



Parish Calendar

- Feb. 13-14** Sweetheart Bake Sale after all Masses
- Feb. 16** RCIA 7:00 pm
- Feb. 18** Strategic Planning 7:00 pm
- Feb. 20** Stewardship Committee 9:30 am
- Feb. 20** *The Passion of the Christ* film will be shown in the Hall at 7:15 pm.
- Feb. 21** Knights of Columbus Breakfast all morning
- Feb. 21** New Parishioner Welcome after 9:30 am Mass
- Feb. 21** Light of the World Retreat Begins 1:30 pm
- Feb. 23** RCIA 7:00 pm
- Feb. 24** St. Vincent de Paul Society 6:00 pm
- Feb. 24** Full of Grace Women's Group Begins 6:00 pm
- Feb. 25** Parish Council 7:00 pm
- Feb. 27** Church Cleaning 7:00 am led by the Lisa Merrill (Sarah Rohrs) Group. All invited!
- Feb. 28** Light of the World Retreat 1:30 pm
- Feb. 28** Godteens Holy Hour 6:00 pm

School Calendar

- Feb. 15** President's Day—No School
- Feb. 19** Dismissal at 1:30 pm

CCD Calendar

- Feb. 17** Class—Ash Wednesday Parish Mass 7:00 pm
- Feb. 24** Class—Confessions grades 3, 5

THE SEASON OF LENT begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**. Masses times are **6:40 am, 8:00 am, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**. Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, but you are encouraged to attend Mass. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held at 6:00 pm on Fridays during Lent. This will be followed by a Lenten meal in the Parish Hall.



REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

Fasting means only 1 full and 2 smaller meals throughout the day, no snacks or eating between meals for everyone between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence means eating no meat, and no soup or gravy made from meat for everyone over the age of 14.

Holy Hours for Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th. If all of the hours are filled, we will be able to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel. Sign up sheets are available on the table in the Narthex. Please call Elmer or Jane at 477-4736 with questions.



Budget Report to Date: Fiscal Year Jul 1, 2009 - Jun 30, 2010

Received to date: July 1–Jan. 31.....	\$ 557,328
Needed to date for annual budget	\$ 505,300
Annual budget overage to date.....	\$ 52,028

Building Fund Campaign January Report

(To finance our new Church and Parish Hall)

BOS Envelopes and plate.....	\$ 15,291
BOS E-Tithe.....	\$ 10,091
Pius X Campaign.....	\$ 10,469
Total.....	\$ 35,851
Amount Applied to Debt.....	\$ 36,000
Debt as of Jan. 31, 2010.....	\$459,320

Altar Society Sweetheart Bake Sale is next weekend, **February 13 and 14**, after all Masses. **All women** of the parish are invited to bake or bring treats to support our church. Please bring your 'sweetheart' treats to church on Sat., Feb. 13th between 5-7:00 pm or before any Masses on Sunday. Proceeds will be used to finance the needs of the church. NOTE: Please no creamed items.



Light of the World is presenting a special viewing of **The Passion of the Christ** movie on **Saturday, February 20th**, at 7:15 pm (after the vigil Mass) in the Parish Hall. The movie is an opportunity this Lent for parishioners to meditate on Jesus' death and resurrection, and God's love for us and His forgiveness of sins. Feel free to invite a friend, family member, or your neighbor! Call Nate, 470-2414, with questions.



The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a **Pancake, Egg, and Sausage Breakfast** in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, Feb. 21st** following each Mass. Free will donations will be accepted and will go toward the support of the seminarians and *Year of the Priest* activities.

The Full of Grace study is being offered to all women in Martyrs parish during Lent. The study was written by Johnnette Benkovic of EWTN and includes prayer, Sacred Scripture, teachings of the Catholic Church and the lives of women saints. Through this nine week study women will discover the spiritual tools necessary to live out their call and mission in the world today and experience the abundant life in Jesus Christ. The study will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm **beginning Feb. 24th**. Questions or to register, call Krysti at 310-2503 or email krystimichl@hotmail.com. *Deadline is February 12th.*

The All American Kids 4-H Club, sponsored by Martyrs, will be collecting **gently used stuffed animals** for those in need. Please drop off your donations in the box in the Narthex through March 8th.





Do You Need Lent?

