

THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the whole assembly of the children of Israel and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.’ You shall not steal. You shall not lie or speak falsely to one another. You shall not swear

falsely by my name, thus profaning the name of your God. I am the Lord. You shall not defraud or rob your neighbor. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your day laborer. You shall not curse the deaf, or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you shall fear your God. I am the Lord; You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your kin; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor’s life is at stake. I am the Lord. You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove him, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18).

This was the first reading of Mass this past Monday during the first week of Lent. What better way to begin this Lenten season than to be reminded of the need to act justly, be kind to one another and to do good and always avoid evil. It seems so easy what the Lord asks of us, not to steal, not to lie, not to speak falsely against another, not to swear, not to act dishonestly, not to be judgmental, not to harbor hatred, not to be revengeful and not to hold a grudge against another. But it is not easy. How many of us can say that we never lied, never held a grudge, never judged someone by their looks or by what they wore? Just remember back to the Monday morning talk shows where everyone was talking about the best and worst dressed star at the Oscars.

We need to ask ourselves why does it matter if I treat people fairly, that I am not judgmental, that I am honest and truthful, that I am not rude, or jealous of others, or materialistic? The answer came from Monday’s Gospel readings at Mass. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angles with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd

separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left, Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Matthew 25: 31ff)

People do evil because they do not believe in a hell. They think that as long as they do not kill someone then all will be ok in the end. But, Christ demands more from us in order to enter into eternal glory. Christ demands our lives fully lived as a mirror image of Him. When beaten and nailed to a cross, He rose and gave forgiveness, not revenge. When Peter denied Him and ran away from the cross, Jesus had mercy on Peter and made him the first Pope. When Thomas denied Him because of fear and weakness, Our Lord gently and humbly said to Thomas, Come here and put your fingers into my side and into my hands. Christ showed us what we must do in order to enter into eternal glory.

We all need to choose the road that we must follow. Watching the morning shows the day after the Oscars frankly, for me, was sad. I had just gotten back from South Africa where I spent ten days walking through make-shift towns of thousands where people made their homes out of whatever materials that they found, where unemployment was in the 80% range and AIDS hovered around 70%. I spent all morning visiting an 80 year-old Sister who, after retiring from teaching, decided to open a center where the police could bring babies found in dumpsters to a place of safety and love. I listened to Sister as she explained that she only has resources for 50, but has 89 infants in her little home. When I was watching the morning shows about how ugly that dress, worth thousands of dollars, was on that person, I couldn’t help but wonder if we as a society are truly on the right road with Christ or not. Let us use this time of Lent to refocus on the Gospel and its teachings and recommit ourselves to following the Lord with all of our hearts, minds and souls. Don’t steal, lie, judge, or be angry. Give of your time, talents and resources to your brother and sister in need. This sounds so easy, yet why are there so many hurting from grudges, anger, loneliness, greed, indifference, etc? *Fr. Posey*

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**Sunday, March 4:**

9:00 – 12:00 Noon High School Breakfast Club, with Fr. Hanley, Conference Room, Knecht Gym
 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group, Church Basement
 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym
 2:30 p.m. Spanish Mass
 3:30 p.m. Spanish Legion of Mary, Church Basement

Monday, March 5:

3:00 – 8:30 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym
 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. RCIA with Fr. Hanley, Conference Room, Knecht Gym

Tuesday, March 6:

3:00 – 6:30 p.m. CYO Basketball
 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Religious Education Classes, Grades Kindergarten – 8, St. James School
 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Religious Education Classes, Grades 1 – 8, St. James School
 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Women's Basketball, Knecht Gym
 8:00 p.m. Young Men's Basketball, Gym

Wednesday, March 7:

10:00 – 1:00 p.m. Women of St. James, Heller Hall
 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Women's bible study group, Conference Room, Knecht Gym
 3:00 – 8:30 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym
 7:15 – 9:15 p.m. Community of God's Love Prayer Group, Conference Room, Knecht Gym

Thursday, March 8:

3:00 – 8:30 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym

Friday, March 9:

3:00 – 8:30 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym

Saturday, March 10:

8:00 - 8:00 p.m. CYO Basketball, Knecht Gym

ATTENTION: NOON MASS ATTENDEES!

There will be early dismissal for St. James School at 11:30 a.m. this Wednesday, March 7th. May we ask people attending the Noon Mass to park on the street? Thank you for your cooperation.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK is for the Parish Maintenance Fund. Thank you for your continued donations.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER – will be offered every Friday evening during Lent from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Join others in a “simple meal” before the Stations of the Cross, which begin at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please contact Katy Cabbage at 703/463-8031.

