

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Fr. Buersmeyer's column appears on page 6.

BUCKS-FOR-BAGS

This is our parish-wide Lenten project. Grocery bags available with a list attached of items to be donated. SS. John & Paul will match each filled bag that is returned with one dollar. See Page 5 for details.

COMING IN MAY...

...*"Finding Peace and Purpose in Our Retirement Years"*. The Vocations Committee will be presenting a series of 4 evenings to share wisdom and support on how such retirement years can be a gift from God. Mark your calendars for May 11, 18, June 1, 8.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

See what's "New and Noteworthy", read past issues of our bulletin, find links to other sites. Go online and see for yourself — www.ssjohnandpaul.org. Please visit our website weekly to keep abreast of what's new and noteworthy.



Lenten Vicariate Mission Begins This Friday!

The kick-off for the Lenten Mission is this Friday, March 13, with the David Haas concert. The concert has been sold out—a great beginning! Join us here in the Activities Center at 6:00 p.m. for a soup and bread meal and carpool afterward if you wish to SS. John Vianney where the concert will take place. Even if you do not have a ticket for the concert, please join us for the meal.

Morning Mass

Morning weekday masses will be rotated throughout the parishes of the vicariate beginning on Monday, March 16. Mass that day will be here at SS. John and Paul at 9:00 a.m. It will be a "Teaching Mass" led by Fr. Buersmeyer (**please note that there will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass here**). **This 9:00 a.m. Mass will be the only Mass that day here or in the vicariate.** Monday morning's Mass will be followed by hospitality and the opportunity to meet people from other parishes. Mass for the vicariate for the rest of the week will be at 9:00 a.m. as follows: March 17 at St. Mary Mystical Rose in Armada, March 18 at St. Clement of Rome in Romeo, and March 19 at St. Francis of Assisi-St. Maximilian Kolbe in Ray Township. Maps to these parishes are available on the table in the hallway to the Activities Center.

Quick Meal and Carpool

Monday through Thursday nights, at 6:00 p.m. during the Mission, a simple meal will be set out for those who would like to grab a quick bite before that evening's presentation. Even if you don't wish to dine, you are welcome to stop at church at 6:30 p.m. to check availability for carpooling. The evening presentation on March 16 will be given by Bishop Daniel Flores on "*Becoming Church*" and will be held at 7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence Parish.

Watch the bulletin for further information on the mission and keep referring to the "Onward to the Kingdom" brochure (available in the hallway to the Activities Center). Be a part of something special. Don't miss it!!

Here's what's happening this week!

Monday, March 9:

- *Mass at 7:00 p.m.
- *6:30 p.m. Gr. 1-6 GRACE Catechist Planning
- *7:45 p.m. Adult Bells

Tuesday, March 10:

- *Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- *5:00 p.m. Jr. Choir
- *5:45 p.m. Jr. Bells
- *7:00 p.m. Community Garden Meeting
- *7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Session

Wednesday, March 11:

- *Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- *6:30 p.m. Eucharist Parent/Child Session #3 — Bread Baking
- *7:00 p.m. Christian Service

Thursday, March 12:

- *6:30 p.m. Eucharist Parent/Child Session #3 — Break Baking
- *7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Friday, March 13:

- *6:00 p.m. Soup and Carpooling to David Haas Concert at SJV

Saturday, March 14:

- *8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group
- *2:00 p.m. Gr. 7-12 Service Project Sing-a-Long at Romeo Nursing Center
- *3:00 p.m. Confessions
- *5:00 p.m. Mass

Regular Parish Office Hours

- Mon. - Wed. — 9 :00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Thursday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday—12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Lenten Fridays

You are invited to join us for our Lenten Friday experiences

- March 13:** Meal of soup and bread beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by going to St. John Vianney for the special vicariate concert event with David Haas.
- March 20:** Meal of soup and bread beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross
- March 27:** Monthly G.R.A.C.E. beginning with a meal at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome...registration is necessary. Topic is the Passion of Christ
- April 3:** Meal of soup and bread beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by speaker, Julie Kavanagh, of the Macomb County Community Service Agency
- April 10:** Good Friday — Stations of the Cross at 12 noon, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross beginning at 1:00 p.m.

