

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/
Mk 2:1-12
Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20---6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Do you know an adult who has been baptized and receives Holy Communion but has never been confirmed? Would this person like to be confirmed? Registrations for Confirmation preparation classes for adults are now being taken. Please contact Fr. Stan or Rella (875-4563) in order to register or to request more information.

PLEASE NOTE

Fr. Stan and Rella will be attending the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress from Thursday, February 26 through Tuesday, March 3. The Faith Formation Office will open at 1:00pm on these days.

YOUTH GROUP AT CORNERSTONE

Some members of the Youth Group will be going to Cornerstone to help prepare and serve lunch on Saturday, February 28. Parents are reminded to bring their teens to Cornerstone.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All teens preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and some of the peers from Youth Group will be going to Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries in Garrison, NY from Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 8 for their annual Confirmation retreat. We will meet in the parish center kitchen at 3:30pm for an early pizza supper. The bus will leave the back parking lot at 4:00pm. Everyone under the age of 18 is reminded to bring their permission slips and medical forms. Any questions, please contact Rella.

HELP NEEDED

If you could spare an hour or so every other Tuesday, we sure could use you to bring Eucharist to the patients at Rockville Hospital.

Training will be provided. Interested? Call Larry Deraleau at 749-4139 or Arlene Furey at 875-1007.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY**

Our annual Thursday morning *Disciples on the Journey* study series begins this year on February 26th and continues throughout Lent.

Disciples on the Journey is open to everyone. It's a program of Bible Study that's designed to carry you through the Lenten Season and into a stronger faith.

If you have any questions about *Disciples on the Journey*, call Denice Jones at 860-647-0159 for more information.

MARDI GRAS

Our celebration of this Carnival season ends with the rapidly-approaching celebration of **Mardi Gras!**

Plan to join us as we celebrate **Fat Tuesday** this year in style on February 24 at 6:30pm.

It's a **pot-luck** festivity, so it's time to start thinking about what you'd like to bring. Make your most decadent and lusty dishes, because this festival has to carry us through the entire austere season of Lent!

Sign up sheets for the pot-luck dinner will be at the entrances of the Church.

Included with the pot-luck dinner will be the **selection of prayer partners for Lent.**

Plan on attending and remember to take this opportunity to **show off your crazy hats and beads!**

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND.
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

February 9, 2009

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, we will begin our Lenten journey to Easter. The days of Lent are steps in a spiritual journey in which we turn away from sin and unite ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. These forty days mirror Jesus' time in the desert. St. Mark's Gospel tells us that after Jesus' Baptism, the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness where He was tempted by Satan. (Cf. Mark 1:12-13) Jesus rebuffs Satan's attacks that recall the temptations of Adam and of the Israelites in the Exodus event in the desert. The Lord remains faithful in the face of temptation. He reveals Himself as God's Servant Who is totally obedient to His Father's will. (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 538 & 539)

Like Jesus, we equip ourselves for these forty days with prayer and fasting and we learn the importance of almsgiving and the need for conversion and penance. These Lenten practices strengthen us to renounce Satan, his works of evil, and his empty promises. They restore us to the newness of God's life and love and help us to begin our lives of faith anew.

At the Easter liturgy, we will renew our Baptismal Promises "to serve God faithfully in His holy Catholic Church." By a well lived Lent, we will restore that life God gave us at Baptism. We will also appreciate more intensely the meaning of Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross and our share in His Risen life.

Lent is not only our preparation for Easter; it is our preparation for life in Jesus Christ now and for all eternity. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not just good Lenten practices; they are also the staples of a life lived in union with Jesus Christ. But how is conversion possible for us? How can we change our lives, turn away from selfishness and self-deceit, and renounce sin?

By prayer, we will open our hearts to hear God's voice and to listen to Him. We must start by setting aside time for prayer at the beginning and the end of each day—time when we can lift our minds and hearts to God and deepen our awareness of His Presence. With a heightened awareness of God's presence in our lives, we will begin to appreciate anew the strength and the comfort of His forgiveness for our wrongdoing.

By fasting we strengthen our ability to follow the Lord and we acknowledge that we do not live on bread alone. Fasting reminds us that it is God who sustains and strengthens us and that our need for God is real; it is as real as our need for food, water, and air. To be truly effective, fasting must be joined to prayer and like prayer have as its object a deepening awareness of God and His Presence. Fasting helps us to see our need to be faithful to the Lord and, like Jesus, to live in obedience to the

Father's Will. Fasting also strengthens the ties that unite us as God's family, especially with the least of Jesus' sisters and brothers. By fasting we show our special solidarity with the hungry poor and we realize how truly their needs become our own.

