



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

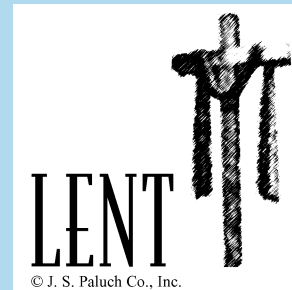
135 N. White Horse Pike, Lindenwold, NJ 08021

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

Website: [guadalupeparishnj.org](http://guadalupeparishnj.org)

March 27 2011

Third Sunday of Lent



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**Rev. Joseph P. Capella, Pastor**  
**Rev. Wilson Paulose, Chaplain, Kennedy Hospital**  
**Rev. Walter Guasp-Santos, Parochial Vicar**  
**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

**Daily Mass: 6:45 a.m. (during lent) & 7 p.m. Mon-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.

# MASSES for the WEEK

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## S-Stratford Church

## L-Lindenwold Church

**Saturday, March 26, 2011**

- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Jean Glass**  
*R/b Richard Glass*
- S 4:30 p.m.**     **Cass Grabert**  
*R/b Pfafmans*
- L 5:00 p.m.**     **Ann Marie (Nancy) Hahn**  
*R/b Her Loving Husband & Family*

**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

- L 7:30 a.m.**     **Nancy Hahn**  
*R/b Mary Campbell*
- L 9:30 a.m.**     **John Maguire**  
*R/b St. Vincent de Paul Society*
- S 11:30 a.m.**    **Lindy Barnett**  
*R/b M/M Manko*
- L 1:00 p.m.**     **Spanish Mass**
- S 5:00 p.m.**     **Virginia Sperandio**  
*R/b Peter & Anna Sperandio*

**Monday, March 28, 2011**

- L 6:45 a.m.**     **Al Schmidt**  
*R/b Muff Family*
- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Teresa Coyle**  
*R/b Rose & Jim Harman*
- L 7:00 p.m.**     **Antonucci Family**  
*R/b Philip Antonucci*

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

- L 6:45 a.m.**     **John S. Ferro**  
*R/b Trudy & Chuck Tucker*
- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Donald Collins**  
*R/b The Murray Family*
- L 7:00 p.m.**     **Josephine Antonucci**  
*R/b Philip Antonucci*

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

- L 6:45 a.m.**     **Rita Mazzola**  
*R/b Pastoral Care Committee*
- S 8:00 a.m.**     **"a favor received through the Sacred Heart"**  
*R/b Julia Sumarraga*
- L 7:00 p.m.**     **Carlotta Giordano**  
*R/b De Clemente Family*

**Thursday March 31, 2011**

- L 6:45 a.m.**     **Walter Szalanski**  
*R/b Clergy & Staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Jeanette Salome**  
*R/b Jim, Jeanette Bakey & Family*
- L 6:00 p.m.**     **Spanish Mass**
- L 7:00 p.m.**     **Marie Jones**  
*R/b De Clemente Family*

**First Friday, April 1, 2011**

- L 6:45 p.m.**     **Benjamin Vukicevich**  
*R/b McClintock Clan*
- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Bruce Springle**  
*R/b Clergy & Staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- S 9:00 a.m.**     **Frank A. Dintino, Jr.**  
*R/b Jim Smith & Family*
- L 7:00 p.m.**     **Andrew Seder**  
*R/b Marty Otter*

**Saturday, April 2, 2011**

- S 8:00 a.m.**     **Teresa Coyle**  
*R/b Bob & Alice Bakley*
- S 4:30 p.m.**     **Albert Nardi**  
*R/b Our Lady of Guadalupe Choir*
- L 5:00 p.m.**     **Ann Marie (Nancy) Hahn**  
*R/b Her Loving Husband & Family*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:       2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday:      Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt. 18:21-35
- Wednesday:   Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:     Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
- Friday:       Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday:     Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
- Sunday:       1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

