



Our Lady of Guadalupe

135 N. White Horse Pike, Lindenwold, NJ 08021

Parish Office 856-627-2222 FAX 856-627-8210

Website: guadaleparishnj.org

March 6, 2011

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Joseph P. Capella, Pastor
Rev. Walter Guasp-Santos, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Wilson Paulose, Chaplain, Kennedy Hospital
Permanent Deacon John Berstecher
Mrs. Helen Persing, School Principal - 856-783-3088
Ellen Henehan, Director of Ministries - 856-627-2222
Religious Education Program
856-783-7006 or 856-627-2222
Maria Nieva, Music Director
Immaculata Hall Dan Farr 856-783-1586
Parish Office Hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Horario de oficina para la comunidad hispana por favor de llamar los.

Martes de 6:00 pm a 9:00 pm

Jueves de 3:00 pm a 7:00 pm

Viernes de 6:00 pm a 9:00 pm

Mass Schedule - St. Luke Church

Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m. Mon., to Sat.

Liturgy of the Hours following 8 a.m. daily Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena - Tues. after the 8 a.m Mass

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Confessions: 3:45 p.m. Saturdays

Mass Schedule - St. Lawrence Church

(Starting March 10th, daily throughout Lent)

Daily Mass: 6:45 a.m. & 7 p.m. Mon. to Fri.

Saturday: 4:15 Confessions & 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sundays: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 1 p.m. Spanish Mass

Confessions: M-F 6:30 to 6:50 p.m.

Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet

Mon., after 7 p.m. Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Tues., after 7 p.m. Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Thurs., 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Perpetual Novena

Every Thursday after morning and evening mass

Anointing of the Sick

In case of emergency, ANY TIME, day or night, please call the Parish Office number above, and listen to the prompt that will direct you. The sick will be anointed at home any time by request. Communal anointing of the sick and elderly will be celebrated in the church as announced.

Communion for the Sick

Call the Parish Office to arrange an appointment.

Horario Misas:

Cada jueves, 6:00pm

Cada domingo, 1:00pm

Bautismos de los niños:

Los cuartos domingos durante la Santa Misa, 1:00pm

Charlas para los cursos prebautismales (padres y padrinos); los terceros domingos despues de la Santa Misa, 2:30pm

Matrimonio:

Por favor, habla con el Padre para informacion de cursos prematrimoniales y todas las reglas para las boda Catolica

Grupo Juvenil

Pm Grupo Juvenil en el Centro Juvenil St. Juan Diego, jueves 7 pm

Devociones:

Adoracion del Santisimo Sacramento del Altar, los jueves, 9:00 am to 6 pm, primeros sabados, 7:00pm

Encuentros

Sabados alas 7:00PM – 10:00PM Renovacion carismatica en cafeteria

Martes de 7:00 PM-9:00PM Estudio biblico en cafeteria

Miercoles 7:00 PM-9:00PM RICA Formacion de los adultos en cafeteria

Marriage

Ideally, Catholic marriages take place at Mass. To insure proper preparation, arrangements should be made one year in advance. Because of the preparation needed, six months notification is mandatory. Please call the Parish Office.

Infant Baptism

2nd Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m., Lindenwold campus. Catechesis for parents and sponsors takes place on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:45 pm.

Arrangements are to be made in advance at the Parish Office.

Christian Initiation

For those desiring to become Catholic, or for Catholics who have not received all of the Sacraments of Initiation. Please call the Parish Office for information.

Priesthood or Consecrated Life

For those interested in becoming a Priest or entering the Consecrated Life (i.e. Religious Brother or Sister) please call the Parish Office or see one of the Priests of the parish.

MASSSES for the WEEK

S-Stratford Church L-Lindenwold Church

Saturday, March 5, 2011

S 8:00 a.m. **Nicholas Dabbenigno**
R/b Alice & Bob Bakley

S 4:30 p.m. **Anne Ondria**
R/b Jim & Jeanette Bakey

L 5:00 p.m. **Anne Marie (Nancy) Hahn**
R/b Her Loving Husband & Family

Sunday, March 6, 2011

L 7:30 a.m. **Harry McLaney**
R/b The Heck Family

L 9:30 a.m. **Joanne Ochmanski**
R/b Gentile Family

S 11:30 a.m. **John & Emily Hendrzak**
R/b Ochmanski Family

L 1:00 p.m. **Spanish Mass**

S 5:00 p.m. **Michael Nardone**
R/b The Reeder Family

Monday, March 7, 2011

S 8:00 a.m. **Walter Szalanski**
R/b Kate & Vic Tumolo

L 7:00 p.m. **Joan Dougherty**
R/b McCafferty Family

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

S 8:00 a.m. **Mary Sperandio**
R/b Peter & Anne Sperandio

L 7:00 p.m. **"a favor received through the Sacred Heart"**
R/b Julia Sumarraga

Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011

L 6:30 a.m. - Mass
S 8:00 a.m. - Mass
L 12:05 p.m. - Service
S 3:30 p.m. - Service
L 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass
L 7:00 p.m. - Mass

