

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Fr. Buersmeyer's article, *Pastor's Perspective*, appears on page 6

LENTEN FRIDAYS

SSJP Activities on the Fridays during Lent. Page 2

LENTEN PROGRAMS AT THE CAPUCHIN RETREAT HOUSE

Four Special evenings of spiritual growth at the Capuchin Retreat House. Page 2

AGE-SPECIFIC CLASSES THIS WEEK

Our next Age-Specific classes are March 5-6. Page 3

PARISH WIDE LENTEN OUTREACH

Two collections during Lent. Page 5

HEALTH BYTES

March 12 at 6:00 p.m.
Topic: Alzheimer's Disease. Page 5

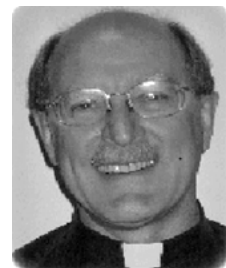
CPR/AED TRAINING

Certification class offered by Health Team Ministry. Page 5

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.

Sinners Only Tonight: Redemption and Forgiveness



Presented by Fr. Mark Miller, Moral Theologian
Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Kieran
(Mound Rd. North of 24 Mile Rd.)

Here is a great opportunity to deepen our Lenten journey. Join Fr. Mark Miller for an evening of reflecting on God's wonderful gift of grace and compassion. Learn what we can do to strengthen our relationship with God.

Born in Edmonton, Canada, Fr. Miller completed his doctorate in moral theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Fr. Mark has experience as a clinical bioethicist, teacher, presenter, and author of books and numerous articles on Bioethics. Currently, he is the Provincial of the English-speaking Redemptorists of Canada, while continuing his clinical ethics work part-time at the Centre for Clinical Ethics at St. Joseph's and St. Michael's Hospitals in Toronto.

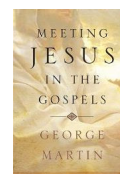
SS. John and Paul is Co-Hosting this event

Reflections on the "Last Words of Jesus"



**Friday, March 9
Soup Dinner
at 6:00 p.m.
Reflection begins
after dinner**

Take some time and fast from all the noise and busyness of life to join us for an evening of reflection and prayer focused on the "Last Words of Jesus" from the Cross. There will be guided reflection as well as some time for quiet meditation.



Meeting Jesus in the Gospels

by George Martin

We are offering several opportunities to choose from if you would like to gather with others to discuss the book. They begin this weekend and will be offered:

Sunday, March 4
after the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Monday, March 5
after the 7:00 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, March 6
after the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Here's what's happening this week!

Monday, March 5:

- *11:30 a.m. Senior Cards
- *4:45 p.m. Age-Specific #7
- *7:00 p.m. Mass
- *7:45 p.m. Worship
- *7:45 p.m. Adult Bells
- *7:45 p.m. Lenten Book Discussion

Tuesday, March 6:

- *9:00 a.m. Mass
- *9:30 a.m. Lenten Book Discussion
- *4:45 p.m. Age-Specific #7
- *5:00 p.m. Junior Bells
- *6:30 p.m. Age-Specific #7
- *7:00 p.m. 8th grade Parent/Teen Confirmation Orientation
- *7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 7:

- *9:00 a.m. Mass
- *9:30 a.m. Art and Environment
- *7:00 p.m. Vicariate Speaker at St. Kierans (Mark Miller)
- *7:00 p.m. First Eucharist Parent/Child Meeting #3

Thursday, March 8:

- *6:00 p.m. Lenten Book Discussion
- *7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
- *7:00 p.m. 7-8 Grade Age-Specific Lesson Planning
- *7:00 p.m. First Eucharist Parent/Child Meeting #3

Friday, March 9:

- *6:00 p.m. Soup and Reflection "The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

Saturday, March 10:

- *8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer
- *9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. 7th Grade Age-Specific
- *12:30 p.m. English as a Second Language
- *1:30-4:30 p.m. 8th Grade Age-Specific
- *3:00 p.m. Confession
- *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 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospels

by George Martin

Martin explores Scripture to reveal how Jesus demonstrates his mercy, comfort, strength, and forgiveness, and how, time and again, he leads us out of our anxieties into his steadfast presence,

The books are available in the office and are free, but if you choose to help defray the cost of the book, just drop the enclosed envelope at the office.

