

St. Elizabeth ~ St. Brigid
February 16-23 2008
Second Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, February 18

8:15 AM (St. Elizabeth) Rosary
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Special Intention of
 Major Brian C. McNiel serving in Iraq

Tuesday, February 19

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cooper

Wednesday, February 20

7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:15 PM (St. Elizabeth) Evening Prayer
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Ann Mondoro
 Novena

Thursday, February 21

St. Peter Damian

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Louise & Peter Cipparulo

Friday, February 22

Chair of St. Peter

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Rosary for Vocations
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Edna Gandolfo
 7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Stations of the Cross
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Louis Ricciardi, Sr.

Saturday, February 23

4:30 PM (St. Brigid) Confessions
 5:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: Catherine Esposito
 7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Albert Kalafsky

Sunday, February 24

Third Sunday of Lent

MASSES:

7:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: William Telesco
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: David Torchy
 9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Mary Joan Errico
 10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Rose Bergamo
 11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Salvador Guevara

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 23

5:00 PM St. Brigid

(E) Deacon Duffy (L) K. Rohrbacker (A) Z. Schwab
 W. Rohrbacker

7:30 PM St. Elizabeth

(E)) L. Teppiccione (L) J. Skinner (A) C. & E
 Villagra

Sunday, February 24

7:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) L. Teppiccione (L) B. Henderson (A) G. Henderson

8:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) K. Spinda (L) C. Butterfield (A) S. Butterfield
 B. Moreau

9:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) C. Mortenson (L) D. Duffy (A) G. Henderson
 E. Schwer M. Grutta

10:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) J. Morgia (L) M. Fernando (A) T & R Lynch

11:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) Sr. Joan (L) J. Felser (A) P. Cozza
 R. Holleb

During LENT:

The Stations of the Cross will be held each *Friday* evening at 7:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Church. Mass will follow at 7:30 PM.

CONTRIBUTIONS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 TO YOUR CHURCH AND PARISH**

St. Elizabeth: February 9-10: \$ 3,707.00

St. Brigid: February 9-10: \$ 4,672.00

For the Week of February 16-23



At St. Elizabeth:

The **Altar Bread and Wine** is offered in memory of Helen Moran.

"Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share? (*See 2 Timothy 1:8b*)

2007 Contribution Statements will be mailed upon request. Call the Parish Office at 908-234-1265.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven ..."

A time to heal ... please pray for the sick of our parishes including: Christopher D'Ambrosi; Walter Gronwald

A time to die ... please pray for those who have recently passed away including: Maureen Biscotti and Cameron J. Calabrese



Congratulations to our new lectors who were installed last weekend. May they be blessed in their ministry to serve our parish. Our new lectors are: Robert Crane, Colin Hickey, Peter Holleb, Regina Holleb, *Elise Schwer, and Jim Zachman*



Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially Patrick Blankenship of the USMC & Ryan O'Connor of the US Army, close friends of Jean Fall; Timothy Callahan of the US Marine Corps, son of Marie Callahan; Brendan Patrick Duffy of the U.S. Army, son of Deacon Larry & Denise Duffy, grandson of A.J. Errico; Michael Ferreira of the US Army, grandson of Anne & Bob Butler; Amanda Loomis of the US Army, cousin of Grace Ann McKeon; Maj. Seth Lucente of the US Army, brother-in-law of Philip & Kimberly Hahn; Michael Mattessich of the US Army, nephew of Tom O'Callaghan; & Jordan Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe) Weaver

**ST. ELIZABETH AND ST. BRIGID'S
INTERVAL BASED FITNESS CLASS**

"And on the seventh day... He worked out..."

A fun fitness class incorporating aerobics, toning, and stretching..

When: Monday & Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 PM

Where: Lower level Multi-Purpose room
in St. Brigid School

Cost: \$7.00 per class or ask about the monthly pass.

Bring: Water and a towel. Hand weights optional.

Contact Lauren Boesch at 908-507-0610 for more information. Fully Insured and AFFA Certified Instructor and Personal Trainer.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

"Today, more than ever before, our diocesan newspaper is a critical communications source for enlightenment, information and witness to Gospel values."
~Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski

To order Your subscription, call (732) 562-2424.

February is Catholic Press Month

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR EASTER

Attention all children in Grades 1-8, in preparation for the 11:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass, the children's choir will be practicing every Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center starting on February 20th. Anyone interested in participating can e-mail Mark Filoramo at mfiloramo@hotmail.com or call at 908-625-8009. We look forward to seeing you there.



