

CREATE

a clean heart in me, O GOD.

The first reading today describes the new covenant that Jeremiah sees as the one effective answer to the human condition. What can be done, the prophet laments, when sinful behavior has become so crystallized by habit that reform seems impossible?

Jeremiah is not sanguine about humanity's ability to follow unaided the dictates of the law. In image after vivid image throughout his book he has shown how set in their sinful ways the people have become. They seem to have lost all ability to change. Thus, he says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin? / the leopard his spots? / As easily would you be able to do good, / accustomed to evil as you are" (13:23). Jeremiah calls the people evil, refusing to hear God's word and instead "walk[ing] in the stubbornness of their hearts" (13: 10; cf. 18: 12). It is this recalcitrance that causes God to mourn the "pernicious thoughts" within the people and to claim that their conversions are half-hearted (4: 14; 3: 10). Their heart remains "stubborn and rebellious" with the result that "they turn and go away" (5:23). The sorry state of the people's continued bad behavior leads Jeremiah to conclude: "More tortuous than all else is the human heart, / beyond remedy" (17:9).

Today's passage from the book of Jeremiah is God's response to this desperate state of affairs. God speaks of days that are coming in which God will give the people a new covenant unlike the one that they broke in the past. This covenant will be unbreakable because it will be written not on tablets of stone but rather on the hearts of the people. The image conveys a realignment of the orientation that so perverts their actions; they will be aligned now with God's orientation.

Today we hear of the inner transformation that God can accomplish even when our dispositions themselves are our worst enemies.

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

Readings for the Week of March 29, 2009

Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Monday	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Ps 23; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	Saint Francis of Paola, hermit Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105; Jn 8:51-59
Friday	Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	Saint Isidore, bishop, doctor Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

KROGER GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER The St. Ann Gift Certificate Committee will be selling Kroger gift cards after the Palm Sunday Masses. The card costs \$1.00 and can be reloaded. The more you reload, the more our parish earns. We urge you to support this very important fundraiser.

St. Ann Finance Committee is looking for new members. Please prayerfully consider joining this important Church ministry. If you are interested, please let Fr. Mondiek know.

St. Raphael's needs our help! St. Ann's will be collecting food and personal care and household items every weekend during Lent.

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. We are also looking for donations of large shoeboxes for VBS. 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.

ST. ANN CENTENNIAL 5K Run / Walk packets are now available. The race will take place Saturday, May 16, 2009. They are available on our website: www.stanncc.org, by email or can be picked up at the school or parish office. Need to get in shape for this? The St. Ann Walking group meets each Saturday in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

Wisdom of the Ages Tertullian, a Christian writer who died in the third century, wrote the following: "Thus, you read the word of God, spoken to Jeremias: "Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee." If God forms us in the womb, He also breathes on us as He did in the beginning: "And God formed man and breathed into him the breath of life." Nor could God have known man in the womb unless he were a whole man. "And before thou camest forth from the womb, I sanctified thee." Was it, then, a dead body at that stage? Surely it was not, for "God is the God of the living and not the dead." - De Anima 26.5

ST. ANN SCHOOL NEWS Our annual Mission Week was a very successful one. This year the 8th grade chose the American Cancer Society as our benefactor. All the students brought in their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and bills to add to the money jugs. By the end of the week, the school had collected \$1481.12 for the Cancer Society. Thanks to all who made this year's Mission Week such a success. Congratulations are due to several students also. The St. Ann Respect Life Group challenged the 7th and 8th graders to design a banner that the group would use at marches and other events. Several students drew sketches and wrote slogans for the banner, and the results are: Nathan Moss, 1st Place, Cori Maurits, 2nd Place and Caroline Beckman, 3rd Place. Nathan's sketch will be used on the banner, and Cori's will be used in brochures and other Respect Life literature. The winners of the Notre Dame High School Alumnae Scholarship which is open to any 8th grade girl attending Badin High School have been announced. Two St. Ann students, Zahra Boggs and Morgan Parks, are the 1st and 2nd Place winners out of 24 applicants. Each will receive \$500 toward their high school tuition. Lauren Donges, the current Safety Patrol Captain, will be inducted into the Ohio AAA Safety Patrol Hall of Fame. This honor is given to 10 safety patrol participants out of over 6000 students who participate statewide. She will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Columbus on April 25th. Congratulations to all! You make all of us so proud!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, March 29th

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
Coffee hour after the 8 a.m. mass in the school cafeteria
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
Coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. mass in the school cafeteria

Wednesday, April 1st

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

Thursday, April 2nd

6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907

Saturday, April 4th

8:30 a.m. St. Ann's Walking Group (parking lot)
 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass

Sunday, April 5th

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

Morning of Reflection *presented by St. Ann Rosary Society.*

Wednesday, April 1, 2009; 9:30 a.m. until noon at St. Ann Church.