*"What do you think of Jesus?
"Who is He and why was He here?"*



Special Lenten Programs At The Capuchin Retreat House

Spend Tuesday evenings, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., during Lent on the beautiful 95 acres at Capuchin Retreat in Washington. Two special programs "How to Meditate" (March 6 and 13) and How to Read the Scriptures (March 20 and 27) are available for your spiritual growth. To register for any one, or all four, of these programs, contact Rose Ann Miller at 248 651-4826; or check us out on-line at www.capretreat.org.

There is also a special Day of Reflection on March 20 from 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. which includes prayer, conferences, lunch, and personal time for reflection.

For Those Widowed Under 55 Years Of Age

Widowed men and women Under Age 55 are invited meet with "Young Widowed Friends", a peer support group in the AOD, for dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10 at Benihana's Restaurant, 1985 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy, 48084. We will order off the menu. Separate checks provided. RSVP to Phil at 248-684-3433 or email him at ywfriends@gmail.com.

Lenten Fridays at SS. John and Paul



Friday, March 9:

6:00 p.m. soup dinner followed by guided prayerful reflection on the "Last Words of Jesus"

Friday, March 16:

6:00 p.m. soup dinner followed by discussion on Lenten Lift book: "Meeting Jesus In The Gospels"

Friday, March 23:

6:00-8:30 p.m., G.R.A.C.E. monthly session on the Old Testament

Friday, March 30:

7:00 p.m. Outdoor Stations of the Cross at Capuchin Retreat Center

Evangelizing the Parish: From Maintenance to Mission

Monday, March 12 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at St. Kieran's Catholic Church. All those that work within the parish are invited to join us and learn:

- What exactly is Evangelization and the New Evangelization?
- Why is Evangelization a priority in our Archdiocese?
- What does the work of parish ministries, Parish Council and the Commissions "look like through the lens of Evangelization?"
- How do we reach out to those who do not come to us?
- How can parishes form active disciples equipped for the mission of Evangelization

Collection for Care Packages for our College Students



The Hospitality and Evangelization Committee will be taking donations after all Masses this weekend. Our parish college students who live at school will receive care packages in time for final exams. If you have a son or daughter away at school who would like to receive a care package, please call Bridget at the church office with their name and address.

Looking Ahead...

Just another note inviting you to get involved in any of the formational programs that are being offered in the parish. Call the Formation Office for more information 586-781-9488.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

*Peace and Joy,
Kathryn*

G.R.A.C.E—

**Open to all Parishioners—
Walk-ins Welcome!**

Our monthly G.R.A.C.E Program is For All People. If you have never attended please consider coming to our next session. You can pick from four nights to attend—just come and sign in. Spend some time learning more about your faith and getting the encouragement needed to live that faith on a daily basis.

G.R.A.C.E.

**Growing Responding
As Catholics Everyday**

For: Adults, Senior Citizens,
Married without children,
Single Adults,
Families

March 18, 20, 21, 23

**Grades 1-6 Age-Specific
Fall Sessions**

Monday or Tuesday Afternoon:
4:45-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Next sessions: March 5-6 and
March 12-13

**Early Childhood
Sunday Program**

Held during the 9:30 a.m. Mass
(for late 4 and 5 year olds)
No EC on GRACE weeks

Children's Liturgy Of The Word

During 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Masses
(for Grades 1 on up)

First Eucharist Preparation

Parent/Child Session #3

March 7 or **March 8 at
7:00 p.m.**

(Please note Date Change)



Family Interviews for the
Reception of First Eucharist will be:
Wednesday, April 11,
Wednesday, April 18,
Wednesday, May 2

Please call the Faith Formation
Office at 586-781-9488 to schedule your
interview.

Echoes of Faith Catechist Formation

Wednesday, March 14

6:00 –8:00 p.m.