E-Cycling News

Are you looking for a place to recycle outdated or unused electronics? Two local sites recently began recycling electronic items (e-waste): Pine Tree Acres, 36600 29 Mile Road Lenox Twp. and Best Buy in Utica. Both locations will take TV's and monitors (up to 32" at Best Buy), computers, laptops, VCR's, DVD players, remotes, small electronics and accessories. Fees are charged as follows:



- Best Buy: Anything with a screen will be charged \$10/item, but recyclers will receive a \$10 coupon in return (up to two items per person, per day)
- Pine Tree Acres: reprocessing fees range from \$15-\$50 per item, with NO fee charged for any Sony, LG, Zenith or Goldstar product. Pine Tree Acres accepts e-waste on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 7a.m. to noon.

E-waste is hazardous to the environment, so please do your part by properly disposing of unwanted electronics.

" All that is of earth returns to earth, and what is from above returns above"
Sirach 40:11



Welcome to the Family

The following people registered at SS. John and Paul Parish during the month of February, 2009. We welcome: Lori DiNello; Nikola and Flutura Gjonaj and their children David, Pjeter, and Joseph; James and Kristen Hine and their children Jamie, Brittany, Lyndsay and Tyler; David Jenkins; Chacko and Annamma Kalarickal; Scott and Beth Kolf and their children Alexis and Ian; Laurence and Elizabeth Lantz; Sebastiano and Frances Mannino; Renate McSween; Mary Richardson; Rachael Richardson and her child Vivien; and Donald Smith.

2008-2009 Religious Formation Program

G.R.A.C.E.

Parish Formation Program
For all ages

September—May

EARLY CHILDHOOD

3 1/2 to 5 yrs. old
Sundays 9:30 a.m.
October—April

For more information on either programs above, or for any other adult formation or preparation for sacraments please call the Formation Office at 586.781.9488.



Preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist Parent/Child Session #3

BREAD BAKING

Wednesday or Thursday, March 11 OR March 12 6:30 p.m.

Please call to sign up for an evening of your choice.

BRING WITH YOU....

In a zip-lock baggie large enough to mix the following ingredients bring:

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. sugar
- 1-1/2 tbsp. shortening

Don't forget!

Call to sign up for your interview.

Growing

Responding

As

Catholics

Everyday

**This Month:
MARCH 22, 24, 25, 27
6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Theme:
The Passion

Catechetical Area:
Growing as Sacramental People

Event:
Palm Sunday

We will journey together this month to:

- understand the Passion narrative
- appreciate the main characters and motivation of the key participants
- be able to better participate in a meaningful way in the story of the Passion.



Menu:
Meatless Pasta & Salad



Next G.R.A.C.E.
April 26, 28, 29, May 1
Theme: Images of God



As We Enter Our Second Week of Lent...

...it is good to be reminded that God is rich in mercy to us and that we should therefore be merciful to others. It is great to remember that exalting ourselves is dangerous and that there will be consequences for our mistreatment of the poor. We are like tenants of our Father's gifts to us. We can ask ourselves if we use them gratefully and return the fruits that our Lord desires, or do we reject the prophetic words that come to us? Do we reject Jesus himself? Our prayer this week might be: "Dear Lord, give me the grace to recognize my impatience, anger and judgment today. Help to soften my heart to hear your love."

From the Music Desk ... Talent Call!

Our parish is extremely fortunate to have dozens of talented musicians who offer their talents as cantors, singers, hand bell ringers and instrumentalists. We are particularly proud of our Contemporary Ensemble whose members work hard to interpret and accompany the music of our parish in fresh, creative, and lively ways.

