

From The Pastor's Desk

As we start this Holy Season of Lent, we are encouraged to renew ourselves spiritually by enhancing our prayer lives, performing some sort of sacrifice or fasting, and being conscious of going out of our way to perform 'good works', especially for those in need.

This is also a time when several individuals and families think more about religion and their spiritual lives. When we see the crowds that attend services on Ash Wednesday, we become very aware that many of our neighbors do not come to Mass weekly. This is an excellent time of the year to invite and encourage a family member, friend, neighbor, classmate or co-worker to come to Mass with you on the weekend. Offer to sit with them, introduce them after Mass to a member of the clergy, and even offer to go out to breakfast with them. Your personal invitation might be all they are waiting for. I often say that we as Catholics have to be more conscious of encouraging others to share the wonderful gift Jesus offers us in the Eucharist. We at Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish are blessed this year with the ability to do this and not worry that there will not be enough room in the church. We can also use the excuse that they really should come and see our beautiful new church. If we all do this, then we will have to open the balcony every week!.. Let that be our goal.

I am pleased to offer some additional Lenten Services: Stations of the Cross and Benediction every Monday at 7pm in the Main Church. Confessions will continue on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm in the Chapel where our beautiful confessionals are located. The Chapel is open daily from 7am-7pm; enter through the steel doors by the restrooms, just off the handicapped parking lot.

On First Friday, March 6th, we will have Holy Hour after the 9am Mass, ending with Benediction at 5pm.

I know we've all heard the expression "there is no such thing as a dumb question" and on Tuesday, March 24th we will have Question Box Night. The Priests and Deacons will answer theological questions at 7pm in the Meeting Room. You will write your question on a piece of paper when you enter, and the questions will be chosen randomly. This is an excellent opportunity to have any question you might have on our religion answered, or you can try to stump the newer clergy. Let us have fun while we learn our faith! Open to all ages.

Once again this year, we will show the movie "The Passion" on Tuesday, March 31st at 7pm in the Meeting Room. There will be time for discussion afterwards.



To date, some families have made their commitment to the 2009 Appeal effort in our parish. It would be wonderful if we could both raise our goal of \$44,000 and make a strong showing with the number of families who have committed to the Appeal. The appeal needs all of us to play a role in order for it to be successful. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

This past week your children received rice bowls for contributions to Catholic Relief Services, along with metal fish to keep in their pockets as constant reminders of their Lenten resolutions. They are also writing their resolutions on a sandal, to indicate that we are all walking through the Lenten "desert" together toward Easter. Over the next few weeks, the children will be participating in the Stations of the Cross, and all but the 1st and 2nd grades will be going to confession. Please encourage your children and support them by your own participation in our Lenten activities.

The March Parent Newsletter will be posted on our website by Tuesday, March 3rd.

Re-registration forms for the 2009-10 school year will be available in the office after 4 pm on Monday, March 2nd. Please read all the information carefully, review the blue form for any changes and return the form with the tuition at your earliest convenience.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The first meeting to organize our Vacation Bible School this summer was a huge success. A second meeting is planned for this Tuesday, March 3rd at 7 pm in the St. Paul Conference Room in the Faith Formation Center. All interested adults and high school teens willing to teach or assist are encouraged to attend.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Parents of children with a learning disability, chronic illness, handicap or any condition requiring special attention are invited to a supportive parenting group to address your own and your children's concerns. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 5th, at St. Denis parish at 7:30pm in the Parish Center. Call Karen Lynch at 226-6618 for more information. Babysitting will be provided with advance notice. Come join us as we minister to each other with loving encouragement and understanding.

ACTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS

The challenge of successfully ushering children through their teen years has always been among parents' hardest won achievements. The cutting-edge *Active Parenting of Teens Program* will give you the guidance and support your need to turn the challenges of raising a teenager into opportunities for growth. The introductory overview/first session is free and will be held at St. Mary's Parenting Office in Fishkill on Monday, March 16th from 12-2pm or 7-9pm. Please call 896-6400 for more information.

TRI PARISH TEEN GROUP

There will be a **core** meeting tonight to review next week's general meeting. Please see the message in this bulletin about the boys DDA weekend. Save the date of April 7th for our trip into the city to have lunch and attend the Chrism Mass.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST TODAY

The Teen Group will host a Pancake Breakfast after the 9am and 10:30am Masses today. Please join us for a delicious breakfast and some warm hospitality.

NEXT WEEK IS GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

Girl Scouts are invited to attend and participate in a special Mass on Sunday, March 8th at 10:30am. We will gather in the church meeting room at 10:15 in full uniform. If interested please RSVP to Donna Lankard at 226-3606 or email lankard@optonline.net. Girls may attend with their troop or independently.

BLESSED KATERI PRAYER NETWORK

If you have intentions or requests that you would like our Prayer Network to pray for, please call Nancy Vaughn at 226-4053, or Betty Paraggio at 223-5674.

R.C.I.A.

Our next R.C.I.A. session is on Thursday, March 5th; we will be discussing the Commandments (4 through 10) and Evening Prayer. These instructional sessions are open to all from 7 to 9pm in the St. Paul Conference Room.

CHOWDER FRIDAYS FOR LENT

Homemade Manhattan and New England clam chowder will be sold by St. Mary's Columbiettes for the benefit of local parishes. Orders must be placed by Wednesday for pick-up on Friday. The price of \$6.50 per quart includes bread or crackers. Pick up will be at the Fishkill Knights of Columbus Hall on Route 82 between 2:30pm and 6:30pm on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent. Placing an order is easy; just call Fran at 440-7033 or Lori at 897-5833.

