



Last Sunday we saw that the effect of the leper's proclamation that Jesus had healed him was that Jesus had to remain away from cities and towns, out in the desert so as to avoid the mad crush. In today's Gospel Jesus returns home to Capernaum. He had just left there recently (Mark 1:39). The need to preach the Good News had occasioned his departure from the city (1:38). The insistent press of all the people of Capernaum who had gathered at the door of the house of Peter's mother-in-law in the evening, bringing with them "all who were ill or who were possessed by demons," had necessitated Jesus' departure into a deserted place (1 :33-35). While there he had made his decision to go and preach to other villages. Now he comes in from the desert back to his home town.

The resultant time lapse has diminished the crowds' obsession with his miracles. After a few days, however, we again find a large gathering at the door of the house in which Jesus resides, as when the whole city "gathered at the door" of Peter's mother-in-law's house with all the ill and possessed (1 :30). Now, however, Jesus is able to "preach the word to them" (2:2), though the time for such preaching is short. Right away we hear that some bring a man who is paralyzed to Jesus and lower him down through the roof (2:3-4). Jesus uses this opportunity to try to refocus the crowd's fervor. He heals the man as a sign that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins" (2: 10). But the passage ends in a way that causes doubt as to whether the people will refocus their efforts on repentance and belief rather than on seeking healing. The last we hear is that the people are astounded and say, "We have never seen anything like this," referring to the healing, not to Jesus' ability to forgive sins (2: 12).

It is natural to want to be whole, to seek healing. Nevertheless, the Gospel of Mark seems to be saying, "First things first."

*Scripture Reflections and Commentaries by
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner and Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis*

Readings for the Week of February 22, 2009

Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25; Ps 41; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12
Monday	Saint Polycarp, bishop, martyr Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday	Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1; Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

ST. JOSEPH BINGO – Beginning March 2, 2009 St. Joseph Bingo will be held in St. Ann's School Cafeteria. Doors open 5:30 P.M. Preliminary games begin at 7:00 P.M.

Put on those walking shoes and join us in preparation for St. Ann Centennial's Family Fun Day 5k walk/run! We will be meeting Saturday mornings starting March 7, 2009 in St. Ann's parking lot at 8:30am. This will be a walking group preparing for our 5k event! All abilities are welcome! If you have any questions or to RSVP, you can contact Angela at angelagoldschmidt@yahoo.com or call (513) 377-7060.

WANTED: Old trophies. We are going to reuse them for our *Centennial Family Fun Day* in May. Please drop them off at the Parish office for Heidi Keller. Thank you!

2nd Quarter Honor Roll Students Badin H.S.

FIRST HONORS - 4.00 - 3.70 GPA:

Grade 9 - Katelyn Kreke, Jessica Schellenbach
Grade 10 - Erin Fontaine, Allison Crossley
Grade 11 - Anna Bowling, Jacqueline Lamb
Grade 12 - Abigail Wolf, Lindsey Donges, Allison Zettler,
Matthew Carter, Mollie Smith

SECOND HONORS - 3.69 - 3.25 GPA:

Grade 9 - Martin Carter
Grade 10 - Andrew Groh, Trenton Sackenheim
Grade 11 - Maria Salerno, Chelsea Schindler, Katelyn Moss
Grade 12 - Christopher Martin, Shelby Becker, Sarah Begley, Stacie Weber

HONORABLE MENTION - 3.24 - 3.00 GPA:

Grade 9 - Jacob Spoerl, Theresa Salerno
Grade 10 - Jack Bucheit,
Grade 12 - Colin Weeks, Michael Spinelli

Attention 6th/7th/8th grade students, high school students, and parents/adults! The St. Ann youth group, C.R.E.W. (Christ's Really Eager Workers) is in need of devoted teens and adults for the success of the 2009 Vacation Bible School program. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22nd, 2009 from 7-8:30 in the St. Ann Parish Office. If interested, please RSVP to Erin Hingsbergen at 513-856-8945 or 513-374-0557. The commitment deadline is March 29th, so get involved now! *Note: if you are a minor, you will need an Archdiocese permission slip and release form. Please contact me for information. Additionally, any adult volunteers will need to have taken the Archdiocese Child Protection class in order to work with the teens and the children.