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

**The Blessed Mother candle burns in memory of Michael Penny, requested by His Loving Family**

**The St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Steven Pollock, requested by His Loving Wife & Family**

**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 Kopec**  
**Alicia McCollum**  
**Michael Mortka**  
**N. J. National Guard**  
**Justin Jackson, III**  
**Army**

**Thomas Backenson, M.D.**  
**Mark Bergman**  
**Sean Bradley**  
**Jonathan Haubrich**  
**Paul Kupiec**  
**Colin J. McElroy**  
**David Osisek**  
**Todd Shriver**

**Megan Bailey**  
**Kevin Bradley**  
**Michael Delcampo**  
**T. J. Homan**  
**Craig Leib Jr.**  
**Tarah Nichols**  
**Chris A. Roesch**  
**Robert Terry**

**Navy**  
**Benjamin Kyler**  
**U.S.M.C.**

**Michael Barikian**  
**Trevor Dunkelberger**

**Ryan Dougherty**  
**Matthew Eagan**

**Michael Turner**  
**U. S. A. F.**

**John Early, Sr.**  
**John Early, Jr.**

**Thomas Early, Jr.**  
**James Early**

### COLLECTIONS - March 12th & 13th

**Ordinary: \$17,755.00 + Ash Wednesday \$3426.00**  
**Black & Native Americans \$515.00**  
**Central & Eastern Europe \$851.00**  
**Thank you!**



## WEDDING BANS

**Gary Stiles & Alexis Kay - April 8th**  
**Thomas Clements & Sandra Marsden - April 9th**  
**Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials!**

### 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](http://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.

### Stations of the Cross



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



This season of Lent, we are singing these acclamations with the original Greek texts, *Kyrie Eleison*, *Christe Eleison* and *Kyrie Eleison* as we've been doing every

Advent and Lent throughout the years. At the Eucharistic Prayer, we start singing *Sanctus* (Heritage Missal # 40). Both acclamations are taken from Mass XVIII, Chant. The other responses remain the same.

### CONFIRMATION



**TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH, 7 P.M.**  
Last Names beginning with the letters **M to Z**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30TH, 7 P.M.**  
Last Names beginning with the letters **A to L**

**PLEASE NOTE: Daily Mass that day will be a full hour with the Sacrament of Confirmation.**



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 green beans, peas & tuna fish. Please place your donation in the barrels by the doors. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Thank you!



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
CATHOLIC MEDIA  
A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

In the back of both churches you will see a display case with inspiring Catholic CD's on several topics. We invite you to check out the display and feel free to take one that may interest you during this Lenten Season. We ask that you leave at least a \$3 donation through the slot on the display case to help pay for the materials. If you are interested in a topic that is not on the display, please call Billie at the Parish Office and she will check the catalog to see if they have something on the topic and order it for you.

*"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, Marie Anlate, Laura Antonio, Robert Bacisin, Frank Bada, Anna Grace Berry, Richard Boston, Trudy Bove, James Boyle, William Buehler, Elizabeth Buehler, Tina Burke, Gail Capriotti, Anthony Catanella, Kylee Cimoineva, Sr., Joseph Colasurdo, Elaine Cook, Rich Cunane, Joe DeNardo, Dr. Richard M. Dressler, 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, Ruth Liebold, Sharon Logiudice, Ruth Manella, Michele Mason, Joseph Mastrando, Joseph Matarazzo, Ava Maturo, 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, Phylis Pfeiffer, Betty Pizzo, John Rastelli, Carl Richards, Trish Riebel, John Roach, Cindy Robertson, Maggie Russo, Marjorie Sabato, Mary Sanders, Tori Schmitz, Karen Schellhorn, Krista Sheehan, Steven Shute, 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, Chuch Werhle, Anna Worst



**Please pray for those in the hospital:**

Marie & James Analage, Sherry Burns, Valerie Cohen, Betty Lentz, Sue Moreno, Christopher O'Rourke

**Please pray for those in nursing homes:**

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

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

**Rose Hammond, Jean Lakjer, Rita Mazzola, & Jack McKelvey, Sr.**



**MARY KENTS**  
Children's Clever  
108 White Horse Rd., Voorhees, NJ

We have been given a very generous donation of 7 First Communion Dresses and 3 White Suits for any child in need. We thank the Ranieri/Lazzaro Families for their generous donation that will help to make some of our parish children's First Communion Day more memorable! If you are in need of one of these outfits, please stop by the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 p.m. or ask Mrs. Ellen Henehan during Religious Education Classes, Sunday mornings or Monday afternoons.

