

A reflection from the Pastor

“At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.” We hear these words in today’s gospel as we begin the holy season of Lent. Lent, as our Holy Father Pope Benedict has said, is a forty day retreat.

Lent is a time to be led into our own personal deserts in order to work out our own way of following Jesus more closely. Yes, there will still be moments of temptation, but we must draw from Christ’s strength by resisting temptation and turning toward greater acts of charity, penance, fasting, and prayer. Let us pray for one another as we journey through this season to Easter.

Lastly, the Tuesday Mardi Gras celebration which began with the burning of last year’s palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday was a success. Thirty people gathered in the hall for food and fellowship on the eve of the Lenten Season. The *King Cake*, whose tradition began with the celebration of Christ’s birth, containing the baby Jesus doll, was enjoyed by all. Patti Soto “found” the baby in her piece of cake, much to her surprise. King for the evening, she will have the honors of bringing the king cake next year. Thank you to all who made it a nice evening.

May you have a blessed week,

**TODAY
COFFEE AND FOOD**

After 8:00 a.m. Mass
Coffee and Menudo
in the Parish Hall

After the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Coffee and Donuts
in the Heritage Room.

Come for fellowship and food!

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Intentions

February 12 – February 17

Tuesday, 12th	4:50 p.m. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 5:00 p.m. Penance 5:50 p.m. Benediction 6:00 p.m. Angelus 6:10 p.m. Mass - <i>Mark Lowery</i>
Wednesday, 13th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Guadalupe Gonzalez + by Maria & Alex Gonzalez</i>
Thursday, 14th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Married Couples</i>
Friday, 15th <i>Day of Abstinence</i>	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Kathryn Koliba by A. E. Linke</i> 6:00 p.m. Penance 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Saturday, 16th	5:15 -5:45 p.m. Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary - <i>leader: Bebe Canchola</i> 6:00 (vigil) Mass - <i>Josefa Alvarez + by Mary L. Moya</i>
Sunday, 17th <i>Second Sunday Lent</i>	7:30 a.m. Santissima Rosario 8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Marcus Ramon Torres + by Ramona Torres</i>

Readings for Sunday 17th

Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 16th, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Jeanne Lange, Paulette Brandl
Cup Ministers	Jeanette West, Veronica Garcia
Gift bearers	Alex and Rosie Chamberlain
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	B. Cantu, D. Hybner, A. Reyes Sr., A. Garcia

Sunday 17th, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Gloria Cantu, Martina Aguayo
Cup Ministers	Juanita Canales, Juanita Madrigal
Gift bearers	Emilio and Veronica Ledezma and Marcello
Altar Servers	Mauricio Ledezma, volunteers
Ushers	D. Robles, J. Aguayo, P. Guerra, M. Estrada

Sunday 17th, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Maribel Gonzalez, Melinda Valenzuela
Cup Ministers	Ismael Perez, Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Albert and Lucia Rodriguez and family
Altar Servers	A. Valenzuela, M. Valenzuela, J. Valenzuela
Ushers	M. Gonzales, J. Sanchez, D. & K. Escalante

Parish Meeting Calendar – February

- 10 Second Sunday Coffee/Food 8 & 10
11 Lenten Lecture Series 7:15 Heritage
12 Catholic Daughters Mtg. 7 Heritage
18 Lenten Lecture Series 7 Heritage
19 Safe Environment Mtg. 6:30 Heritage
21 Knights of Columbus Mtg 7 Heritage
25 Lenten Lecture Series 7 Heritage
23 Baptismal Instruction 10-12 Heritage

St. Valentine

Saint Valentine (in Latin, Valentinus) is one of several martyred saints of ancient Rome (c. 270). Of the Saint Valentine whose feast is on 14 February, he was buried at the Via Flaminia north of Rome on 14 February. Saint Valentine was killed (beheaded) because he continued to marry young couples even though Emperor Claudius forbade it. Claudius thought that married soldiers weren't as good as single soldiers.

Hospital / Emergency Calls

As of member of the Victoria Deanery (churches in this area) St. Patrick's pays a hospital chaplain to meet the needs of hospital patients. If you find that you are in the hospital and in need of a priest in an emergency please contact:

Priest Beeper 503 – 9188

If no response, call:

**Chaplain at: 579-6895 (home)
920-0137**

Post this near your telephone.

Please also take the time to let me know here at the parish so that I may include you on the prayer list and make a visit when possible.

Religious Education This Week

**This Wednesday - February 13, 2008
FAITH BUILDING NIGHT
RECONCILIATION**

with Fr. Ty

**Grades 1-6 6:00 p.m.
Main Hall**

**Grades 7-12 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Main Hall**

Lenten Lecture Series

**The Deadly Sins – Overcoming through
Understanding Virtue**

Five Mondays of Lent, Father Ty will be presenting this Lecture Series in the Heritage Room focusing on the sins of pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, and sloth and how to overcome them with humility, kindness, abstinence, chastity, patience, liberality, and diligence. All are invited. Refreshments will be served. Dates: February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10.

This Monday: 7:15 p.m. in Heritage Room.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

The season of Lent lasts how many days:

b. forty

The season of Lent lasts forty days and forty nights, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending the eve before Holy Thursday. The Sundays of Lent do not count toward the forty days, in that we still celebrate Sunday as the day of Christ's resurrection.

