

Thank you to the St. Benedict School Community who, from the proceeds of their BINGO NITE last week, contributed \$290 to our parish capital campaign.



MESSAGE FOR LENT FROM POPE BENEDICT

Over the weeks of Lent, this bulletin will feature excerpts from the Pope's message for Lent.

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him. (Col 2: 12)

The First Sunday of the Lenten journey reveals our condition as human beings here on earth. The victorious battle against temptation, the starting point of Jesus' mission, is an invitation to become aware of our own fragility in order to accept the Grace that frees from sin and infuses new strength in Christ – the way, the truth and the life. It is a powerful reminder that Christian faith implies, following the example of Jesus and in union with him, a battle "against the ruling forces who are masters of the darkness in this world" (Eph 6: 12), in which the devil is at work and never tires – even today – of tempting whoever wishes to draw close to the Lord: Christ emerges victorious to open also our hearts to hope and guide us in overcoming the seductions of evil.

Why do Catholics Fast?

By immersing ourselves into the death and resurrection of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are moved to free our hearts every day from the burden of material things, from a self-centered relationship with the "world" that impoverishes us and prevents us from being available and open to God and our neighbor. In Christ, God revealed himself as Love (1Jn 4: 7-10). The Cross of Christ, the "word of the Cross", manifests God's saving power (1Cor 1: 18), that is given to raise men and women anew and bring them salvation: it is love in its most extreme form. Through the traditional practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, which are an expression of our commitment to conversion, Lent teaches us how to live the love of Christ in an ever more radical way. **Fasting**, which can have various motivations, takes on a profoundly religious significance for the Christian: by rendering our table poorer, we learn to overcome selfishness in order to live in the logic of gift and love; by bearing some form of deprivation – and not just what is in excess – we learn to look away from our "ego", to discover Someone close to us and to recognize God in the face of so many brothers and sisters. For Christians, fasting, far from being depressing, opens us ever more to God and to the needs of others, thus allowing love of God to become also love of our neighbor (Mk 12: 31).

For the full text:

www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/len/DOCUMENTS/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20101104_lent-2011_en.html

Why Iraqi Christian Refugees aren't going back Home?

Seven years after Saddam Hussein's fall, Christians of Iraq are still the object of direct and organized persecution which prevented them from returning. At the end of 2009 and throughout 2010 several churches and religious communities were targeted by bombs and many innocent people died. During the last Christmas and Easter holidays many of Iraq's churches were closed and did not have any services because of the fear for violent attacks by extremists.

Also, many Iraqi Christians were left with few choices including paying Islamic dues "Jizya", changing religion, or leaving. As a result, the Christian refugees have no hope to return back to their homes in Iraq as most of them have already sold their properties at unfair prices to Islamist protectors in exchange for a safe exit from Iraq. And those who dared to return to Iraq were subjected to threats, beatings and even assassinations in the first week of their arrival.

What are Iraqi Christian Refugees Living Conditions?

It is estimated that there are around 216,000 Iraqi Christian refugees. In Syria (150,000), Jordan (56,000) and Lebanon (10,000), Iraqi Christians don't live in camps but are part of a new wave of urban refugees. They are scattered in the poorest neighborhoods and are often isolated and marginalized living in extremely difficult conditions.

They can't work openly and are forced to the black market. In Lebanon, they are considered illegal immigrants and are in constant fear of being sent to prison or being deported.

Most of them have run out of their savings and the aid coming from their families in the Diaspora is diminishing due in part to the current economic crisis. As their situation has slowly descended below the radar of the media, international aid has also diminished.

Don Bosco Learn A Salesian Lay Formation Program

Provides formal and continuous access to adult Catholic formation to all who are seeking to work with, and have an affinity to the Salesian charism/spirituality within the Roman Catholic tradition.