Liturgy and Sacraments

Wednesday, April 18

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Prayer and Spirituality

Please R.S.V.P. to Karen or Kathryn-
kpeters@ssjohnandpaul.org or
klocke@ssjohnandpaul.org

586-781-9488

VBS Planning Meeting For All Interested



Wednesday, March 28
at 6:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

SKY: Vacation Bible School
Everything is
Possible With God

July 16-20, 2012

Age-Specific Sessions March 5-6 and March 12-13



Required prayers/
material for each grade level:

Grade 1: The Our Father,
Sign of the Cross

Grade 2: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be,
Sign of the Cross

Grade 3: Apostles' Creed

Grade 4: Act of Contrition

Grade 5: Ten Commandments

Grade 6: Apostles' Creed, Act of
Contrition, Ten Commandments

Please help your child memorize them.

G.R.A.C.E

Growing Responding As Catholics Everyday

—Next Session—
March 18, 20, 21, 23
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Theme: Unpacking the old Testament
Catechetical Area: Scripture

This month's goal is:

- To understand the structure of the Old Testament
- To appreciate the richness of the Old Testament as stories of faith rather than history
- To be able to read and pray from the Old Testament

April Menu:
Chicken Strips and
Cheesy Potatoes



Visit our website at: www.ssjohnandpaul.org



Attention all 9-12 Graders:

- ◆ Our next 9-12 grade teen meeting will be held on March 4 from **6:00-8:30 p.m.** We are going to have popcorn and snacks with the movie “Soul Surfer.” Please bring a friend and join us.

Attention All 7-12 Graders

- ◆ If you will be here for Good Friday, **we really need you!** We are looking for teens that will help us with the Good Friday Stations of the Cross. We will have a practice on March 25 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Youth group will begin right after the practice of the stations. Please check your calendars and let me know if you will be here and are willing to help.

Attention All 8th Graders

A meeting will be held for the teens and their parents on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in regards to the future preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. An invitation letter has been sent out to all teens that have completed the two year requirement of religious education. If you did not receive a letter or if you should have any questions please give Mrs. Peters a call at 586-781-9488.



Attention All 7-8 Graders

Austin Catholic Academy



24125 26 Mile Road
Ray Township, Michigan 48096
(east of North Avenue)

Opened in the fall of 2011 with a co-ed Freshman class, the school will eventually serve some 500 students with the benefits of an Augustinian education that stresses development of the complete person through rigorous college preparatory academics, spiritual growth, service to the community and extra curricular activities.

Now accepting Freshman and Sophomore applications for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. Be a part of our history and apply now. Limited seats available. For information, or to schedule a private tour, call our admissions office at 586-749-7900 or visit our website at www.austincatholicacademy.org. Share the passion and begin a Journey of a lifetime.

Scholarships Available

The Knights of Columbus are currently accepting applications for College and Catholic Education Scholarships. Applicant must reside in Romeo Community School district to qualify for College Scholarships. Additional information and applications are available in the Parish office. Please stop by and pick up an applications today.

Mandatory Age-Specific Session Saturday, March 10

Grade 7 will attend from 9:00 a.m.-12:00
Grade 8 will attend from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

All Teens will need to read Chapter 39: *“Working for Justice”* in their Catholic Connections Handbook for this session.

Any questions please call Mrs. Peters at 586-781-9488.

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Augustine Church
68035 Main St. Richmond

March 9; March 23; and April 6
4:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$9:00
Kids \$5.00

Baked or fried fish with French fries or potato, cheese pizza, coleslaw, roll with butter, beverage. Desert extra.

Notre Dame School Day Open House

Middle Division (6-8)
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
Pontiac Campus

Lower Division (Jr.K-5)
Wednesday, March 7, 2012.
Waterford Campus

For more information:
go to www.ndpma.org or for grades (9-12) Call 248-373-5300
(6-8) Call 248-373-5371
(Jr.K-5) Call 248-682-5580



The demands of caregiving need to be shared. A Friend’s House Adult Day Care Services provides a welcoming atmosphere that is ideal for adults who cannot or should not be left alone during the day, and who would benefit from a supportive and caring environment. A Friend’s House is sponsored by Catholic Services of Macomb and offers the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your loved one is being cared for while you work, run errands, or simply take a break from the demands of care. We offer many resources for caregiving families, including counseling, information, and monthly support groups. For more information, please call us in Clinton Twp. at 586-412-8494 or in Warren at 586-759-8700.

