

St. Elizabeth ~ St. Brigid
March 2-March 8, 2008
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, March 3

St. Katherine Drexel

8:15 AM (St. Elizabeth) Rosary
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Helen Moran

Tuesday, March 4

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Rosaria Fiorill
 and Donato Monaco

Wednesday, March 5

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

Thursday, March 6

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Lucia Lembo
 7:00 PM (St. Brigid) Penance Service

Friday, March 7

Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Rosary for Vocations
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Maria D'Amico
 7:00 PM (St. Brigid) Stations of the Cross
 7:30 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: Rev. Andrew J. Kalafsky

Saturday, March 8

St. John of God

4:30 PM (St. Brigid) Confessions
 5:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: For the Parishioners
 6:00 PM (St. Brigid) **HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**
 7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: John J. Kenney.

Sunday, March 9

Fifth Sunday of Lent

MASSES:

7:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Albert Honoshowsky
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Ann Bonner
 9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Kenneth Van Arsdale
 10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Sylvester Bergamo
 11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: The Puleo & Crino Family

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 Mary Evers

A time to die ... please pray for those who have recently passed away.



PARISH PENANCE SERVICE
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008
7 PM ST. BRIGID CHURCH

A number of priests will be available for confession.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 8

5:00 PM St. Brigid

(E) P. Cross (L) D. Cross (A) Z. Schwab
 L. Meyers E. & C. Villagra

7:30 PM St. Elizabeth

(E) L. Teppiccione (L) K. Howes (A) W. Howes
 P. Holleb

Sunday, March 9

7:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) B. Tursini (L) B. Henderson (A) G. Henderson
 R. Crane L. Crane

8:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) D. Duffy (L) J. Howe (A) B. Moreau

9:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) D. O'Callaghan (L) C. Miguez (A) P. & D.
 Sweeney

10:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) J. Morgia (L) J. Fleser (A) M. Grutta

11:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) Sr. Joan (L) P. Richards (A) G. Henderson
 T. & R. Lynch



During LENT:

Next week March 8, 2008 the Friday Stations of the Cross and evening Mass at 7:30 PM will be held at St. Brigid Church.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

St. Elizabeth: February 23-24 \$ 3,444.00

St. Brigid: February 23-24 \$ 4,708.00

For the Week of March 2-8, 2008 1



At St. Brigid:

The **Altar Bread and Sacramental wine** is offered in memory of Harold & Marie Jones from Joann & Harold Jones.

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

Eucharistic Adoration will be held following the 9 AM Mass on Friday, March 7th until 10:30 AM at St. Brigid. Come pray for the needs of our families, parish, and

world.



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



ADULT EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study Group began a look at the Letters of St. Paul. 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. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4th after the 9 AM Mass in the Parish Library. All are welcome. For more information call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1265

IT'S NOT TOO LATE:

COME JOIN OUR PARISH SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB



When: Every Thursday after the 9 AM Mass

Where: The Parish Center

Our first book: Tweleve 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 Tweleve 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

EASTER HAM ROUND UP



The Knights of Columbus will be collecting hams after the Masses at both parishes on Sunday, March 16th. Hams and turkeys that are frozen, fresh, canned or smoked will be accepted. They will be taken to the Food Bank on Sunday for distribution.

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

Return to God

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In seeking a King for the Israelites, Samuel traveled to Jesse of Bethlehem, who had seven sons. Commanded by God to ignore the elder sons, Samuel anointed the youngest, David.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live as "children of light" in goodness and truth and to avoid evil deeds "done in darkness."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus performs the miracle of giving sight to the man born blind. Because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, the Pharisees called him a "sinner," but the blind man said, "He is a prophet." Jesus later reveals to the blind man that He is the Son of Man.

Christian Stewardship is...

Placing our trust in God – completely, and realizing that all we have is a gift from God.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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.

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. It's not too late to join. 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.



"Remember: You are what you are in the eyes of god and nothing else." St. Francis of Assisi



ATTENTION ALL MOMS & TOTS: Come share a cup of coffee and join in a playgroup which will meet on Wednesday mornings beginning on March 12th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at the Parish Center. Contact Sharon Lynch at 234-2786 for more information.

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.

ARE YOU A MARRIAGE PREPARATION TEAM COUPLE?

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Metuchen recently introduced a marriage preparation supplement called *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage*. If you belong to a marriage prep team (i.e. Pre-Cana) or would like to become a member of the diocesan team, this training program is for you. A training weekend will be held Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, at the St. John Neumann Center, Piscataway. Contact Judy Psota at 732-562-2467 for more details.

DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY ~ March 29

Immaculata High School, Somerville – 11 AM-9 PM

For all teens from 8th to 12th grades: Join hundreds of teens from the Diocese and enjoy a day created just for you filled with Catholic faith, fun, music, skits, service projects, workshops, games, food, Saturday evening mass with Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Confession, and Catholic devotions with Contemporary Catholic Music and Rock bands. For registration contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 732-562-1990 ext. 1631.

SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION DINNER

Wednesday, *April 9*; Pines Manor, Edison; Cocktails: 6 PM.; Dinner: 7 PM. Proceeds to benefit Immaculate Conception School, Spotswood, and St. James School, Woodbridge. Tickets: \$200. In conjunction with the Dinner there will be a **50/50 Raffle**. Tickets: \$50 - 1000 sold. To purchase tickets for the dinner or raffle, call 732-562-2429..

**WE THE PEOPLE OF THE BEATITUDES
BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

We live in an age of martyrdom. How many people have suffered for Christ in Africa and Latin America in recent times. Rwanda, El Salvador, Guatemala, India provide us with names and faces. By shedding their blood, witness has once again been given to Christ. Other martyrs' names have been written for our consideration as they have witnessed in non-bloody ways for what is right, for promoting justice. Those who defend the defenseless, the unborn, the aging are often characterized in unjust ways. Those who speak for the voiceless are heard but not listened to. They are people who seek to maintain a proper relationship with God. Jesus' entire ministry was spent to seek such a relationship for people with their God. As the mediator of the New Covenant, He replaced the law bringing it to perfection. Jesus is righteousness itself.

The reward of living the attitude of this beatitude is the kingdom of heaven, a place, yes, but for now something more. It is God's grace and power. Few of us know persecution or martyrdom, but our efforts at rectitude can be costly. How often in the parables Jesus used the expression "the kingdom of God" or the "kingdom of heaven is like ..." Together as we work for righteousness we allow "His kingdom to come."

Matthew concludes the teaching telling us to "Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great." May we conclude this reflection aware that in the next verses we are told that we are "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." We are to live as "People of the Beatitudes

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD RESTORED! Luke 7:37-38

And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that He was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

The woman Jesus forgave was not crying merely because she was forgiven. She was crying because she was loved and because she loved in return. Legalism looks for ways to set some Cosmic Account Book back to zero after being seriously in debt. Love looks for relationship. In penance, forgiveness is always attached to the words "so that." We are forgiven so that we can resume our relationship with God, not merely in order to hit the reset button on the sin-o-meter and bring the count back to zero till the next time we sin. Forgiveness is the doorway into love and gratitude and friendship with God.

—A Word of Encouragement www.e3mil.com

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is held at St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen, in *The Lady Chapel* located in the parish center at 45 Library Place. All are welcome.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday~March 16th

Masses:

5:00 PM Vigil, March 15th at St. Brigid

7:30 PM Vigil at St. Elizabeth

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:30 AM at St. Brigid

8:30 AM and 10:30 AM at St. Elizabeth

Monday~March 17th

Daily Mass 8:30 AM at St. Elizabeth

7:30 PM~Mass of Christ~Blessing of the Holy Oils

At St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen

Tuesday~March 18th

Daily Mass 9:00 AM at St. Brigid

Wednesday~March 19th

Daily Mass at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth

Holy Thursday~March 20th

7:00 PM Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper

At St. Brigid Church

Adoration to follow until 11 PM in St. Brigid Church

Good Friday~March 21st

St. Brigid Church

1PM-3PM The Last Seven Words of Christ

3PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. Elizabeth Church

7 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday~March 22nd

8 PM Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth

8 PM Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Brigid

Easter Sunday~ March 23rd

Masses:

St. Elizabeth: 8:30 AM; 10:30 AM, and Noon

St. Brigid: 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM; and 11:30 AM

Confessions: Saturdays 4:30 PM at St. Brigid
Wednesday & Saturday 7 PM at St. Elizabeth



Children [are the] springtime of the family and society. ... Children are ... the hope that continually blossoms, a project that starts ever anew, the future that opens without ceasing. They represent the flowering of married love, which is found and strengthened in them. At their birth they bring a message of life.

—Pope John Paul II, Address to the Third World Meeting of Families, Oct. 14, 2000



Inspirational Spot ~ ~ Look at the design of a woven basket. From the simplest basket to the most complex, the ribs must be centered and held in balance. They are the fixed bearings that guide the whole rhythm of the weaving. If the ribs are out of balance, the whole basket is lopsided, uneven, or off-center. Just like a woven basket, our life must have a fixed bearing — Jesus Christ.

DO YOU REALIZE WHY EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR?

Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that the Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!



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.

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

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

March 13 – St. Joseph, Carteret, 11:30 AM

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

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God,

You call us through our Baptism in the Spirit to continue the mission of Your beloved Son, Jesus.

Open us to listen attentively for Your invitation.

Empower us to respond to Your call.

Inspire women and men

to follow the path of service.

Together may we build up the Church to be a

vibrant sign of Your presence in our world.

We offer this prayer

in the name of Your Son, Jesus,

through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE: Many have noticed that the heat has been off kilter at St. Brigid. In seeking a solution to this problem, it was found that the original wiring to the thermostats was frayed and that both the thermostats and the wiring needed to be replaced. This is a major repair job and is taking place at this time and should be completed shortly. If anyone would like to see samples of the original wiring it will be at the back of St. Brigid Church. Thank you for your understanding.

“Every time you smile at someone it is. . . a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” – Mother Teresa