

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2012

In today's Gospel we hear a story the might be confusing, even shocking. It is the story of the anger of Jesus at those who were buying and selling in front of the Temple. Some scripture scholars think that Jesus was so angry because the moneychangers were cheating the poor and that their love of money defied the first commandment, "You shall not have other gods besides me." Remember those false gods that we put before the one true God, let us ask for mercy and forgiveness.

Masses of the Week

Beginning March 12, 2012

8:00 am Daily Mass

MON: Kathleen Coyle Hicks Roy Tischa
TUES: Edward Annen
WED: Frank J. Passaro, Sr. Theresa L. Hammerbacher
THURS: Josefina Escarca (S.I.) Rose Spera
FRI: Edward J. Murray Donnon Murray
SAT: Patricia Ann Tharrington Michael Garcia

Saturday, March 17, 2012

4:30 PM: Rosalie D. Hagan
6:00 PM: People of the Parish

Sunday, March 18, 2012

7:30 AM: Pat Simpkins
9:00 AM: Jerome Bozek William Brookes
10:30 AM: Henry J. Ackerman, Sr.
Noon: Eileen Lawlor Luigi & Stefana DiStefano
N.H. - indicates Nursing Home
S.I. - indicates Special Intention
Mon. N. H. Ann Connolly

SCRIPTURE READINGS for March 18, 2012

First: 2 Chr 36; 14-16, 19-63 The story of the exile of the chosen people
Second: Eph 2:4-10 By grace you have saved.
Gospel: John 3:14-21 Light came into the world

Prayer Shawls: If you or someone you know needs the comfort and prayers of a "prayer shawl", know that it is available to you with a call to Pat Novak, 410-321-1438.

IHM SODALITY will host an **EASTER BAZAAR** (sweets, jewelry, tombola, crafts) after all weekend masses on March 31 and April 1. Everyone welcome. Refreshments served.

IHM SODALITY - Are YOU interested in joining our organization? Contact Gloria Dayhoff, 410-665-2902, for information. Reception of new Sodalists to take place in May.

PRAYER CHAIN If you have a PRAYER REQUEST call any member of the IHM Prayer Chain: Call Mary Ann Thaler 410-668-7738, Corrine Kelly 410 -252-2009

Collections for the Weekend of March 4, 2012

Envelope Donations	\$	8583.25	
Loose	\$	1400.62	
Children	\$	118.96	
Second Collection	\$	3053.82	Maintenance
Total	\$	13156.65	
Less Cathedralium	\$	1183.15	
Available for Parish	\$	11973.50	
Poor Box	\$	369.45	

ELECTRONIC GIVING AT IHM. - Electric Giving is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from either your checking or saving account, or it can be charged to your credit card. Your contributions to the collection can be weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Sign-up forms are available at the parish office in the pamphlet rack in the back of Church or can be downloaded from the parish website.

RESPECT LIFE - "The need to defend citizens' rights of conscience is the most critical issue before our country right now," said Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Bishop Lori chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the USCCB and explained that the fundamental issue at stake "is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs even when they violate church teaching. We will continue our strong defense of conscience rights through all available legal means. Religious freedom is at the heart of democracy and rooted in the dignity of every human person. We will not rest until the protection of conscience rights is restored and the First Amendment is returned to its place of respect in the Bill of Rights. Religious freedom is a God-given fundamental right of all. The free exercise of religion extends well beyond the freedom of worship. It also forbids government from forcing people or groups to violate their most deeply held religious convictions, and from interfering in the internal affairs of religious organizations. In the United States, respect for religious liberty must be broad and inclusive, and it is not for the government to decide which of our ministries is 'religious enough' to warrant religious freedom protection." (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, March 1, 2012) To join the parish Respect Life Committee call Betty Steinbacher at 410 665-8645.

Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference, March 24th at Immaculate Conception parish - 8:30 - 3:30 For more information contact Don Ward 410-882-6644 or www.catholicmensfellowship.com.

