



The Annual Bishop's Appeal (ABA), which supports the work of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Norwich, will be conducted in every Parish over the next few weeks.

The ABA is not just another Sunday collection.

It is a unified effort in which all Catholics of the Diocese of Norwich join together to further the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church in eastern Connecticut. It is an opportunity to voluntarily support the work of the larger Church by returning a portion of what God has given to us through a pledge to the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a letter, brochure and pledge envelope from Bishop Cote. Please take the time to prayerfully consider what you are able to give in support of our Diocesan Church.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
 Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/
 Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

LENTE BIBLE STUDY DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY

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

Disciples on the Journey is open to everyone. It is 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.

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 until Tuesday, March 3. Rella will return to the Faith Formation Office on Thursday, March 5. The Faith Formation Office will open at 1:00pm on March 3 and 4.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All teens preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, some of the peers from Youth Group, and Rella and Rich Bernabucci 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.

ATTENTION: YOUTH GROUP

Because of the scheduled retreat on March 6-8, Confirmation Preparation classes and Youth Group will not be held on Sunday, March 8. We will resume the following weekend at the regularly scheduled time.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

The following children were recently baptized into the Church:

Tibor Sandor Elcsics, son of Erik & Jolanta
Andrew Simon Glidden, son of David & Christine
Amelia Violet McMullin, daughter of Mark & Kelly

We pray that God will continue to bless these families.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE TASTE OF LENT

By Mar Muñoz-Visoso, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

In thinking about Lent this year the first thing that came to mind was food. The albóndigas de bacalao (cod meatballs) and potaje (garbanzo soup) of my mother, and tortas de camarón (dry shrimp patties in tomato sauce) of my mother-in-law. It can be said that Lent and Holy Week have some special flavors in the Hispanic community. That is probably true of every people and culture.

It might seem strange to some that I talk about food in a time of fast and abstinence. Nonetheless, many of our cultural traditions, including the gastronomical, help us to remember values and customs of the liturgical seasons, precisely because they were born of them. They help us to get “in the mood.”

As with everything, however, Lent becomes a mere collection of rituals if not lived in its deepest meaning. For instance, judging by the numbers of us attending Ash Wednesday services, some people might think that for Hispanics this was the most important day in the liturgical calendar! But what is the point of receiving the ashes if later we do not make the effort to accompany the Master in his ascent to Jerusalem?

Lent reminds us that human existence is the story of an interpersonal relationship between man and God in the context of the new covenant sealed by Christ. This covenant makes possible a constant overcoming of sin in which conversion becomes our personal and communitarian attitude towards God and our brethren. This is the Christian vocation.

Conversion is a gift from God that requires a generous response and an internal purification effort on our part. The recurrent Lenten themes help us along the way: fast, abstinence, sacrifice, moderation of desires, prayer and works of mercy. The Sunday Gospels present us Jesus as protagonist, model and teacher. It is an itinerary that invites us to overcome selfishness and seek justice, and shows how the Christian community is both sign and instrument of reconciliation. It is, simply stated, an invitation to live more intensely our baptismal call, to lead a more conscious faith journey.

Saint Peter Chrysologus used to say, “Three are, brethren, the aids that allow for firm faith, constant devotion and permanent virtue. These three are prayer, fasting and mercy. For prayer calls, fasting intercedes, and mercy receives.” That is, prayer reinstates our communion with God; charity reconciles us with our brothers and sisters; and, fasting, as an exercise of self control, frees us up spiritually and reconciles us with ourselves.

We often find excuses to avoid what makes us uncomfortable. “The world doesn’t come to an end,” we say, just because I eat meat on a Friday of Lent, or don’t give up something; or “I’ll find time for prayer later,” while the Internet, the TV or the iPod fill our lives with noise; or “let someone else worry, I got enough problems of my own.”

Meanwhile, we forget about whether the beggar we intentionally avoided made it through the night or the elder we didn’t visit died of loneliness; God never got his minute of attention; and, in this

society of plenty, the body keeps packing up pounds it doesn’t need. God has become a distant voice in our hardened hearts, a remote echo in our conscience. And yet, we are mesmerized by our spiritual and physical ailments.

We need silence. We need times and spaces that allow us to listen to God. Maybe I will turn the radio off today on the drive home. By the way, Mom, send me the fish meatballs recipe. Mine don’t taste the same. It must be the cod.

“GRIEVING”

This program will delve into grieving feelings, examining grief, the grieving cycle, stories of grief, dealing with grief, moving on from grief, life-producing grief vs. life-draining negative self pity.

Presented by Deacon Michael Puscas, Ed.D.

Tuesday, March 10 from 7-8pm at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 67 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT

RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION

If you or someone you know is suffering after an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, Mar. 20-22, 2009 Hamden, CT. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information, or registration contact: Mary Hayden at 203-882-1326.

For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the Rachel’s Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org

2009 WORLD COMBINED COLLECTION

The Combined Collection for World Charities will be held **next weekend**, March 7th and 8th.

Your contribution will provide assistance to the Catholic Relief Services Collection, the Campaign for Human Development, Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Holy Land.

You will be receiving information in the mail about this collection. Please read this material and bring your contribution envelope to Mass next week, March 7/8. Your support and generosity are essential to these programs of the Universal Church.

