

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH

*6:30 a.m. Rita Miller
8:00 a.m. Teresita Padrique

TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH

*6:30 a.m. Helen Hanley
8:00 a.m. Joseph Brinker

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH

6:30 a.m. Nell Wheeler
8:00 a.m. Dominick Lombardo Sr. ALL MASS
6:00 p.m. Nancy Cox

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH

*6:30 a.m. Douglas Koontz
8:00 a.m. Carol Gilbert

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH

8:00 a.m. Kenneth Haffner

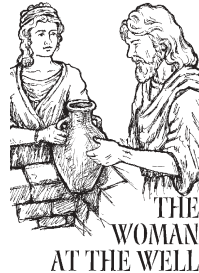
SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH

8:00 a.m. Richard Fitch
5:00 p.m. Salvador Martinez, Jr.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST

7:15 a.m. Rose Ann Plasterer Dix
9:00 a.m. Douglas Munson
11:00 a.m. Charles Gladieux
6:00 p.m. For The Parish (LifeTeen Mass)

*CHAPEL



LENTEN WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

The 6:30 a.m. Mass will be in the Spiritual Center chapel, except on Wednesdays when they will be in the church. On Wednesdays during Lent, we will be adding an extra Mass at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

SERVERS' SCHEDULE

(It is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement)
Saturday, March 20

8:00 a.m. Josh Lallow, Jera Thornsley
5:00 p.m. Colleen Pion, Nicole Dent,
Jordan Fawcett, Jim Fox

Sunday, March 21

7:15 a.m. Michelle Raney, Blair Sorg,
Paul Stange, Keith Welch
9:00 a.m. Jessica Schenkel, Nick Ferran,
Zachary Baron, Scott Nill
11:00 a.m. Elise Mayo, Trevor Yerrick
Hana Geswein, Nick DiRenzo

NURSERY – SUNDAY, MARCH 21

9:00 a.m. Kent and Love Phillips
Confirmation Candidates: Amy Boll and Chris Boll

COFFEE AND DONUTS – MARCH 21

9:00 a.m. Owens and WINGS

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

If you would like to meet some of your fellow parishioners for some prayer, fellowship and food to begin your day off on the right foot, plan to join men of the parish at the Omega Family Restaurant on Coliseum Boulevard this Friday, March 19, at 6:00 a.m. **All Men Are Welcome!**

NEWCOMERS REGISTRATION

Parish representatives will be in the Church Conference Room TODAY, March 14, after the 9 a.m. Mass to welcome and register new members to St. Vincent's.

EASTER FLOWERS

Once again we are offering you the opportunity to donate Easter flowers in memory of a loved one. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant. We will remember the deceased at our Easter Masses. Place the money or check in an envelope along with the form below: *(Please print)*
Name of Loved One (s): _____

Your Name: _____
Your Address: _____
Your Phone Number: _____
Donations: _____

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

We will be having a Lenten penance service on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. A good number of priests (about 10) will be hearing confessions. We hope many parishioners take advantage of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. On Saturday, March 27 and Saturday, April 3, we will be having penance services at 3:00 p.m. with 4 priests for confessions.

LENT AND THE RCIA

At the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses next weekend, the Elect will be going through the Second Scrutiny. They, and we, are called to examine where the darkness of sin is in our lives, in light of the gospel of the Man Born Blind.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This traditional Lenten devotion will be conducted on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 p.m. The church is open throughout the week for persons who wish to make the Stations privately.



GIVING HOPE TO A WORLD IN NEED

In Ethiopia, 12.5 million people are suffering from poverty, without food or water, and threatened with starvation. Catholic Relief Services is there—providing food, medicines, and emergency assistance, and working with the Catholic Church and national governments to find long-term solutions to the cycles of poverty and hunger. Acts of terrorism, war, and persecution affect nearly 15 million people who are enduring desperate lives as refugees, unwelcome in other countries and unable to return home. Migration and Refugee Services is there - helping refugees begin new lives of peace and hope through resettlement in the U.S. The poorest countries still struggle under a crushing debt. Social Development and World Peace is there—focusing the attention of the world on this problem and working for legislation to address it.