At this time we are interested in inviting additional players to become a part of the ensemble. If you play an instrument, particularly guitar or drums, please consider joining this important ministry. The ensemble's leadership is an essential part of the worship life of our parish and would welcome some additional talent.

Feel free to talk with Al Eppens or any member of the ensemble if you are interested, or you can leave a message with the church office at 586.781.9010.



Community Garden

Don't worry if you missed our informational meeting—we are having a second meeting soon! Join us on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. as we continue to plan our new vegetable garden. We hope to grow vegetables for donation to Samaritan House. Many hands will be needed in the upcoming months to prepare and maintain our garden. We will place sign up sheets on the bulletin boards when it gets closer to work days. **Any** amount of time that you are able to participate will be appreciated.

For now, keep checking the bulletin boards, website and parish bulletin. Remember the community garden when you purchase your vegetable seeds or plants. We will soon have instructions on donation location and times for any seeds or vegetable plants that you may want to contribute in helping to supply our garden.

God also said, "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food..." Genesis 1:29



Grade 9-12 Teens

- Teen session this Sunday, March 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please bring a friend and join us.
- Teens in grade 9-12 are invited to attend an evening at St. John Vianney with the NETT Team on March 27. We will leave from SS. John and Paul at approximately 4:30 p.m. and return at 11:15 p.m. Cost will be \$5.00 and will include dinner. Call Mrs. Peters if you have questions at 586.781.9488.
- Need teens in 9-12 grade to sign up to help with the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. We will practice for the Stations on April 5.
- Weekend retreat for grades 9-12 at St. Benedict's. We will leave from SS. John and Paul at approximately 7:00 p.m. on April 3 and return on Sunday, April 5, at approximately 1:00 p.m. Permission slips will be available at the meeting this Sunday. Call Mrs. Peters if you have questions.

Attention Future Confirmation Candidates!

- There will be a meeting for all parents and future confirmation candidates that have completed their two year preparation on March 4 and March 10 at 7:00 p.m. It is mandatory that one parent and the teen be present at one of the meetings. This meeting will give you and your teen a lot of information to pray about, think about, and then decide if this is the proper time for your candidate to receive this Sacrament. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and answering all your questions at that time. If you do have questions or concerns before the meeting, please give Mrs. Peters a call at 586-781-9488.



7-12 Grade Service Project

- Please sign up on the bulletin board to attend the Sing-A-Long at the Romeo Nursing Home on Saturday, March 14. We will gather here at 2:00 p.m. and car pool to the nursing home where we will share some great old songs along with a puppet show. The teens will arrive back here at SS. John and Paul and are encouraged to attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass. We hope you can give up a little of your time to join us in this very rewarding day. Questions, please call Mrs. Peters at 586.781.9488.

Country Breakfast

Knights of Columbus Council #7018 is hosting a Country Breakfast today, March 8, at St. Clement of Rome following the 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. morning Masses. The menu includes eggs, pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy, sausages, potatoes and beverages. Cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.50 for children. Proceeds for the support of various charities. All are welcome.



**March is...
Red Cross Month**

Every year since 1943, the U.S. President declares March as Red Cross Month to recognize Red Cross humanitarian efforts and encourage support from the American people. The Red Cross is asking southeast Michigan to continue their generosity through gifts of time, money, and blood to ensure that life-saving programs and services are delivered where and when they are needed.

**One way you can help is...
GIVE BLOOD**

When you donate a single unit of blood, you can save up to three lives. Donating blood takes less than an hour and is relatively painless and you can donate every 56 days. To donate blood you must be in good health, weigh 110 pounds or more and be at least 17 years old.

**SS. JOHN & PAUL
IS HOSTING AN
AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please sign up on the Blood Donor Schedule at church, call the parish office, or type in www.givelife.org and enter our church code, **ssjpch**, to schedule an appointment. **Each donor MAKES A DIFFERENCE.** Thank you!



