



The reading from the Book of Genesis describes the first covenant in the Bible. The word for "covenant" is *berith*, and it denotes a binding contract. A contract can be unilateral or bilateral. In the former, duties are only required of one party, and in the latter duties are required of both parties in order to fulfill the stipulations of the contract. The Sinai covenant in Exodus 20-24 is an example of a bilateral covenant. God promises what God will do for the people. In turn, in order to live up to their end of the contract, the people have the Ten Commandments and a number of laws specific to certain situations. If either party fails to live up to its obligations, the covenant may become null and void.

This is not the type of covenant we hear about today. The first contract God makes is with Noah, his descendants, and with "every living creature." It is a unilateral contract. Nothing is required of people, only of God. The implication is that this covenant cannot be broken because, unlike what is often the case with people, God is faithful.

This covenant is a pledge never again to destroy the earth by a flood, as had just occurred in the time of Noah. The rainbow is given as a sign of this covenant.

This covenant allows time and space for humanity and all creatures to develop. It is the expression of the commitment of the God who nurtures life. That the animals are also included is noteworthy. Scholars call the authors of today's reading from Genesis the Priestly editors. In other writings in Genesis that are attributed to them, these editors have exhibited a concern that animals be treated with care in recognition that they are also creatures of God. This first covenant in the Bible binds both people and animals in the overarching care of God the Creator.

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

Readings for the Week of March 1, 2009

Sunday	First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25;1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	Saint Katharine Drexel, virgin Is 55:10-11; Ps 34; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Saint Casimir Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Saints Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soup and Bread- Please join us in the cafeteria on Fridays during Lent for soup and bread at 5:30 followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Do you have a favorite meatless soup or bread you would like to share? Please call Connie Jacquemin at 860-2653. Dates for Soup and Bread: March 13, and March 27.

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. On the First Fridays, March 6 and April 3, they will be held after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

St. Raphael's needs our help! . St. Ann's will be collecting food and personal care and household items every weekend during Lent. **First Friday- March 6th** - 5:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m. Mass. Following Mass, Devotions (Exposition, Stations of the Cross, Benediction)

St. Ann's Lenten Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

P.A.C. Annual Lenten Fish Fry will be held Friday, March 20th in the school cafeteria.

Spruce up your Catholic Faith this Lent by participating in an adult faith formation program with Deacon Mike Mignery. Deacon Mike will be teaching and moderating a Dr. Stephen Ray and Defending the Faith Series. How do we speak about our Faith when someone asks us? Meetings will be March 19th and March 26th, from 7pm to 8:30pm, in the school cafeteria.

The C.R.E.W. Youth Group will be selling reasonably priced crucifixes throughout Lent as a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School this year. We will be located at the main entrance of church after Mass, or in the parking lot if the weather is nice. Also look for us at the Lenten Soup and Bread Dinners, First Friday Masses, and the Fish Fry. Please support the VBS program! Crucifixes are a must for every Catholic home, and make wonderful gifts for Confirmation, 1st Communion, and Baptism! We are also looking for donations of large shoeboxes for VBS (we have a "roadtrip" theme, and the shoeboxes will be used as mini-suitcases for the participants). There will be a basket in the main entrance of church to collect these. Thank you so much for your support. For more information, contact Erin Hingsbergen at 513-856-8945.

5:00 p.m. Mass is in need of someone or several people to lead the Rosary, usually at least 20 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass. If you are interested, please let Fr. Mondiek know. *Thank you.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, March 1st

- 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

Monday, March 2nd

- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 11:30 a.m. Rosary Society luncheon at Frisch's

Wednesday, March 4th

- 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday, March 5th

- 6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907

Saturday, March 7th

- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Confessions
- 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass

Sunday, March 8th

- 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
- 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
- 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

March Rosary Society Luncheon We will meet at the Frisch's on Dixie Highway in Hamilton at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday March 3rd. Hope to see you there.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION - ST ANN PARISHIONERS:

In order for ST. ANN PARISHIONERS to secure a spot in our KINDERGARTEN for the 2009-10 year, you must have your child's name on our register by Friday, March 13, 2009. Beginning on Monday, March 15th we will begin to accept registration for students from other parishes. Once those names are accepted, they will be guaranteed a spot in next year's Kindergarten class.

ST. ANN SCHOOL NEWS

Our 6th Grade has put together six handmade quilts that we will be selling raffle tickets for. They will have the tickets available after Masses on the weekend of March 7th & 8th. The profit from the quilt raffle will help pay the bus expense for our students going to share Mass with the residents of Schroder Manor. The tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets are also available anytime in the school office. Thanks in advance for your support!

The Cleansing Power of Water

Today's first reading speaks to us of Noah's Ark. The flood that God sent upon the world in Noah's day was a cleansing of evil. Now, God cleanses us not by floods, but by the waters of baptism, which bring to us a whole new kind of life: the life of God within us.

Our special efforts in Lent to come closer to God are a response to what has already happened to us! Because we have received the new life of God, we have to reform our lives and live as his sons and daughters. We have to become who we already are. The holy water we use when we come in and out of Church is a reminder of the cleansing waters of baptism, and a reminder of the new life we are called to live.

God is a God of life, and therefore we are the People of Life. This Lent, let's look for ways to foster respect for life, especially the sick, the disabled, and the unborn.



Saturday, February 28th

- 5:00 p.m. Dick Roesch (Mark & Jeannette Staarmann)

Sunday, March 1st

- 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
- 10:30 a.m. Clifford Poppel - Birthday Remembrance (Family)

Monday, March 2nd

- 7:15 a.m. Florence Saurber (Jenny & Ashley Westrick)

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 7:15 a.m. Carl Solazzo - 2nd Anniversary (Mickey)

Wednesday, March 4th

- 7:15 a.m. Dortha Gifford (David & Sandra Hartman)

Thursday, March 5th

- 7:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton

Friday, March 6th

- 8:00 a.m. Daniel Kelley - Birthday Remembrance (Mother)
- 7:00 p.m. Eugene Pater

Saturday, March 7th

- 7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
- 5:00 p.m. Paul Sherlock - Birthday Remembrance (Wife)

Sunday, March 8th

- 8:00 a.m. John H. Meador, Jr.
- 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
02/22/2009	\$
Shortfall	\$ ()
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 398,376.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 314,804.94
Shortfall	\$ (83,571.06)

* Figures not available at the time of this printing.

ABITIBI	\$ 83.14
Landfill space saved in cubic yards:	17.25

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.

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