These Catholic organizations are helping our brothers and sisters in need. Please support them by giving to the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal next Sunday.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is planning an Easter food distribution for needy families. We are asking our parishioners to contribute to a food drive in order to supplement our pantry stock. This food collection is scheduled for the weekend of March 20 and 21. The following items are needed:

- cold cereals
- pasta and pasta sauces
- canned meat items
- peanut butter, jellies and jams
- crackers
- canned fruit



We have an abundance of canned vegetables and soups. Your donation should be placed in the church Gathering Space near the west entrance.

THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR!

Read about the issues and candidates in TODAY'S CATHOLIC. Background information which will help you vote and discuss politics when the subject arises. To renew your subscription, please use the special envelope sent to you or pick one up on the table by the church office or call (260) 456-2824 and charge to VISA or MasterCard.



ATTENTION: ALL MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Sacristans and Ushers – mark your calendars for one of the following evenings of reflection: Monday, March 15, 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m.; and Monday, April 26, 7 p.m. All reflections to be held in the Spiritual Center.

PROLIFE UPDATE

"Life is our greatest gift. If we fail to respect life, we will descend into the bottomless abyss of discrimination." Pope John Paul II

**SAINT VINCENT'S FEBRUARY 2004 COLLECTIONS
FIVE WEEKS**

Total Collection in Envelopes	\$ 231,788
Total Collection Loose	11,593
	\$ 243,381
Average Weekly Collection	\$ 48,676
Project Solidarity for the Poor	\$ 7,529
Capital Improvement Envelopes	\$ 3,328



MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

- BUILDING AND GROUNDS** – Monday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
- HARVEST HOUSE** – Monday, March 15, at 1:15 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- MINISTERS REFLECTION** – Monday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- "GOD'S LIBRARY"** – Monday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nursery
- SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST** – Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Reservation Chapel
- RCIA** – Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** – Wednesday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m. in the Reservation Chapel
- WINGS** – Wednesday, March 17, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
- WINGS TOO** – Thursday, March 18, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center
- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION II** – Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Room
- RCIC FOR CHILDREN PARENT/ SPONSOR MEETING** – Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Meeting Room
- RE-MEMBERING CHURCH** – Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Convent Back Room
- MOMS DINNER** – Thursday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Spiritual Center
- MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST** – Friday, March 19, at 6:00 a.m. at the Omega Restaurant on Coliseum Boulevard
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Friday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church
- MINISTER REFLECTION** – Saturday, March 20, at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Center

HARVEST HOUSE PLANNING MEETING

St. Vincent Harvest House will have a planning meeting on Monday, March 15, 2004, at 1:15 p.m. at the Spiritual Center. If you have any suggestions for summer activities, please bring them up at this meeting.

DISABILITY MINISTRY HOSTING A DAY RETREAT

St. Vincent's Disability Ministry facilitates a day retreat in the spring sponsored by Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese, open to persons in the diocese with various disabilities. The 2004 retreat is scheduled for:

- When:** Saturday, March 27, 2004
- Where:** St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Center
- Who:** Adults (18 and over) with mental, physical, or emotional challenges who seek companionship as they grow in discipleship
- What:** Presentations by individuals who understand the challenges you are facing. A journey to deepen your relationship with Christ, and to share more fully in the ministry and life of the Church.
- Prayer** – Lunch – Friendship – Singing/Music
- How:** For more information, or to register call: Donna Macino, Office of Catechesis (260) 422-4611 Ext. 351 or dmacino@fw.diocesefwsb.org



BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Yes, we will once again have the blessing of Easter food baskets on Holy Saturday. (See accompanying article on history, food directions, etc.) If you know this custom and would be willing to prepare a sample basket which would be put in the Gathering Space after the Masses March 27-28, please call me by Friday, March 19th. S Kay Jarema SSND 489-3537 x 207 or e-mail kjarema@yahoo.com. We do this to introduce parishioners to this beautiful sacred family custom. Last year word had "gotten around" and many people from Poland visiting Fort Wayne came with their families. It was a joy to give our visitors a "taste of home" with this blessing.

BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS FOR EASTER BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday in the Gathering Space

The custom of bringing food to church to be blessed for Easter is an age-old tradition in many European countries. It stems from the desire of the Christian community to ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the Great Fast (Lent). This has been a tradition of the Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian and many other people for centuries. The food is blessed on Holy Saturday to be eaten Easter Sunday. The religious significance attached to the foods eaten is symbolic of Christ Himself, our true Passover.

We invite you to join us in sharing this meaningful tradition: It is customary to bring food for Easter breakfast or a "taste" of each food for all at the table. It should be noted that if you have abstained from these foods during Lent and especially Holy Week, they will taste

- better on Easter Sunday.
- EASTER BREAD** – symbolic of Christ Himself who is our true Bread. A sweet yeast bread, usually round, sometimes a cross of dough is placed on top.
- HAM** – symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter
- SAUSAGE OR KIELBASA (POLISH SAUSAGE)** – symbolic of God's favor and generosity
- EGGS** – indicative of new life and resurrection, hard-boiled and brightly decorated
- HORSERADISH** – symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection

Advertisers of the Week

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BUTTER – This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things. Can be in the shape of a lamb or a pound with a cross etched on top with a knife.

BACON – symbolic of the over-abundance of God's mercy to us (a piece or slab of bacon cooked with the kielbasa).

SALT – a condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his/her duty to others.

CHEESE – indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. If desired it can be homemade: 1 qt milk, 15 eggs slightly beaten, pinch of salt, pinch of white pepper, 1 tsp sugar. Bring milk to a boil in pan. Gradually stir in eggs. Cook over low heat until mixture starts to thicken and form curds, about 7 minutes. Add seasonings and sugar, stirring constantly to avoid scorching. Pour mixture into a cloth bag, squeeze and tie the opening tightly (can use a pillowcase). Hang and let drain about 3 hours or until set. Refrigerate until ready to take to church for blessing.

RELIGIOUSLY DECORATED CANDLE – is placed in the basket; Christ is our Light! All is covered with a cloth and then brought to church for the blessing.

WOMEN'S CO-SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR SOUGHT

Christ Renews His Parish is in the process of discerning a Women's Co-Spiritual Director. If you know of someone who should be considered that has gone through the Christ Renews process, please send us a letter and explain why that person should be considered. Send to: Laurie Grashoff, 11625 Trade Wind Cove, Fort Wayne, 46845. Please no self-nominations.

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

- March 14 No Life Night: Retreat Prep
March 16 Stations of the Cross with Bishop D'Arcy, 7 p.m.
March 17 Mass and Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.
Ministry Hour: Disciples in Mission 7:15 p.m.
March 18 Pray at Abortion Clinic
March 19-21 Spring Retreat, please pray for us

STATIONS WITH BISHOP D'ARCY

For teens and young adults. Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral with snacks afterward. We hope to see you there.

NOTRE DAME CLUB OF FORT WAYNE HOSTS "ND VISION"

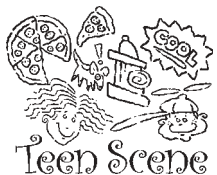
A program designed to reinforce and support high school students' commitment and understanding of their faith. All teens and young adults are welcome on Sunday, March 28th, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. here at St. Vincent's. Then stay for the LIFETEEN Mass at 6.

LENTEN MASS AND BREAKFAST

Teens, commit to coming to 6:30 a.m. Mass in the church and Breakfast at the Life House on Wednesdays during Lent. Adults, make this part of your Lenten almsgiving by providing food for our breakfasts one of the weeks. Contact Angie Harber if you would like to help, 486-9852.

LIFETEEN LUNCH-BUNCH

Cindy would love to come have lunch with you at your school. I just need to know what time you eat and where to meet you, so get with me so we can set a day.



JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

The next JHL night will be Monday, March 22, at 7 – 8:30 p.m. The topic: "Going out with" guys and girls can be good friends. Before you start dating what qualities will you look for in a person?

We also want to thank Rev. Whitfield for coming to speak to the JHL kids this past Monday. It was an awesome night. Thank you to all the kids that made it to JHL and to the parents for seeing that the kids could make it.

YOUNG ADULT LIFE (21-40 Married/Single)

"WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE HERE FOR?"