By almsgiving we share with others God's blessings and, in itself, almsgiving imitates the generosity and love of God. The Gospel calls us to care for our needy sisters and brothers. We recall Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, "I assure you as often as you did it for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Spiritual preparation for Easter must include giving alms, an act, a gift or a service of compassion. Perhaps, in these difficult economic times, our charity may be meager but, like the widow's mite, genuine almsgiving comes from the little that we have (Mark 12:41-44). No matter how small or large our gift to the poor, helping persons in need is an integral part of our lives if we are to follow Jesus and be faithful disciples.

Together with the Rosary, the Way of the Cross, the reading of Sacred Scripture, the frequent reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are beautiful ways to live Lent and to prepare for the joyful Eucharistic celebration of Easter. Renewed in the life we received at Baptism through the Sacrament of Penance and our Easter renewal, we will hunger all the more for Jesus in the Eucharist. That is the food we need to live in God's Kingdom.

Come, let us make our journey to Easter by walking Jesus' Way of the Cross, that total outpouring of love in obedience to the Father's Will. The journey is worth the effort. It promises to renew in us a love that puts sin to death, a life given for God and for others, and a peace that reconciles us to the Lord and to one another. For if lived well, these forty days of Lent will be spent with Jesus the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT AT HOLY FAMILY PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford will hold a day or evening retreat on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 10am to 2pm and again from 6pm to 9pm. The presenter is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. The offering is \$30, which includes lunch or dinner. Information is available at (860) 521-0440. Register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- SATURDAY** SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (FT)
5:45pm **Mass: *Larry Kuhn, 30th Anniversary***, requested
by Mary Kuhn,
-and-
Mary Moriarty, requested by Mary Kuhn
- SUNDAY** SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (FT)
10:45am **Mass: *Rose Ford***, requested by her son, Greg
- MONDAY** POLYCARP, BISHOP & MARTYR
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- TUESDAY**
9:00am **Mass: *Norman LaPorte***, requested by Stella
Sears-Tessier
- ASH WEDNESDAY – DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE**
9:00am **Mass & Ashes: *For the People of the Parish***
4:00pm **Liturgy of the Word & Ashes**
7:00pm **Liturgy of the Word & Ashes**
- THURSDAY**
NO **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (call for an
appointment instead)
7:00pm **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**
- FRIDAY** DAY OF ABSTINENCE (NO MEAT)
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- SATURDAY** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (FE)
5:45pm **Mass: *Carl Schuetz***, requested by the Sacred
Heart Parish Family
- SUNDAY** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (FE)
10:45am **Mass: *Thomas Mitney, Sr.***, requested by his
Children & Grandchildren

MEETINGS

- SATURDAY**
7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, South Rooms
- SUNDAY** **Fellowship before and after Mass**
9:15 **Faith Formation Grades 1-5**
6:30pm **Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep**
7:45pm **Youth Group**
- MONDAY** Offices Closed
- TUESDAY**
6:30pm **Mardi Gras Pot-Luck**, South Community
Rooms
- WEDNESDAY**
4:00pm **Faith Formation**, Gr. 1-3, 5
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous***, South Community
Rooms
- THURSDAY**
10:00am **Bible Study – Disciples on the Journey**, South
Community Rooms
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book***, South
Rooms
- SATURDAY**
Youth Group at Cornerstone
7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, South Rooms
- SUNDAY** **Fellowship before and after Mass**
9:15 **Faith Formation Grades 1-5**
6:30pm **Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep**
7:45pm **Youth Group**

WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ST. MAURICE
WWW.STMAURICEKOFC.ORG

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 21, 2009

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass: **Olga Guglielmino**,
 request of Samuel Guglielmino & Michael
 and Joanne Williams.

Sunday, February 22, 2009

8:45 a.m. **Kathleen Leiner**, request of
 Mary K. Radion

Next Weekend:

Saturday, February 28, 2009

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass: **Olga Guglielmino**

Sunday, March 1, 2009

8:45 a.m.: **Raymond & Lilyan Hunt**

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING

Last week's collection was \$ 2,744.00
 Last year's collection was \$ 4,767.00
 Projected amount needed \$ 4,204.00
 (for projected obligations, expenses, repairs and tithing.)