Bakers Needed

We are in need of homemade cookies for our upcoming blood drive on March 15. If you can donate two dozen cookies, please call the office and let us know!

**Thanks from Macomb County's
Department of Senior Citizen Services**

Dear SS. John & Paul Parish Members,

On behalf of the Macomb County Department of Senior Services I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$50.00. Your commitment to helping low income seniors in our community receive fresh fruit and produce through Senior Project Fresh is sincerely appreciated.

Each year our department continues to advance its mission of helping seniors in Macomb County. Through our programs we have seen many lives changed for the better.

The goal of the Macomb County Department of Senior Services is to continue to make a difference in the lives of the senior citizens of Macomb County. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements.

Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts to expand the Senior Project Fresh Program.

Sincerely,

Robin Auten ,
Certified Information and Referral Specialist for Aging



Drivers Needed for Food Pantry Deliveries

We are in need of drivers to deliver our Lenten weekly food collections to the local pantries. Delivery days would be four weeks of Monday mornings and two weeks of Tuesday mornings during Lent. The time commitment would be 1—2 hours. There will be light to moderate lifting of grocery bags. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please call Kathy in the parish office.



**—Parish Wide Lenten Project—
“Bucks for Bags”**



This Lenten season, SS. John & Paul will sponsor a weekly food drive to benefit our local food pantries. The post-Christmas season is typically a time of bare shelves for most food pantries. This year, coupled with our economic downturn, the need for food and commodities is even greater. This weekly food drive is not to be confused with our occasional “Bag-a-Lot” drive for Agape or “Adopt-a-Bag” for Samaritan House.

Here is how “Bucks for Bags” will work. Each of the six weekends of Lent we will have grocery bags available in the hallway to the Activities Center with a list attached of items to be donated. SS. John & Paul will match each filled bag that is returned with one dollar. That week a local food pantry will not only receive the bags of food, but also a check from SS. John & Paul in the amount of bags donated, to use where needed.

The three local food pantries who will benefit from these food drives are **St. Francis/St. Maximilian Kolbe** in New Haven, **The Agape Center Food Pantry** (also known as the North Macomb Vicariate Food Pantry) in Romeo and **Samaritan House** in Washington Township.

Bags will be available until March 28/29.

Pastor's Perspective

*MARCH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please remember that our March whole community G.R.A.C.E. sessions will take place the last week of the month, beginning Sunday, March 22. The general catechetical area is "Growing as Sacramental People"; **the specific theme is 'Identifying with the Passion Story'**. We read two versions of that passion story in Holy Week. On Palm Sunday (technically called Passion Sunday), we will hear at all the Masses the Passion according to Mark. On Good Friday at the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, we will hear the Passion according to John. The goal of our March G.R.A.C.E. session is to help us better identify with some of the main persons mentioned in the passion. We think you will find it interesting and informative and we hope it will make the readings on Palm Sunday and Good Friday come alive for you.

Another opportunity is to participate in the North Macomb Vicariate's Lenten Mission "Onward to the Kingdom," which begins this Friday. The concert for that evening is sold out. But we will have our Friday soup and bread along with the Stations of the Cross, beginning at 6:00 PM. The mission continues Monday through Thursday, March 16-March 19. Each morning there will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. at one of the vicariate parishes, followed by a re-cap and discussion of the previous evening's presentation, for those who could not be there or who want to discuss things further.

Since Monday morning has nothing to re-cap, the whole vicariate will celebrate the Eucharist here at SS. John and Paul at 9:00 a.m. as a "Teaching Mass," which I will lead. This will be followed by a time for discussion and hospitality. Encourage people who are able to have Monday morning free to come. NB: there will be no Monday evening Mass or Tuesday and Wednesday morning Masses at the parish next week. All are asked to attend the morning Mass at the one parish hosting for that morning.