How is your prayer life? How is your self-discipline? How is your generosity to the poor? If you can honestly say that you are perfect in all these areas, then you do not need Lent. We are called "to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). For the forty days of Lent, we focus on prayers, fasting and giving alms to the poor. We enter into the desert, with Christ, in preparation for the most sacred season of the liturgical year; the Sacred Triduum, in which we celebrate the Paschal Mysteries of Christ, on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, we will hear the Lenten Gospel (Matthew 6) about the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What we do in private with regards to these important aspects of our faith will be seen and rewarded by our Heavenly Father. Now is the time to make a good plan for Lent. I heard that NFL teams (players, coaches and staff) put in one million hours of work to make it to the Super Bowl. We need to make a plan and invest ourselves into this penitential season of grace in order to fully experience our Easter Season.

We are very blessed at North American Martyrs Church to have many opportunities to assist us in our Lenten journey. Foremost, we have two daily Masses during the week. This year, we will have *Eucharistic Adoration*, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance in the intimacy of the adoration chapel. We have an awesome Lenten Parish Retreat on Sunday afternoons called *Light of the World*. Additionally, we have Friday evening *Stations of the Cross* followed by a parish meal. We have RICE BOWLS to channel money to the poor. We have *Full of Grace*, a nine week prayer and Bible study to help women to grow in holiness.

The domestic church, your homes, is where it all starts. You can pray additional rosaries, read scripture or devotionals, kneel down in prayer before the Sacred Heart image, or pray special prayers before meals. I hope you realize how important the Lenten Season is. I know that I need it.

God bless you during Lent. *Fr. Connor*

Birthright began with a group of Catholic women who opened the first Birthright office in October of 1971 with the support of Bishop Flavin. The Birthright philosophy is "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born." Their new location at 5625 "O" Street, Suite #4 is run by volunteers with no paid staff. The money raised for Birthright is used to help the women and babies in need, pay the office rent & phone bill and to purchase pregnancy tests and prenatal vitamins. The volunteers of Birthright ask for your prayers, financial support and help in finding additional volunteers to continue their mission. The Birthright hotline number is 1-800-550-4900. Please call 402-466-2609 for more information.



RETREAT INSIDE YOUR OWN PARISH!!! Are you yearning to improve your prayer life? Spend some time in prayer during the Light of the World Lenten Retreat. All adult parishioners are welcome! The retreat will be held on the six Sunday afternoons beginning February 21st. **CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE!** Stop by our table in the narthex after any Mass next weekend for more information or to register. Call Heather at 438-6878 with any questions.

Baseball Concessions: Baseball is just around the corner! Please contact Diane Ketchmark at 435-3956 or 304-4477 if you are interested in working concessions.

Food Handlers Training will be held in the Parish Hall on **Monday, Feb. 22nd** beginning at 7:00 pm.



WELCOME to our new Parishioners who registered in the month of January: **Lisa Picek, Sarah Bierman, Agnes Tiangwa, Kara Richter, Julie Kobza, Terese Croghan, Gabriel & Patricia Izaguirre, Nick & Lindsey Koehn, Chelsey Hershberger, Brooke Engel, Holly Engel, Zak & Sandra Dolan, Sam Judkins and Kurt & Jackie Urkoski.** New parishioner welcome is **February 21st** after the **9:30 am** Mass. Please come to the Parish Hall where you will be welcomed and given information about Martyrs parish. *We look forward to meeting you!*

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan

Living as a steward of Providence

In a recent 7 Steps small group, we were discussing how applying Catholic principles to finances helps us reach two important goals in life: growing in love of the Lord, and achieving Godly financial objectives. One of the participants noted how important the word applying was. He said it's easy to dream about goals, talk about them, and even write them down. But, he noted, those aren't the same as doing them. What did the Blessed Mother say to the stewards at the wedding feast at Cana? "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn. 2:5).

True financial freedom results from consistently following a few principles that lead to success with finances and success with life. It starts by fulfilling our God-given role as a steward of Providence. While money plays a part in all of our lives, life's about a lot more than money.

The most important step you can make to become truly financially free is to grow in your relationship with the Lord. Why? As you learn to better imitate Christ, your priorities will change, including the way you view your finances. You'll desire to have a Godly financial plan and follow through on that plan.

Take a moment to consider your walk with Christ. Are you moving forward? Backward? Side-ways? Frequent reception of the Eucharist, daily prayer and spiritual reading, and the sacrament of reconciliation are all effective ways to deepen our union with the Lord and guide us to being a more effective steward of Providence. God love you!