*From the  
Pastor*



*(In place of my letter this week, I would like to share with you a letter from Jonathan E. Rocha, our Youth and Young Adult Minister.)*

**March 27, 2011**

**Last week, we marked the one-year anniversary of the Saint Juan Diego Youth Group here in our parish. In the last year there is a small, but growing group of young people who participate each Thursday. In this short year, we have accomplished much, not only for each other, but for our community. Some of the things we have done are: In April of 2010, about six of us attended a small retreat called Cardboard City. During the day, we learned first-hand what is like to be homeless in the city. In the evenings, we spent time as a group in prayer and reflection. In May, fifteen of us attended the annual state-wide Catholic Youth Rally. We spent the summer, preparing and cleaning the school for the coming school year. We also met together to relax and enjoy each other's company playing sports and video games. In September, we gathered school supplies for students who didn't have them. In October, we made Grandparent's Day cards for one of the local nursing homes. In December, we made Christmas cards that were given along with a pair of socks to over 150 people in a nursing home. Currently, we are helping with the Fish Fry, to help defray the cost of this year's NJ youth rally.**

**For the upcoming year, the expectations we have as a community is growth in numbers, as well as spiritual growth that we build with each other every Thursday. Each person in the Youth Group brings something new to the table to share and to make it more like a family.**

**We would like to thank Cathy and Sean Williams for all the help they provide. They bring new light and perspective to the group. So from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you both. You are an inspiration to us, and we cherish your help and your time that you have placed in this year's Youth Group.**

**Jon E. Rocha**



# JOHN PAUL II

~ Regional School ~

## Preschool Program

*Learning – Playing - Discovering*

JPII invites you to learn more about our fun and educational Preschool Program: 3 days/week for 3 year olds and 5 days/week for 4 year olds. For more information visit [www.jp2rs.org](http://www.jp2rs.org) or call Kim Barkhamer at 856-783-3088. Extended day care (before and after school) is available.

## Current School Families

Register now for the 2011-2012 school year to secure your spot! Forms are available at [www.jp2rs.org](http://www.jp2rs.org). Open enrollment is underway, allowing new families to register so please don't wait! If you have any questions or concerns, call Kim Barkhamer, Advancement Director, at 856-783-3088 or email [advancement@jp2rs.org](mailto:advancement@jp2rs.org).

## Prospective Families

Learn more about JPII Regional School at [www.jp2rs.org](http://www.jp2rs.org) or call Kim Barkhamer, Advancement Director, at 856-783-3088 with questions and information about setting up a personal tour.

## Father-Daughter Dance, April 9<sup>th</sup>

John Paul II Regional School presents *Butterfly Kisses* – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual FATHER/DAUGHTER Dance on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. D.J, Dancing, Crafts and Snacks! Open to all girls, Pre K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade from JPII and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Tickets: \$10/adult in advance, \$15 at the door. Don't miss this magical evening!!

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers; in word in conversation in charity in spirit in faith in purity



1 Timothy 4:12

# Youth Group

Every Thursday Evening  
7 p.m.

St. Juan Diego Center  
Come & Bring a Friend!

## 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, (26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States) from 1885 until his death in 1919. During Roosevelt's time in office, his Summer White House was the focus of international attention. 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.