In the evenings there will be a major talk given at one of the area parishes, beginning at 7:00 p.m. These are free and open to all. Each is independent and so if you can only attend one or two that is fine. The mission culminates with a Thursday 7:00 p.m. Mass led by Bishop Daniel Flores, and followed by some fun entertainment and food.

*DIVORCE AND REMARRIED CATHOLICS (CONTINUED)

I think I have emphasized enough the fact that divorce does not change a person's status in the Church. And, divorced and remarried persons, even if they have not sought a church annulment for prior marriages, are considered members of the Church, are not excommunicated, have the same responsibility to be at Sunday Eucharist and participate in the life of community where possible. That's the most important point. The good news.

The difficult news is the fact that if one is divorced and remarried and no Church annulment has been granted for previous marriages, then the Church's official norm is for such a person to refrain from receiving communion. Come and participate in the Sunday Eucharist. But do not receive communion. For many this seems like an arbitrary human-made rule and even a punishment and so they stop coming and even join other churches that seem more welcoming. Go to any of the non-denominational churches in the area. Filled with Catholics or ex-Catholics who are divorced and remarried. Moreover, one shares the public status of one's partner. So if just one of the spouses is divorced and remarried, even if the other has only been married this once, the Church considers the couple to be in a publicly unacceptable position and so both are asked not to come to communion. A few comments on this.

First, the intent behind this rule is not a punishment or desire to punish. Rather, the Church takes very seriously the public act of professing vows of marriage between a husband and a wife,

whether done in the Church or not, whether by Christians, other religions, or atheists. It is seen as a bond that connects to God's plan for furthering creation and building human community. As the words of many marriage ceremonies state: "What God has joined, we must not divide." As a bond which reflects something of God, it is not enough for one or both to simply renounce the vows and divorce at a later date. If that were sufficient, it would mean that vows never can have any real effect. Instead they would simply be hopeful dreams or wishes: "I wish and hope that I can love and honor you all the days of my life."

Secondly, marriage is a public act. The human community does not allow a couple to simply announce a divorce and marry someone else. They must go through a public process. Only at the end of that process, once the court accepts the justice of the division of assets, an acceptable arrangement of child custody and such, is a divorce granted. At that point a person is free to enter into another civil marriage, and many eventually do. But what about the bond created by God, if such a bond ever existed? Do the civil courts have the authority to declare that such a bond never existed? No, that is a religious matter. Thus, to get a civil divorce does not automatically open up the possibility of another marriage bond in the eyes of God. It is not so surprising, then, that there is a church process that tries to address this question.

The crux of the matter for churches is how does one properly uphold the dignity of marriage, its permanence, its call for fidelity and openness to children and the commitment it takes to raise children and at the same time allow for the fact that many marriages are entered into, at least by one of the couple if not both, with less than fully mature understandings of the real effort and work marriage takes? Many non-denominational and Protestant Churches leave it to the individuals themselves to decide. But that has not been the practice of the Church from its beginning. If the Church has blessed the marriage, the

Church has been involved in what happens to that marriage. The Orthodox Church leaves it to the pastor to work with the remarried couple. Only if it is a case of some extreme situation do they seek annulments for a prior marriage. Otherwise, even though they do not bless the second or subsequent marriage, they do not usually forbid the divorced and remarried person from receiving communion.

The Catholic Church, partly due to its Roman roots and connection to the Roman legal system, worked out a tribunal system for determining whether the earlier marriage(s) reasonably could be held to be bonded by God. If not, then a Church annulment could be granted. [Aside: a Church annulment, **not** a civil annulment. It does **not** mean the couple was never married. Yes, they were legally married in eyes of the state and so children born of the marriage are not “illegitimized” by a church annulment.] Such an annulment says that, though on the surface one presumed a permanent bond was established by God, due to the specific circumstances of how the marriage was entered into and lived out, no such bond should be presumed. The person with such a Church annulment is free to seek another public marriage in the eyes of God and community. Without such an annulment, any prior marriage, no matter with whom or how it was entered into, is considered, unless otherwise shown, to be a permanently bonded marriage. That holds for Catholics married in the Church, Catholics married outside the Church, non-Catholics, anyone.