Parish Wide Lenten Outreach

This Lenten season, SS. John and Paul will sponsor a collection of personal hygiene items for the **Agape Center and Samaritan House**. Food stamps and Bridge Cards do not cover non-food items, so those struggling to make ends meet often go without these things. Some suggestions for donations are:

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Feminine hygiene items
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Body lotion
- Razors and shaving cream
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Soap/body wash



A second collection is for non-perishable food for **St. Christine's** food pantry in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit. We have been to the soup kitchen there several times now and they have expressed a great need for the following items for their food pantry:

- Canned fruit
- Canned spaghetti, Spaghettio's or Ravioli
- Canned meat (Spam, chicken & dumplings, etc.)
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Canisters of dry, non-dairy coffee creamer



Two labeled bins for you to deposit your donations will be located in the hallway to the Activities Center for the entire Lenten season.

We will be in need of drivers to take donations to the St. Christine food pantry. It is located on Fenkell (Five Mile) between Lahser and Telegraph. Please call the office if you can help in this way.

Health Team Ministry presents: *Health Bytes*

March 12: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Topic: Alzheimer's Disease

"Where did I put my keys?" "I totally forgot about my appointment!" Does this sound like a family member or friend? Or (gulp!!) you??

SS. John and Paul Health Team Ministry is pleased to offer a physician-led discussion of Alzheimer's Disease on the above date and time. Dr. W. Agnello, MD, a neurologist affiliated with Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, will offer information on the following as it relates to dementia and Alzheimer's:

- Age of onset
- Early symptoms
- Difference between Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia
- Statistical incidence of the disease
- Progression of symptoms over time
- Treatment options
- Options for caring with a family member with dementia/Alzheimer's
- Opportunity for questions and answers.

Please join us for this relevant topic!

CPR/AED Certification Class Offered

The Health Team Ministry of SS. John and Paul will host an American Heart Association Heart Saver/AED training class on Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Upon successful completion of the skills practice session and skills test, attendees will receive an AHA Heart Saver AED Course Completion Card good for certification for two years. ***Please note, if you attended our last training in February of 2010, your certification has expired.*** If you are interested in attending this class, please register by signing up on the poster in the hallway to the Parish Center, or by calling the parish office. Space is limited. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.



Food Assistance Help for Seniors

If you are 60 or over and your income is stretched to the point where there is nothing left for basic food necessities, you are not alone.

The rising cost of living, including food, is a challenge for many Macomb County seniors. Many seniors are going without even though help and food assistance benefits are available to them. RSVP of Macomb volunteers can help eligible seniors to apply for help in a senior-friendly environment, without long lines or a lengthy interview process.

RSVP's MiCAFE teams are carefully screened and trained. No personal information is kept on file and all personal information is handled in a way that provides maximum security to the applicant. Take the first step—they will do the rest.

If you are 60 or older, are a U.S. citizen and reside in Macomb County, call RSVP of Macomb at 586.756.1430 to schedule an appointment. RSVP is locally sponsored by Catholic Services of Macomb.

Volunteers Needed for His Table

SS. John and Paul has offered to provide dinner to guests of His Table at United Methodist in Romeo on Tuesday, March 20. His Table Community Meal began November 2, 2010 to serve our local community and offer a free meal to those individuals and families facing economic struggles.

Volunteers are needed from 3:00—5:00 p.m. to help set up and prepare the meal. Volunteers are also needed from 5:00—7:30 p.m. to help serve and clean up. Please call the parish office if you are interested in helping to prepare and/or serve this meal.

We will also be needing donated desserts for the meal. If you can donate a cake or pie, please have it at SS. John and Paul by 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 20. Please consider helping us in this new endeavor as we strive to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Pastor's Perspective

*Second Sunday of Lent

Our first reading—the testing of Abraham—ends up being interpreted in a quite different light, if read through the eyes of the experience of Jesus Christ, which is how we Christians have always read it. If read for historical insights, scholars point out that sacrifice of children was taking place at that time in various places near where the story is situated, so it would not have been out of the question for someone like Abraham to think that God might ask for such a sacrifice. Read in that light, it becomes a story that transforms that hideous practice into a spiritual test. God would not demand the slaughter of Isaac but rather wants Abraham to know that he needs to entrust all that he is and has to God.

