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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 41

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 1 2017

Protect beauty of God's creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Humanity's greed and selfishness can turn creation into a sad and desolate world instead of the sign of God's love that it was meant to be, Pope Francis said.

Human beings are often tempted to view creation as

"a possession we can exploit as we please and for which we do not have to answer to anyone," the pope said Feb. 22 at his weekly general audience.

"When carried away by selfishness, human beings end up ruining even the

most beautiful things that have been entrusted to them," the pope said.

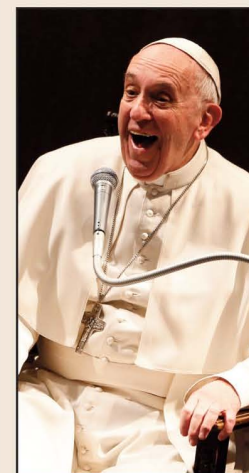
As an early sign of spring, the audience was held in St. Peter's Square for the first time since November. Despite the chilly morning temperatures, the pope made the

rounds in his popemobile, kissing bundled-up infants.

Continuing his series of talks on Christian hope, the pope reflected on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, which expresses the hope "that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption."

HOW TO BE A SAINT

A tip from
Pope Francis



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pope Francis laughs as he meets children before celebrating Mass at St. Mary Josefa Parish in Rome Feb. 19. During his homily the pope said that a practical first step toward holiness - as well as for assuring peace in one's family and in the world - is to pray for a person who has caused offense or harm. "Are you merciful toward the people who have harmed you or don't like you? If God is merciful, if he is holy, if he is perfect, then we must be merciful, holy and perfect as he is. This is holiness. A man or woman who does this deserves to be canonized," he said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

Celebrating a century of service

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will join in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the organization during 2017

Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin points out that "the mission of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is to respond to people in need, to invite people to join us in the works of charity and justice and to empower people to build bridges to healthier lives."

"Catholic Charities has a compelling and inspiring story to tell," she said. "During this anniversary year we will be sharing our story."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Neighbor to neighbor

Work of Malone Catholic Charities
office to help those in need at

Christmas is highlighted

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

'REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST'



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

In this NCC file photo, Bishop Terry R. LaValley places ashes on the forehead of Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral during the 2016 Ash Wednesday Mass at the cathedral. The NCC begins the observance of Lent in this issue with Lenten messages from Bishop LaValley and Pope Francis, the list of regulations for 2017, information about Operation Rice Bowl and other seasonal features.

YOUNG FAITH: Youth ministry director shares what's happening... p. 5

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EDITOR'S NOTE

There's something about Ash Wednesday

My goal this year is to be as successful at my Lenten resolutions as I was when I was a grade-schooler.

Back in those days, my sister and I made our way to church every single day of the season.

I even remember feeling a little cheated that I couldn't finish with a perfect record since there was no Mass on Holy Saturday!

Alas, the scrupulousness of my youth gave way to a far more casual view

of the season so that, for many years, the 40 days just flew by,

But the older I get, the more I welcome the discipline that Lent brings into my life each year.

There's something about Ash Wednesday that turns on a switch in my Catholic brain making it a little easier to rein in the bad habits and take on some good ones.

At the same time, I'm very forgiving of the

sacrifices that come with raising children on a tight budget in a house that demanded constant attention.

My life was considerably more "Lenten" back then - for 365 days a year, not just 40.

Today, though, I can love, love, love the babies in my life and give them back to their parents when the need for sacrifice arises. Today, I have time to read a book rather than run a vacuum, take a walk rather than take on extra work, buy a treat rather than bake it.

So today, a little Lent wouldn't hurt one bit!

This week's issue of the *NCC* offers plenty of suggestions as we decide how to make sure the season is a fruitful one. Father Muench, Msgr. Whitmore, Bishop LaValley and Pope Francis each offer some compelling ideas.

I'm particularly inspired by the bishop's comment: "... the holy season of Lent is an opportune time to implore God's Spirit to clear out the clogged arteries of a self-satisfying mediocrity that give rise to sluggish hearts."

Now, that's a fitting 40-day challenge for us all!



Mary Lou
Kilian

Mary Lou who bore the built-in

FATHER MUENCH SAYS...

Lent: precious time of prayer and penance

Today, let us share a bit concerning Lent. Now, I know that as we approach Ash Wednesday that you have been hearing a great deal about Lent. This is a precious time of prayer and penance; for us, Catholics, Lent is important - it is our yearly time of retreat.

So, what can I add to what you have been hearing?

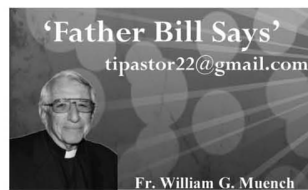
The first thing I like to say each year is this, "Do something for Lent."

I want you to remember how important this gift of Lent is. This is a time for us to again become new and alive in the Spirit of our God as we look forward to Holy Week, the Passion and Death of Jesus and the Lord's Resurrection.

This is a time dedicated to conversion and we cannot waste this opportunity. This is our time to draw ever closer to the Lord.

So, let me share a few of my own plans for Lent. As I share them with you, I will be making my own examine of what Lent will be like for me.

When I think of Lent, I begin with considering how I can test and strengthen my own self-control. I find it important to give up something to demonstrate to myself that I do have some self-control in my own life. So, I decide to eliminate something that I am hung up



Fr. William G. Muench

on - maybe food or drink, maybe desserts, although I am not a big dessert person or maybe something like snacking which is a real addiction of mine.

Actually, this does become a penance, a time to offer up some penance for my sinfulness and my gratitude for God's forgiving love.

Let me tell you, that the reality is that it doesn't have to be something major. Sometimes a simple change can be more painful. Anyway, I do know from past years' experience that I this kind of Lenten mortification was truly strengthening my self-control.

One addiction that I must do something about is television which can be so addictive. I am certain that it would be so good for me to give up some - or maybe all - television for Lent. It simply takes too much of my time.

This Lent could be my year for removing this addiction.

Lent means more prayer also. The very purpose of Lent

for all of us is to strengthen our prayer life. Prayer draws us all closer in to God. Prayer brings the presence of the Lord more completely into our lives.

When I suggest more prayer to people, I remind them that it doesn't need to be a long time. For many of you just a few minutes extra a day for prayer can do so much of transforming your life, of making you a more saintly person.

For me, as a priest, at this time of my life, it will be so good for me to dedicate more time to being with the Lord in prayer.

And, by the way, silence is such an important part of this moving closer to the Lord. These times of silence allows God the opportunity to find us, to reach us. Silence must become an important part of our lives.

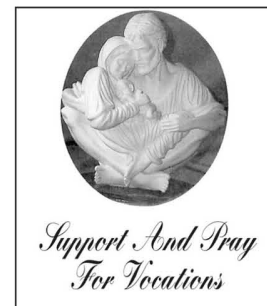
For me, the celebration of Mass is the heart of any my Lenten program. I know that you realize that for us, Catholics, Mass is our most important moment of our prayer. The strength of our spiritual life becomes more alive through our participation in Mass.

I encourage you to make participation in Mass to be an important part of your Lenten dedication so I urge you to join in the celebration of Mass dur-

ing the week as well as on Sunday, maybe even just one other day during the week. I know for myself that Mass transforms me into a new person through the Holy Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist is a time to be united with God is a fulfilling time, a time to find God, a time of gratitude to God for all that he has given me. Truly, it offers a time of personal conversion, of becoming a new person through this important sacrament.

Finally, I believe it is good, even important, to dedicate my Lent to a definite intention. I want to dedicate this Lenten adventure for those I need who need my prayers and God's help. I pray that my prayers and my penance will bring God's love and help to my loved ones - those I know who I want God to help.



FOLLOW ME

'Return to the Lord wholeheartedly'

In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis writes of the urgency of responding to God's call to conversion, encouraging us "to refuse to settle for mediocrity." Each year, the prophet Joel introduces our Lenten journey by pleading with us: "*even now, return to the Lord with your whole heart*" (2:12).