Thursday, March 10, 2011

L 6:45 a.m. **Frank Cifone**
R/b His Loving Family

S 8:00 a.m. **Nicholas Dabbenigno**
R/b Marian Stoy

L 6:00 p.m. **Spanish Mass**

L 7:00 p.m. **Theresa LaBree**
R/b Smith Family

Friday, March 11, 2011

L 6:45 a.m. **Frank Cifone**
R/b His Loving Family

S 8:00 a.m. **Walter Szalanski**
R/b Mr. & Mrs. Americo Dabbenigno

L 7:00 p.m. **Helen Donahue**
R/b Joe & Marylou Creedon

Saturday, March 12, 2011

S 8:00 a.m. **Jeanette Cory**
R/b Peter & Anna Sperandio

S 4:30 p.m. **Emma Nardi**
R/b Matt, Marie & Family

L 5:00 p.m. **AnneMarie (Nancy) Hahn**
R/b Her Loving Husband & Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8; Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday: Tb 2:9-14; Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

The sanctuary lamp at the Stratford Church burns in memory of Caroline Thomas, requested by Caroline Thomas

The Blessed Mother candle burns in memory of Patti Ann Gibson, requested by Her Loving Parents, Toni & Bob Gibson

The St. Joseph candle burns for the People of the Parish requested by Knights of Columbus, Council #2976

The sanctuary lamp at the Lindenwold Church burns for Caroline Thomas, requested by Caroline Thomas



Please pray for those in our Military:

Brandon Carney
Jessica Carney
Thomas Flynn
Rev. Christopher Kopeck
Alicia McCollum
Michael Mortka
N. J. National Guard
Justin Jackson, III

Army

Thomas Backenson, M.D.	Megan Bailey
Mark Bergman	Kevin Bradley
Sean Bradley	Michael Delcampo
Jonathan Haubrich	T. J. Homan
Paul Kupiec	Craig Leib Jr.
Colin J. McElroy	Tarah Nichols
David Osisek	Chris A. Roesch
Todd Shriver	Robert Terry

Navy

Benjamin Kyler
U.S.M.C.

Michael Barikian	Ryan Dougherty
Trevor Dunkelberger	Matthew Eagan

Michael Turner

U. S. A. F.

John Early, Sr.	Thomas Early, Jr.
John Early, Jr.	James Early

OOPS! WE'RE SORRY FOR THE MISTAKE IN THE MAILING YOU RECEIVED. THE DATABASE HAD MAIDEN NAMES INCORRECTLY PLACED IN THE SALUTATION FIELD. WE ARE CURRENTLY CLEANING UP OUR DATABASE. LET US KNOW ANY CHANGES!

New For Lent!
6:45 a.m. Mass
St. Lawrence Church

Parish Registration

We welcome all new members to our parish community. We want to know and serve you and we hope you become an active member of our parish. To register in the Parish you may call the **Parish** office at **856-627-2222** Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we can mail or email you a form to complete and return by mail or you may go to our website: guadalupeparishnj.org to download the form. Young adults - remember to register yourselves on your 18th birthday! You no longer are under your parent's registration.



ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2011 SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. Mass - St. Lawrence Church
8:00 a.m. Mass - St. Luke Church
12:05 p.m. Service - St. Lawrence Church
3:30 p.m. Service - St. Luke Church
6:00 p.m. Spanish Mass - St. Lawrence Church
7:00 p.m. Mass - St. Lawrence Church

FRIDAYS DURING LENT
5:00 TO 6:30 P.M.
FISH & FRY DINNERS
ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL
EAT-IN OR TAKE OUT
(PRICE TO ANNOUNCED)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:30 P.M.
ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

MINISTRY & MISSION CAMPAIGN RESOLUTIONS

Each year, people throughout the world make *New Year's resolutions*. For many they are short lived, and quickly forgotten. At our Baptism and Confirmation, we made *New Life resolutions*. Our Baptismal promises are lifelong commitments to Jesus and the Church. We recognize that all that we possess comes from God. We are God's stewards — we have been empowered to manage the abundant gifts that we have received. As "good stewards" it is our responsibility to give back a portion of the time, talent and treasure we receive from our generous and loving God. Let us recommit ourselves to the Lord by taking the time to plan and make stewardship of time and talent part of our lifestyle and stewardship of treasure part of our budget. "Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

"To everything there is a season and time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

"...a time to be born..."