In the Jewish tradition this story holds a place of great prominence with much rabbinical discussion on its meaning. Even within the Old Testament itself there is an identification of the site of this would-be sacrifice with the mount on which the Temple in Jerusalem was eventually built. This would be a late identification, implying that the sacrifice within that Temple was carrying forward the same faith in God and the will of God as happened with Abraham. Within the rabbinical tradition, every nuance of this story of the “binding” (or *Akedah* in Hebrew) of Isaac (from Gen 22:9) was commented upon, with the most typical conclusion that this was the climax of a series of testings of Abraham, and so the final expression of God’s covenant with Abraham occurs after it. But it is so commented upon because it is a challenge to figure out what God is trying to say through the story, since on its face value it appears that God is demanding that Abraham be willing to kill his own son.

But, as mentioned, in the Christian tradition we read this story in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is not surprising that Christians both gravitated toward this story as a pre-figuration of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and had no difficulty in the demand of God for Isaac’s sacrifice. For Christians it never indicated that God would ask such a thing as human sacrifice. Rather, it pointed to God’s own love; God’s willingness to

sacrifice God’s Son; God’s willingness to allow Jesus to experience the fullness of human suffering and death rather than save him from that death on the cross.

We read this reading every Easter Vigil, as one of a series of biblical stories which connect the whole story of salvation to its fulfillment in Jesus’ death and resurrection. In that light it becomes part of the increasing opening up of the mystery of salvation, God’s desire that all humanity be saved and come to understand our fullest nature: to be in communion with God.

So, is this still a difficult story to hear? Yes, but not because it means that God would ask us to literally sacrifice to death one of our children. Any such idea of God is false and should rightly be rejected. But it does mean that there is nothing in our lives, not even love for our children, which somehow trumps our need to trust in God and be faithful to God’s call in our lives. It is precisely by putting something or someone other than God first in our lives that we get ourselves and others into trouble. May our Lenten penances, especially our fasts and practices of “letting go”, remind us to again and again turn to God with all our heart and see that relationship with God as key to everything else in our lives.

*Meeting Jesus in the Gospels Discussions

We will have our first set of discussions on our parish Lenten book, *Meeting Jesus in the Gospels*. It is a wonderful book for reflection. Join in any of the discussions this week as we tackle some of the insights and questions from the first two chapters. Depending on the response from each group, the discussions will continue each week or every other week, at each group’s discretion. Because all who took the book gave us their email, the weekly Lenten email from the parish will contain any updates on discussion times and places. We will also post them on the website and on the bulletin board in the hallway. For this week, join us at any of the discussions listed on the front page of the bulletin.

*Wednesday Evening Talk at St. Kieran

This Wednesday, March 7, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., SS. John and Paul and St. Kieran are hosting together a talk by Fr. Mark Miller. Whenever there is an opportunity to get a high quality and well-known speaker into our area to engage us in some adult formation on our Catholic faith, I never want to miss it. That is why the two parishes are collaborating on this presentation. You can read more details on the front page of the bulletin or at our website. No cost to the evening. Even though it says a free will offering will be taken up, please do not worry about that. Come and be challenged to think about our Catholic understanding of sin, forgiveness, and redemption.

*This Friday of Lent: A Reflection on the “Seven Last Words of Jesus”

Every Friday of Lent we try to do something to highlight the Lenten season and to encourage Fridays of Lent to be one of the ways we intentionally connect to this season. This Friday, March 9, we begin with a soup and bread meal (simple but hearty!) at 6:00 p.m. About 6:45 we will move into the Church for an hour of reflection on what are traditionally called the “seven last words of Jesus”—all the places in the four gospels where Jesus on the cross speaks. Each phrase is both powerful and rich in meaning. The seven instances provide an excellent way to reflect on the meaning of Jesus’ death and our connection to that saving death. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring soup or bread or simply show up and enjoy the meal, the conversation, and then the reflection. The reflection will be a joint effort of Bridget Theodoroff, JoAnne Owens and myself.

*Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation

During the Lenten season Fr. Ron and I will use most often the two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. As with the other new translations of Eucharistic Prayers covered thus far (Eucharistic Prayers II, III, IV), I will post on our parish website the full text of the Reconciliation ones along with some side commentary. Each of these prayers has

their own attached preface but any appropriate preface, such as those from Lent, may be substituted in its place. I will comment on the prefaces in the website commentary, but here I want to focus on the rest the Eucharistic Prayer. Personally, I think the language and theology of these two prayers is perhaps the richest and most beautiful of all the ones we use.