Now is the time for our diocesan family to respond to the Lord's call to follow Him wholeheartedly. At one time or another, we can find ourselves giving



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

witness to our Catholic faith in a half-hearted, mediocre fashion. We might not miss Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day and we may try to follow the commandments, but the investment of our whole heart and soul into our faith life is lacking.

We can become satisfied with going through pious motions with little energy or excitement. That's why the holy season of Lent is an opportune time to implore God's Spirit to clear out the clogged arter-

ies of a self-satisfying mediocrity that give rise to sluggish hearts.

Passion and zeal were certainly evident in those who participated at our INSPIRE event in Lake Placid last September.

With the arrival of Lent 2017, I want to invite each one of us to recommit ourselves to feed on the fruits of that experience.

Let us yearn to give ourselves even more wholeheartedly to God and His Mystical Body, the Church. May we in these forty days experience the joy of giving ourselves totally to Jesus and sharing that encounter with others.

Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled, we know that there is nothing routine or ho-hum about following Jesus.

Bishop's message for Lent

Our parishes are currently engaged in pastoral planning endeavors, and each of us is encouraged to participate in the process. This is a graced opportunity to deepen our relationship with Jesus and an important way to contribute to the vitality of His Body, our local faith family.

As we actively engage in the life of our parishes, we depend on the traditional

Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help stir into flame our faith. Through our participation at Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Penance, as well as the special Lenten programs offered in our parishes, we are given opportunities to rise above the mediocrity about which Pope Francis writes.

My prayer is that these next forty days prepare our local Church to passionately embrace the promises that Easter brings. *Even now, return to the Lord wholeheartedly!*

Let us pray for each other this Lent and always! Let us together pursue the passion!

Catholic Charities celebrates century of service

By Sister Donna Franklin, D.C.
Diocesan Director, Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities throughout New York State was established by an Act of the Legislature in 1917. Five years later, in 1922, the Diocese of Ogdensburg named Msgr. James Lacey as the first official Diocesan Director; he served in that role until 1942.

The mission of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is to respond to people in need, to invite people to join us in the works of charity and justice and to empower people to build bridges to healthier lives.

Building on a firm foundation of adoption services and direct assistance, Catholic Charities has grown. Programs and services have been developed in response to the identified unmet needs in our North Country communities.

The agency has a consistent history of reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our community. The work of Catholic Char-

ities reflects the Church's teaching about the sanctity and dignity of human life at every stage.

The 1970's brought an enhanced understanding of the work of Catholic Charities. The Catholic Charities directors developed a new direction for Catholic Charities agencies. The Cadre Report was published in which two aspects of Christian service were highlighted: direct service and advocacy.

The reality that individuals and families need services and programs was the one aspect.

Advocacy and working for systemic change was the

second aspect of service.

The dual goals of responding to people in need and working to change the policies and structures that maintain people in poverty became integrated into the mission of Catholic Charities throughout the United States.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg adopted this new perspective of Christian service.

The agency made a commitment to organize and educate people in advocating for public policies that respect the sanctity of human life, support families and work for the common good. That commitment remains

an integral part of the current mission and work of Catholic Charities in the North Country.

Catholic Charities has a compelling and inspiring story to tell. During this 100th anniversary year we will be sharing our story in the *North Country Catholic* and other media sources.

We will be sharing stories of historical successes, such as the account of Msgr. Robert Lawler and Alex Veltro and their amazing feat of organizing the building of 40 housing units throughout the North Country.

Current programs and works of Catholic Charities

will also be highlighted.

Catholic Charities appreciates the support of the clergy and the religious men and women of the diocese. Collaboration with the parishes and other organizations, like the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the St. Vincent De Paul Societies continues to be a priority for Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities remains committed to our Catholic identity.

We are able to maintain our services and works, as a Catholic agency, because of the generosity of our many benefactors. Each gift makes a difference. The compassion and caring of our benefactors has provided a financial foundation for Catholic Charities since its very first days of service.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organized works of charity and justice through Catholic Charities reminds us that we are called to messengers of hope, bearers of light and witnesses to Christ love for all of our brothers and sisters in need.

Celebrating 100 years of Service 1917 - 2017

Catholic Charities

Diocese of Ogdensburg

Catholic Charities Malone Office celebrates kindness, generosity, volunteerism

Neighbor helping neighbor

Submitted by staff of Malone Catholic Charities office

MALONE - Catholic Charities Malone office was a flurry of activity this past Christmas season. The spirit was alive and the kindness, generosity and volunteerism was overwhelming. Neighbor helping neighbor and sharing our gift and talents with others was the theme of the season.

• In September during the annual Adirondack for Kids golf tournament and dinner, a check for \$25,000 was presented to the Malone Catholic Charities office for its Warming the Winter Project. This project aims to provide necessary winter outdoor wear to children in need throughout the county. Jerry Jones from IBC in Malone has provided the outerwear including coats, boots and mittens at cost. The project has served children from all areas of Franklin County including Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and Hogansburg through an application process that began in early October. To date the project has provided 505 coats, boots and gloves to children in need.

• Wayne Roberts from Roberts Sports Center heard of the project and wanted to join the efforts, he donated 150 new Can-am jackets to the cause. The jackets, larger in size, served an additional 43 children and 90 adults from the community who were in need. In addition to the coats, Wayne and his wife also provided all the bread for the 250 Christmas food baskets that were distributed through Catholic Charities. Many of the adult coats were



Malone office Catholic Charities staff Joelle Lamica, area director and Melody Ransom, senior caseworker, show some of the coats that were part of the Warm for the Winter Program. This project aims to provide necessary winter outdoor wear to children in need throughout Franklin county. To date the project has provided 505 coats, boots and gloves to children in need.

distributed to working individuals who brave the elements every day to go back and forth to work.

• In October, staff from Catholic Charities went to Titus Mountain's Octoberfest to receive additional new and gently used coats with their Stuff the Bus event. All donated coats were then distributed to individuals within the community in need, adults and children alike.

• In October, area Boy and Cub Scouts along with members of the St. Andre Bessette's Confirmation class participated in a "Scouting for Food" drive. Members of the group canvased the street of Malone village plac-

ing bags on the doors of area residents announcing the collection day, the following week the same group went door to door with adult supervision to collect donated food items for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry housed at Catholic Charities

• In November, Nationwide and Lashomb Insurance Agency of Malone partnered in a Feeding America food drive. All food and financial donations were given to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry to assist with the Christmas baskets.

• In November, North Country Community College along with the Art Department and the Ladies Golf Association partnered for a silent auction held at the Golf Course during the Ladies Golf Christmas party. Local artists hand painted 50 canvas tote bags, NCCC students then organized a food drive to stuff the bags. The bags

Catholic Charities 100 years

As Catholic Charities celebrates 100 years of service in 2017, the *North Country Catholic* Will highlight the Work of the agency in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. First in the series focuses on the Work of the Malone office in the months leading up to this past Christmas.

were auctioned off and food donated to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Three hundred pounds of food was donated and \$535 in financial donations were given to the food pantry.

• American Drycleaners in Malone sponsored a coat drive the month of November. All donated coats - more than 100 - were then dry-cleaned free of charge and donated to Catholic Charities for distribution.

• Holy Family School staff and students organized a food drive to assist with items necessary for our Christmas baskets.

• St. Mary's Church youth group organized a coat drive and brought several garbage bags to Catholic Charities for distribution.

• Catholic Charities was one of a multitude of partner agencies who worked collaboratively for this year's Holiday Helper Program helping families in need with a few items for under the tree. This year's program served over 1000 children from Northern Franklin County. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus in Malone for the use of the space to house the program and distribution.

• St. Andre Bessette Parishes located at St. Joseph's Church through the Giving Tree Program provided Christmas gifts to an additional 76 children not served through Holiday Helpers. Those gifts were distributed through Catholic

Charities.