"...a time to embrace..."

"...a time to heal..."



Gloria Aceto, Anna Marie Agresti, Kevin Allen, Joseph Allen, Laura Antonio, Robert Bacisin, Frank Bada, Anna Grace Berry, Richard Boston, Trudy Bove, James Boyle, cfc, William Buehler, Elizabeth Buehler, Tina Burke, Gail Capriotti, Anthony Catanella, Kylee Cimoineva, Sr., Joseph Colasurdo, Mary Crowe, Rich Cunane, Joe DeNardo, Dr. Richard M. Dressler, John Ferro, Bill Flanagan, Tom Flynn, Patricia Goslin, Charles & Susan Greenman, Eugene Guido, Joan Guido, Luke Guido, Catherine Hodges, Marie Hunsicker, Nora Jacoby, Carole Katz, Mary Katz, Bill Klatt, Katherine Kniaz, Jenn Lakjer, Ruth Liebold, Sharon Logiudice, Ruth Manella, Michele Mason, Joseph Mastrando, Joseph Matarazzo, Ava Maturo, Theresa McCann, Cuyler McCausland, Dominic McDowell, Jack McGuigan, Kevin & Vickie McGuire, Carol Meehan, Bernice Mesisca, Ruby Moorehead, Terry Mulhearn, Dot Murtaugh, Marie Myers, Baby Andrew Newhouse, Jane O'Connor, Debbie Osisek, Darlene Owens, Cynthia Pandolfo, Doris Penn, John Rastelli, Carl Richards, Trish Riebel, John Roach, Cindy Robertson, Maggie Russo, Marjorie Sabato, Mary Sanders, Tori Schmitz, Karen Schellhorn, Anne Springer, Julia St. Maur, Bill Steinert, Magdalen Stengel, John Sterling, Bob Trevino, Frank Turchi, Eileen Turner, Kevin Turner, Cecelia Vitale, Barbara Walker, Eric Warner, Clara & Elizabeth Warrington, Bill Waples, Toni Welsh, Anna Worst

Please pray for those in the hospital:

Marie & James Analage, Sherry Burns, Betty Lentz, Christopher O'Rourke

Please pray for those in nursing homes:

Marie Calabrese, Frances DiGiovanni, Theresa Di-Tullio, Ann James, Emily Jalonek, Phyllis Johnson, Helen Maloney, Evelyn Simmons, Eleanora Solly, Theresa Oddo, and Theresa Taylor

"...a time to die..."

Joseph Gentless, Mickey Limper, Sam Marrone, & Rita Minyon

COLLECTIONS - Feb. 20th & 21st

Ordinary: \$14,353.00

Fuel \$1387.00

Star Herald \$358.99

Saint Lawrence School, Class of '61 will hold their 50th Reunion on June 4, 2011. For further information contact the committee at 856-783-6476 or annemarie1204@yahoo.com



Dear Parishioners and Visitors to Our Lady of Guadalupe,

Well, it's here this week...*LENT*, a word which comes from the word for Spring. We all know that it is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins with Ash Wednesday and prepares us for Easter. However, every time we begin Lent, it should be a new

experience for us because we are not the same people we were when it came around last year. So, how should we see this year as being something different? I would suggest that we begin by asking ourselves where do I think God would like to begin with me. It is very easy to think that we can decide what we will do for Lent and leave it at that. However, I suggest that we enter into prayerful dialogue with God and ask to be shown by God what areas of my life really need attention first. Are there relationships that need healing, a nagging sin that needs to be targeted, something that has developed during this past year that is keeping me from the joy of deeper union with Him. Begin by asking God to show you these areas of your life by spending time in prayer. How? One way is by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, Confession. During these past few weeks, I have been celebrating this sacrament for the first time with our children who are preparing for First Communion. We don't have a huge Penance Service for them because I want them to see the common form of the sacrament, namely, coming one on one into the confessional and speaking with the priest. It has been enlightening for me as much as for them, I think. If you haven't been in there for awhile, Lent is a perfect time for it. By the way, I know there is the option to sit or kneel during the sacrament. If you can physically, kneel during confession. There is something about the posture of kneeling before God that helps us to get the relationship right.