What if I don't “believe in” the Church's system and don't care whether my prior marriage(s) is annulled and decide to come to communion anyway? In some ways I would rather have people make this choice than to leave the Church. But a couple of pastoral comments. We are always to follow the judgment of our well-formed conscience. So, if this decision does come from such a well-formed conscience, it is to be respected. Part of a well-formed conscience decision, however, is to try to embrace the wisdom of the community of faith on a particular matter. If someone simply dismisses out of hand

any annulment process, without being willing to explore it, then it is difficult for me to see how a well-formed decision of conscience will follow. Why so resistant to letting the annulment process unfold? Why not allow a process to unfold that over time might allow your new situation to be publicly embraced and blessed by the whole Church?

On the other hand, I can imagine some situations where the annulment process simply will not work; where a couple has conscientiously explored the possibility; where in prayer they believe the present marriage is the one bonded by God for life; and who then come to communion. Yet even here it is not just about one person or a couple, it is about the whole community's embrace of what marriage means. Theoretically, if such a situation began to cause scandal, then as pastor I would have to address it and ask that they refrain from communion. In today's world and typical parish, especially a suburban parish like ours, probably no one is going to be scandalized by such a decision. We rarely know much of anything about most of our parish members, much less their full marital history. But such situations keep one from being fully active in the parish. Public positions like communion ministers and lectors, parish council members and the like cannot be entered into, if it is known, even without scandal, that someone is divorced and remarried without an annulment

Is this Roman Catholic system the best? Probably not. But that system can work better than many believe. It is a system that takes seriously the prior marriage vows as well as the desire to have the current marriage be considered in public as the one marriage bonded for life. Is the annulment process difficult? It can be, but not always. Is the process painful? Yes, in the sense that it does force one to re-think all that led up to and happened in the prior marriage(s). But it can also bring closure and even at times some healing to a painful part of our lives. What is involved in such an annulment process? More on that next time.

***The Transfiguration Image**

The second Sunday of Lent always has one of the gospel stories on the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. It is a way to remind us that if we are willing to journey into the desert with Jesus even if it means being tested (first Sunday of Lent), we can one day share in the glory of Jesus (today's gospel). But it also can be viewed in the reverse order: to share in the glory of Jesus we must be willing to share in his cross and be tested by the crosses in life. The Transfiguration is one of the most depicted gospel scenes by artists over the centuries. I've added links to some of them on our parish's homepage under “New and Noteworthy.” One way to pray this week is to click on one of those images and meditate on that combination of glory yet willingness to do God's will, even if it means taking up a cross. Where is God asking that of us in our life right now?

Fr. Buersmeyer

Jesus Said: “Come, and you will see”

John 1:39

Men's Discernment Weekend

FOR MEN 17 YEARS OF AGE AND
OLDER WHO ARE CONSIDERING
THE PRIESTHOOD

March 26-29, 2009

(Begins at 6:00 p.m. Thursday and
ends around noon on Sunday)

**Sacred Heart Major Seminary
2701 Chicago Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226**

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
With the signature of the Pastor

**Please contact the Vocation
Office to register by Monday,
March 23, 2009
313.237.5875**

Contribution Statements for 2008

Statements have been sent to those families who have contributed \$250 or more during the 2008 calendar year. If you did not contribute \$250 or more during the year and would like a statement, please call the parish office at 586.781.9010 and we will gladly send you one.

Knights Offer Scholarships

Knights of Columbus Council #7018 (representing both St. Clement of Rome and SS. John and Paul Parishes) are offering scholarships that will be awarded to those Catholic students who will be graduating from Romeo High School this June 2009 and those in college through their fourth year (if funds are available). The Council is also offering scholarships for K thru college for attending Catholic schools only.