**Diocesan Anniversary Mass for couples  
celebrating their 25th, 50th or over wedding  
anniversary this year. April 3, 2011, St. Brendan  
the Navigator Maris Stella Church, Avalon - 3 p.m.  
Call the Parish Office to Register, 856-627-2222**

**Anxiety Grief & Loss Depression**  
**Addictions Eating Disorders**

Client issues range from, but not limited to, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, relationship issues, communication skills, addictions, eating disorders and physical and sexual abuse. I also offer guided imagery and visualization in the treatment for emotional and health issues. Most insurances accepted and a sliding scale negotiated. For more info. Please call: **Carla Hanley, MSW, Counselling & Psychotherapy at 856-627-5676 or email: [c.hanley@verizon.net](mailto:c.hanley@verizon.net)**

PARISH FIBER MINISTRY FOR CRAFTERS

APRIL 7, 2011

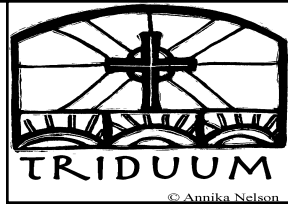
7 P.M.

ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY

EMAIL:

[alicegarbarino@comcast.net](mailto:alicegarbarino@comcast.net)



**Holy Thursday - April 21st**

7 p.m.  
Mass of Lord's Supper  
(St. Lawrence Church)

**Good Friday - April 22nd**

12:30 p.m. Spanish Procession  
& Veneration  
(St. Lawrence Church)

1:30 p.m. Via Crucis  
(outside - bilingual  
St. Lawrence Church)

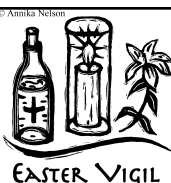
3 p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion  
(St. Lawrence Church)



Tenebrae 7 p.m.  
(St. Lawrence Church)

**Holy Saturday - April 23rd**

11 a. m. - Blessing of the Easter  
Baskets  
(St. Lawrence Church)



8 p. m. - Easter Vigil  
(St. Lawrence Church)



**Easter Sunday - April 24th**

7:30 a.m. - St. Lawrence  
9:30 a.m. - St. Lawrence  
11:30 a.m. - St. Luke  
1:00 p.m. - St. Lawrence (Spanish Mass)  
**No 5:00 p.m. at St. Luke**



**Knights of Columbus Holy  
Family Council # 7800, Stratford,  
They are at the Post, they're off!**

Night at the Races is back again for an exciting evening of horse racing, food and fun on **Saturday night, April 2nd. Doors open 6 p.m.**

Food is set up at 6:30 p.m. Buy a horse for \$10.00 and be an owner. Bet on your favorites and be a winner. Tickets are \$12.00 per person or \$10.00 each for a table of ten. Sponsored by Holy Family Council #7800, Knights of Columbus. Call Chuck at 784-1873, Lou at 783-7666, or Joe at 346-4888.



*Please keep  
our candidates  
in your prayers!*



- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Andres Carlos          | Yudelka Cubral   |
| Matthew DiGialleonardo | Yeni Euceda      |
| Michael Gallagher      | Alfred Gonzalez  |
| Melissa González       | Ana Guerrero     |
| Jose Guerrero          | Moriela Guerrero |
| Jonathan Halliday      | Kelly Hannold    |
| Shelby Herbert         | Rafael Hernandez |
| Sean Kohler            | Daniel Martinez  |
| Doreen Maurone         | My Nguyen        |
| Dania Orellana         | Ervin Orellana   |
| Kelly Orellana         | Vanessa Orellana |
| Marisol Pena           | Maria Rodriguez  |

**Change of Schedule for Easter  
NO 5 PM MASS IN STRATFORD**



Remember Jessica?  
We Lost Her to Child Abuse  
9th Annual "Prevent Child Abuse of NJ"  
Beef & Beer Benefit

*in honor of:*

**Jessica Lauren Miller**

(11/11/96 - 3/29/02)

**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*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT; FIRST SCRUTINY**