• Catholic Charities, with funding from Salvation Army, provided 60 food baskets for area seniors, disabled and veterans throughout northern Franklin County.

• St. Andre Bessette Parishes and Catholic teamed up to package and distribute 250 Christmas dinner baskets to individuals and families from the Malone area. With the assistance of over 50 volunteers the morning was spent filling the boxes and the afternoon spent carrying boxes to the cars of individuals picking up their baskets.

• Catholic Charities held a Christmas party for its young parents program with over 40 parents and children in attendance. The theme of the night was an old fashion Christmas with a message of giving and sharing and the true meaning of Christmas. Children made ornaments and shared cookies and punch and the evening ended with a surprise visit from Santa. Special thanks to Todd Weber.

• Volunteerism is so alive in the Malone office with our regulars logging 1246 hours of volunteer time not counting those hours of community members given throughout the holiday season. The volunteers make the daily services of Catholic Charities possible and they add a variety of expertise and talents along with enthusiasm and spirit that is unmatched. Our volunteers are one of our greatest blessings.

Many Christmas blessings were shared and the staff of Catholic Charities was able to feel the love and kindness of so many who shared their time, talent and treasure to make Christmas special for young and old alike. Catholic Charities would like to thank all who shared the true meaning of Christmas with us.

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YOUNG FAITH

Youth ministry in the diocese - what's up?

By Kelly Donnelly
Diocesan director of youth ministry

Greetings from the Department of Youth Ministry! As February winds down and we begin preparing for Lent, there are many programs related to youth ministry across the diocese.

March for Life

In January, two bus-loads of youth from the diocese went to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March for Life. It was certainly an eye-opening and inspirational experience for all! The teens attended a youth rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center with 18,000 other young people. After the Mass for Life, participants went to the National Mall to participate in the March.

Many of the youth attending commented how exciting it was to see such huge numbers of people all gathered to stand up for the unborn. Other highlights of the pilgrimage included teens getting to spend some time in the Air and Space Museum, Mass and visiting the St. John Paul II Shrine, and visiting the National Basilica. Special thanks to Colleen and John Miner, the Respect Life Directors, for organizing the pilgrimage!

Youth ministry certification

A result of the Vision for Youth Ministry portion of the Envisioning Process an eight-course certification program was developed. The program is designed for those who volunteer or work in youth ministry to learn more practices and



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among more than 100 who traveled on the diocese Youth Buses for Life Washington D.C. in January for the annual March for Life was a group from Clayton and Cape Vincent. The young people, shown above, were accompanied by Christine Woodley, Sharon Turner and Mary Ann Cummings.

gain some valuable insights and resources for their ministry. All the courses have been offered once, and this spring, the second cycle of courses is beginning.

Those interested in completing the certification process do not need to complete the courses in order; participants are welcome to come to any courses that fit in their schedule. Course 1 (Overview of Current USCCB Document on Youth) and Course 2 (Evangelizing Youth in Today's Culture) will both be offered this spring. The same courses are offered in the following locations:

Gouverneur on April 1 from 9:00-12:00 and Plattsburgh on May 13 from 9:00-12:00. Those interested in attending the workshops can contact Vicky Lalonde at vlalonde@rcdony.org.

Lenten retreats

As we begin preparing for Lent, one opportunity that will be available to youth is a Lenten retreat. The Lenten retreat is open to all students in grades 6-12, and the theme is Reawaken, based on Pope Francis' comment that, "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our

lethargy." The retreat is free, but pre-registration is required and participants must bring a bagged lunch. Registration and additional information can be found at www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat

Youth Rally

The 2017 High School Youth Rally is rapidly approaching! It will be held at IHC in Watertown on May 6, and the theme of the day is "You Were Meant to Live for More." Paul J. Kim, a nationally-known speaker, will present the keynote address, and the day will in-

clude opportunities for prayer, workshops, fun, and a closing Mass presided by Bishop LaValley. All youth and chaperones must be pre-registered; the cost is \$25 for those registered by April 1, and \$30 after April 1. Youth ministry leaders can register chaperones and youth at www.rcdony.org/youthrally.

Summer camps

While the weather might feel like mid-winter throughout most of the North Country, summer is on the horizon, and there are two Catholic camps available for youth in the diocese: Catholic Heart Work Camp and Camp Guggenheim.

At Catholic Heart Work Camp, participants spend the week volunteering at various local agencies alongside other youth from across the country and participate in profound prayer experiences and workshops throughout the week. It will be in Plattsburgh June 25-30, and those interested can register by emailing chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com.

At Camp Guggenheim, teens spend an enthusiastic week participating in hiking, swimming, kayaking, a variety of faith-building workshops, Mass, Reconciliation, and much more. Registration is available at www.rcdony.org/camp.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding youth ministry, feel free to get in touch with the Department of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for the youth of our diocese!

Lenten regulations 2017

March 1, 2017 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, Fridays of Lent, & Good Friday. In accord with Diocesan custom,

Bishop LaValley will grant a dispensation from abstinence from meat to those who observe the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17th. It is asked that another penitential act take its place during the Lenten period.

Fasting

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound also to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday (March 1) and Good Friday (April 14). Fasting, that is, eating less, involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Lighter nourishment may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

Prayer and penance

The entire season of Lent should be observed in a spirit of prayer and penance. Spending extra time in prayer or Bible

study, attending daily Mass, voluntary sacrifice and self-denial, combined with works of charity and service to others, are all excellent ways to obey the Lord's command to reform our lives and to prepare for the joyful celebration of Easter.

Parishes are highly encouraged to offer periods of Eucharistic Adoration during the Lenten Season, as well as, the traditional devotions of the Stations of the Cross and the recitation of the Rosary.

Sacrament of Penance

Bishop LaValley encourages parishes throughout the Diocese to dedicate the First Friday of April (April 7) to Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Penance as part of "The Light is on for You" initiative.

Parishes might want also to adopt the model of dedicating one Lenten evening each week to provide an additional opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance.

Easter duty

All Catholics who have reached the age of reason must confess their serious sins in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year. They must also receive Holy Communion at least once each year between the First Sunday of Lent (March 5th) and Trinity Sunday (June 11th).

Marriage

Although other seasons are more suitable, the celebration of marriage and the Nuptial Mass are not forbidden during Lent, according to The Code of Canon Law. When liturgical rules permit, the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage may be used and the nuptial blessing may be given. However, you should advise the spouses and their guests to exercise proper restraint in accord with the penitential character of Lent.

Obligation

All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law to do penance. The days set aside for fast and abstinence in Lent are special ways of doing penance and are an expression of unity for all the Church.

Chrism Mass

A reminder that this year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, April 6th at 11:00 am at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Details pertaining to this event will be forthcoming.

Funerals during the Sacred Triduum

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, Funeral Masses may not be celebrated. However, a Funeral Service consisting of the Liturgy of the Word and the Final Commendation may be held in Church.

Bishop's Schedule

March 3 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
7 p.m., Canon Law Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 4 – 10 a.m., Cursillo Day of Recollection and Mass at Norfolk and Norwood

March 5 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
2:30 p.m., Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 6 – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 7 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 8 – 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

March 1 – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, 1997

March 2 – Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949;

March 3 – Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

March 5 – Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

March 6 – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

March 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Environmental Stewardship

What about a low carb/on diet this Lent?

As we prepare to begin Lent this week, it is time to consider what in my life do I need to change, so that I may experience more fully the new life promised by Christ in the Easter Season. What do I need to change in order to deepen my relationship with God, with my neighbor, and with myself?

One practice that Jesus gives us is that of fasting. One can fast or go on a diet for many reasons: to lose weight for health reasons, to consume less and feed the hungry, or to choose a simpler lifestyle.