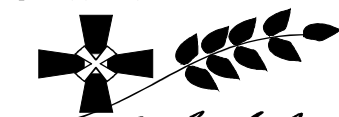
"Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share? (See 2 Timothy 1:8b)

PRAYER FOR THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE



Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by you. In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Called...



to be holy
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God calls Abraham to leave his family and people and go to a new land. God promises to make the people of this new nation great and to bless Abraham.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Paul, from his place of imprisonment in Rome, writes words of encouragement to Timothy, telling him that Christ is for them everlasting life.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Wishing to reveal His glory to Peter, James and John, Jesus takes them to a mountain where he is transfigured before them.

When Peter exclaims that he will build three tabernacles here in honor of Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a voice from above proclaims: "This is My beloved Son on whom My favor rests. Listen to him."

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 18th in observance of George Washington's Birthday.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Our Parent Meeting for children who will receive First Communion in May will take place on Wednesday, February 20th from 7:00-8:30 PM at the Parish Center Library. One parent is required to attend this important meeting. If you are unable to attend please contact Sr. Joan. A make-up meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 27th from 7:00-8:30 PM. Any question please contact Sr. Joan at 908-234-1524.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES:



Family Penance Service on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 11 AM in St. Brigid Church.
Parish Penance Service, Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church. A number of priests will be available for confession.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH OUR CHILDREN:



Our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be acting out the Stations of the Cross. Rehearsal will be on Wednesdays from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM on the following dates: February 27th, March 5th, and March 12th. The children will perform the Living Stations on Friday March 14th at 7 PM at St. Brigid Church.

Our **Teenage Stations of the Cross** will take place on Friday, March 7th at 7 PM at St. Elizabeth Church. All are invited to attend. Any questions or concerns, please call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1524.

A Prayer for Marriage

Heavenly Father,
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage that
reflects the love of Christ for the Church,
where the self-giving love
of husband and wife
unites them more perfectly and
cooperates in your plan for
new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women
in their vocation of marriage,
especially in difficult times when
they join their sufferings to Christ on the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage
in our society as the place where
love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future
depends on this love and on your
providential care for us. Amen

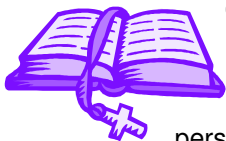
Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap
Archbishop of Boston
May 16, 2007

CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST RALLY

Men, set aside Saturday, *March 1*, 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and come to the 11th Annual Spiritual Rally for Men held this year at St. Veronica's Gym, Route 9 North, Howell. This year, pro-life congressman Chris Smith, and former NFL player Kevin O'Brien, will provide uplifting and inspiring presentations. Bishop John Smith will celebrate our closing Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Tickets: adults/\$20; students/\$5. Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians are free. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Visit www.CatholicMenforJesus.com for more information, or call 732-845-2999 and press #1 to speak to Bill Marshall.

ADULT EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY



Our Bible Study Group will begin a look at the Letters of St. Paul on Tuesday, February 19th. This study will go behind the scenes to understand the person, life, and times of the devout

Pharisee who became the Apostle to the Gentiles. In many ways, the theology of St. Paul has contributed as much to the formation of Christianity as the Gospels themselves. The issues raised in these simple letters will challenge and inspire us.

Come join us for video presentations, study, prayer, and discussion. Meetings will be every other Tuesday, starting February 19th after the 9 AM Mass in the Parish Library. All are welcome. For more information call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1265

Daughters of Mary
Something Wrapped in Red
FUNd Raising Event

Thursday, February 21,
2008
Hall

7 PM-9 PM
Refreshments

All the women in the parish are invited to bring a gift wrapped in red. (It need not be expensive.) Friends are welcome to come with a gift or just to bid on the gifts. Gifts will be auctioned to the highest bidder. The evening promises to be fun

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS



In response to Bishop Bootkoski's announcement of a year dedicated to prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and consecrated Religious Life in our Diocese, various parishes throughout the Diocese will host *Holy Hours for Vocations* now through November 2008. The Monstrances which will be

used at these Holy Hours were blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

February 18 - Immaculate Conception, Somerville, 7:30 PM

February 23 - Sacred Heart of Jesus, Manville, 8 PM.

