THE AKRON WOMEN'S MEDICAL GROUP, 839 E. Market St., on Saturday mornings during Lent, at 9:00 a.m. Help us save a life.**

Any questions, call Janet, 336-3906.



**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND** If



your schedule allows you to go to the homes on Ash Wednesday, ashes and holy communion will be available after the Ash Wednesday Masses, [7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.].



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION** will be prayed every Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m., and on Fridays, at 7:00 p.m., in the church. Please consider making this a Lenten observance with your family.



**ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND** are in loving memory of Ray Tricomi, Jr., from his family.

*Don't be gloomy and morose about Lent. It is a time of penance, yes but, more OF HOPE.*

**FASTING AND ABSTINENCE IN LENT**-Ash Wednesday, February 25, and Good Friday, April 9, are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is limited to a single full meal. The law of *abstinence* binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of *fasting* binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. The other Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat.





## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

### Week of February 23

- 8:00 a.m. - **Monday - Tuesday**  
 - Timothy Reed, Maria Adams  
 - Ginny Gegick, Stephanie Gilbert
- 8:00 a.m. - **Thursday - Saturday**  
 - Steven Sponsler, Alex Pero  
 - Eddie Uhl, Samantha Gearhart

### Saturday, February 28

- 5:00 p.m. - Sarah Knight, Patsy Ford  
 - Joe Kaminski, Rick Canestraro

### Sunday, February 29

- 8:00 a.m. - Alyssa Semrau, Corey Semrau  
 - Caleb Busson, Rochelle Rodrigo
- 9:30 a.m. - Ben Goddard, Zachary Goodson  
 - Vincent Greczanik, Christopher Hall
- 11:30 a.m. - Caitlin Davies, Rachel Figliomeni  
 - Jacqui Flaherty, Nick Flanigan

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 28

- 5:00 p.m. - David King, Debbie Mlazovsky  
 - Chuck & Vera McEvoy

### Sunday, February 29

- 8:00 a.m. - Phil Gerace, Ken Hampton, Bill Walchli  
 - Mel & Ruth Wagner
- 9:30 a.m. - Joanne & Michael Gahan, Eric McNeill  
 - Joe McNeill, Tammy Seifert
- 11:30 a.m. - Karla Bellinger, Beth Sobnosky  
 - Len Sobie, Oscar & Judy Mifsud

- Altercare** - Kauffmans  
**Liberty Residence** - Wagners  
**Magnolia** - Eaton/Hunt  
**Sterling Oaks** - David Smith

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 28

- 5:00 p.m. - JoAnn Tighe, Ann Nemeth

### Sunday, February 29

- 8:00 a.m. - Lee Nichols, Jack Brumbaugh  
 9:30 a.m. - Matt Seifert, Rita Strickler  
 11:30 a.m. - Frank Bertuzzi, Lane Edwards

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**-In order to understand and better appreciate this special sacrament, parents need to attend a Pre-Baptismal class. Sacred Heart offers this instruction on the first Sunday in September, December, **March**, and June, at 12:30 p.m., in the Conry Room. Pre-registration for the class is not necessary. Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month, immediately following the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions, 336-3049. **Our next class is March 7!**



## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

- 7:00 a.m. - Timothy Reed, Maria Adams  
 - Ginny Gegick, Stephanie Gilbert
- 7:00 p.m. - Samuel Yetzer, David Smith, Jr.  
 - Joseph Dean, Sean Leahy

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

- 7:00 a.m. - Chris Bott, Rosa Owens  
 - Chris & Tricia Easton
- 7:00 p.m. - Donna Sponsler, Jim Carps  
 - Frank Collins, Debbie Mlazovsky

- Sterling Oaks** - Nancy Adams/Cathy Anderson  
**Magnolia** - Tammy Seifert/Molly Michney  
**Liberty Residence** - Ravettas  
**Altercare** - Patti Hunt

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

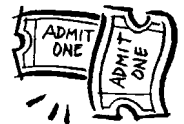
- 7:00 a.m. - Tim Reed, Bob Cotey  
 7:00 p.m. - Jay Edurese, Madeline Campobenedetto

....**SPEAKING OF JESUS**....to the Samaritan woman, Jesus said, "If you only recognized God's gift..." of Him, St. John the Baptist said, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" Come and adore Him! There are **NO** adorers for **11:00 a.m. Friday** and **4:00 a.m. Sunday**. Make one of these hours yours. Please call the Parish Office-the need is critical! Thank you to those who have called to fill the other holy hours!



