

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2009

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

Mark 1:12--15

- I, too, have known times of temptation when I felt on my own except for the wild beasts, the irrational forces were messing up my life.
- Lord, you felt the influence of evil and were tested. You were purified as you came through a difficult time. When I was in the middle of such a time, it did not feel like God's hand, but like desolation and despair. When I look back, I can see how God was shaping me.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2ND

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
	7:00 p.m.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Gerry Lance by Mary & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Elva Bowers by Carl & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Henderson Family by Gloria & Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,098.78 Thank You!

Lent: We Climb the Holy Mountain of Easter = 40/3/50

We have begun the 90-day period that is crucial for us Christians. We spend 40 days (**Lent**) in preparation for the Three Great Days of Christ's Death and Resurrection (**Easter Triduum**) after which, for 50 days, we celebrated Christ's victory over darkness, sin and death (**Easter Season** closing at **Pentecost**). That explains the **40/3/50** which will mark our Sunday bulletins until May 31.

This 90-day period has everything to do with the shaping of our identity as Christians. We want to make it count! "Becoming more Christ-like" and "having Christ come to perfection in us", that is what we are about. Only God's grace can accomplish that in us. Imagine if we would dare to say of *Lent* that it is the season in which *Jesus Christ grows on us* instead of saying that *Lent* is about *giving up something!*

Church Banners during Lent

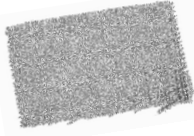
Finding appropriate images to capture the *Lenten spirit* is a bit of a challenge; there are so many possibilities. The ones we have up now may serve the purpose quite well. The banner on the left depicts a pilgrim, a mountain climber guided by the *Spirit*. That is US, as WE make our way to Easter. And the banner on the right depicts the luggage WE bring with US: the three traditional *Lenten* practices of **praying, fasting, almsgiving...**

Prayer: The Sunday liturgies provide the basic orientation for *Lent*. That is why it makes a lot of sense to take a "**Living with Christ**" **Sunday Missal** home, instead of letting it collect dust in the church. Bringing the Missal home gives us the opportunity to check either last Sunday's or next Sunday's Scripture readings.

Fasting: During Lent we could refrain from some food, from a drink, from a party, from a video, from a pizza – as a gesture of solidarity with those who have no choice in these matters for the simple reason that they do not have them. This sort of fasting can also be done to show that we can distance ourselves from so much of what our consumer society says that we need.

Alms: This flows naturally from the previous two practices. Alms-giving says that we care for others, even to the point of depriving ourselves from something. How about if we put the money we save this way aside and make it into our contribution to the special **Development and Peace** collection that will be held later on during Lent?

Burlap for our Homes



The piece of burlap you receive today is meant to find a noticeable place in our homes during this 40-day Lenten period. It may remind us daily of the season we are in, as Christians. It may also point to the rough edges in ourselves that we need to attend to in this 'grace-filled' period of Lent. Once Lent is over, on Holy Thursday, we can remove it as a sign that we are ready to celebrate with renewed heart the Easter Mystery. At Easter you will receive a piece of white cloth to replace the burlap and you may want to keep that on display for 50 days, the Easter Season.

Ashes and Sand – we await the life-giving Water of Easter

As part of the Lenten décor, the baptism font at the entrance to the church has been replaced by a pot filled with sand and ashes. Why? The Israelites spent forty years in the desert/wilderness on the way to their God-given freedom. Jesus spent forty days in the desert/wilderness to sort out where he stood in relation to the battle between the Reign of God and the reign of darkness. As disciples of Jesus, we have entered the 40-day Lenten period on the way to Easter to sort out to what degree the Risen Life of Jesus is really ours. That is what the "ashes and sand" evoke; our desert/wilderness.

Once we have made that 40-day Lenten journey, the life-giving water of Baptism will come over us again at Easter to deepen and strengthen the Risen Life of Jesus in us individually and in our parish community.