WHAT'S ON THE RACK? - Lenten material is now available for purchase on the rack: Various spiritual selections by Fulton Sheen, Scott Hahn, Fr. Groeschel, Romaro Guardini and Pope Benedict. – **The Magnificat Lenten Companion**, daily readings and reflections are available now.

SPECIAL PREACHED MASSES
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:30 P.M.
THROUGHOUT LENT

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS/BENEDICTION
FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 P.M.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY

Deacon Bello's Scripture Study begins **this Sunday, March 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Knecht Gym Conference Room**. Because of the snow, we will all start fresh and no one will have missed anything. The overall focus will be on the Gospel of St. Luke, but the focus of the first class will be on two important questions:

First, why should Catholics read, study, pray and discuss Sacred Scriptures?

Second, how should Catholics read, study, pray and discuss Sacred Scriptures? This will not be so much a “scholarly, high-brow” Scripture Study as a class open to all who are interested. Thus, you are invited to think about, formulate and share your own answers to the two questions above. The classes will be both lecture and interactive, and hopefully fun as well. Please bring your Bibles. Deacon Bello will be using the Revised New American Bible, the translation used at Masses. We will start at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer, and we'll probably go over an hour, but less than two hours. “Homework” will be assigned after the first class.

TEENS PRAYER WORKSHOP!

How many times have you been prompted to pray, and you were like...“I'd like to adore, meditate... but I don't know how to begin or what to do!”

WE'LL SHOW YOU INTO THE SPIRITUAL WORLD OF PRAYER ~ Come and See! Thursdays 7 pm @ Church (Fr Jorge, 703/ 532 - 8815 ext 3). Bring your Notebook & Bible with you. Parents are welcomed.

ST/ JAMES MOTHERS/WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on **Tuesday morning, March 20th at 9:15 AM** in the Knecht Conference Room. Fr. Dan Hanley will present “*Mary, Our Spiritual Mother for Life: Our Mentor as Mother and Wife.*” All women of the parish community are invited for coffee, refreshments and fellowship. Take some time out this Lenten Season to grow closer to Christ Our Lord through Mary, Our Mother.

For more information about this or **Women Scripture Study Groups**, please contact Dori Mitchell at 703/534-4348.

NOT YOUR FATHER'S FOLK MUSIC: For those interested in participating in the contemporary music group, the next practice will be **this Sunday, March 4, at 3:45 p.m. in the church.** The music for this group includes the latest in Christian worship music as well as hymns from the Music issue. We welcome instrumentalists and singers of all ages and talents. For more information, please contact the church office 703/532-8815, or e-mail Diana Banister at dibanister@cox.net.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 3:

5:00 p.m. +Leo Scheiter

Sunday, March 4:

7:30 a.m. +Frances Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m. +Rose Sponable
10:30 a.m. +David Holloway
12:00 Noon +Charles Voehringer
2:30 p.m. For the People of St. James

Monday, March 5:

6:30 a.m. +J.H.J. Michalski
8:30 a.m. +Bartolo Longhi
12:00 Noon +Celine Macourek

Tuesday, March 6:

6:30 a.m. SpecInt/Kate Connors
8:30 a.m. +Roy Fullerton
12:00 Noon +Rita Marie Braddock

Wednesday, March 7:

6:30 a.m. +Maria Longhi
8:30 a.m. +Grace Longhi
12:00 Noon +Louis Dougherty

Thursday, March 8:

6:30 a.m. SpecInt/Kate Connors
8:30 a.m. +Patricia Perdue
12:00 Noon +Dennis Matthew Braddock

Friday, March 9:

6:30 a.m. SpecInt/Kate Connors
8:30 a.m. SpecInt/Cecilia Yang
12:00 Noon +Jerome Paul Braddock

Saturday, March 10:

8:30 a.m. +Concepcion Lunario
5:00 p.m. +Kathryn M. Reimert

Sunday, March 11:

7:30 a.m. For the People of St. James
9:00 a.m. +Bob Schottler
10:30 a.m. SpecInt/Carlo Salzano
12:00 Noon +Milagros Ordonez
2:30 p.m. +Manuel Del Rio

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the sick of our parish family, Rosemary Ahmad, William Bartosavage, Eithna Clarke, R. J. Denault, Holden Drum, James Vincent Essman, Priscilla Johnson, Karen Jones, Josephine Jorewicz, John Lee, Carole Meany, Joan Mason, Alvina Montgomery, Bob Nokes, John Parker, Shirley Schottler, Peter Tran, Bernice Houck, Mary Lou Willison, Marie Witzig and "Jane" Yoensky. Pray also for the deceased members of our parish family, especially Joyce Ioanes, Gertrude Peevy, Stotti Breanan and John W. Silva.