One fast that could benefit not only me personally and could have wide-spread effects on all life on the earth is a fast that would reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that my lifestyle demands. Nutritionists tell us that too much carbo-hydrates in our diet are not good for our bodies.

Scientists tell us that too much carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is not good for the health of our planet. Since our health depends upon the quality of the air, water, soil, we recognize that a sick planet produces sick people. So, as a Catholic, how can my Lenten practice of fasting or dieting from carbon makes a difference?

David Gershon has written *Low Carb/on Diet: A 30 Day Program to lose 5,000 pounds*. His research revealed "... that an American household generates 55,000 lb. carbon dioxide annually. Collectively, that's about 8% of the planet's carbon dioxide emissions, and through our purchases we are indirectly responsible for 17%. By contrast, the typical German households contribute 27,000 pounds and Swedish households contribution is only 15,000."

This research reveals that we are a part of the problem, it also reveals that we as Americans can also be a major part of the solution.

Consider this week how your daily routine contributes carbon dioxide, generated by the use fossil fuel – gasoline, coal, oil, and natural gas. In light of our Lenten practice of fasting, reflect on fasting as it affects "our common home." (Laudato Si)



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Funeral held for Sister Faith McGahan, GNSH, 79

HUNTINGTON VALLEY, PENN.—A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Faith McGahan, 79, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, was held Feb. 25 at Holy Redeemer Sisters Chapel.

Formerly known as Sister David Martin and remembered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Sister Faith Marie, she died Feb. 20 at St. Joseph's Manor in her 62nd years of religious life. Burial will be in Buffalo.

For 57 years Sister Faith was involved in teaching and the administrative aspects of education. With the exception of six years in Lowell, Massachusetts, she served in her home state of New York in Jackson Heights, Eden, Ogdensburg and Buffalo

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg she taught at St. Mary's Junior High in Ogdensburg from 1967 to 1976.

Moving to Buffalo, she taught at Holy Angels School and then at Holy Angels Academy where she served as assistant office manager, office manager and then business manager from 1977 until the school closed in 2013.

Although retired, she remained involved in inter-community affairs. Sister Faith moved to Philadelphia in late 2015 to live at the Holy Redeemer Lafayette Residence in the company of other Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

Born to George E and

Catherine Wilson McGahan in Buffalo, she attended both Holy Angels School and Academy, graduating from the Academy in 1954 and entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart the following year.

She received her bachelor's degree in History from D'Youville College.

Predeceased by her parents and sister, Madonna Nelligan, she is survived by her sister, Sheila Loveland and nephew David Loveland in addition to her religious community.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116.

MEETING THE NUNCIO



PHOTO BY EDDIE ARROSSI PHOTOGRAPHY

Deacon Michael Jablonski of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, right, is pictured with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum. Archbishop Pierre hosted the fourth-year theologians at the nunciature in Washington, DC, Feb. 11. The visit to the nation's capital is a long-standing tradition for each ordination class, and includes Mass, a formal brunch and a guided tour of the nunciature. Deacon Jablonski is scheduled to be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg May 27 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Two after-abortion healing retreats offered this year

SARANAC LAKE - Two Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreats will be offered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg during 2017. Both will be held at the Guggenheim Lodge.

The spring retreat has been scheduled for June 16-18 with Father Thomas Higman serving as the retreat chaplain. The fall retreat will be held Sept. 1-3.

Each retreat weekend begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. It is open to women and men suffering after an abortion or miscarriage loss.

The retreat is also open to those who have worked in the abortion industry.

Colleen Miner, diocesan director of respect life ministry, explained why the diocese hosts Rachel's Vineyard retreats.

"Many feel alone in their grief after a reproductive loss," she said. "Some feel they cannot discuss their feelings with others.

"You're not alone," she said. "Help is available. During the

weekend, you will join with others who feel similarly.

"The retreat allows for both individual and group reflection and is strictly confidential," she said. "It's a place to find support, love, hope and healing."

This Catholic retreat includes Saturday and Sunday Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The cost of \$125 covers lodging, meals and retreat materials. Partial scholarships are available.

Pre-registration is required. Confidential registration forms are available at www.rcdony.org/pro-life.

Reflections from former retreatants and photos of the retreat location, located on Lower Saranac Lake, are also featured on the website.



Further information about Rachel's Vineyard, including other retreat locations, is available at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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Un tiempo de
encuentro
encounter
Lent

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A LENTEN TRADITION

What is CRS' Operation Rice Bowl?

We are called to build a culture of encounter. Jesus made that clear from the way he lived, the message he preached. Pope Francis makes that clear by his own daily example. And we have a host of holy men and women who have come before us, who have gone to the margins of society so that every member of our human family might know the love of God.

Now, it's our turn. With the spiritual pillars of Lent at our disposal, we set out on a 40-day journey, a journey of encounter with ourselves, our neighbors and our God.

- Through **prayer**, we encounter Christ, present in the faces of every member of our human family, so often still walking that long road to Calvary.
- Through **fasting**, we encounter our own obstacles, those things about ourselves that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.
- Through **almsgiving**, we encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, asking what we can give up so that others might have life to the fullest.

Lent is our time to **encounter**, to cultivate a spirit of global solidarity. CRS Rice Bowl is our tool, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities, a vehicle through which the stories of communities around the world can be shared, an invitation through which our prayers and Lenten sacrifices can change lives.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we hear stories from our brothers and sisters in need worldwide, and devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to change the lives of the poor. Each day of Lent, individuals are invited to use the Lenten Calendar—included with every CRS Rice Bowl—to guide their Lenten almsgiving. These daily almsgiving activities—for example, give 25 cents for every faucet found in your home—help families reflect on the realities of our brothers and sisters around the world and how they can be in solidarity during the Lenten season.

How will you contribute to the culture of encounter this Lent?



PRAY



FAST



LEARN



GIVE



A LENTEN TRADITION

When you give to CRS Rice Bowl...

- **75 percent** of your gift supports CRS' programs around the world. Some examples include: Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests; water sanitation projects bring clean water to communities; Education projects provide resources and training.
- **25 percent** of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese where they were given for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those communities. Each diocese uses this differently.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Encounter Lent

We begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. During these 40 days, we ponder what it means to "give up, take up and lift up." Using the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we deepen our relationship with Christ and discern where God is working in our lives.

Once a week during Lent:

- **Stories of Hope** - Meet the individuals and communities that benefit from your Lenten sacrifices to CRS Rice Bowl in the United States and around the world.
- **Reflections** - Watch videos from Cardinal Dolan and others about how to practice Lent through prayer, fasting, giving, solidarity, Mercy, and Practice. Experience the Stations of the Cross through videos.
- Put your Lenten offerings into your CRS Rice Bowl. You may also return your gift online.



Download the App

CRS Rice Bowl App It's time to think outside the bowl with the CRS Rice Bowl app. Bring Lent into your life, online, offline, anytime, anywhere. Tap into a rich spiritual experience and make the 40 days of Lent ones that will change your life—and the world. Join the conversation this Lent with new, integrated social media features. Receive daily reflections on your device, set and track progress towards a personal Lenten goal, use simple, meatless recipes to prepare and share on Fridays throughout Lent and read and watch stories of hope from people around the world. Available in English and Spanish in the Google Play and App stores.

Turn your family's dinner table into an experience of global solidarity

Use these holy days of Lent to respond to Pope Francis' call to deepen your family's faith life—and let CRS Rice Bowl accompany your family along the way. Visit <http://www.crsricebowl.org/families> to learn more about the activities below.

- Lenten Kit for YOUR Family
- Lenten Placemat
- Meatless Meals
- Global Discipleship Quiz
- Activity Sheets
- Bring your family together in prayer with printable prayer cards

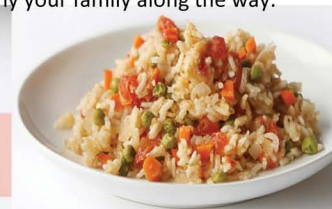
LOOKING FOR MEATLESS MEALS TO PREPARE THIS LENT?