For example, in Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I (EPRI) it says that “*from the world’s beginning*” God is ceaselessly at work to make the human race share in God’s own holiness. We’ve just come off our “Dare to Be Holy” Lenten Mission. Holiness is not something we achieve by our efforts but something God achieves in us, when we say “yes” to that action of God in our lives and hearts. EPRI then goes on to connect our holiness to the work of God’s Spirit here and now in the Eucharist. We have a clear invoking of that Spirit (called an “epiclesis”) as the priest celebrant extends his hands over the gifts. In one way it is unfortunate that the final translation did not use the suggested wording from the previous committee. Because in that previous translation the focus is first on the people gathered and then the gifts offered. In that way the prayer for the Spirit to come upon the gifts more clearly indicates not just the physical bread and wine but the whole people gathered. We pray that “*they*” may become the Body and Blood of Christ; the bread and wine clearly, but also we are to become more fully that transformed Body of Christ as well. The new translation’s focus on the bread and wine might lead us to miss that important insight.

Another example of how word choices each have their own nuance then occurs. EPRI says “*though we were once lost and could not approach you*”. The original translation used “*when we were lost and could not find our way to you*” and the previously suggested revised translation read “*when we were lost and our hearts were far from you*”. Each has its own biblical allusion. The current one emphasizes the absolute distance between us and God—we can’t even dare to approach God on our own or apart from Christ—much like the people of Israel who feared approaching God at Sinai and begged Moses instead to intercede for them. The original translation brings out

the biblical notion of sheep lost and wandering who need a shepherd. It is not that we don’t dare to approach God; we are simply too lost to know where to turn to find God. The previously suggested revision emphasizes more the prophetic condemnation, echoed by Jesus, of the people whose hearts are turned away from God. We don’t turn to God because our hearts are hardened by sin and selfishness.

EPRI then emphasizes the antidote to that being lost—God’s own turning toward us, approaching us, with the greatest love: his own Son’s death on the cross. No language can escape the connotations of the culture within which it is used and we have a shining example of that here where EPRI says the God loved us “with the greatest love”. Even though Whitney Houston did not write the lyrics to the song “*The Greatest Love*” (Linda Creed did in the midst of her struggle with breast cancer), she put her stamp on it forever when she sang it. With Houston’s recent death that song has been on all the various airwaves so many times that I cannot imagine anyone hearing the words “*with the greatest love*” without having Whitney Houston pop up in the mind. What could be a beautiful, poetic wording of praise to God for what God alone can do and has done—now because of that pop song—becomes something trite. As wording trying to help the children appreciate who they are and have self esteem, it has some merit. But when the “*greatest love of all*” is connected primarily to “*learning to love yourself*” as the song lyrics say rather than to know that God loves you no matter what—the words do become trite. That is why I prefer the original translation “*you loved us more than ever*” or the previously suggested revised translation of “*you showed the depth of your love*”. The “*greatest love*” is more literally faithful to the Latin, but it has the effect in our culture of distracting us from the real meaning.

The prayer then continues and focuses on how God shows this depth of love—through Jesus on the cross. The language emphasizes Jesus’ freedom of action: he “*handed himself over*” and he “*did not disdain to be nailed for our sake to the wood of the Cross*”. Such language is deliberately not meant to be a historical recounting of the event (Jesus was betrayed, handed over by

others, and forcibly nailed to the Cross against his human will) but a theological account of what that action means from the standpoint of God’s love. As the Word made flesh, Jesus’ divine nature, tied to perfect unity with Jesus’ human will, allowed nothing to stop this act of love for our sake. Under this theological reading, Jesus’ death is viewed less as an action done to him and more as an action freely chosen and embraced by him for our sake. Interestingly, the next line of the prayer—“*before his arms were outstretched between heaven and earth*” better keeps in play the tension between that human and divine viewpoint. The passive voice can suggest as much or more an action done to Jesus than one he initiates. This might seem like a small matter but it is quite important to a proper understanding of Jesus’ death. If his whole humanity, and that includes a powerlessness in the face of brutal force as well as a reluctance to suffer, is not involved in his death, then Jesus’ death fails to be a saving death for us. What is at issue here is the proper understanding of Jesus’ human and divine natures, something the Church spent many centuries defending and working out language for.