PRIVATE MASS INTENTIONS ~ the following intentions will be celebrated at a private Mass by one of the priests at St. James: Carol Tuttle, Ruth Gladys Cupps, Thomas & Leticia O'Shea, Ellen Flanagan, Carol Tuttle, SpecInt/Noel Reyner, John & Caroline Staron, Geraldine Beall, Carol Tuttle, and Ann Walsh Tuttle.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE MANAGER

St. James Parish seeks a facilities/maintenance manager. The person will be responsible for maintaining the physical plant including grounds, mechanical systems and buildings as well as supervising the maintenance employees. They would be expected to do hands-on work and be a contact person with emergency authorities.

A qualified candidate would possess managerial skills, a trade, the ability to interact with and relate to contractors and a variety of people. Please send a resume and cover letter to:

**Rev. Patrick Posey
St. James Church
905 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA. 22046**

If you have questions, please call 703/532-8815.

LOOKING FOR FUN? The Social Outreach Committee is once again hosting its annual **St. Patrick's Day** luncheon for local senior citizens on **Sunday, March 25, 2007, from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.** The Committee needs some wonderful volunteers to provide food (finger foods, salads and desserts) for the lunch or help with cleanup and setup. If you can help in any way, please call Mary Ann Parker at 703/241-9128

FOCUS ON HUNGER/CHRIST HOUSE: On the second Wednesday of each month, a distinct volunteer group from St. James prepares and serves a dinner at Christ House, the Diocesan soup kitchen in Alexandria. This is a unique hands-on-experience to directly help those in need. It is an opportunity for families with middle school through high school students to work together. If you would like to help with this parish effort, either in donating food or desserts, cooking the meal at Christ House and/or serving the meal at Christ House, please contact Judy Rybak at 703/442-8479. We are in need of volunteer groups or individuals.

- After all the Masses during Lent, the St. James Social Outreach Committee will be at the Church doors collecting funds so that they may continue to help feed the needy in your name. Your generosity is appreciated. Write checks to the **St. James Outreach Committee.** Non-perishable foods can also be left at the doors of the Church before weekend Masses throughout Lent. This food will help restock Food for Others, our local food bank.

ALL WIDOWED CATHOLICS OF ST. JAMES ~ The next meeting of the Widowed Catholics of St. James is set for **Thursday, March 15, in Msgr. Heller Auditorium from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** With Lent in mind, the treat will be a variety of home baked breads with an assortment of jams and jellies, tea and coffee. Also, in support of the work of the Social Outreach Committee, we are asking everyone who plans on attending to bring at least one can of any soup, vegetable or fruit (cans only, please!). Questions? Call Fran Gros, 703/532-0435, or Steve Dewhurst at 703/288-1655.

Saint James CYO

Softball & Baseball

Softball

Who:

7th and 8th grade girls (all skill levels)
Coaches – Kathy Gilmartin and Jim Groody

5th and 6th grade girls (all skill levels)
Coach – needed if there is to be a team at this level

Practices:

TBA

Games:

Begin late March/early April through May

If you are interested in playing CYO softball contact
Kathy Gilmartin (kathy.gilmartin@us.army.mil) and/or
Jim Groody (kimnjim4@verizon.net) or
(james.groody@uspto.gov) by **March 7, 2007**.

Baseball

Who:

7th and 8th grade boys
Coaches – Tom Cline (tdcline@aol.com) and Bill
Nixon (wnixon@clarkbrody.com)

Depending on the number of interested players, two
teams (one 8th grade and one 7th grade) may be formed.
If two teams are formed, a coach for the 8th grade team
will be needed.

Practices:

TBA

Games:

Begin late March/early April though May

Information meeting / Skills assessment:

Monday, March 12, 2007

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Knecht Gym

Players wear gym shoes and bring your glove

If you have any questions about softball or baseball, please contact me or any of the above coaches.

Peggy

Peggy Ball
St. James Parish CYO Rep.
peggyball@cox.net
703-533-2486