

Liturgical Reflection...This Wednesday, February 10, is Ash Wednesday when the Church begins the forty day journey toward the Triduum with the annual discipline of fasting, praying and giving alms. Ash Wednesday (February 10) and Good Friday (March 25) are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent (February 12, 19, 26; March 4, 11, 18) are days of abstinence (for those age 14 and older). FASTING refers to only one full meal, with two small meals and no eating otherwise for the day. ABSTINENCE refers to not eating meat at all during the day. The Church directs the holy FAST to all those in their 18th year until their 60th year. The ancient practice of fasting and abstaining can occur throughout other days in Lent. This is not obligatory and can take a variety of forms distinct from food.

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 We extend our sympathy to Elizabeth Heider and her family at the death of her sister, Norma Karns. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.  
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Our Annual Spring Dinner is fast approaching and we are in need of a person or persons to coordinate the preparation of this meal. If someone does not volunteer to do so by February 15th we will need to cancel the dinner. Anyone willing to take charge of this fundraiser please call the rectory. The dinner will be held on Sunday, April 3rd.

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 ALTAR SCHEDULE – February 10<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday – 7 pm

READER: Kim Wambaugh  
 MINISTER: Alzine Hoffman  
 SERVERS: Emily Brick  
 Luke Brick

ALTAR SCHEDULE – February 14<sup>th</sup>

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|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|           | <u>6 pm</u>    | <u>8 am</u>     | <u>10:30 am</u> |
| READER:   | Kim Wambaugh   | Paul Balint     | Kris Engleka    |
| MINISTER: | Linda Suhrie   | Rita Lewis      | Deacon Thom     |
| SERVERS:  | Nathan Leonard | Desirae Heider  | Maria Engleka   |
|           | Caleb Leonard  | Kennaley Heider | Marshal Engleka |

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 The annual Black and Indian Mission Collection has changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. Our financial support of the Collection is the mechanism that affects the Church's

evangelization efforts. Never have the needs been so great. We will take up a second collection next weekend to support this cause. Please be generous.
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 Once again we will have our **Lenten Fish Fry's** on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>; March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We will offer all you can eat. The price this year will be \$13.50 for adults; \$4 for those under 12; and for those 5 and under Free. We will serve dinners from 3:30-6:30 pm. This important fundraiser requires the help of many volunteers. Make your commitment to help when you can by signing up on the list in the back of the church.

**Notes from Fr. Rich**

- **Adult Education:** There will be no class this Sunday or next Sunday, but our class on the Meaning of the Mass resumes on Sunday February 21. Try to come for Lent.
- **Proclaim Television Show:** Some of you may know that our Diocese sponsors a television show at 10:30 am on Sundays on WATM channel 9 or 809 in HD on Comcast cable followed by the Mass from St. John's Cathedral in Johnstown at 11 am. If you want to check it out, I will be the featured guest on the show this Sunday February 7 when Bishop Mark Bartchak interviews me on the topic of "What the Saints can teach in getting ready for Lent and living a holy life each day."
- **Fish Fries:** Please come to our Friday fish fries and encourage others to do so. The first one begins this Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>. See elsewhere in the bulletin for more details. We also can always use more volunteers to help with set-up, the dinner, and clean-up. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the Church. Thanks for helping.
- **Lent:** It's hard to believe but Lent begins this Wednesday. Please see elsewhere in the bulletin for the penitential fasting and abstinence from meat regulations for Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. **Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 8 am and 7 pm in the Church.** It is not a sin to miss Ash Wednesday Mass, but it is a great way to start the Lenten season, so please try to come if you are able. The **Stations of the Cross** during Lent will be held on Friday evenings at **7 pm** – we will use the Divine Mercy Stations of the Cross to grow closer to our loving Lord during the season of Lent and Year of Mercy; also an additional opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered from 6-6:45 pm before the 7 pm Stations each Friday.
- **Another opportunity for Confession this Thursday:** The diocese asked all the priests to offer Confession this Thursday February 11 as a good way to get started in Lent during this special Jubilee Year of Divine Mercy. I will offer Confessions in the round room behind the Retreat Center Chapel at **8 pm** for anyone who wants to go after the Thursday evening Mass and devotions are completed. You could either come to the Mass and devotions and stay after or just show up at 8. If no one comes by 8:15, I will lock up.
- **Lenten spiritual practices:** Some other good Lenten practices are: *to try to come to daily Mass - even one extra day a week; try to do some spiritual reading each day (we have some nice books in the Church basement lending library); and try to come to the adult education class, as well as the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings.*

- **Lenten Prayer Partners:** Please sign up this weekend in the back of the Church for the prayer partner Lenten devotion. We will pick the names on Ash Wednesday.
- **Ash Wednesday Collection:** We will take up a collection at the Ash Wednesday Masses to help the people in our mission Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, specifically the parish of St. John Berchman. Please be generous.
- **Divine Mercy Reflections** - on the work of Lent- *"Lent is a very special time for the work of priests. We should assist them in rescuing souls"* (St. Faustina, Diary, par 931). Have a blessed week. 😊