Fasting has always been a part of our Catholic spiritual journey and is biblical. Jesus used this ancient technique to help him prepare for His mission when He went into the desert. We too we are asked to use it to help us get in touch with how God is calling us into deeper mission with and for Him. Fasting requires us to deny our desires so that these desires are subjugated to and replaced by those of Christ for us. I know that there are many interpretations of fasting: from words, thoughts, actions, etc. However, the original meaning of fasting was from food and drink. I would suggest that if you are able to fast in this way, do so. When we fast in this way, we connect a physical sensation with an inner spiritual reality, very Catholic. (That said; I have some bad news for my friends at Duncan Donuts staring on Wednesday!)

Almsgiving is the third part of the Lenten equation. We focus on this aspect of Lent as it is given in the beginning of Matt. 8; to give to the poor without fanfare and with true joy. When speaking about this to the children, one of the little ones told me, "I don't even know what an alm is, how can I give'em away?" As soon as I explained it as sharing what God gave us with others who have less, he asked me why God doesn't give it to them Himself? I was taken back at first but before I could try and explain, the little guy added, "If I have it, everybody else should have it too". He got it in a very basic way that I could never have explained it to him. "Yes", I said, "you're right and God will give it to them through you." God will give it to them through us.

Please be sure to check the bulletin for all of the opportunities that at our parish that will help us in our Lenten journey this year. God Bless you as we begin our journey to resurrection.

Fr. Joe



JOHN PAUL II

~ Regional School ~

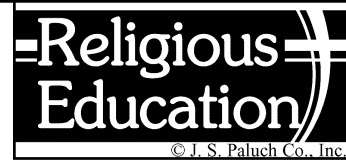
Current School Families – Have you registered your children yet for the 2011 – 2012 school year? A re-registration form is now available to download from our website for your convenience. Open Enrollment, which makes registration at our school available to outside families, has already begun, so please don't wait! Re-registration not only guarantees your child a place at John Paul, but it also makes planning our budget for this coming school year that much more accurate. If you have any questions or concerns about re-enrolling your children, please e-mail or call Mrs. Greco at sgreco@jp2rs.org or 856-783-3088, and do it today!

Prospective Families – If you were unable to make the Open House, please call (856-783-3088) or e-mail (sgreco@jp2rs.org) Mrs. Greco to schedule a personal tour during the school day when it is convenient for you and your child(ren) to visit us. Open Enrollment has begun as of Tuesday, February 15th, so call or e-mail now to schedule an appointment to see for yourself the academic excellence and spiritual essence that form the John Paul II Regional School experience!

John Paul II Regional School Presents 3rd Annual Children's Fashion Show & Basket Auction! – *Shining Stars Light the Night!* is the theme of this year's gala event, happening on Sunday, March 20th, from 3 until 7 p.m. at The Mansion on Main Street! Join us for a delicious sit-down dinner with cash bar, purchase tickets to win the fabulous auction baskets and the Mega Raffle prizes, and enjoy our children's fashion show, featuring all the latest spring styles. Tickets are only \$35 if you purchase them before March 10th, because after that date, the purchase price is \$40. Forms to purchase tickets are available in the church vestibules after all Masses on the Lindenwold and Stratford Campuses.



The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry will be open on the **second Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and the fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The need to help the less fortunate is most great and we truly appreciate your generosity in our endeavor to feed the poor. We are in need of spaghetti sauce & tuna fish. Please place your donation in the barrels by the doors. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Thank you!



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Religious Education News

All students of the parish who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or the Sacrament of First Eucharist this year, are asked to return your completed sacramental application form to your teacher. It will be essential that you return your form in order to be included in the parish celebrations. If you have any questions, please call the parish office, 627-2222.

Bus Trip to Sagamore Hill

Teddy Roosevelt's Home & Vanderbilt Museum

Saturday, May 7, 2011

All parishioners and friends are invited to visit Sagamore Hill, the home of Theodore Roosevelt, (26th President of the United States) from 1885 until his death in 1919. After the tour, enjoy lunch at Thatched Cottage on the water where you will have boneless breast of chicken and filet of sole with lemon white wine sauce accompanied by potato du jour and bouquets of seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee and soft drinks before visiting the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium in Centerport, NY. This 43 acre museum complex counts among its collection not only the Gold Coast era mansion, but also a marine museum, curator's cottage, sea plane hangar, boathouse, gardens, fountains and pools. A stop will be made for a snack (on your own) on the way home. The price is \$95.00. To sign-up, call Linda at (856) 627-9138.