This week's question:

Simon of Cyrene was the man who

- a. ran away when Jesus was praying in the garden
- b. helped Jesus carry his cross
- c. waited outside the courtyard when Pilate judged Jesus
- d. held the rooster that crowed three times

(Answer coming next week)

Last Sunday's Collection:

General: \$ 1,829.65

Building Fund: \$684.45

Diocesan 25th History Book

If you ordered a book, they are in. Please pick it up after Mass or at the parish office Tuesday through Friday. If you did not order one but would like one, there are some available. The cost of each book is \$32.

Safe Environment Meeting for Parish

Each year by diocesan law, the parish is required to have an informational and program meeting to inform the parish about the Safe Environment Program for our children. This meeting will be held on February 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room and will last around one hour. All invited.

Accolade Hospice Volunteer Training Course

Every Wednesday for Six Weeks
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. noon
New Classes Starting February 27, 2008

Place: First United Methodist Church
407 North Bridge
Victoria, Texas 77901

For more information call Connie Zimmerman,
Volunteer Coordinator toll free 877-293-9099.

*Pray for those preparing to enter
the church at Easter.*

Around the Diocese...

ST. MARY'S, VICTORIA – Annual Festival

Sun. Feb. 10. Victoria Community Center

Brisket/Sausage \$7 adult, \$4 child

A SPECIAL NEEDS one day retreat will be held
MARCH 29, 2008 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

Anyone in the Victoria area with a disability or special need is welcomed to attend. Applications will be available soon throughout the diocese. Please contact Vicki Pyatt, Director, at (361)572-9301 or Pam Kovar, Co-director, at (361)781-0338 for more information.

ST. PATRICK'S  CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar

Pastor

(361) 897-1155 - voice Post Office Box 2122
(361) 897-1064 - fax 13316 State Highway 185
saintpatricks@tisd.net Bloomington, Texas 77951

Operation Rice Bowl Facts

Rice Bowl – the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services (established in 1943 as a relief agency of the United States Catholic Community) that goes to help people in communities around the world and here in the United States:

Agriculture: help farmers improve crop yields and
Increase food security in communities

Water: projects bring clean water to communities

Microfinance: encourages small business growth

Mother and Child Health: provide basic health and
nutrition services.

Education: support the local Catholic Church

HIV and AIDS: serving the many needs of those
affected



In other church news

Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools to Resign

In a letter faxed to the parish on Thursday, February 7, 2008, Sr. Gloria Cain SSND will resign as Superintendent of Catholic Schools June 30, 2008. Having served in the position for twelve years, the diocese will also lose Sr. Dawn SSND who became her associate only recently; she will resign June 30, 2008. Sr. Barbara Bacak SSND who serves in Inez will also resign her duties July 2008 to do other work for the order.

Lent a Time to Fast From Words and Images

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 7, 2008 - Benedict XVI proposes that Lent be a time to fast from words and images, and to create a space for silence. The Pope said this today in the Vatican upon receiving the parish priests of the Diocese of Rome, a meeting he said is organized to "mutually help each other," reported L'Osservatore Romano. When asked how to live Lent, the Pope answered: "It seems to me that the time of Lent should be a time of fasting from words and images, because we need a little silence, a little space, without being constantly bombarded with images." "We need to create spaces of silence [...] to open our hearts to the true image, to the true word." The Pontiff also underlined the importance of the clergy giving witness that "we can truly know God. That we can be his friends, and walk with him." Other themes that were discussed included interreligious dialogue, almsgiving and the loss of the sense of sin that characterizes society.

FOR VOCATIONS, LIFE, LENT

"A People's Civilization Is Measured by Its Capacity to Serve"

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 5, 2008 - Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI delivered Sunday before reciting the midday Angelus with several thousand people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today I would like to entrust various intentions to your prayers. Firstly, recalling that yesterday, the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we celebrated the Day for Consecrated Life, I invite you to pray for those whom Christ calls to follow him more closely with a special consecration. Our gratitude goes out to these brothers and sisters of ours who dedicate themselves to the total service of God and the Church with the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. May the Holy Virgin obtain many and holy vocations to the consecrated life, which constitutes inestimable riches for the Church and for the world.

Another prayer intention is offered by the Day for Life, which is celebrated today in Italy, and has "Serving Life" as its theme. I greet and salute those who have come here to St. Peter's Square to bear witness to their commitment to the defense and promotion of life and to reaffirm that "a people's civilization is measured by its capacity to serve life" [Message of the Italian Bishops' Conference for the 30th National Day for Life].

Everyone, according to their own possibilities, profession and competence, always feels compelled to love and serve life, from its beginning to its natural end. It is, in fact, the duty of all to welcome human life as a gift to be respected, safeguarded and promoted, especially when it is fragile and in need of care, whether prior to birth or at its end. I join with the Italian bishops to encourage those who, with toil but with joy, without clamoring and with great dedication, help elderly or disabled family members, and those who regularly give part of their own time to help those persons of every age whose life is tried by many and different forms of poverty.

Let us pray also that the season of Lent, which will begin Wednesday with the Rite of the Ashes -- which I celebrate, as every year, at the Basilica of Santa Sabina on the Aventine -- will be a time of authentic conversion for all Christians, called to an ever more authentic and courageous witness of their faith. We entrust these prayer intentions to the Madonna.