

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT. FEB. 27-VIGIL OF 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
5:30 P.M. **VIGIL MASS—FOR THE PEOPLE**

SUN. FEB. 28-2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
9:00 A.M. MASS—DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF ART & AMY AVILA By Avila Family & † DARROLD BRYANT, SR. By Carole Bryant
11:45 A.M. MASS—†CONSUELA M. BALBOA By Lourdes Mendez & † MARIAN SPEICHER By Dullaghan Family
6:00 P.M. MASS—† LINDA HOLLERAN By Carmela Lado

MON. MARCH 1-LENTEN WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. MASS—† MARIAN SPEICHER By Norrie Bastl

TUES. MARCH 2-LENTEN WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. MASS—FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF DARREN BUCKLEY By Virginia Buckley

WED. MARCH 3-LENTEN WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. MASS—† SALVADOR C. SALVA By Salva & Mina Families & † NORBERTO DIRECTO By Bersamin Family

THURS. MARCH 4-LENTEN WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. MASS—† MARIAN SPEICHER By Jane Kavanaugh

FRI. MARCH 5-LENTEN WEEKDAY
9:00 A.M. NO MASS

SAT. MARCH 6-VIGIL OF 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
5:30 P.M. **VIGIL MASS—† MIGUELA MAGLICMOT** By Ida Celiz & † LINDA HOLLERAN By The Men's Club

SUN. MARCH 7-3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
9:00 A.M. MASS—† NORMAN LeMIEUX By K of C Council 10601 & † CHRISTINA RASCO By Legaspi Family
11:45 A.M. MASS—† LINDA HOLLERAN By Brenda Dismaya & † HERBERT CURTIS By Marjorie Curtis
6:00 P.M. MASS—FOR THE PEOPLE

Please remember all sick and recovering parishioners, families and friends including: Russell Nadeau, Felisa Madrigal, Ed Bottum, Jennifer & Sawyer Morton, Cecilia Honig, Susan Huizenga Miller, Linda Gilbert, James Borecky, Mary Adams, Evelyn Blessing, Karen Beauregard, Marie Hayes, Kathleen Guthrie, Linda Bruner, Aline Sylvia, Katie Russel, Chet Brink, Walter Abbott.

Born to eternal life: Esther Granda, Caridad Miranda, Edward Cowles, Sr. Mary Loretto Parkhurst.

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday in Lent at 7 p.m. in the Church. All are encourage to attend in preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Matthew's is on March 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. The Lenten Reconciliation Service at Ascension is March 17 at 7:30 p.m., St. Mark's is March 4 at 7:30 p.m. and St. Gregory's is on March 22 at 7 p.m.

The Parish Lenten Mission: Monday, March 21— 7:30p.m



Tues., March 22—7p.m.

Wed., March 23—7p.m.

Thurs., March 24-7p.m.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

(GEN.15:5-12, 17-18, PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1, LUKE 9:28b—36)

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during his Philosophy of God course at Loyola University in Chicago. At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Father Powell, "Do you think I will ever find God?" "No," Powell replied, "but I think God will find you." Tommy walked away.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God, or at least to be in the right place at the right time to be found by him. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people what he most loved in the world and that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to Father Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if we want to encounter God then we have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St. John says in his letter, "If you say you love God, yet you hate your brother or sister, you are a liar."

The transfiguration is not a one-time event for Jesus alone. It is meant to set the pattern for all of us to experience the love of God as sons and daughters through Christ. The problem with the concept of love is that we've devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love. We say, "I love you," to people we don't love, and because we've learned that actions are more telling than words, we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us. We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience.

But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us. God loves us as we are, not as we would like to be. As the old saying goes, "You don't have to get good to get God, you have to get God to get good."

Finally, as the song runs, "You ain't nobody until somebody loves ya."

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God. In the process, God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose, and hope.

Together then let's ascend the mountaintop together, and hear God say to each of us, "You are my son. You are my daughter—and I love you."