Spring Antique & Craft Show

Our Lady of the Lakes Hall

19 Malaga Road

**Collings
Saturday,
10:00 a.m.**

**Lakes, NJ 08094
March 5, 2011
to 4:30 p.m.**

**Refresh-
Price \$20**



**ments for Sale
Table Rental**

For info: Joanne 609-561-8313 Fax: 609-561-8374
Email: ourladyofthelakesparish@comcast.net
Dot 609-561-5784 Email: dorothymerynolds@hotmail.com



**Remember Jessica?
We Lost Her to
Child Abuse
9th Annual
“Prevent Child Abuse of NJ”**

(11/11/96 - 3/29/02)
in honor of:

**Beef & Beer Benefit
Jessica Lauren Miller
Saturday, April 2, 2011
8:00 pm to 12:00 am
Bellmawr Park Fire Hall
12 Essex Ave., Bellmawr
\$25 per person**

**For tickets and information, please call
Bernie & Sally Miller 856-627-2326**
*Music donated by Catrambone & Son Centerstage
Entertainment and the Food Catered by Dean*



**Lent Divine Mercy Mission
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fr. James A. Casadia, Pastor
500 Greentree Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028
Presented by Embrace the
Children NJ Chapter**

“GOD... A WOMAN... AND THE WAY”
A Lenten Retreat in Scripture, Art and Song
Saturday ~ March 19, 2011 ~ 1:30-4:30 pm
(Followed by 5:00 pm Mass)
Church of our lady of Lourdes
Fr. James A. Casadia Pastor
500 Greentree Road ~ Glassboro, NJ 08028



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
NATIVITY COUNCIL #2976**

**TOMASELLO WINERY/CASINO TRIP
Saturday, March 12, 2011**

9:30 a.m. - Leaving St. Luke's Parking Lot
8:00 p.m. Returning to St. Luke's Parking Lot
Cost is \$60 per person

This includes Dinner and wine tasting at Tomasello Winery, plus \$20 in Slot Dollars from Trump Plaza. You must be 21 yrs. Old. Seats are limited. For reservations & Information, please Call Bill Corriveau at 856-784-9713.

**THE BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY RETREAT
APRIL 2, 2011 “TYING A KNOT WITH GOD”**

Spend a spirit-filled day on the Battleship New Jersey in Camden, NJ! You can take advantage of the separate overnight program available from the staff of the Battleship, with a guided tour and also experience an adventure on a one-of-a-kind flight simulator! **But most importantly, all participants will grow in their relationship with God!** The fee for the Saturday-only program is \$15.00 per person, which will include the retreat program, commemorative patch, and a stipend for lunch at the ship's "geedunk" (snack bar) For the overnight - the Fee is \$35. **Registration for the retreat and/or the encampment is due by March 6th to guarantee your place!** Send to Rusty Brady, Retreat Co-Chair, 27 Shadowbrooke, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**PARISH FIBER MINISTRY FOR CRAFTERS
MARCH 10, 2011
7 P.M.**

**ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
ALL ARE WELCOME!
FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY
EMAIL:
alicegarbarino@comcast.net**



	March 12th Saturday St. Luke 4:30 pm	March 12th Saturday St. Lawrence 5 pm	March 13th Sunday St. Lawrence 7:30 am	March 13th Sunday St. Lawrence 9:30 am	March 13th Sunday St. Luke 11:30 am	March 13th Sunday St. Lawrence	March 13th St. Luke 5:00 pm
Celebrant	Fr. Joe	Fr. O'Neil	Fr. Wilson	Fr. Joe	Fr. Durkin		Fr. Wilson
Lector	A. Bakley	C. Cutter C. Conslavi	J. Conroy	C. Cordero R. Harman	S. Nicholas	1:00 pm	B. Mayovich
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	R. Czarnecki J. & T Deighan	S. Greco C. & F. Hanley	G. & T. Green M. McShane	G. Cordero B. Dougherty J. Flynn D. Hughes J. Lupinacci	Deac. Berstecher M. Eagan A. Esposito	Spanish Mass	G. Norton B. O'Dowd M. Rosney
Altar Servers	H. & P. Buechele M. Strickland	S. Davis C. & E. Polk	A. Murray J. & M. Tiedge	K. & M. Barbara C. Cordero	J. Swanson S. & S. Robbins		B. Fitzgerald J. Klingenberg J. Romano

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Listen to Jesus? Indeed!