March 15th is the deadline for registering for the Bishop's Retreat at \$45 per person. After Monday, the price will go up to \$75 a person. The retreat is March 26-28th at Oakwood Inn on Lake Wawasee. Included in the price are your hotel room for 2 nights, all of your meals and the retreat activities. For more info go to www.diocesefwsb.org/cyam/Retreat_information.htm

MASS AND BREAKFAST

After the 9:00 Mass on March 21st we will go to Bob Evans for breakfast.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral, the Bishop will be leading the Stations of the Cross for teens and young adults of the diocese. Afterwards there will be gathering in the Cathedral Center, bring a snack to share.

HOLISTIC HEALTH MINISTRY

Didn't get your blood pressure checked in February? Blood pressures will be taken after all Masses on the weekend of March 20 and 21, 2004, in the Reconciliation Room.

HOLISTIC HEALTH MINISTRY

Advance Directives/Living Wills, Health Care Representatives and Do Not Resuscitates – What are they? What do they mean and what do I have to do? Dr. Denise Smith's presentation will be held on March 21st at St. Joseph Catholic Church, corner of Brooklyn and Hale, 2-4 p.m., in the school cafeteria. RSVP by March 17 to the parish office 432-5113.



ARE YOU CALLED?

The number of students in the Religious Education program continues to increase as more and more families register in our parish. This growing enrollment will necessitate adding sections to many grade levels next year, requiring additional catechists. Might you consider teaching on your own, with your spouse, or with a friend?

If you are interested in observing the program first hand, for example, sitting in on a class or assisting a catechist, please call the Religious Ed office 489-3537 ext. 204 to schedule a visit.

Our catechists dedicate themselves to sharing their faith and love of God with the children. Most will tell you that the blessings they experience are beyond measure. I will tell you that their commitment is a tremendous blessing in the lives of the children. Come join us and observe a variety of grade levels to discover where your talents may best be put to use. Beth

CONFIRMATION DATE SET

Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred Thursday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

Those to be confirmed will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, already received at Baptism. Now serving as a Helper and Guide, the Holy Spirit bestows upon the candidates the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right judgment, Courage, Reverence and Wonder/awe in the presence of the Lord. Please pray for the Confirmation Candidates as well as all members of our parish community, that we may grow in the life of the Spirit.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Sunday, March 14, children in Religious Education grades 1-4 will attend Stations of the Cross in the church at 4:15 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 17, we will have Stations of the Cross for Religious Education students grades 1-4 at 6:45 p.m. in the church.

On Wednesday, March 24, we will have Stations of the Cross for Religious Education students grades 5-8 at 6:45 p.m. in the church. All parents are invited to come and pray the Stations with us.

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST: COOPERATION

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

— Helen Keller

TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

We are again using FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment to process and evaluate financial aid applications for the 2004-2005 school year. If you are interested in applying for Tuition Assistance, please call the church or school office. Deadline for Tuition Assistance applications is MARCH 26. Financial assistance is available to parents seeking a Catholic education for their child. However, it is necessary that the family demonstrate financial need.

COACHES NEEDED AT ST. VINCENT'S

The St. Vincent's Athletic Director is in need of a 7th & 8th grade girls softball coach, an 8th grade assistant soccer coach and a 5th grade cheerleading coach immediately for the March session. If you are interested, please contact Paul Cassabon at 489-3537.

RE-MEMBERING CHURCH

at our St. Vincent parish is for inactive Catholics who are interested in exploring a return to active participation in the church, but it can also help active Catholics remember the roots of their faith. Come join us in the convent meeting room at 7:00 p.m. each Thursday during this Lenten Season for our Re-membering sessions focusing on the Catholic Mass. We will have a 30-minute presentation focused on a particular aspect of the Mass followed by time for discussion and questions about the material presented (March 18 – History of the Mass; March 25 – Participation in the Mass; April 1 – Finding Christ.) We will even have time to explore other questions you may have about the church and hear about the faith journey of a parishioner who was away from the church but has become an active Catholic again. Call Tim Werling at 484-0067 or the church office at 489-3537 if you have questions about Re-membering Church.