Rite of Continuing Conversion will be celebrated this Sunday, February 28th, for our RCIA Candidates, who are coming from a different Christian faith or are unformed in the Catholic faith. Please keep our Candidates in your prayers: Adrienne Boals, Sulma Cabral, Bonnie Edelen, Raymond Hernandez, Hugo Owens, Leigh Rudiger, and Andres Vazquez, as they continue the journey of Faith and Full Initiation in the Catholic Church.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Divine Mercy Chaplet Recited Daily at 3 p.m. in the Chapel)

SUN.	FEB. 28
10:30 A.M.	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
10:30 A.M.	R.C.I.A. (School Library)
11:45 A.M.	BAPTISMS
1:00 P.M.	ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL CREDIT UNION MTG. (Café)
1:00 P.M.	JR. LEGION OF MARY (Parish Center)
4:00 P.M.	SMYG & j SMYG (Old School Library & Church)
MON.	MARCH 1
6:30 P.M.	CHOIR PRACTICE (Bride's Room)
7:00 P.M.	YOUNG ADULTS (Church)
TUES.	MARCH 2
11:00 A.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (Away)
7:00 P.M.	BAND PRACTICE (Old School Library)
7:00 P.M.	LITURGY FORUM (Parish Center)
7:00 P.M.	LEGION OF MARY (Parish Center)
7:30 P.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (Parish Center)
WED.	MARCH 3
10:00 A.M.	LEGION OF MARY (Parish Center)
1:00 P.M.	ARMATA BIANCA (Parish Center)
7:00 P.M.	CHOIR PRACTICE (Church)
7:00 P.M.	YOUTH GROUP (Old School Library)
8:00 P.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (Away)
THUR.	MARCH 4
10:00 A.M.	BIBLE STUDY (Parish Center)
3:30 P.M.	BROWNIES (Assembly Hall)
7:00 P.M.	K of C LADIES AUX. (Café)
8:00 P.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (Away)
FRI.	MARCH 5
1:30 P.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (Parish Center)
3:00 P.M.	BAND PRACTICE (Old School Library)
5:00 P.M.	FISH FRY (Cafe)
7:00 P.M.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Church)
8:00 P.M.	1st FRIDAY MASS
SAT.	MARCH 6
MIDNIGHT	1st SATURDAY MASS
2:00 P.M.	EL SHADDAI (ASSEMBLY HALL)
4:00 P.M.	BAPTISMS
7:00 P.M.	FAITH COMMUNITY (AWAY)

REMINDERS from the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

1. March 14, Sunday at 10:30 am: 1st Eucharist Practice in the Church. At the same time is the parents' retreat in the school library.
2. March 19 thru 21: Retreat of the St. Matthew's Youth Group with Ashley & staff at Triple R. Ranch.
3. March 19, Friday at 6pm is the retreat of the St. Matthew's Youth Group parents in the school library.
4. March 21, Sunday — St. Matthew's Youth Group at Mass @ 11:45 and Welcome Back potluck lunch in the Assembly Hall, after the Mass.
5. March 27, Saturday at 5:30 PM Mass —FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION
6. April 25, Sunday at 2:00 PM — CONFIRMATION



Choose Life...

We are conducting a Baby Bottle Bonanza after all Masses this weekend to assist Birthright. Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service that assists women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, to help them carry their babies to term. Please take a bottle and fill it with cash or a check and return it on the weekend of March 13/14. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated by the pregnant women who seek our help. For other ways you can help, call 489-0222. Thank you!

YOUTH NEWS

One-on-One Youth and Confirmation I Retreat is rescheduled for March 19 at 5:30p to Mar. 21 at 2p. Registration is re-opened! Don't miss your chance to go on this retreat! Visit www.smygva.org for registration forms.

SMYG high school youth group meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30p in the Old School Library. Come & join us!

Wedding Invitation

Ashley Zahorian & Raymond Selg invite you, their parish family, to join them in the celebration of their Nuptial Mass on Sat., April 10th at 10 a.m. and for Adoration & Confession from 9-9:45 a.m. Everyone from St. Matthew's, especially youth & their families, is invited. You can visit www.raymondandashley.com for more details.

Please RSVP at www.raymondandashley.com by March 15th for the lunch reception following Mass. If you can not RSVP by March 15th, please bring a hor d'oeuvres or a lunch dish to the school cafeteria so that we can make sure there is food for everyone.



MEETING



There will be a Town Hall meeting on March 7th at 1:30 pm. In the cafeteria. The topic for discussion will be renovations for the Assembly Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

*Donations for the Week Ending Feb. 21, 2010
(9.5% of donation help support the Diocese)*

	WEEK	YEAR
Donations	\$ 14,120.30	\$ 456,357.83
Expenses	\$ 15,773.19	\$ 514,610.74
Over/(Under)	\$ 1,652.89	\$ (58,252.91)

Sun. Money Counters: Feb. 28-Team C; March 7-Team D
Mon. Money Counters: March 1-Team B; March 8-Team C
Altar Cleaners: March 6-Men's Club

Thank you for your support. God bless you.