**Saturday March 12
9:30 am – 11:00 am
parish hall**

Presenting: St. Mary Mazzarello
Sr. Elizabeth Purcell, FMA Provincial

Mass in honour of St. Patrick

St. Michael's Cathedral
65 Bond Street, Toronto

Thursday, March 17
10:00 am

Bishop William McGrattan
Presider and homilist

Music
Alumni Choir
St. Michael's Choir School

ALL ARE WELCOME

St. Benedict Parish

Thursday, March 17
7:30 pm



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 7

8:00am Leo McKenna by Callaghan family

Tuesday, March 8

7:30pm Vincenzo Sgambelluri by family

Ash Wednesday, March 9

8:00am Ermida Damele by Vesca family

1:15pm St. Benedict School Paraliturg

7:30pm In grateful thanksgiving, healing for Roxy Zinkann by Jan Glover

Thursday, March 10

8:00am Living Intention, Rosaline Bryce (107 yrs. old) by Juanita Bradley

7:30pm Marija & Frane Glavan, by Lovrin family

Friday, March 11

8:00am Bridget Savage, by Janet Huitema

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 12

8:00am John Clune by Ruth Colucci & family

5:00pm Clarence Grostate by Jeff Halge

Sunday, March 13

8:00am Leo McKenna, by Carol Sutton & Anthony Cosentino

9:30am Domenico Matta, by Carmelina & family

9:30am For the People

11:00am Onofrio D'Amico, by D'Amico family

12:45am Josephine Mizzi, by family



PRAY FOR THE DEAD, ESPECIALLY:

Giovanni De Santis
Josephine Defend

ST. DOMENIC SAVIO SQUIRES CIRCLE

are hosting a

PANCAKE DINNER TUESDAY MARCH 8TH

5:00-7:00pm
parish hall

The **cost is \$7 per person**, and includes pancakes, eggs, and sausages will be served. *Tickets will be available after all masses this weekend.*



SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR

Daylight Savings Time begins on
Sunday, March 13th

Sara Elizabeth Centre BLUE VEIL MINISTRY
Head Office: 109 Mercury Road,
Etobicoke ON
M9W 3H7

MARCH 14-18, 2011
ALL DAY ALL WEEK !

★ Music ★ Drama
★ Dancing ★ Art

Location:
Sara Elizabeth Centre
7412 Kipling Ave., Vaughan
(Kipling & Hwy 7)

**MARCH
BREAK
CAMP**

For Special Needs Youth
ages 13 and older
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

\$65.00/ day(Hst Incl.)
Register for the entire week and get
\$25 off the total cost.

For more information or to register contact:
Cris Smith at 416-747-9796 or www.blueveil.org

The Creighton Model FertilityCare System Celebrate Worldwide FertilityCare Week with the Marguerite Bourgeys Family Centre

March 23
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

“All Star” Couples share their journey with
Creighton Model and NaProTechnology

Bring a Friend!

Location: S. Walter Stewart Library (170 Memorial Park Ave.,
Toronto). For more information call 416-465-2868 or
www.fertilitycare.ca



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, ESPECIALLY:

Peter Calzavara, Matthew Murdoch, Griffin Brown, Margot Low, Dorita Hilder, Flora MacDonald, Bill Batulis, Nellie McGlynn, Rebecca Bautista, Vincenzo Macri, Berardino Pede, Marie Demers, Robert Cellupica, Helen Bondi, Rhoel Val Rodrigo, RONALDA CAMPBELL, Patricia Waters-Holst, Sean Waters, Joe Borg, Beverley Martin, Jean Bradbury, Thelma Noronha, Nathan Bertucci, Jonathan and Sarah Pupulin, Aidan Downey, Helen Dryshak, Severino Bucci, Stephanie Thomas, Maureen Timms, David Duimet, Margarida Fernandes, Paul Sheppard, Janice Rama, Olga Evangjeli Gheciu, Victoria Titi Idowu, Rita Birch, Evellin Gleciu, Bernadette Arulthasan, Donna Gillespie, Jameel Giscombe, Eva Periera, Paul Mati Lincoln, Irene Furbacher, Vittorio Rovito, Savanah Lewis (4 yrs old), George Ellul, Ray Track, Evelyn Cletus, Amy Hallett, Teresa Calabria, Mary White, Helen Brunning, Giuseppe Miceli, Maria Mastromarco, Debra Ferguson, Jeannette Gregory, Anne Misquitta, Denzil Smith, Kate Bachinski, George Galison, Paul Lewin, Antonio De Santis, John Roberto, Nicolas Sabastiano

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION CAPITAL FUND TARGET: \$760,000

SUNDAY OFFERING	\$ 7,663	SECOND COLLECTION	\$ 570.50
Average Env. Donation	\$ 13.99	as of February 27 th	\$238,911.64

Thank you for your ongoing generous support!