People in the construction business know that before you start building anything you have to figure out what kind of ground you have to work with. Only after that's done can you know the right foundation to use to produce a solid structure. Being a disciple of Jesus follows much the same pattern. In fact, Jesus makes the same comparison himself, saying that the one who builds on solid ground is like the person who both hears his words and *acts on them*. Think about some of most important things you believe about God and Jesus. Then ask yourself: How can I put these beliefs into action? TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32; Romans 3:21-25, 28; Matthew 7:21-27* "Everyone . . . who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

MONDAY, MARCH 7

FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

You belong to Christ

"I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian." As she waited to be taken to prison and ultimately her martyrdom in third-century Africa, Saint Perpetua tried to explain to her father the depth of her faith in Christ. She didn't only have faith; she had allowed that experience of Christ to transform her whole life such that she hardly knew herself except in Christ. She strove to see all things, even her own suffering and impending death, with the eyes of faith, hope, and love. Each of us encounters our own moments of struggle and suffering, and at times we can barely muster a good thought, let alone faith. In these moments let us remember who we are in Christ. TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 1:3; 2:1a-8; Mark 12:1-12* "Have you not read this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Two sides of the same coin

One of Jesus' most controversial—and cryptic—statements was his response to a trick question. Asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" his reply was: "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." Over the centuries some Christians have come to think Christ was teaching faithfulness to political leaders as well as to God, while others have believed the very same words clearly state the opposite: the gulf between loyalty to God and earthly political power. Jesus, however, was not giving a civics lesson. The Roman coin in his hand served as a prop for something larger: to speak the truth in the face of hypocrisy and deception. TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 2:9-14; Mark 12:13-17* "Teacher, we know that you . . . teach the way of God in accordance with truth."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent: A season of joy?

Thank God! Lent at last! If that's an unlikely comment, it shouldn't be. "Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with mind and heart renewed," says a Lenten prayer. What makes Lent joyful is that it gives focus to vague notions of "doing better" or "getting serious about faith." A framed motto on a pastor's desk shows a kid's wagon and the words "Lord, I need a push." Lent gives that concrete shove we need toward almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. And during Lent we're not on our own. We're shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow pilgrims, a community of home-bound prodigals, all needing and capable of giving each other a gentle push in the right direction. Springtime and welcome home! What is more joyful than that? TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18* "As we work together . . . we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain."

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

One size fits all

In 1971 Catholic peace activist Eileen Egan coined the term "seamless garment" to describe Catholic reverence for life across the spectrum of contemporary issues—abortion, capital punishment, and euthanasia—but Egan also included militarism and social and economic injustice. "The protection of life," said Egan, "is a seamless garment. You can't protect some life and not others." Later, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin and Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* ("Gospel of Life") gave the seamless garment image and the consistent ethic of life for which it stands wider visibility. The garment is as fitting today as it was several decades ago. Try it on yourself! TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25* "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then."

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

A fast guide to Lent

At summers' end long-suffering baseball fans in Chicago invariably exclaim, "Wait until next year!" Many Catholics say the same thing at the end of every Lent. Despite years of practice and our best intentions, sustaining a 40-day season of "fast" remains elusive. Perhaps that is because we miss the point of fasting. It is far more than a means of self-control or a way to deprive ourselves. To receive the spiritual benefits of fasting, we have to go beyond simply giving up a regular hearty meal because it's Lent, and genuinely, compassionately remember and pray for those whose diets are inadequate 365 days a year. Deep reflection and prayer are what give a fast its significance. Try them. Don't wait until next year. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15* "Is such the fast that I choose . . . to share your bread with the hungry?"

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Who will you be tomorrow?

Jesus calls all of us to repent—and be quick about it, advises Pope Gregory the Great, who died on this day in 604. "God, who promised pardon to every repentant sinner, has not promised us tomorrow," writes Gregory in *Be Friends of God*. Today is a "day for conversion," says Gregory. But wait, don't get comfortable. Even if you've repented today, you need to be watchful and in full conversion mode tomorrow. Why? "Because," Gregory counsels, "even if we know what kind of person we are today, we do not know what we will be tomorrow. Nobody must rejoice in the security of their own good deeds." Blessings in your continued conversion. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32* "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."