Fasting from meat on Fridays during Lent helps us "acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." (CCC 2043). Fasting is meant to free us. It helps us feel our physical hunger, and in turn, our spiritual hunger for the infinite love found only in God. Try the recipe below and go to www.crsricebowl.org/recipe to find more meatless recipes.

All of the information here can be found at:
www.crsricebowl.org

ARROZ ROJO

RED RICE



Makes 4-6 servings

- 2 c rice
- 1 T fair trade olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, diced
- 3 tomatoes, chopped
- ½ onion, chopped
- 4 c vegetable broth
- 1 c peas
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 chili pepper, chopped
- Salt to taste

Add oil to a large pan on low heat. Add rice and toast until golden. Add garlic, tomatoes and onion; cook until mixture is soft. Add the broth, peas, carrots, chili pepper and salt. When it begins to boil, reduce to a simmer and cover until rice is fully cooked.

Albany bishop: defund Planned Parenthood

ALBANY (CNS) - Defunding Planned Parenthood was the focus of rallies held around the country Feb. 11. More than 15,000 people attended 229 rallies held in 45 states. In some cities, crowds numbered as high as 600.

In a statement after one such rally in Albany, New York, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger strongly echoed the call to defund Planned Parenthood.

"Without question, Planned Parenthood provides some morally unobjectionable health services to women. However, this statement is not unlike saying that a man who beats his wife sometimes gives her flowers," the bishop said in a Feb. 13 statement.

"Planned Parenthood is the unquestioned number one provider of abortions in our country. This is the primary 'product' for which it is known," the said

The bishop added, "Abortion is not health care; it is the intentional killing of a unique human person in his or her mother's womb. This is a scientific fact that has nothing at all to do with religion or religious belief."

The Catholic Church "clearly teaches the objective truth that abortion is a grave moral evil, and that material cooperation in abortion is a mortal sin," he said.

Bishop Scharfenberger had equally strong words for three Catholic politicians -- one federal, one state and one local -- who took part in a counter-demonstration in

Albany "advocating for the continued public funding of Planned Parenthood."

They "not only participated," he said, "but spoke passionately on behalf of maintaining such funding."

"While any judgment of these individuals' hearts or souls is left only to God," Bishop Scharfenberger continued, "I am entrusted with the solemn duty of reminding them of the unambiguous teaching of our faith on the matter of abortion, informing them that it is inappropriate and confusing to the faithful to hold yourself out publicly as a Catholic while also promoting abortion, and challenging them to embrace the Gospel of life and to renounce their public support for Planned Parenthood."

"When individuals, particularly those in political office, gloss over or ignore the core issue of whether or not taxpayers should be funding the world's largest abortion business by citing Planned Parenthood's other services, they are engaging in obfuscation that is, at best, confused and, at worst, dishonest," he said.

In his statement, Bishop Scharfenberger did not name the three politicians at the pro-Planned Parenthood rally in Albany. But the Times Union daily newspaper reported that rally speakers included U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, state Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy and Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, all of whom are Democrats and Catholics.

Pope's tip for becoming a saint: Pray for someone who doesn't like you

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - A practical first step toward holiness - as well as for assuring peace in one's family and in the world - is to pray for a person who has caused offense or harm, Pope Francis said.

"Are you merciful toward the people who have harmed you or don't like you? If God is merciful, if he is holy, if he is perfect, then we must be merciful, holy and perfect as he is. This is holiness. A man or woman who does this deserves to be canonized," the pope said Feb. 19 during an evening parish Mass.

"I suggest you start small," Pope Francis told members of the parish of St. Mary Josefa on the eastern edge of the Diocese of Rome. "We all have enemies. We all know that so-and-so speaks ill of us. We all know. And we all know that this person or that person hates us."

When that happens, the pope said, "I suggest you take a minute, look at God (and say), 'This person is your son or your daughter, change his or her heart, bless him or her.' This is praying for those who don't like us, for our enemies. Perhaps the rancor will remain in us, but we are making an effort to follow the path of this God who is so good, merciful, holy, perfect, who makes the sun rise on the evil and the good."

The day's first reading included the line, "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy," and in the Gospel reading, Jesus said, "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

"You might ask me, 'But, father, what is the path to holiness?' 'What is the journey needed to become holy?' Jesus explains it well



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A medallion of St. John Paul II is seen as Pope Francis gives the homily while celebrating Mass at St. Mary Josefa Parish in Rome Feb. 19.

in the Gospel. He explains it with concrete examples," the pope said.

The first example, he said, is "not taking revenge. If I have some rancor in my heart for something someone has done, I want vengeance, but this moves me off the path of holiness. No revenge. 'But he did this and he will pay.' Is this Christian? No. 'He will pay' is not in the Christian's vocabulary. No revenge."

In people's everyday lives, he said, their squabbles with their relatives or neighbors may seem a little thing, but they are not. "These big wars we read about in the papers and see on the news, these massacres of people, of children, how much hatred! It's the same hatred you have in your heart for this person, that person, that relative, your mother-in-law. It's bigger, but it's the same hatred."

Forgiveness, the pope said, is the path toward holiness and toward peace. "If

everyone in the world learned this, there would be no wars."

Wars begin "with bitterness, rancor, the desire for vengeance, to make them pay," he said. It's an attitude that destroys families and neighborhoods and peaceful relations between nations.

"I'm not telling you what to do, Jesus is: Love your enemies. 'You mean I have to love that person?' Yes."

"I have to pray for someone who has harmed me?' Yes, that he will change his life, that the Lord will forgive him," the pope said. "This is the magnanimity of God, of God who has a big heart, who forgives all."


"Prayer is an antidote for hatred, for wars, these wars that begin at home, in families," he said. "Think of how many wars there have been in families because of an inheritance."

"Prayer is powerful. Prayer defeats evil. Prayer brings peace," the pope said.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Taking care of world God created a spiritual duty, archbishop says

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- With a proclamation of the story of the creation of the universe from the Book of Genesis and a blessing with water, the Mid-Atlantic Congress opened with a splash Feb. 16 in Baltimore with the theme "Blessed as Living Witnesses." Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Association of Catholic Publishers, in partnership with the Leadership Roundtable, the sixth annual conference for pastoral ministers up and down the East Coast attracted more than 1,400 people to the Baltimore Hilton Feb. 16-18. Opening keynote speaker Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta followed the creation story with a talk reflecting on the dignity of creation, especially considering Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'," about the care of our common home. The archbishop noted that the phrase "God saw how good it was" appears five times in the opening passages of Genesis, indicating he admired his works of creation. It also makes it a moral and spiritual obligation for people today to "see how good it was" and take care of the created world God entrusted to us, according to the archbishop. The created world is not good merely "because it is profitable or usable or exploitable. First and foremost, it is good because it reflects God's goodness itself," he said.

Norma McCorvey, plaintiff in Roe ruling who later became pro-life, dies

KATY, Texas (CNS) -- Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff "Jane Roe" in the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand, died. McCorvey became a pro-life supporter in 1995 after spending years as a proponent of legal abortion. She also became a born-again Christian. A couple of years later, she said she felt called to join the Catholic Church of her youth. Her mother was Catholic and her father was a Jehovah's Witness. After instruction in the faith, she was accepted into the church in 1998. "Losing a loved one is always a difficult time for a family. Losing a loved one who was also a public figure at the center of a national controversy brings additional challenges. It also brings additional consolations," said a Feb. 19 statement from McCorvey's family released by Priests for Life. The family thanked the "many people across America and around the world who, in these days, are expressing their condolences, their prayers, and their gratitude for the example Mom gave them in standing up for life and truth. Though she was the Jane Roe of Roe v. Wade, she worked hard for the day when that decision would be reversed."