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

- Youth Group meeting is tonight [Sunday], in the Upper Room. All are welcome! Bring your creativity and your pencil-we will tour the warehouse behind the Upper Room to see what ideas you have about creating a space for young people to recreate and worship.
- In place of our regular Youth Group meeting on March 7, we will be going to see the movie "The Passion of Christ" at 1:30 p.m., at the Great Oaks Cinema.
- Tickets are \$4.50, which includes a voucher for a free drink or popcorn. We will then come back to the church for pizza, music, and discussion. If you are under 17, parents will need to provide a permission slip since the movie is rated "R". Bring your cash to the Youth Group meeting tonight to reserve a ticket.
- Our twenty spots for the Stuebenville Youth Conference [June 25-27] are filling fast. If you would like to go, sign up soon in the Upper Room or call the Parish Office to reserve a spot.



## HUMAN DIGNITY: THE CATHOLICS PERSPECTIVE ON MEDICAL CARE AND THE DYING PROCESS

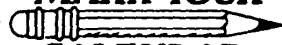
Who lives? Who dies: How do Catholic moral theologians decide when "extraordinary measures" in health-care are right? Where does the Church stand on the Teri Shiavo case in Florida? When is it ethical to pull the plug? Come Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conry Room, where lawyer John Mulhollan of our parish will speak on these difficult moral issues. John has a wealth of experience in the legal health field. He will also address "end of life" advanced directives documents in Ohio. For an engaging and thought provoking evening, **Come Tuesday evening!** See you there!



**A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT SACRED HEART PARISH** will take place on Sunday, March 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in McMahon Hall and the Conry Room. \* *As of January 1, 2004, donors are required to provide identification before donating.* The preferred ID is a government-issued picture ID, such as a drivers license, or a Red Cross blood donor card. If a prospective donor does not have either of these, he or she will be required to provide two other forms of identification.

**HEROESCAMP IS COMING ONCE AGAIN!** The week of June 21-25, from 9:30-12:30, we will circle the walls of Jericho with Joshua, knock the fiery St. Paul from his trusty horse, charge the battlements with Joan of Arc, and stroke the hand of a homeless child with the saint of our own century, Blessed Mother Teresa. In "For God Alone: The Forward March of the Church," we will meet our Hero of Heroes, Jesus, the Bread of Life, who has nurtured and sustained His people for two thousand years. Stories and songs, games and snacks, crafts and skits-we will have five mornings rich with joy, learning, love, and fun. *Next Sunday, we begin our preparation with the recruiting of adult and youth volunteers, you local Wadsworth heroes, who are committed to giving the children the richest faith experience possible. Look for a surprise visitor at Mass and pick up a volunteer form!*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**



**BOWLING PARTY!!!** Everyone is welcome to join our parish family at a bowling party sponsored by Sacred Heart School 7th grade, on Friday, February 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Great Oaks Lanes. \$7.00 includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, and prizes. Call Kris Palecek to reserve your alley! Limit 6 persons to an alley. Proceeds will help fund the 7th graders' trip to Washington DC next fall. Thanks and see you there!



**AFRAID! THE GOSPEL OF MARK**, starring TV star Frank Runyeon, [who has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the past 20 years, and an honor graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University], will be on Friday, March 5, 8:00 p.m., at St. Mary's in Wooster.

# This Week...

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Confirmation Class Bake Sale after all Masses**
  - 10:25 a.m. - High School PSR
  - 12:30 p.m. - Marian Consecration, Andes Room
  - 1:30 p.m. - Marriage Encounter Mtg., McMahon Hall
  - 7:30 p.m. - Youth Group, Upper Room

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 3:30 p.m. - Jr. Presidium, Andes Room
- 7:00 p.m. - Liturgy Commission, Conry Room

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 9:30 a.m. - WHYS Certificate Program, Andes Room
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Ed "End of Life", Conry Room
- 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts, McMahon Hall

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study Group, Andes Room
- 3:15 p.m. - Youth Choir, Conry Room
- 6:30 p.m. - Young Adult Choir, church
- 7:00 p.m. - Jr. High PSR, school
- 7:00 p.m. - RCIA, McMahon Hall

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 6:30 p.m. - NFP, Conry Room
- 7:00 p.m. - Mission Team Mtg., Andes Room
- 7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir, church

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 12:00 p.m. - BB Bible Study, Andes Room
- 7:00 p.m. - Stations, church

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:15 a.m. - Elementary PSR, school
- 11:00 a.m. - Confessions until Noon, church
- 3:30 p.m. - Confessions until 4:30 p.m., church

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- 10:25 a.m. - High School PSR
- 10:30 a.m. - Rite of Sending, McMahon Hall
- 12:30 p.m. - Marian Consecration, Andes Room



## ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The following parishioners have achieved Honor Roll status:

- Colleen Bott, Andrew Bott, Albert Cook, Diana Grutzmacher, Jessica McCaffrey, Ryan Pelini, Nicholas Peters, Kathryn Sunday, Katherine Uhl, and Lauren Williams.



- Archbishop Hoban High School will hold an open house for junior high school students and their families on Sunday, February 22. Tours of the facilities will be given from 1-3:00 p.m. All are welcome!