To obtain applications and a description of the scholarship criteria, call Jim Burns at 586.752.1115 or Ron Stec at 586.752.9180 and applications will be forwarded. All applications should be returned by March 15, 2009 to be considered.

Stewardship

Time
alent
reasure

February 28-March 1, 2009

Weekly budget.....\$11,700.00
 Offertory\$10,902.00
 No. Sunday envelopes used343
Total Offertory.....\$10,902.00

Other Monies / (# Envelopes)

Capital Imprv. / (21)\$295.00
 Children's Env. / (6)\$11.50
 Church in Europe/ (7)\$80.00
 Easter Flowers / (34).....\$565.00

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself "did not spare His own Son." Are our gifts to the Lord—of our resources, time and self—also sacrificial?



Readings for the Week of March 8, 2009

Sunday, March 8:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116;
 Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Monday, March 9:

Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday, March 10:

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday, March 11:

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday, March 12:

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; Lk 16:19-31

Friday, March 13:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105;
 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 14:

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday, March 15:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19;
 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Pray for our sick

Mary Angelosante	Lois Nelson
Alana Aynse	Samantha Nelson
Jennie Barla	Tom O'Donnell
Rita Bayer	Leo Osantoske, Sr.
Mary Burcar	Carl Pallas
Charles Cappellano	Rita Pascoe
Helen Chmielewiski	Monica Payne
Ralph Cleary	Patricia Petriches
John Patrick Cuttle	Ken Petty
Timothy J. Cuttle	Alex Polzin
Gloria Dean	Doris C. Procopio
Chris Del Pappa	Dorothy Puffpaff
Lauren DeNio	Anthony Randazzo
Morris Duhaime	Pat Rea
Vincent Eterno	Marie Richard
Blanche Fredal	Theresa Romero
Danielle Giffin	Albert Sabbe
Geri Hammer	Sylvia Schult
Lora Hardin	Bill Shevela
Ruth Hunsucker	Jeff Simpson
Yolanda Kaufman	Camille Smith
Molly Keffalo	Michelle Smith
John Kerr	Tommasina Smith
Leonard Koskodan	Mary Sorrow
Hayden Kroll	Steven St. John
John LaCroix	Ken Stempien
Jillian Lentine	Barbara Supina
Vito Loconte	Shirley Taylor
Jacob Main	Charlie Trombly
Bernice Mayer	Richard Waluk
Rodney Mayer	Betty Waligore
Antoinette McBain	Patricia Wyatt
Agnes Mehlick	Edward Ziolkowski
Linda Murphy	

Pray for our military



Noel & Greg Ales	Chris Krusinski
Nick Bassett	Teija Kinnunen
Augie Biache III	Paul McGowan
Mike Boback	Matthew McLocklin
Tony Gentilia	David Newberry
Michael Kaminski	Ryan Ribant
David Krzycki	Thomas Schmidt
Jonathon Krusinski	Vincent Titeriga
	Daniel Trendell

Sponsor of the Week

This week's sponsor is **Culinary Expressions Catering**. Please see their full ad on the back of the bulletin. And remember to patronize all of our sponsors because they make this bulletin possible!



Eucharistic Prayer Requests

Saturday and Sunday

March 7-8, 2009

Irene Deutsch by M. Juliano Family
 Clemente Truden by A. Truden
 Julie Maloziec by Pospiech Family
 Tullio Rossi by M. Rossi
 Debora Weaver Conn by W. Weaver Family

Monday, March 9, 2009

Virginia Waligora (1st Ann.)
 by G. Waligora

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Michael Radke by Greenway Family

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Catherine Golenski by Pospiech Family

Saturday and Sunday

March 14-15, 2009

Joseph Orczykowski, Sr. by Family
 Frances Meschini by B. Miller Family
 Daryl Kraemer by Krieg Family
 Ray Hoenle by Family
 Tullio Rossi by M. Rossi