USCCB committee chairmen applaud decision on transgender directive

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees Feb. 24 praised President Donald Trump's repeal of the Obama administration's directive on transgender access to bathrooms. The guidance, issued last May by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education, "indicated that public pre-K through 12 schools, as well as all colleges and universities, should treat a student's gender identity as the student's sex," said the bishops' joint statement. The document "sought to impose a one-size-fits-all approach to dealing with sensitive issues involving individual students," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education. "Such issues are best handled with care and compassion at the local level, respecting the privacy and safety concerns of all students," they said.

Ash Wednesday: Ancient tradition still thrives in modern times

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - In more ways than one, Ash Wednesday - celebrated March 1 this year - leaves a mark.

That's because not only are Catholics marked with a sign of penitence with ashes on their foreheads, but the rich symbolism of the rite itself draws Catholics to churches in droves even though it is not a holy day of obligation and ashes do not have to be distributed during a Mass.

Almost half of adult Catholics, 45 percent, typically receive ashes - made from the burned and blessed palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday - at Ash Wednesday services, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

Parish priests say they get more people at church that day than almost any other -- excluding Christmas and Easter -- and the congregations are usually much bigger than for Holy Thursday or Good Friday services.

"Virtually every parish that I've worked with will have more people come to Ash Wednesday than almost any other celebration," said Thomas Humphries, assistant professor of philosophy, theology and religion at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Florida.

"We talk about Christmas and Easter as certainly being the most sacred and most attended events during the year, but Ash Wednesday is not even a day of obligation. In terms of liturgical significance, it's very minor, but people observe it as overwhelmingly important," he said in a Feb. 17 email to Catholic News Service.

Humphries said part of the Ash Wednesday draw is the

"genuine human recognition of the need to repent and the need to be reminded of our own mortality. Having someone put ashes on your head and remind you 'we are dust and to dust we shall return' is an act of humility."

Parish priests say they get more people at church that day than almost any other and the congregations are usually much bigger than for Holy Thursday or Good Friday services.

He also said the day - which is the start of Lent in the Latin Church - reminds people that they are not always who they should be and it is a chance to "stand together with people and be reminded of our frailty and brokenness and of our longing to do better."

"This practice is particularly attractive to us today because it is an embodied way to live out faith, to witness to Christian identity in the world," said Timothy O'Malley, director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame, where he also is a professor of New Testament and early Christianity.

He said that's the only way to explain why millions of people identify themselves "as mortal sinners for an entire day."

Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, thinks the appeal of Ash Wednesday is partly because participants receive a "marker of identity" as Catholics.

The day also has rich symbolism, he said, of both

flawed humanity and mortality.

He pointed out that even though a large percentage of Catholics do not go to confession they will attend this very penitential service because they "get a sense of repentance and a kind of solidarity in it."

"Clearly it touches on a deep sense of Catholic tradition in a way few other symbols do," he told CNS Feb. 17.

For many, it also links them to childhood tradition of getting ashes. It also links them, even if they are unaware of its origins, to an ancient church tradition.

The priest said the use of ashes goes back to Old Testament times when sackcloth and ashes were worn as signs of penance.

The church incorporated this practice in the eighth century when those who committed grave sins known to the public had to do public penitence, sprinkled with ashes.

But by the Middle Ages, the practice of penance and marking of ashes became something for the whole church.

Ash Wednesday also is one of two days, along with Good Friday, that are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholic adults - meaning no eating meat and eating only one full meal and two smaller meals.

The other key aspect of the day is that it is the start of the 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent.

"Ash Wednesday can be a little bit like New Year's Day," Father Mike Schmitz, chaplain for Newman Catholic Campus Ministries at the University of Minnesota Duluth, told CNS in an email. He said the day gives Catholics "a place to clearly begin something new that we know we need to do."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent: forty days of decision and growth

Even though Lent comes early this year, many of us are looking forward to these forty days with a sense of welcome and relief.

We have experienced so much calamity and confusion in the past months!

The terrorism so many countries of the world, a new administration in Washington, and the clutter in our daily lives through noise, endless activity, and absence of peace has made us weary beyond the normal.

So Lent is an attractive opportunity to strengthen our weak knees, toughen our weary hearts, and try all

over again to bring order and discipline – with its resulting joy – into our lives.

Perhaps remnants of Ash Wednesday will remain, not on our foreheads but in our hearts. We know how much we need a time of spiritual renewal.

Once again we reflect on the sin of our first parents and how the Garden of Delights was lost through Adam and Eve.

How good things would still be if they hadn't foolishly listened to the wily serpent. So much damage from one man and one woman!

The good news is that the

damage was all repaired by one man, Jesus.

The formal work of salvation all began with His baptism, and then by Satan's temptations in the desert which followed so soon after that baptism.

The work of our redemption would have been seriously damaged if Jesus had given in to temptations to pride, temptations of the flesh, or to temptations to power.

Resistance to temptation comes from humility, obedience, and a loving Spirit. That's what all of us need when temptation knocks – HUMILITY, OBEDIENCE, AND A LOVING SPIRIT.

Lent is a time for us to share in the continual repair work of this "One Man" – for reparation for sins of our



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MARCH 5

First Sunday of Lent
READINGS

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Mathew 4:1-11

world, and the completion of the work of our Redemption.

Everyone's Lent is different, but it should always include prayer and study (whether in private or in public), and penance (some call it mortification, and still others call it discipline).

Every Lent should always include almsgiving. We have plenty of opportunity for that through the appeal to share our treasure for the

works of the Church (in both ordinary Sunday collections, and extraordinary special collections springing from the needs of the church, or the community, or the world at large).

There may be special group study of Scripture, Church history, Catholic social teaching, or some aspect of an article of faith.

And don't forget visiting the sick and praying for them. Daily Mass during Lent, and Stations of the Cross, either public or private, a daily rosary, and special family activities, are all fruitful sources of grace.

However you put together your Lent, it's a wonderful forty days of decision, growth, and toughening for the daily challenge of our everyday world.

FROM THE HOLY FATHER

Money, pride make people ignore God's word

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Without making room for God's word in their heart, people will never be able to welcome and love all human life, Pope Francis said.

"Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins March 1 for Latin-rite Catholics.

"The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable," he wrote.

Released by the Vatican Feb. 7, the text of the pope's Lenten message -- titled "The Word is a gift. Other persons are gift" -- focused on the

parable of the rich man and Lazarus in the Gospel of St. Luke (16:19-31).

Pope's message for Lent

The parable calls for sincere conversion, the pope said, and it "provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life."

In the Gospel account, Lazarus and his suffering are described in great detail. While he is "practically invisible to the rich man," the Gospel gives him a name and a face, upholding him as worthy, as "a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast," the pope wrote.

The parable shows that "a right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value," he said. "A poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change."

But in order to understand how to open one's heart and see the other as gift, a person must see how the word of God operates.

One way to do that, he said, is to be aware of the temptations and traps the rich man fell victim to, derailling his search for true happiness.

The nameless "rich man" lives an opulent, ostentatious life, the pope wrote, and his love of money leads to vanity and pride -- "the lowest rung of this moral degradation."

"The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal," he said. "For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door."

Love of money, St. Paul warned, "is the root of all

evils," and the pope said, it is also "the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion."

The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable

"Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity toward others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace," he added.

The rich man's eyes are finally opened after he and Lazarus are dead; Lazarus finds comfort in heaven and the rich man finds torment in "the netherworld," because, as Abraham explains, "a kind of fairness is restored" in the afterlife and "life's evils are balanced by good," the pope said.

The rich man then asks for an extraordinary sign -- Lazarus coming back from

the dead -- to be given to his family members so they will repent and not make the same mistake as he.

But, Abraham said the people have plenty of teachings with "Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them," the pope said.

This explains what the real problem is for the rich man's and those like him: "At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbor," the pope said.

The pope asked that Lent be a time "for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor."

"May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need," Pope Francis said, especially by taking part in the various Lenten campaigns sponsored by local churches.