This Year's Think Fast will be on March 13-14

Think Fast 2009 is the Lenten activity that **Development and Peace** organizes especially, but not exclusively, for youth. It consists of a 24-hour fast together with a sleep-over at the church. It consists of a number of activities that focus on development and social justice issues. Actually, it is a beautiful way of doing something by choice (going without food) as a gesture of solidarity with the many in our world that have no choice in the matter because they simply have little or no food.

This **Think Fast** is part of the preparation for Confirmation for our younger members, but other youth are most welcome to participate. So here is a challenge! If interested, please contact Chris Santillan at 819 684-6374.



Lent is traditionally a time of penance and repentance. The Canadian Bishops entrusted Development and Peace with the mission of renewing the meaning of Lent. The parable of the Good Samaritan tells us which type of change is important: to look at people in need as our neighbours. This repentance, this change, is shown through sharing our possessions – our money – with the very poor. That is the main form of fasting—penance—that the gospel expects of us. **Share Lent** allows you to live the repentance and penance asked of us by Jesus and offers you the opportunity to participate in the Canadian Catholic Church's great movement of Charity and Justice. "**Development and Peace**"

A delightful Tale to keep before me during Lent

A Cherokee elder, telling his grandchild about a fight going on inside himself, said it is between two wolves. One wolf is evil. It is filled with anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf is good. It is filled with joy, peace, love hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolences, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The grandchild thought about it for a minute and then asked the aged grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee replied simply, "The one I feed."

Which wolf do I feed? Surely, my belonging to Jesus Christ, based on my having been baptized in his name, has something to say about that! Or is there good reason to have my baptism renewed at Easter?

2008 YEAR-END STATEMENT:

The Wardens have finalized the 2008 year-end statement for the Parish. Here are some highlights; our revenues were higher than anticipated, amounting to over \$208,000; this includes a sum of \$10,330 given by parishioners to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your generous support.

Expenses exceeded revenues by \$4117. This deficit is due mostly to expenses which were unanticipated or expected when the budget was developed late 2007: snow removal costs were \$7,000 higher than anticipated, repairs to the heating system, in addition to regular maintenance, and to the chimney, at the request of our Insurer, amounted to close to \$10,000. The purchase of new chairs cost over \$6,000 and an under contribution to the Diocese for previous years resulted in an unexpected disbursement of \$3,800. It should be noted the Parish has liquid assets of over \$220,000 in term deposits. More detailed information on the financial statement is available on the Parish website. A limited number of hard copies are also available at the front door and side entrances to the church.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009: Friday March 6, 7:30 p.m.

– at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1 Eardley road

The annual *World Day of Prayer* was begun by women in Canada and the United States in 1922 and is observed in more than 170 countries today. Here in Aylmer it will be observed this year at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. It is an ecumenical prayer to which all are invited.

Parish Mission at St. Stephen's, Old Chelsea

Led by Father Guy Desrochers c.Ss.r

Sunday, March 1, 6:40 – 8:30 p.m.
Monday, March 2, 6:40 – 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 3, 6:40 – 8.30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4, 6:40 – 8:30 p.m.



MEETINGS:

CWG MEETING Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m. after Evening Prayer

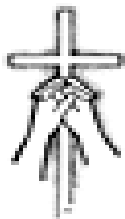
(Discussion for meeting: Shamrock sale, Hunger Lunch & Parish Supper.)

Let's hope we have a good turnout!

THANK YOU! On behalf of the Kisumba Foundation for the disabled in Uganda, I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Mark for their contribution at three Masses in November. My annual fundraising came to \$3,000.00. ~ Don Kavanagh

AMITIE RELIGIOUS ARTICLES: We invite you to come and visit us if you wish to purchase souvenirs for First Communion, Confirmation and Baptism. We have rosaries, plaques, medals, books, statues and crucifixes. For seniors, if you are unable to come to us we will come to you. **We Do Not Charge Taxes.**

Call: Carmen & Gerry 819 682-2269.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Claude Lavigne, Gilles Benoit and their family in your prayers.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Cain Family on the loss of Bernard (Bernie); and to the Guertin Family on the loss of Garnet. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Visit our website: www.stmarkparish.ca

Bulletin design & website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*

Need a website or flyer? Visit www.catleg.ca or e-mail: catleg@catleg.ca