March 7 - Blessed Sacrament, Martinsville, 7-9 PM.

March 8 - St. Brigid, Peapack, 6:00 -7:30 PM. following the 5:00 PM Mass

Visit www.diometuchen.org/vocations, for the complete schedule.

COME JOIN OUR PARISH SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

When: Every Thursday starting February 21st

after the 9 AM Mass

Where: The Parish Center

Our first book: *Twelve Ordinary Men*

by John Mac Arthur

Who were these men? What is most amazing of all is that Jesus selected them a handful of common fishermen, a hated tax collector, and an impulsive political zealot. When you take a fresh look at the disciples, you'll be faced with a stunning fact: Come meet the disciples face to face as you've never seen them before. You'll walk in their shoes and understand their doubts and hopes and hear the power of Jesus' words in a whole new way. The message of *Twelve Ordinary Men* is clear, if Christ can accomplish His purposes through the lives of common men like these, imagine what He has in store for us. Come join us for reading, reflection, and shared prayer. Please call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1265 to register.

LENTEN INSTRUCTION

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day hunger.

The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE BEATITUDES BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD

Motives and intentions come from within. At times we should challenge ourselves as to the "why" of what we do. Always, we should look in a positive way as to the motives and intentions of others. Jesus met many "religious people" who challenged Him concerning His observance of the law and His respect for the prophets. He "knew their intent" and pointed out their way of external observance of ritual but their distance from the spirit of the law. Speech often reflects our thoughts and desires.

The promised reward "to see God" is the goal of all humankind. Moses could not see the face of God and live. We wish to do both. To see God is sometimes expressed in different ways – happiness, unity in the family, peace, harmony – in countless ways, but however we say it, in essence, it is to live in the presence of God. Jean ValJean in Les Miserables said it well "...to love another person is to see the face of God." How many seek to see a star, a hero, an outstanding personality. With the same ardor and enthusiasm, we too, wish to be admitted into the presence of our God. We need just to check our motives and intentions.

*Anyone who aspires to greatness must serve the rest;
whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the
needs of all. - Mark 10:43-45*

My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

Ash Wednesday has come and gone with people flocking to the church to receive ashes; the mark or sign that we planned to really use the Holy Season of Lent to show our need for deeper conversion, of turning back to the Lord, of choosing more deeply God's way over our own. We began this Lenten journey as a way to return to our baptismal state through our participation in the Sacrament of Penance, the sacrament of God's mercy that Jesus gave us following His resurrection. The Church gives us this 40 day lenten journey as a way to prepare for the celebration of the great feast of the Resurrection of Jesus, the feast of Easter.

How well are we using this holy season of Lent so far in carrying out our good intentions to grow in greater holiness and love of God? Are we going to daily Mass or at least one or two daily Masses each week? Are we participating in additional devotions during this blessed time? The Friday evening Stations of the Cross? The Wednesday or Friday evening Mass? Do our Lenten intentions include the reception of the Sacrament of Penance? Are we going that extra mile to perform an act of charity? Are we making Jesus the center of our lives prayerfully and by good works? After all, these are all the things included in our prayerful intentions when we received our ashes at the beginning of this season of conversion.

This season of Lent is a privileged time for us. It provides a kind of annual retreat for our parish community. The Lenten season reminds us of our beginnings, recalling our baptismal identity and our consecration as members of the universal priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Lent is also the final period of preparation for catechumens and candidates who are looking forward to the sacraments of initiation at Easter. We should offer prayer daily for them. At the same time, we must all prepare to renew our own baptismal promises to the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. We do this by supporting and encouraging one another in our various efforts to grow in deeper imitation and love of Jesus, the Son of God. By our lives of prayer and virtue, we should especially be examples to our children and young people inspiring them to ongoing and deeper instruction and conversion.

We would do well to join in the spirit of Lent by reflecting seriously on the value of penance in our lives and not just take for granted that we abstain from meat on Friday's and fast on Ash Wednesday, as well as, Good Friday. We should all find ways for this and other acts of self-denial to deepen our understanding of the call for conversion to the Lord.

The poet Robert Frost once wrote: "Two roads diverged in a road and I — I took the road less traveled by. And that has made all the difference." For the disciples of Jesus, the road less traveled by is the road called Lent. We have taken the first step down that road, the first step in the journey of our deepening conversion. If we persevere, that road will lead us to God Our Father in heaven.

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,
Father Puleo