Follow Pope Francis on
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www.twitter.com/Pontifex



AT THE MOVIES

ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Matt Damon stars in a scene from "The Great Wall." Drawn by the wealth they could gain by introducing gunpowder into the West, two medieval European mercenaries (Damon and Pedro Pascal) arrive in China, after an arduous journey, only to find their unwilling hosts preoccupied with battling vicious alien monsters. It was to defend against these marauding creatures, so the script claims, that the titular structure was built. As Damon's character becomes committed to this struggle, not least because he's attracted to the fetching commander (Jing Tian) of one division of the local forces, his companion remains focused on the original scheme, abetted in it by another traveler (Willem Dafoe) who came to the Middle Kingdom years before for exactly the same purpose, and has been held prisoner ever since. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL
MYSTERY PLAYERS
LENT 2017: "Jesus Turners Falls Again"

Date	Place	Time
March 5	Summit Village	Watertown 2:00 p.m.
March 10	St. James	Gouverneur 7:00 p.m.
March 12	St. Cecilia's	Adams 7:30 p.m.
March 16	St. Bartholomew's	Old Forge 7:30 p.m.
March 17	Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls, MA 7:30 p.m.
March 18	Christ the King	Albany 7:30 p.m.
March 24	Holy Family	Watertown 7:30 p.m.
March 26	Notre Dame	Ogdensburg 7:30 p.m.
April 1	St. Joseph's	West Chazy 7:30 p.m.
April 8	First United Methodist	Watertown 7:30 p.m.
April 9	St. Peter's	Lowville 7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Patrick's	Watertown 7:30 p.m.

www.ihschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Is the thriller "Get Out" (Universal) as good as all get out? Well, not exactly.

Clever social commentary from writer-director Jordan Peele does add heft to the proceedings. But late scenes featuring some gory encounters, together with swearing throughout, make his film a rugged ride even for grown-ups.

In a setup reminiscent of 1967's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," young black photographer Chris Washington (Daniel Kaluuya), is about to meet his white live-in girlfriend Rose's (Allison Williams) parents - Missy (Catherine Keener) and Dean (Bradley Whitford) Armitage - for the first time.

In lieu of the earlier movie's titular meal, the occasion for Chris' introduction to the family is to be a weekend visit to the Armitages' tony estate in the country.

While Chris is prepared for the initial awkwardness Missy and Dean display as they go out of their way to show they're not bigots, less predictable developments leave him increasingly unsettled. There's Rose's weirdly aggressive brother Jeremy (Caleb Landry Jones), for instance, who seems to be spoiling for a martial-arts smackdown with Chris.

Then, too, there's the Armitages' strangely subdued, zombie-like household staff: maid Georgina (Betty Gabriel) and gardener Walter (Marcus Henderson). In fact, Chris is disturbed by the behavior of pretty much everyone he meets during his stay, on both sides of



GET OUT



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams star in a scene from the movie "Get Out."

the racial divide.

As things turn ever more sinister, Peele adeptly uses horror tropes to comment on slavery, racism and liberal pieties. The plot's denouement, however, comes dipped in a needless amount of blood.

This wrap-up is also clearly designed to incite the audience to cheer as an array of villains meet satisfyingly grisly ends. It's ironic - and unfortunate - that a picture aimed at satirizing one negative aspect of human nature should eventually appeal to another.

The film contains some harsh and bloody violence, cohabitation, at least one use of profanity and pervasive rough and crude language.

The Catholic News Service

classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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CLINTON

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - 40 Days for Life, days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion are set

Date: March 1 to April 9
Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: public right of way outside of Planned Parenthood
Contact: Nancy Belzile 518-593-6024
<https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/plattsburgh/>

PARISH FISH FRY

Chazy - Sacred Heart will have its Annual Fish Fry.
Date: March 24
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30
Place: Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; All take-outs, \$10

K OF FISH FRY DINNERS

Au Sable Forks - Knights of Columbus Council #2301 of Au Sable Forks will hold fish-fry dinners,
Date: March 1, 10 and 31
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
Place: Holy Name Parish Center Gym
Cost: \$10 adults; Children under 12, \$6

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

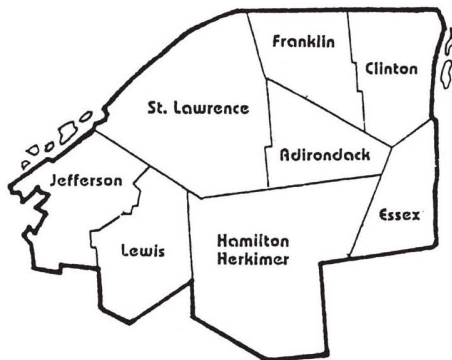
West Chazy - All you can eat pancake breakfast to be held.
Date: March 5
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Joseph's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$8.50; Children 6-10, \$3; 5 and under, Free

BREAKFAST SET

Lyon Mountain - St. Bernard's-St. Edmund's Parishes to have a Buffet Style breakfast.
Date: March 19
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post #1623
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, Free
Features: Proceeds to benefit both parishes. 50/50 tickets will be available.
Contact: For more information please call 593-2052 or 594-3907

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST

Mooers - All you can eat breakfast to be held to benefit new church doors.
Date: March 5
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Place: St. Ann's Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free
Contact: For take-outs call 236-6118



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Plattsburgh - K of C to have a pancake breakfast.
Date: March 12
Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Our Lady of Victory Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6 to 12, \$5; under 5, Free
Features: 50/50 chances available.

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Plattsburgh - The Diocese of Ogdensburg and St. Peter's Church to present Climate Ambassador Dr. Gerry Gacioco.
Date: April 2
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: Presentation to focus on Pope Francis' encyclical on Environmental Stewardship entitled Laudato Si, Care of our Common Home, plus why Catholics should care about our the environment
Contact: Denise Tetrault at spchurch-denise@primelink1.net or at 518-563-1692.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.
Dates: March 5, April 2 and 23
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Joseph's Hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; kids, \$3; under 5, Free

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Plattsburgh - The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh - St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays.
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Features: Concludes on Tuesday of Holy Week with Benediction at 7 p.m.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Plattsburgh - St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic Central are planning a joint reunion.
Date: May 26-28
Contact: Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, spellerin@thesetonschools.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m

ESSEX

LENTEN JOURNEY

Olmstedville - Lenten Journey on Beginning Apologetics to be held.
Date: March 8
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Parish House
Features: A light meal will be served

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Elizabethtown - St. Elizabeth's Parish is planning its annual St. Patrick's Dinner.
Date: March 12
Time: 2 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, \$12; Children under 12, \$5

FRANKLIN

HEARTS ON FIRE

Malone - Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.
Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks & Fellowship
Place: Notre Dame Church

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Malone - Five first Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are set
Schedule: 7:40 a.m., Rosary; 8 a.m., Mass
Place: Notre Dame Church

SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls - First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held
Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann's Church

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

Old Forge - Discerning men are invited to consider the call to the priesthood.
Dates: March 5&26; April 9 and 23; May 7 & 21
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory
Features: Reflection, Vespers & dinner. Juniors in high school and older.
Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554;

JEFFERSON

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT :

Brownville - Immaculate Conception Church is holding a Lenten retreat for all women.
Date: March 25
Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30
Features: Video presentations "Loved as I am" by Sr. Miriam Heidland and "The Special Call and Gift of Women by Joannette Benkovik
Cost: \$10 includes a Lenten Luncheon.
Contact: preregister by March 18 by calling Linda Pierson 315-639-3701 or Marlene Johnson 315-639-3269

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.
Date: March 4
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.
Date: March 30

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., bring containers
Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meat-balls, \$.75 each

PETER PAN at IHC

Watertown - IHC to present their High School Musical, Peter Pan.
Date: March 3 at 7 p.m., March 4 at 1.
Cost: Adults, \$10; Students, Seniors, and Military, \$8; under 5, \$6
Features: assistance of flying and production experts, Flying With Foy. <http://flybyfoy.com> Peter Pan is presented in through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.
Time: 3 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Anthony's Church

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
Date: Feb. 25
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Place: St. Anthony's Church
Features: The purpose is to pray for vocations to priesthood, religious life.