MARCH 1, 2009

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- 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
- and -
Rosanna Neri, requested by Frank & Maria Neri
- MONDAY**
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- TUESDAY** KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- WEDNESDAY** CASIMIR
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- THURSDAY**
→ 9:00am **Mass: *Antoni Kaminski***
4:30-5:30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**
- FIRST FRIDAY** DAY OF ABSTINENCE (NO MEAT)
9:00am **Mass: *For the People of the Parish***
10-5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:00pm Close of Adoration
- SATURDAY** SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (FT)
5:45pm **Mass: *Onarata Labbadia***, requested by Maria Davia
-and -
Peggy Henry, requested by Joe & Maryann Henry
- SUNDAY** SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (FT)
10:45am **Mass: *Fred Sears***, requested by Stella Sears-Tessier

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
7:00pm **Knights of Columbus Social Meeting**, South Community Rooms
7:00pm **Haiti Minitry**, Deacon Chuck White Memorial Haiti Ministry Room
- 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
- FRIDAY**
6:00pm **Soup & Bread Supper** – Almsgiving to benefit The Caregivers
- 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 6-8**
NO **Conf Prep or Youth Group (on retreat Fri-Sun)**

WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ST MAURICE
WWW.STMAURICEKOFC.ORG

First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 28, 2009

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

Sunday, March 1, 2009

8:45 a.m. Mass: Raymond & Lilyan Hunt,
request of Bob & Jane Hunt

Next Weekend

Saturday, March 7, 2009

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass: Rudy DeTuccio; and
Donald Sullivan

Sunday, March 8, 2009

8:45 a.m. Mass: Mary Jane Wilde; and
Marion & Bill Miller.

GOD'S PLAN FOR TITHING

Last week's collection was \$ 4,371.00

Last year's collection was \$ 2,719.00

Projected amount needed \$4,204.00

(for projected obligations, expenses, repairs and tithing.)

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee
proclaiming the gospel of God..." – Mark 1:14*

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming? It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Readings for the week of March 1, 2009

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Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

THIS WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Gospel Reading MK 1:12-15
*"This is the time of fulfillment,
the kingdom of God is at hand
Repent and believe in the Gospel"*

Fr. Tony celebrant

Ushers Group I

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH MEETING
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES MEETING**

Monday, 3/2: Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Philomene
O'Donnell

Tuesday 3/3: NO MASS;
Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday 3/4 Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Rita Pelletier
Christmas Fair Workshop
ADORATION: 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday 3/5 Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Friday 3/6 No morning Mass
7:00 p.m. First Friday **Mass and Stations of the
Cross**

Fish Dinner and take outs at the Parish Center
from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Retreat for Confirmation Candidates begins
and runs until 3/8.

Saturday 3/7 Confessions 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

**MARCH 8, 2009 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS, CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!**

**NEXT WEEK MARCH 7/8
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Gospel Reading: Mk 9:2-10
*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased; listen to him."*

SATURDAY, 4:00 P.M. VIGIL MASS

ALTAR SERVERS: Emily Fiano,
Maria Cinea

LECTOR: Charles Luchini

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Patti Cinea
Peggy Peruccio, Vi Sobol

SUNDAY, 8:45 A.M. MASS

ALTAR SERVERS: Kimberly Newton,
David & Chrissy Bendzinski

LECTOR: Jennifer Carvelho

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Lou Cloutier
Jennifer Carvalho, Margaret Maneggia

2009 WORLD COMBINED COLLECTION PROGRAM

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**THE LEPRECHANS ARE COMING!
THE LEPRECHANS ARE COMING!**

WHEN?

MARCH 14, 2009

WHERE?

ST. MAURICE PARISH

WHY?

**TO CELEBRATE ST. PATTI'S DAY WITH A
CORNEBEEF & CABBAGE DINNER!**

UPDATED CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2009

March 7/8	World Combined Collection
March 9	Building Committee Meeting
March 10	Finance Committee Meeting
March 14	St. Patrick's Day Dinner
March 21	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting
March 22	Pancake Breakfast/Blood Pressure
March 24	Penance Service – Sacred Heart Church
March 29	Coffee Social

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT JESUS' TEMPTATION

In Mark's Gospel we read about Jesus being tempted by the devil for forty days. Lent provides us with time to reflect on the temptations we face and remember we rely on God for all things. Through our participation in **Operation Rice Bowl**, we put our faith into action; our prayers and alms help people in need around the world.

As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey, let us remember in **prayer** that the ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of the workers who provide food for their families. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about microfinance projects in Egypt.

A THANK YOU

The Bolton Scholarship Fund gratefully acknowledges your contribution of \$500 to assist Bolton High School graduates and Bolton residents in pursuit of higher education.

The Bolton Scholarship Committee

THE MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS

The Mercy Volunteer Corps, a lay ministry program of the Sisters of Mercy, is recruiting volunteers to give direct service to economically poor or marginalized persons at rural and urban sites in the United States and in Guyana for the '09-'10 and '10-'11 years.

Volunteers live together in community characterized by spirituality and a simple life style. Volunteers receive a small stipend, housing, medical insurance and an inspiration that lasts for a lifetime. Applications are welcome now for the service years beginning in August '09 and August '10.

For more information: Please visit the MVC website

www.mercyvolunteers.org

or

ContactUs@MercyVolunteers.org

or

phone Coordinator of MVC Volunteers

Janet Gary

(215) 641-5535