**Your life bears examination**

Today we celebrate the first of three "scrutinies": powerful ancient rites to heal and strengthen those who are preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. They comprise four parts: silent prayer, intercessions, a prayer of exorcism, and a laying on of hands. While the scrutinies are for the Elect, they are also an opportunity for each of us to examine, or scrutinize, our own lives in light of the gospel. The story of the Samaritan woman at the well encourages us to consider for ourselves, "What am I thirsting for? Where am I looking for refreshment? How can I tap into that infinite well of blessing Jesus talked about? What's keeping me from doing so?"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42*

*"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."*

**MONDAY, MARCH 28**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Children should be seen and heard**

Jesus loves the little children, according to the Sunday school song. But, sadly, the world loves them less. Children the world over are routinely neglected, abused, underfed, and under-educated by their adult stewards. When it comes to little girls, the statistics are alarmingly higher. "More girls have been killed in the last 50 years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the battles of the 20th century," say the Pulitzer Prize-winning authors of *Half the Sky*. Naaman the general once took the advice of a child slave he'd kidnapped from an enemy and was cured of leprosy. Spend timing loving—and listening to—a child today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30*

*"The Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel."*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Greed is definitely not good**

In the 1987 movie *Wall Street* corporate deal-maker Gordon Gekko gives a speech in which he says that "Greed is . . . good. Greed is right. Greed works." Looking back from the perspective of the Wall Street crash of several years ago, we can see where that kind of thinking leads. Greed is one of the seven deadly sins for a reason. It can wreak tremendous destruction in personal lives as well as in society and the natural environment. Saint Thomas Aquinas said of greed that it was a "sin against God, just as all mortal sins, in as much as man condemns things eternal for the sake of temporal things." Take time for a quick internal evaluation to make sure your own "desire to acquire" is under control.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35*

*"Seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'"*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Know the rules**

As teenagers many of us had regular disagreements with our parents. Much of what we wanted earned their thumbs down. When they said no, we'd lay on our oh-so-logical arguments like a budding lawyer. Sometimes our whining wore them down, and they'd say, "Oh, all right. Do what you want." And then came a strange and terrifying letdown. On the one hand was the "Yes! I got my way," but on the other was the fear that perhaps the oldsters had not only given in but given up on us. Lent reminds us that the "rules" of religion are not to keep us in line and get on God's good side but rather to serve as concrete guidance. God will never cut us loose to drift away without him.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19*

*"What other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?"*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31**

**Discover something about demonology?**

Gospel accounts of demonic possessions, and of Jesus casting out such demons, are quite common. Should these stories be taken literally or perhaps as descriptions of symptoms of diseases that were as yet unidentified in biblical times? There is no clear-cut theological answer, but the questions continue to intrigue—so much so that the Discovery Channel has gained Vatican cooperation in an effort to recreate stories of demonic possession based on cases investigated by the Catholic Church. Perhaps this series can spark some thoughtful discussion about an often misrepresented phenomenon.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23*

*"He was casting out a demon that was mute . . . the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed."*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

**Get a line on Lent**

In parks and gardens and other places where there are no sidewalks, people make their own (invariably straight) paths, which urban and landscape designers call "lines of desire." In many ways our very lives are "lines of desire": We are continually moving toward what we want or what we think will fill a need or longing. Lent is a good time to reflect on the path we are on, our own line of desire. We might begin by asking ourselves, "What is my one, true desire? Am I heading in that direction, or have I veered off somehow? Am I now wandering around in the desert? What are the fears that keep me off my path? What can I do to correct my course?"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34*

*"The ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them."*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

**FEAST OF FRANCIS OF PAOLA, HERMIT**

**Compose yourself!**

What the world needs now is another saint. Care to apply for the position? Saint Francis of Paola did. His parents couldn't have children for a long time. After praying to Saint Francis of Assisi they had three, naming the first after their patron. This son became a hermit, founder of a religious community, prophet, miracle worker, mind reader, and hero of the oppressed. Francis stood up to kings and restored peace in times of conflict—which just goes to show that "hermits" are mightily engaged with the world around them. Franz Liszt wrote a piano score around his exploits. Choose the way of humility and become a work of art!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14* "All who humble themselves will be exalted."