Thanks - the Rosary Society thanks all those who contributed desserts for the Fish Fry. They were all great. We appreciate your support.

Attention St. Ann Alumni We need your help! We are in the process of contacting St. Ann Alumni to keep everyone updated about our Centennial celebrations and other current events at St. Ann's. Please contact us at StAnnAlumni2009@yahoo.com or call Holly Moran (896-7360) or Ruth Madden (288-2385). As part of our celebration, we are collecting photos of each graduating class. If you have a copy of the following years, please let us know: 1979, 1980, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2002, 2007, and 2008. Also, we need all graduation class photos prior to 1979. Thank you for your help!

Queen of Peace School in Millville is seeking a principal. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic, must have a State of Ohio Elementary Principal License, and must hold or be working toward Religious Certification through the Archdiocese. The full ad may be viewed at www.catholiccincinnati.org/schools/admin_openings. Interested persons should send their letter of introduction, resume and references to: Principal Search Committee Queen of Peace Parish 2550 Millville Avenue Hamilton, OH 45013
 Or, E-mail: pastor@qpchurch.org



In Memoriam

Please remember in your prayers the following members of St. Ann Parish who have been buried from our church recently:

Florence Saurber, Walter Reasch, Charlotte Stangret,
 Richard Roesch, Sylvia Williman, Sue Deuser, Julia Parsons,
 Therese Fontaine, Thomas Pottenger, Theresa Reumann,
 William Kirchoff, Helen Keller and Dorothy Fiehrer.

"Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."



Saturday, March 28th	Fifth Sunday of Lent
5:00 p.m.	Frank Bach - Birthday Remembrance (Family)
Sunday, March 29th	Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of St. Ann People
10:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of Faith & Ayden Hingsbergen
Monday, March 30th	Lenten Weekday
7:15 a.m.	Florence Saurber
Tuesday, March 31st	Lenten Weekday
7:15 a.m.	Rose Toerner - Birthday Remembrance (Joan Betscher)
Wednesday, April 1st	Lenten Weekday
7:15 a.m.	For the Intentions of Carol Bell (husband)
Thursday, April 2nd	Lenten Weekday
7:15 a.m.	Communion Service
8:00 a.m.	Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton
Friday, April 3rd	First Friday
8:00 a.m.	Sylvia Williman (Neal & Rosemary Sackenheim)
7:00 p.m.	Dick Schmidt - Birthday Remembrance (Barbara)
Saturday, April 4th	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
7:30 a.m.	Intentions of the Celebrant
5:00 p.m.	Robert Kelley - Birthday Remembrance (Family)
Sunday, April 5th	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of St. Ann People
10:30 a.m.	For the Intentions of Tammie Brown

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
03/22/2009	\$ 7,155.35
Shortfall	\$ (4,916.65)
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 458,736.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 359,571.71
Shortfall	\$ (99,164.29)

FIRST FRIDAY MASS ST. ANN CHURCH
 April 3, 2009
 Confessions 5:30 -6:30
 Mass 7:00 p.m.
 Stations of the Cross to follow

Special Mother's Day Celebration - JOHNETTE BENKOVIC, producer of EWTN's The Abundant Life and host of Women of Grace Live, will share her insights on Spiritual Motherhood. Bring your mother or friend on Saturday, May 9 to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Norwood, OH. Donation \$40 for the day. Go to www.olhsc.org to register or call 513-351-9800.

St. Mary/St. Stephen Cemeteries is looking for seasonal help. Job includes foundation preparations, grass cutting, assisting with burials and general maintenance. Call the cemetery office Monday thru Friday @737-1600 for more information.

The sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning is being taught at St. Susanna in the Rectory Basement located on Fourth Avenue next to the St. Susanna School, beginning Sunday, April 5th at 2:00 p.m. This monthly course teaches a natural method of family planning that is safe, effective, and morally acceptable. The method has been simplified, and the course consists of three monthly sessions. For more information or to register, call Tom & Colleen O'Rourke at 398-3116 or visit the Couple to Couple League at www.ccli.org.