The 2009 Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary will again be held in two locations this year.

Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00 p.m., Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk will be the principal celebrant at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral for those in parishes located in Butler, Warren, Clinton, Highland, Hamilton, Clermont, Brown and Adams counties.

Couples celebrating their Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary during 2009 should notify their parish by March 6th for St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

SEVENTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, February 22nd
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 7-8:30 p.m. C.R.E. W. meeting in Parish office
Wednesday, February 25th
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
Thursday, February 26th
 6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907
Saturday, February 28th
 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass
Sunday, March 1
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 4-8:00 p.m. Blue and Gold Banquet

LENTEN REMINDERS - FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009 and Good Friday, April 10, 2009 are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled.

Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind. *Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110.*

The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. 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 (canons 97 and 1252).

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of the Holy Father may be simply paraphrased: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or "substantially," the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious.

People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion.

Got Mulch? Sacred Heart Boy Scout Troop 967 is selling Ohio Mulch products in 2.0 cubic foot bags. Premium Dark Hardwood is \$3.50 per bag; Cypress is \$3.80 per bag; and Pine Bark is \$3.80 per bag. Mulch will be delivered to your home or business for a \$5 fee, or can be picked up at the Sacred Heart School parking lot 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 3, and 9 a.m.-noon Sat. April 4. All products are pre-ordered. For questions or to place an order, call John Kiesewetter, 829-5345, or Steve Gilbert, 829-0141, by March 10.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 968 Hamilton Friday Fish Fry Buffet during Lent Starting February 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. Includes fish, salad, various side dishes, desserts, soft drinks and coffee. Cost is \$9.95 per adult and \$5.45 for children under 10.



Saturday, February 21st Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
 5:00 p.m. For the Intentions of Bob & Phyllis Palmieri on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday, February 22nd Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of Amber Mitchell
Monday, February 23rd Polycarp, bishop & martyr
 7:15 a.m. Ruth Huentelman (Anthony & Sue Angilecchia)
Tuesday, February 24th Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Finan (Mark Finan)
Wednesday, February 25th Ash Wednesday
 8:00 a.m. James Becker (Family)
 7:00 p.m. Rose Toerner (The Huff Family)
Thursday, February 26th Lenten Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Communion Service
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton
Friday, February 27th Lenten Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Berdena Young (Deanna Young)
Saturday, February 28th First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
 5:00 p.m. Dick Roesch (Mark & Jeannette Staarmann)
Sunday, March 1st First Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
 10:30 a.m. Clifford Poppel – Birthday Remembrance (Family)

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
02/15/2009	\$ 7,918.53
Shortfall	\$ (4,153.47)
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 398,376.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 314,804.94
Shortfall	\$ (83,571.06)

ST, ANN STEWARDSHIP FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

As a result of the open parish stewardship kick-off meeting last fall, the Stewardship Finance Subcommittee was formed with this charter:

The primary purpose of the stewardship Finance Subcommittee is to assist St. Ann Parish by working to increase financial revenues through the establishment of programs and coordinated efforts to raise operating income and capital. Our vision is to build a sustained level of financial solvency through ordinary operating income and extra-ordinary revenue efforts. We will also assist the parish with financial decisions, both individually and collectively, by providing guidance on the principles of financial stewardship.

Chaired by Mark Hingsbergen, the subcommittee meets on the third Tuesday of each month and has already developed a list of projects and priorities. During the next several months, the committee will be working to advance these projects and will be communicating progress to the parish. We hope that you will embrace our ideas with feedback and participation. Our primary focus will be on increasing operating revenues by helping to "magnify" existing income sources (and perhaps adding some new ones).

If you would like to participate in the work of this important subcommittee, please contact Mark at 856-8945.