

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 6th, 2005

From the Pastor

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Wednesday, February 9th 05, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The custom of distributing ashes to all the faithful arose from a devotional imitation of the practice observed in the case of public penitents going back beyond the eighth century. Our Christian ritual in turn was borrowed from the Jewish custom sprinkling ashes on the head and food as a sign of mourning.

For the Spanish speaking *El miercoles de Ceniza* is a most important day in their liturgical calendar. They come to the Church by the hundreds asking for ashes. In much the same way as their indigenous ancestors, the Spanish speaking of today see a profound symbolism in *la tierra*, the mother Earth. For them, the ashes have an additional meaning to what the church has given them. It is a day on which the individual comes to identify with the unity of man and earth. People become conscious for the need of personal and communal reflection, for solitude, renewal and penance.

“Lent is a time of profound truth which brings conversion, restores hope, and by putting everything back in its proper place, brings peace and optimism” Pope John Paul II. Let us make Lent a time of truth, let it bring hope and peace.

Fr. Jesus Camacho

The Three Practices of Lent: Praying, Fasting and Almsgiving

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 9. As Catholics, our Lenten practices include praying, fasting and almsgiving.

Praying: All of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) tell us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. Through prayer we seek conversion from our sinful ways and renewal of our baptismal promises. We can prayerfully enter the season of Lent by participating in the Eucharist, praying over scripture, private and family prayer and communal prayer such as the Stations of the Cross.

Fasting: Fasting is also a form of prayer. Traditionally, fasting has included reducing the amount of food we eat and abstaining from meat. We fast to allow our physical hunger to remind us of our spiritual hunger, our need for God. Fasting also reminds us of the needs of the hungry and poor. Although we usually fast by eating less, we can also fast by holding back from unnecessary buying, accumulating, and wasting. We can also fast by giving up enjoyable activities or getting rid of bad habits.

Almsgiving: Almsgiving, giving of our time, talent and treasure; and service to others is our final Lenten practice. Gratitude for what we have prompts us to do something for those in need, not out of guilt, but out of compassion. Compassion and generosity towards others involve giving not only from our surplus, but also from our substance. How will you pray, fast and give this Lenten season? Ash Wednesday is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 8:30am and 6pm in English and 8pm in Spanish. See an explanation of the Lenten regulations for fasting and abstinence below.

Lenten Regulations: Ash Wednesday (February 9) and Good Friday (March 25) are days of fasting (one full meal, two lesser meals, no eating in between meals) and abstinence from meat and meat products. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. This obliges everyone age 18-59

Feb. 6 -There will be a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Pancake Breakfast on Sunday February 6, from 8:30am to 1:00pm in the School Gym.

Feb. 9 - Ash Wednesday. Masses at 8:30am & 6pm (English) and 8pm (Spanish). Day of fasting and abstinence.

Feb. 11 - Stations of Cross and Soup Supper 6pm.

Feb. 13 – Join Fr. Pat Foley for a special St. Mary’s Twilight Mass at 6 pm. This mass will especially have the teens in mind but *one and all are welcome* and we’d love to see you!

Feb 12-17 Parish Mission with Fr. Pat Foley at all weekend Masses and Mon – Thurs. 7pm

Workshop On The Eucharist... There will be workshop on the Eucharist that will run concurrently for Spanish and English speaking Catholics. Feb. 26th. 10am-3.30pm

English Presenter: Fr. James Dallen, Gonzaga U.

Location: Risen Christ

Spanish Presenter: Fr. Francisco Flores

Location: St. Mary’s



SUNDAY READINGS

February 6th

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm: Psalm 112:4-9

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16



SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 7th – February 13th

MON. Gen.I : 1-19/Mark 6:53-56

TUE. Gen.I:20-24 /Mark 7 :1-13

WED. Ash Wednesday

First Reading: Joel 2:12-18

Psalms: Ps. 51:3-6, 12-14, 17

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

THUR. Deut.30:15-20, Luke,9:22-25

FRI. Isa. 58:1-9a/Mat.9:14-15

SAT. Isa.58:9b-14/Lk. 5:27-32

SUN Gn.2:7-9/Rom5:12-19/Mat.4:1-11

Reflections

1. When were you able to brighten someone's day?
2. Who in your life might help you find courage, meaning, and energy for living?

Special thanks to Countrywide Home loans for supporting the bulletin publications. Call (208)599-8500 for more information

Moms and Tots ...Moms and Tots invite you to join them February 8th and 22nd in the Parish Center basement. Gatherings run from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All mothers and children are welcome.

Twilight Mass - Join Fr. Pat Foley during our mission week for an evening mass, Feb. 13th at 6 pm. Teens! We'll definitely have you in mind for this mass but *all are welcome!!!* See you there!!! Call Molly with questions at 344-2597.

Collections for January 29th & 30th 2005

Regular \$6,241.50

Building \$ 28.00

Prayer and Meditation Retreat From March 4-6 2005, at the Monastery of the Ascension, Jerome. This retreat is for members of 12-Step programs. It introduces the experience of entering into prayer as a daily practice. Costs, including meals: commuters \$90, with housing \$150. Contact Grace at 208-423-6301 or gracec@safari.myrf.net or www.idahomonks.org



First Eucharist Preparation for 2nd grade public school students Feb. 6 – March 13 from 9:45-10:45am each Sunday.

Catholic Charities of Idaho: FREE TAX

PREPARATION: Two sites are open for seniors, and families who would want to take advantage of this opportunity please do call 1800-926-2588. All who would like to volunteer their services to the poor, and elderly of our treasure valley Catholic Community, please call 345-6031 ext 109.

St. Mary's Knight of Columbus ...

All girls and boys of ages 10 through 14 are invited to participate in the 5th annual St. Mary's Knights of Columbus free throw Championship to be held on Saturday, 12th Feb. 05 at St. Mary's School Gym, its free and there will be lots of free prizes too. Call Mike Pape @ 388-3847.

Returning Catholics...Holy Apostles Catholic Church is hosting a RETURNING CATHOLICS PROGRAM. This is a for eight weeks course that explains the faith, information and dialog on church practices and beliefs. It starts from Feb.17th at 7pm. 6300 Meridian Rd., Room 102. For more information please do contact Monta Shuyler @ 888-5506

Advanced Home Health Care...Do you love helping people in need? Advanced Home Health Care has several part-time and full-time openings available. We can work around your school schedule too. We assist our clients in their home doing light housekeeping, medication reminders, running errands for them and companionship. If you think you would enjoy helping people call Kelli Adams at 321-7896. You can apply at 1102 N. Cole Road Boise, Idaho 83704. (Near Emerald & Cole Rd.)

Director, Treasure Valley Young Adult Ministry

Eight Treasure Valley parishes in the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, seek a highly self-motivated, organized and energetic individual to create, direct and maintain regional outreach to Catholic young adults in the Treasure Valley. The Director will be a professional ecclesial minister who will work in collaboration with the pastors to serve the unmet need for leading the young adult Catholic community towards a greater participation in parish life. Interested individuals can secure a job description and application packet and information from Bobbi Dominick, Director of Human Resources, Diocese of Boise, 303 Federal Way, Boise ID 83705, (208)342-1311, x138, bdominick@rcdb.org. Applications, resumes and related information can be submitted online. The deadline for applications is April 11, 2005.

Want to join the St. Mary's Marathon group?

Participants are welcome to join in the Womens of St. Mary's Marathon. The only charge would be for a book which will be property of each participant. Cost-\$13.20. Call Joanne Campbell 853-8030

FOOD BANK PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION:

If you can monthly donate toilet paper, spaghetti sauce or spaghetti please call 850-6818.