



From the Pastor's Desk

Just a reminder that Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. During this Lenten Season Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm on Fridays followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm. We hope this will be an opportunity for many of you to celebrate the Eucharist this week and take part in this time-honoured devotion of our Church.

*Please note the following:*

**This Wednesday is**



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

### **Regulations concerning Fast & Abstinence**

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are the only two days in Canada of **obligatory fast and abstinence**. The universal law of the Church indicates that every Friday should be day of penance. In Canada the Bishops have legislated that Catholics may substitute abstinence with another act of penance such as special prayers for another or an action of service. The choice is left to each Catholic to determine honestly according to his/her conscience. There is **no** substitution indicated for the regulation to fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat; the law of fasting allows one full meal a day but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing common sense.

After the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday one is bound by the law of abstinence; after the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, one is bound by the law of fasting - both until the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year.

**All Fridays during Lent**  
**7:00 pm Mass - 7:30 pm Stations  
of the Cross**

### **Ash Wednesday Services**

**9:15am with St. John the  
Evangelist School in church**  
**10am at St. Marguerite d'Youville  
School**  
**1:30pm at St. Luke the Evangelist  
School**  
**7pm Mass with ashes**

### ***What does "Lent" mean?***

The word "Lent" has its roots in Old German, but surfaced in thirteenth-century Middle English as "lente," which meant simply "springtime." It marks a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, immediately preceding Easter.

### ***Why forty days?***

The forty days of Lent commemorate the Lord's fasting and temptation for forty days in the desert (Matthew 4:2, Mark 1:13, Luke 4:2). It also symbolizes the forty years the people of Israel wandered in the desert eating manna after the exodus from Egypt but before they settled in the land of Canaan (Exodus 16:35, Numbers 14:32-34, 32:13, Deuteronomy 2:7, 8:1-5).

In the very earliest centuries of Christianity, the faithful prepared for Easter by fasting and praying for two or three days before the feast. As church practices developed, the period of preparation was extended to a week of formalized liturgies and observances to be later known as Holy Week. By the fourth century in Rome, the season had developed into the forty days we now celebrate.

### ***Why do we observe Lent?***

Originally, Lent was a few days of fasting and prayer to get ready for the paschal feast. Until about the sixth century it was also being used as a time of learning for those people who were considering joining the church and who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil. During the monastic period, after the practice of infant baptism became dominant, monks observed a season of fasting and

prayer in imitation of Christ, extending from the celebration of Epiphany all the way to Easter. Prior to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, Lent was observed as a penitential period during which the faithful practiced various forms of prayer, fasting, and offerings of money to the poor as a remedy for sin. Vatican II established the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and restructured the lectionary to accommodate the period of learning.

Lenten Prayer Group

Monday Evenings

7:30pm – 8:30pm

St. Joseph's Room

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>,  
23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for this important preparation for Easter. We come together to read the Sunday scripture and discuss questions based on their meaning in our life today.

*Spiritual Committee,  
Pastoral Council*

### **Bus Transportation for Seniors**

St. John's parish provides bus transportation for Seniors living in our parish to come to the 11 am Mass.

Envelopes are now available at the back counter for donations to help offset the increasing costs. Please remember to include your name and address for tax receipt purposes.




**CWL GENERAL  
MEETING**

Our February General Meeting will take place on **Monday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m.** in the parish centre. Ladies of the parish are invited to join us for Cards & Games. Reports will be posted. If you require

transportation, please call Carolyn Meaney at 905-668-9175 or Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582.

### YOUTH GROUP

 Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the parish centre. We will be viewing "The

Passion of the Christ" in preparation for our Stations of the Cross presentation on Good Friday. Youth of our parish, grade 9 and up, are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Lynne Childerhouse 905-431-6582, Mike Tice at 905-430-0713 or Rose Tyms at 905-668-0023.

### **Catholic Family Services Presents**

#### **Keeping My Faith in Tough Times**

Five Evenings for Adults  
Tuesdays - February 24,  
March 3, 10, 24 & 31, 2009  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

250 Bayly Street W, Unit 22, Ajax  
Just east of Westney Road, in the  
Mackenzie Plaza  
Facilitator:

Mary Marrocco, M.Th., Ph.D.

An adult, participatory workshop series

- For those of us who may be feeling the stress of difficult economic times, or any other stress in daily life
- And who are looking to increase faith and hope
- To understand better how to keep going, joyfully

For more information, please call 905-725-3513.

Pre-registration is required.  
Fee: \$10 for the five sessions - optional



*Knights of Columbus*  
St John the  
Evangelist Council

**Executive Meeting**  
**Wednesday February 25, 2009**  
**8:15 P.M.**

Knights of Columbus Hall  
133 Brock Street North

### **Men's Lenten Day of Reflection with Bishop Peter Hundt** **Saturday, March 7, 2009** **9:30am to 3:30pm** **St. Gertrude's Church Hall** **690 King Street East, Oshawa**

Bishop Hundt will be leading a one day Lenten Day of Reflection for men entitled "Lessons for Catholic Gentlemen from the Life and Ministry of St. Paul. The day includes lunch served at noon and concludes with Mass. This Day of Reflection is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus but it is open to interested men of all ages in the Durham Region. There is a \$10 registration fee to help cover the cost of lunch and refreshments. This will be a great way to begin the Lenten Season and help prepare us for Easter. Please preregister by calling Harold Marcotte (905) 571-2591 or email [harold@chezmarcotte.ca](mailto:harold@chezmarcotte.ca)

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009** **Please Join Us!**

In Christ, there are many members yet one body. Written by the women of Papua New Guinea, World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together the first Friday of March to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and become aware of the whole world; are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures; share the burdens of other people and pray with them and for them; become aware of their own talents and use them in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

We will join our neighbours in celebrating World Day of Prayer at:

**Emmanuel Reformed Church**  
**401 Rossland Road West, Whitby**  
**March 6, 2009**  
**2pm and 7pm**



Canadian Blood Services  
**Blood Donor Clinic**  
St. John the Evangelist  
Parish Centre  
**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am to 1pm**



Masses For The Week

**Sat. Feb 21 - 5:00 pm**  
**+ Joseph Bene,**  
req. by Barbara Bene & Family  
**Mon. Feb. 23 - 8:20am**  
**+ Anthony Vandyk,**  
req. by Gilberte Vallee  
**Wed. Feb 25 - 7:00pm**  
**+ Fred Parrott,**  
req. by His Family  
**Thu. Feb. 26 - 8:20am**  
**+ In thanksgiving for their**  
**60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary,**  
req. by Paul & Bernice Kaiser  
**Fri. Feb 27 - 7:00pm**  
**+ Joseph Bone Sr.,**  
req. by His Family  
**Sat. Feb 28 - 5:00pm**  
**+Kevin Fagan,**  
req. by The Hamer Family

### **Looking Ahead**

**Sun. Feb. 22**  
7:00pm Senior Youth Group, PC main  
**Mon. Feb 23**  
7:30pm Lenten Prayer Group, St. Joseph's Rm  
7:30pm CWL General Meeting, PC#1  
**Wed. Feb. 25 ASH WEDNESDAY**  
*See list for Ash Services with Schools*  
7:00pm Mass with Ash Service  
**Thu. Feb. 26**  
7pm SVDP Durham Particular Council  
Mass in church followed by meeting in PC main  
7:30pm RCIA, PC#1  
**Fri. Feb. 27**  
10am Mass at Taunton Mills  
7pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm  
**Sat. Feb. 28**  
7pm Rite of Election for Catechumens, reception to follow at 8pm in the parish centre

### **Jesus heals the paralytic**