Liturgical appointments for March 14-15, 2009				
Mass	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Celebrant/ Homilist	Fr. Sayes	Fr. Buersmeyer Deacon John	Fr. Sayes	Fr. Buersmeyer
Lectors	N. Peters G. Pagliarella	S. Bawol P. Dobbs	J. Reaume J. Reaume	B. Bachler M. Greenway
Communion Ministers *Captain	A. Peters* K. Peters B. Conlon A. Zotter W. Zotter	Deacon John G. Bawol* M. Capp J. Fannon K. Fannon	R. DiDomenico* P. Fields T. Fletcher B. Gumbleton B. Greenway F. Perna J. Loebis	S. Brunet* E. Goble S. Goble L. Hester J. Martino
Altar Servers	D. Krumholz	—Open—	N. Hepner O. Becker A. Kaniuk	C. Sabath C. Bousho A. Stirzinger
Greeters	C. Hatcher K. Hessler	J. Fannon K. Fannon	P. Fields M. Hoenle	C. Avolio S. Avolio
Ushers	Team #1 R. Pewinski J. Wright D. Smith	Team #3 B. Dale E. Fannon S. Krajewski A. Sova R. Chapman	Team #5 L. Monfils M. Bayer B. Janowiak K. Partyka L. Keast M. Chmielewski	Team #7 R. Kopera L. LePage J. Martino B. Jiannuzzi M. Bytner J. Gehrholz
Collection Counters	Team #5 — Pat & Joe Orczykowski, Lillian Horn, Jim Banaszek, Roberta Mathie, Les & Diane Quick			

SS. John and Paul Parish Directory

7777 W. 28 Mile Road • Washington, MI 48094

Parish Office 586.781.9010
Christian Formation Office 586.781.9488
Fax 586.781.7061
Parish Website www.ssjohnandpaul.org

<p>Weekend Masses</p> <p>Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Weekday Masses</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Monday 9:00 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday</p>
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Parish Registration
 New parishioners may register after each weekend Mass
 or Monday through Friday at the parish office

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturday from 3:00-3:30 p.m. of after 5:00 p.m. Mass

Baptisms
 Please call the parish office for arrangements and parental
 preparation dates. Contact office at least 3 months prior to
 Baptism

Weddings
 Please notify office at least six months (one year if not
 registered) prior to wedding date to arrange for marriage
 preparation

Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. David A. Buersmeyer
pastor@ssjohnandpaul.org

Weekend Assoc. & Founding Pastor Fr. Ron Sayes
Deacon John Wright
jwright@ssjohnandpaul.org

Parish Secretary Mary Ann LaRaia
mlaraia@ssjohnandpaul.org

Business Manager Paula Klozik
pklozik@ssjohnandpaul.org

Pastoral Associate JoAnne Owens
jowens@ssjohnandpaul.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation Linda Bauer
lbauer@ssjohnandpaul.org

**Assoc. Coordinator of Faith Formation
 and Youth Minister** Karen Peters
kpeters@ssjohnandpaul.org

Director of Liturgical Music Alfred John Eppens
ajeppens@netscape.net

Christian Service Coordinator Kathy Mollon
kmollon@ssjohnandpaul.org

Pastoral Associate (in training) Bridget Theodoroff
btheodoroff@ssjohnandpaul.org

Parish Pastoral Council

Shannon Dickens 586.752.9495	Pennie Grover 586.677.1609	Barbara Jarzembksi 586.336.1450	Bob Golochowicz 586.992.0696
Mike Compeau 248.693.5845	Bill Gumbleton 586.336.4862	Howard Loyson 586.781.8305	Margaret Schimmel 248.608.8791
Rick Sabath 586.752.1874	Chris McNeely 248.563.1303	Jim Reaume 586.336.9816	Bill Westrick 586.781.5370