The above thoughts are just on the first part of EPRI, the part prior to the consecration. Check out the full wording and commentary on EPRI at our website. Go to the homepage and click on the Roman Missal logo and then on the appropriate link. I will look at some of the language of Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II next week.

*Second Reading

The second reading for this Sunday, Romans 8:31b-34, is part of a longer section which, for me, includes some of the profoundest meditations on our faith in Jesus Christ. Today we get this wonderful thought: “*Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.*”

Fr. Buersemeyer

**Gratefully Received On
February 25-26, 2012**

Weekly budget..... \$11,100.00
 Offertory..... \$9,939.19
 No. Sunday envelopes used310
 ESO (February 29)..... \$3,417.00
 No. of ESO 34
Total Offertory \$13,356.19

Other Monies / (# Envelopes)

Capital Imprv / (1).....\$25.00
 Children / (5)\$24.00
 Church in Europe(3).....\$45.00
 Lenten Lift Books (9)\$85.00
 Black Books..... \$170.05
 Easter Flowers (3)\$40.00

YTD as of 02/29/12

YTD Budget \$422,795.00
 YTD Offertory \$423,854.00
 Overage \$1059.00

Stewardship

...a way of life

Share time and talent

Sacrificial Giving

Joyfully accept His gifts

Pray and give thanks

*“Here I am!” he answered...”
 -Genesis 22:11*

It is easy to say, “Here I am, Lord”, when we are kneeling in church. Can we just as easily answer, “Here I am Lord,” when we go home, when a neighbor needs our help, when a fellow parishioner asks us to join a committee, or when a letter asks for our financial help? These are often exactly the places where Jesus calls us to be.

**Attention Seniors
Change Lives and Earn \$\$\$**

Senior Companions touch the lives of adults in Macomb County who need extra assistance to live independently in their own homes or communities. Whether you're giving families or professional caregivers much-needed time off, running errands or simply being a friend, you'll make a difference that strengthens and helps preserve an individual's independence. Call Sheila McCann at 586-756-1435 today to learn more about how you can become a Senior Companion.

**Eucharistic Prayer
Requests**

Saturday, March 3, 2012

5:00 p.m.—
 Vera Pugno by Pat Gresko
 Catherine Puzzuoli by Joanne Verana Family

Sunday, March 4, 2012

8:00 a.m. —
 Dorothy Dawood by C. and P. Fields
 Lillian Abraham by C. and P. Fields

9:30 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

11:30 a.m. —
 Lorraine Darga by Joseph and Susan Martino

Monday, March 5, 2012

7:00 p.m. —
 Elizabeth Schindler by Havener Family

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

9:00 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Saturday, March 10, 2012

5:00 p.m.—
 Anna Kaminski by Elizabeth Arvant

Sunday, March 11, 2012

8:00 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

9:30 a.m. —
 Donna Baran by Greenway Family

11:30 a.m. —
 For the Parishioners of SS. John and Paul

Tax Help

From the IRS government website. If you have an AGI less than \$57K, there are numerous companies where you can free file your Federal taxes. For information and help, Go to: <http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/jsp/index.jsp?ck>

Sponsor of the Week

This week's sponsor is **Big Daddy Tours**. 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!

Pray for our Sick

Sally Jenkins
 Matthew Zurek
 Drew Pointe
 Douglas Wolfbauer
 Ron Moscow

Kylie Rodda
 Michalene Grifka
 Michelle Gregorich
 Michelle Wheaton

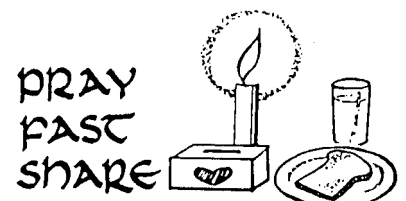


**Hildegard
of Bingen and
the Living Light**

St. Francis-St. Maximilian is hosting a Lenten presentation of Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light on Friday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m.