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: 870 Arsenal Street.
Features: pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing.
Contact: Phone 315-788-4359

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew's has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for vocations
Date: Mon.-Fri.
Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Place: Holy Family Church

LEWIS

LENTEN THURSDAYS

Lowville - Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.
Date: March 9, 16, 23, 30
Time: 4 p.m. to 5
Place: St. Peter's Church

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

Gratitude from the Working Boys Center

Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM was a former Peace Corps volunteer at the Working Boys Center before joining the religious community of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As a religious, she was called to join our WBC Family of Families staff as a Director and has served in that capacity since 1981. Sister Cindy Sullivan has native ties to Northern New York and the Diocese of Ogdensburg and makes a trip home every summer to participate in the Mission COOP program and speak to students in the Catholic School system.

A Family of Families in Quito, Ecuador

We recently heard from Father John Halligan and Sister Cindy Sullivan. They wrote to us to express their gratitude for the Diocese generosity from Coop that was shared with them at Christmas. Father Halligan writes, "Christ's birthday has us still thinking about His presence. Your deeply appreciated gifts to the Working Boys Center – a family of families – makes it possible to bring a new and permanent holy prosperity into the lives of working kids and their whole families. That's a big debt to you that we enjoy having and talking to God about.

Our Christmas season celebrations were so endless that I am not sure they're over with yet: two and three hour stage performances, first communions, giving our hearts to Jesus ceremonies, novena every evening and our fabulous "bundles parties" in both Centers. Each family gets a sack new and used clothing sorted to match the different family members' sizes. About a month before Christmas, our volunteers prepare the sacks or bundles for the event. The bundles party has to be close to Christmas on a non-work day and after, not before, the special meal. The folks need time after the meal to re-sort and trade off with each other the items in the sacks. In that way they can know and want the treasures in the heavy load they have to carry home.

The Centers stay open for meals and other programs during Christmas season. But education classes are cancelled from Christmas Eve all the way to the day celebrating Epiphany. Its more than a week long command performance to relax and be happy God gives us time to know what we want for each other. What I mostly want for you is your confidence that God Blesses your generosity to folks in need of it."

These words exemplify a concrete example of where your generous resources go to make a difference. Your gifts do matter. God bless.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
"when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Altona – Marie E. "Hattie" (LaFave) Boulrice, 103; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2017 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cape Vincent – Craig "Buzz" Francis Schoff, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2017 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Carthage – James F. Condino, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2017 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

Long Lake – Darcy Fernand Touchette, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2017 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Malone – William F. Gibeau, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – David W. Jandreau, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2017 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine Cemetery.

Malone – Glendora (Gardner) LaFleur, 60; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2017 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Mary A. (Mittiga) Boots, 100; Funeral Feb. 20, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Frances (Kruth) Brooks, 88; Funeral Feb. 20, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Rhona Jane (Villnave) Eastwood, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2017 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Gloria J. (Perras) Robillard, 86; Funeral Services at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Peru – Traci L. (Dashnaw) Royea, 45; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2017 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Hazel O. (Varno) Cerone, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

Port Henry – Albert F. Mayer, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Lawrence Martin Scanlon, 85; Funeral Feb. 23, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Walsh "Murph" D. Moody, 75; Funeral Service Feb. 27, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Mt. View Cemetery.

Watertown – Nancy J. (Hutto) Zimmer, 83; Funeral Services in Spring at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

West Chazy – Alvin J. Corron, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

GO GREEN!

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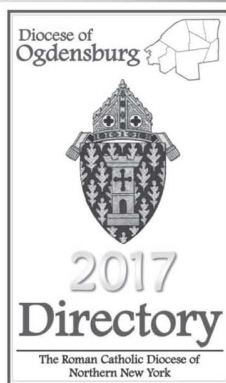


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Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

LEWIS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – All are invited to one hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, benediction.

Date: Feb. 16

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March to be held.

Date: March 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. At 2:25 p.m., before the monthly devotions, the first DVD of a monthly 10-part series entitled: Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told, Will be presented.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations to be held.

Date: March 3

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: morning prayer, First Friday Mass, and a Holy Hour with exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish and shrimp Fry to be held.

Date: March 3 and April 14

Time: 4:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: Take-outs available, phone ahead for fast service and deliveries at 315-287-0130

LENTE ADORATION

Massena – Lenten Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.

Date: Beginning March 3 every Mon. and Fri during Lent

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church family room

BISHOP BARRON STUDY PROGRAM

Massena – Begin the journey from sin to sanctity with Bishop Barron's 9 week study program "Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues".

Date: Tuesdays through April 4

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 and also offered at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: No Charge (though a free will of offering will be accepted)

Contact: Visit website at www.masse-nacatholics.com or call the parish Rectory at 315-769-2469.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's parish offers a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction.

Time: Thursdays, immediately following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

Heuvelton – St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. to 11

Place: Parish Center

Contact: Father O'Brien at 315-393-2920 or 315-344-2383.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Massena – Monthly Holy hour for Vocations to held on First Fridays.

Date: March 3

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

Potsdam – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.

Dates: March 5; April 2 and 23, May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastorsmsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DEACON FORMATION INFORMATION

The Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering Informational Sessions for Pastors and all interested parties.

Schedule: March 8, 6:30 p.m., Sister of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown

March 15, 6:30 p.m. St. Peter's Church (Emmanuel Room), Plattsburgh

Contact: Deacon John

White at jwhite@rcdony.org.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Norfolk – The Cursillo Movement of the Ogdensburg Diocese is sponsoring a Day of Recollection open to all diocesan parishioners

Date: March 4

Time: 10 a.m. to 5

Place: Our Lady of the Visitation Church and Parish Center

Features: Bishop LaValley, Father Jack Downs and Father Timothy Canaan will make presentations. Father Albert Hauser and two laypersons will share their personal witness. There will be

VOCATIONAL VISITOR



John Ojuok from Kenya is pictured with Father Douglas Comstock, pastor in Alexandria Bay. Ojuok is visiting the diocese while he discerns a vocation to the priesthood.

opportunity for prayer and recollection in front of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession after each set of talks. The day ends with 4 p.m. anticipated Sunday Mass celebrated by the bishop at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

Contact: Registration by mail, email or phone by Feb. 25: Ken and Kathy Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; kathyracette@gmail.com, kracette1@gmail.com, 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056.

LENTE RETREAT FOR YOUTH

Diocesan Youth Council is hosting a peer-led Lenten retreat open to all students in grades 6-12.

Dates: March 25 in Malone; March 26 in Canton

Features: The event is free, but participants must pre-register and bring a bagged lunch.

Contact: Details and registration can be found at www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open through www.rcdony.org/camp.

Features: Weeks one through five are designated for 12-15 year olds, while Week Six is just for 16-18 year olds.

Contact: For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org or visit camp website: rcdony.org/camp/guggy

YOUTH RALLY REGISTRATION

Watertown – The 2017 diocesan High School Youth rally to be held.

Date: May 6

Place: IHC

Cost: \$25 before April 1, \$30 after

Features: This full-day event will feature keynote speaker Paul J. Kim, prayer, interactive workshops, games, and Mass presided by Bishop LaValley. Each group attending needs to have one Virtus-trained and background-checked adult for each eight students. Youth leaders can register themselves and youth at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally.

Contact: Kelly at kdonnelly@rcdony.org

COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT

Long Lake – A retreat day for college women is set

Date: March 11

Contact: Amanda at

aconklin@stlawu.edu or conkлина@canton.edu for information or to register.

DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.

Date: Next meeting is March 15

Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-276 or the Vocations Office at 315-393-2920

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