ENRICH YOUR LENTEN SEASON AT WEEKDAY MASSES IN OUR AREA

Weekday Masses at Blessed Kateri are held Monday through Saturday at 9:00am. St. Columba Parish offers Masses each weekday at 7am and 12:00pm, with an 8am Mass on Saturday mornings. Weekday Masses at St. Denis are at 9:00am each weekday, including Saturday. Especially during Lent, make an effort to participate in the Eucharist.

RULES OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

During the penitential season of Lent, it is important to know the traditional rules of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting means eating only one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken. Snacking is not allowed. ***The two major days for fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*** Everyone who can limit themselves to one full meal should do so, but the obligation rests on those between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence means that you do not eat meat. ***Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent are days when we do not eat meat.*** This obligation begins at age 14 and has no upper limit.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church

LaGrangeville, New York

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

The Altar Rosary Society will be hosting our covered dish dinner on Monday, March 9th at 6:30pm in the Saint Columba School gym. Bring your favorite dish or dessert or just come join us for a fun evening. All are welcome.

On Saturday, March 21st, Monsignor Desmond O'Connor will host a "Day of Recollection" beginning with 9am Mass in the Blessed Kateri Chapel. Breakfast will be served after Mass followed by a talk about the Eucharist. The day will end with confessions. All ladies are welcome

Please contact Betty Perrino at 454-1840 with any questions about these events.

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you are sick, homebound, or in the hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or would like a pastoral visit, please contact Deacon John by leaving a detailed message at 223-8410 or calling the rectory at 227-1710. If you prefer, you may e-mail Deacon John at JBarone49@gmail.com

DAY BY DAY AGAPE (DDA)

There will be a Day by Day Agape boy's weekend retreat at Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries in Garrison, NY for boys (15 and older) looking for a closer relationship with God and a better understanding of our faith (and a lot of fun while doing both). The retreat will be held from March 19th at 7pm through March 22nd at 6pm. The cost of \$135 includes meals and lodging. For an application, contact Msgr. Desmond at 227-1710.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

This week the items needed by the SVDP food pantry are: Jell-O, canned peas, canned string beans and canned corn. Please leave your items in the church narthex (vestibule). For those in need of assistance, the SVDP hotline number is 227-7863.

Thank you to the Blessed Kateri Faith Formation students, parents, and staff for their successful paper product, personal hygiene and cleaning items drive. Your help is especially appreciated as the Society is serving 50% more families than it did one year ago.

PARISH INCOME REPORT

Last Week's Collection: \$10,953

Last Year's Collection: \$10,446

PETITION OF THE WEEK

We pray for our new Archbishop, Timothy Dolan, that the Lord will always guide him as he shepherds the people of the Archdiocese of New York.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday 9:00am	March 2 For All Parishioners
Tuesday 9:00am	March 3 Intentions of the Knights of Columbus by the Link Family
Wednesday 9:00am	March 4 Arthur and Neil Maddock by Diane Maddock
Thursday 9:00am	March 5 Harvey Horton by Deacon Bob and Judy Horton
Friday 9:00am	March 6 Patricia Callahan Biersack by Mary Ritter and Family
Saturday 9:00am	March 7 Teresa and Tommaso Ambrosio by Anna and Nicholas Piscitelli
Sunday 5:00pm Sat.	March 8 Karen Rissmeyer by Mary Beth and George Schmidt
9:00am	For All Parishioners
10:30am	Thomas Lowery by Lillianne Lowery
12:15pm	Antonio, Maria and Jimmy Delli Carpini by Antonia Tenuta
5:30pm	Edward Guilfoyle by the Kibrick Family

Please pray for those who are ill

Jackie and Joe DePalma--Marion Carney--Billy Jacobs
Marie Gauci--Johnny Romano--Amanda Jones
Fred Matthews--Victor Thomas--Wendy Sullivan
Raymond Trangalli--Caitlin Ann Martin--Rick Cole
Maria Sorrentino--Susan Lancella--Concetta Liccione
Mary Griego--Bob Wilson--Joseph Liccione
William Grafer--Deneé DeVizio--Mark Kearney
Richard DeLeo Sr.--Frank Fetzer--Marie Fetzer
Joseph Rogers--Steve Majusiak

Liturgical Ministers for March 8th 2009

	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:00pm Sat Fr. Perez	Marie Smith	Peter Bodnar, Peggy Peterson Rosanne Desjardins	Ciaran Bruen Julianne and Timothy Desjardins
9:00am Fr. Perez	Frank Bergman	Christine Ryan, Cheryl Gallina Suzanne Power, Stephen Ren Debbie Scianimanico	Kyle Ackley, Christian Murphy Amanda D'Angelo
10:30am Fr. Perez	Girl Scouts	Rosealice D'Avanzo, Pat Mackey Sally Mastreani, Lorraine Travia Judy Van De Ven	Brian Kusior, Brad Fisher Amber Hammerschlag
12:15pm Fr. Perez	Norma Kraus	Julie Borges, Dave Borges Beverly Austin	Lauren Kirchner Sean and Julia Sheridan
5:30pm Sun Fr. Perez		John McCormack	Courtney Meester, Taylor Hickey