This is a one-woman musical play performed by international mezzo-soprano Linn Maxwell who embodies the life of 12th Century German prophetess, healer, and composer, Hildegard of Bingen. Hildegard was ahead of her time in a male-dominated world. She challenged the authority of the Church, philosophical and musically. Ms. Maxwell accompanies herself on authentic medieval instruments and performs seven of Hildegard's original songs. Through the use of Hildegard's actual letters and writings, Maxwell transports the audience to the turbulent time of the Crusades. Hildegard's timeless universal message of spiritual truth, holistic healing and caring for the earth is more urgent today than ever. Make a decision to experience a different form of spiritual education this Lenten season by attending this awe inspiring sacred presentation.

Tickets are \$5.00. You can purchase them by calling 586 598-3314. St. Francis-St. Maximilian is located at 62811 New Haven Road, in Ray Township – just east of the intersection of North Avenue and 29 Mile Road.





**Readings for the Week of
March 4, 2012**

Sunday, March 4

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

Monday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 6:

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

Wednesday, March 7:

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

Thursday, March 8:

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

Friday, March 9:

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

Saturday, March 10:

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

Sunday, March 11:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19;
1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7; Ps 19;
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or
4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Liturgical appointments for March 10-11, 2012				
Mass	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Celebrant/ Homilist	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Sayes	Fr. Buersmeyer Deacon John	Fr. Buersmeyer
Sacristan	D. Kennard	G. Efthemious	J. Pearson-Kastreba	S.Goble
Lectors	F. Diebboll G. Pagliarella	J. Resutek J. Sova	J. Reaume J. Reaume	T. McBride L. Hester
Communion Ministers *Captain	J. Krumholz* F. Braun K. Braun D. Kennard M. Utich	P. Loyson* P. Sagert R. Sagert M. Schimmel M. Schimmel	Deacon John C. Seidel* R. Seidel M. Skelley N. Skelley D. Zabkowski L. Zabkowski	M. Catalano* T. Bugli J. Gilbertson S. Goble C. Gregory
Altar Servers	N. Mason	G. Efthemiou	J. Ozella S. Ozella J. Gumbleton	N. Behring E. Palombo D. Nelson
Greeters	B. Adams G. Baginski R. Baginski	P. Sagert R. Sagert	M. Compau J. Kaiser S. Fezzy	E. Conway R. Krugzda
Ushers *Captain	Jim Wright* Ron Pewinski Donald Smith Jim Maisel	Brian Dale* Richard Chapman Steve Krajewski Al Sova	Ken Partyka* Mike Bayer Bob Janowiak Lon Keast Steve Martinelli Len Monfils	Mike Bytner* John Gehrholz Bob Jiannuzzi Ron Kopera
Collection Counters	Team # 5: Pat Orczykowski, Jim Banaszek Roberta Mathie, Joe Orczykowski, Les Quick, Diane Quick, Don Tevlin, Janet Tevlin			

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

Weekend Masses **Weekday Masses**
Saturday at 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Monday
Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. Tuesday
9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday

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. or after 5:00 p.m. Mass

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

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

Catholic Services of Macomb
Contact at 586-416-2300 or www.csmacomb.org

Parish Staff
Pastor Fr. David A. Buersmeyer
pastor@ssjohnandpaul.org
Weekend Assoc. & Founding Pastor..... Fr. Ron Sayes
Deacon..... John Wright
jwright@ssjohnandpaul.org
Parish SecretaryDebbie Kennard
dkennard@ssjohnandpaul.org
Business Manager Paula Klozik
pklozik@ssjohnandpaul.org
Pastoral AssociateBridget Theodoroff
btheodoroff@ssjohnandpaul.org
Pastoral AssociateJoAnne Owens
jowens@ssjohnandpaul.org
Coordinator of Faith Formation..... Kathryn Locke
klocke@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

	CHAIRPERSON		VICE-CHAIRPERSON		SECRETARY	
PASTORAL COUNCIL OFFICERS	Deane Maue	586.992.9884	Martha Catalano	586.453.5759	Jeff Pyke	586.242.4114
FINANCE COUNCIL OFFICERS	John Krieg	586.786.9770	Chris McNeely	586.992.0378	Dan Zabkowski	586.786.6499