Please Remember God's Poor by use of the Poor Boxes as you leave Mass each Weekend

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE – Our next parish Blood Drive will be on Thursday, March 15th from 1 – 7 in Cartwright Hall. Please call Gary Brown in the Outreach Office to schedule your life-saving donation - 410-663-4357.

CATHOLIC REVIEW SUBSCRIPTION - Our Annual **CATHOLIC REVIEW SUBSCRIPTION** letters have been mailed. You may return the enclosed envelope by mail or in the collection basket. If you are not receiving The Catholic Review and would like to do so, please call the parish office at 410-668-7935 and speak with Dolores or email dschiavone@immaculateheartofmary.com

The **IHM school board** is seeking nominations for full and ad hoc members for the 2012-2013 school year. According to Archdiocesan guidelines, the school board must maintain a certain percentage of members who do not have children attending the school.

If you know of anyone who would be a strong contributor to our school board who fits this criteria and also has a background in one or more of the following categories (finance, construction, marketing, fundraising, grant writing), please have them contact Steve Crum srcrum@verizon.net (410-882-7808) or Fr. Carrion mcarrion@immaculateheartofmary.com or call 410-668-7935 ext. 203

Fr. Mike is sponsoring a *Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*, November 7 to 16, 2012. If you are interested in experiencing the land and the places that are so important to the foundation of our faith, please contact, Fr. Michael Carrion at 410-668-7935, ext. 203 or at mcarrion@immaculateheartofmary.com. Flyers are also available in the back of Church. We also have a link with more information on the Parish Website.

Fr. Mike

Our Parish Seder Meal will be celebrated on March 25, at 4:30pm in the School Gym. All parishioners are invited to attend. The ticket price for the Seder Meal is \$5 per person, children under 4 are free and reservations are required. Tickets will be available after the weekend Masses on March 10, 11, 17, and 18 and at the Parish office until March 16th

As part of the celebration a hot meal will be served consisting of roast lamb, potatoes, a vegetable and Matzo (the unleavened bread) with wine or juice, coffee and tea and dessert.

The **Seder** (or Passover) meal is the annual celebration of the Jewish people commemorating the passage of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised land. For Christians is the setting of Christ's Last Supper with his apostles the night before he died when He gave us the gift of the Eucharist and told them to "Do this in memory of Me", thus instituting the sacraments of Eucharist and Holy Orders. We especially encourage the families of those preparing for First Eucharist to take advantage of this opportunity.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

"Change our Hearts, Change our Minds, Change our Lives"

REGULATIONS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE -

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday Mornings after the 8:00 AM Mass and 7:00 PM Friday evenings during Lent.

RECONCILIATION – Wednesday after the 8:00 AM Mass and Saturday at 3:45 PM. (except Holy Saturday) March 14 from 7pm to 8pm and Tuesday, March 27, Regional Reconciliation Service at St. Ursula Parish at 7:00 pm

Our next **Simple Supper** will be on Friday, March 30th at 5:30 PM followed by the Mime Stations of the Cross

Please note the April food drive for our *St. Vincent de Paul* Pantry will be on April 1st since Easter Sunday is on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Our Pantry is very low. Please donate to our Food Pantry.

HOLY THURSDAY ADORATION: There is a sign up board located in the vestibule for specific times for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. You are welcome to sign up for your desired time.

MUSIC DURING LENT: The church documents direct that instruments be used as necessary for accompaniment of singing only, during Lent. Therefore there will not be any prelude or postlude music, the time before and after Mass in the absence of music rather being used for quiet reflective prayer in this penitential season.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITY: In conjunction with our Lenten theme, you are invited to take one of the slips at the entrances to the church and write how you might be changing your heart, mind and life this Lent. The slips can be deposited in the large jar in the sanctuary near the Lenten Banner and will be offered up in prayer during this penitential season.