“He rose, picked up his mat at once and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this” – Mark 2:12

Have you taken any time lately to think about how truly good God has been to you? He may not have to cure your paralysis if He has already given you the gift of mobility. But do we glorify and thank Him for such simple gifts as sight, and speech, and general health? Do we give back to God in proportion to all the many blessings He has given to us?

Readings for the Week of February 22, 2009

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THIS WEEK

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr. Stan, celebrant
 Ushers Group IV

COFFEE SOCIAL SUNDAY

Monday 2/23: Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday 2/24: Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Robert Magnano
 Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday 2/25: Christmas Fair Workshop
NO ADORATION today

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass at 9:00 a.m. with distribution of ashes

Mass at 7:00 p.m. with distribution of ashes

Thursday 2/26: Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Robert Magnano

Friday 2/27: Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

Fish Dinners.....(see below*).....

Saturday 2/28: **1:30 – 4:00 p.m. 1st Penance Retreat**
At Parish Center

Confessions from 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
After the 4:00 p.m. Mass there will also be
Family Movie night at the Parish Center



* **On each Friday during Lent**, the Knights of Columbus is serving a “Fish and Chips” meal in the Parish Center from four o’clock till seven. The meal includes clam chowder, Baked fish and chips, coleslaw, rolls and ice cream plus beverage. The price is set at \$7.00 per adult, \$6.00 for take-out, and a pizza alternative is also available. No advance reservation is required. Come and enjoy! The take-out phone number is 643-8374 (Parish Center)

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**SATURDAY, 4:00 P.M. VIGIL MASS****ALTAR SERVERS:** Kyle Toce**LECTOR:** Georgette Pelletier**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Jean Gately,
Arlene Giglio, Ted Lloyd**SUNDAY, 8:45 A.M. MASS****ALTAR SERVERS:** Kevin Dean, Ryan &
Benjamin Van Dine**LECTOR:** Evelyn O'Connor**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Donna
Bradford, Robert Rouleau, Annedda Stiller.**THE FRANCISCAN THIRD ORDER**

We are please to announce that a new Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will originate at St. Joseph Church in Rockville. Anyone who is interested in learning what being a Third Order Franciscan means, and what is involved in becoming a Franciscan, is invited to attend an information day on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church Hall, 33 West Street, Rockville, CT. If you have any questions you may call 871-1635.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2009**March 1, 2009****GENERATIONS OF FAITH MEETING**

Starts at 10:00 a.m. in the Church, a light breakfast will be served at the Parish Center.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES
MEETING PRIOR TO G OF F****March 6 thru 8, 2009****Confirmation Candidates Retreat****March 12, 2009****K of C Business Meeting****March 14, 2009****St. Patrick's Day Dinner (Corned Beef)****March 22, 2009****Pancake Breakfast and Blood Pressure
Screening****March 29, 2009****Coffee Social**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIBRARY IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR PARISHIONERS WISHING TO SEE WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD OF CATHOLIC/CHURCH WRITINGS.

**WHERE TO SEND YOUR "FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT"
POSTCARDS**

**THE HONORABLE JOSEPH COURTNEY,
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER DODD
THE HONORABLE JOSEPH LEIBERMAN
UNITED STATES SENATE**

A THANK YOU UPDATE*With heartfelt gratitude to all involved*

We want to take an opportunity to thank you for your generosity, kindness and goodwill. It is safe to say that our family may not have made it through this difficult time if not for the support of the town, friends and family. The fact that you all gave so willingly during a time when we are all feeling financial pressures is truly amazing to us. We are very grateful to have a nice place to stay in town while the house is being rebuilt. We are happy to report that this Christmas was actually quite wonderful and it had more meaning for us than ever before. We were truly able to witness God's love displayed through the actions of so many people. Work continues to go on at the house. Things are taking a little longer than expected, partly because of the winter weather and partly because, as we all know, life is not without its challenges. Things however, are moving along and we are very excited at the prospect of moving back into a home that will be much nicer than it ever was. Thank you again for all of your support and know that your extreme generosity has made an enormous impact on all of our lives. We cannot begin to thank you enough.

Love

*Mark, Paige, Karina, Chanel, Sierra & Monet
Massey*

LENTEN REGULATIONS

ABSTINENCE from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all of the Fridays of Lent.

FASTING is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.