

MARCH 7, 2010 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

A Tithing Parish

STEWARDSHIP

Tithing: God's Plan for Giving

REPORT FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Envelopes	\$ 9,852.00
Loose Cash	655.00
Non Member Checks	440.00
Poor Box-Light House	219.38
Ash Wednesday-Eastern Europe	<u>55.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$11,221.38

YTD July 1 through December 31, 2009

	Actual	Budget
Operating Income	\$523,330	\$562,539
Operating Expense	<u>492,345</u>	<u>506,857</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	30,985	55,682

Our Offertory Envelopes/Loose is \$37,316.00 below budget because of two weekends that the parish was shutdown. We budgeted \$12,000.00 for snow removal. The bills to date for snow removal are \$31,063.00 which is \$19,063.00 over budget. This leaves us with a deficit of \$56,379.00. Please help us close this gap. If you could make up for any of the collections that you missed, please send in your envelope or check for those weekends. Also, it would be of great help if you could help with an additional contribution to make up for the snow removal bills. God's richest blessings and thank you for your continued generosity!

POOR BOX

The Poor Box for the month of March will benefit Near East Catholic Relief. This organization aids the poor and needy living in the Holy Land.

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of March 7

Sunday	8 am	Tim Quinn†
	9:30 am	For The Community
	11:30 am	Pauline Giacomo†
Monday	12:10 pm	Communion Service
Tuesday	12:10 pm	William McDonald†
Wednesday	12:10 pm	Sid Roche†
Thursday	12:10 pm	Sarah Halczak†
Saturday	5 pm	Jeff Kiefer†
Sunday	8 am	Susie Mann†
	9:30 am	Chuck Sudina†
	11:30 am	For The Community

†Deceased

PARISH EVENTS

Week of March 7

Today! Sunday, March 7

Novena of Grace
10:45 am Camp Meeting
10:45 am Prayer Meeting
10:45 am Rosary
5 pm Youth Mass

Monday, March 8

Novena of Grace
9:15 am CSS Leaders Meeting
10:15 am Bible Study
4:45 pm Monday Groups
7 pm Unified Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 9

Novena of Grace
9:15 am Catholic Scripture Study
7 pm Book Club
7 pm Theology of the Body
7 pm Into the Heart

Wednesday, March 10

Novena of Grace
9:15 am Theology of the Body
7 pm RCIA
7 pm Healing Mass
7 pm The Light Is On – confessions
7 pm Decision Making
7:15 pm AA Meeting

Thursday, March 11

Novena of Grace
7 pm Choir Practice
7 pm Catholic Scripture Study

Friday, March 12

Parish Office Closed
6 pm Soup & Bread Supper
7 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13

8:30 am Sandwich Making
8:30 am 1st Eucharist Retreat
10:30 am Bereavement Group
6 pm Middle School

Sunday, March 14

10:45 am Prayer Meeting
10:45 am Rosary
5 pm Youth Mass
Parish Mission

Pastor's Corner –

Dear Parishioners:

Don't some of those religious e-mail "chain letters" drive you crazy? You know – "Say the prayer below. If you are not ashamed to show your love for Jesus, send this to 20 friends and a miracle will happen." Then the axe falls: "If you send this to 20 friends, God will bless you greatly. To 10, God will bless you somewhat. To 5, God isn't sure you are a friend. And if you delete this message, Jesus will know you are ashamed of Him and He'll delete you from God's list of special friends in heaven."

God does NOT need to use guilt to get people to pray! When the worship of false gods was a temptation for the Israelites, God came to Moses in the burning bush to make clear that the Israelites knew THAT God, the One True God, who was going to free them from slavery.

When God says, "I AM WHO AM," it means that God is the God of every cell, and every sub-atomic particle. God grounds everything that has being or "is-ness." God is our Matrix, our WOMB and our SOURCE. Because God IS, we are. God saved the Chosen People, but they fell to whining and grouching, and began to "desire evil things," so many died in the desert. As sufferings increased, they wasted their freedom in cursing God. Instead of repenting, they forgot that they needed God.

Jesus says we must all repent from wasted, ungrateful lives. We don't need guilt, including e-mails – we need a change of consciousness to realize that everything is sacred: all places, all of creation, all of the times in our lives are sacred. Not pain free, perhaps, but sacred.

Surely, it is a basic act of repentance if, this Lent, we learn to see everything as sacred, maybe for the first time. We are on holy ground, because "where God is, is holy."

May this season holy season of Lent be a great Grace for you and your families!

In Christ's love,

Fr. Frank



FAITH FORMATION

Pat Allshouse (pallshouse@ccsfx.net)

Middle School – Joanie Carlson

(carlsonj@notredameprep.com)

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

FIRST EUCHARIST RETREATS

For those preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this spring – Saturday, March 13th and Saturday, March 27th from 8:30 to 11:30 am in the church Hall.

MONDAY GROUPS

Remaining sessions – March 8, 15 & 22nd

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Second Semester Dates:

Mar 13 – Reconciliation

Mar 20

FAMILY NIGHT – MASS & DINNER

Many thanks to our Youth Group for inviting families to celebrate liturgy with them last Sunday evening.

Thanks too to Liz Scarbrough and Amy Bateman for organizing a fabulous dinner.

SUMMER CAMP

Make your plans now...our annual Summer Camp for children entering Kindergarten through 7th grade will be held from **August 16-20, 2010**. More information will be available in the spring. Contact Pat Allshouse (pallshouse@ccsfx.net) for more information.

PARISH CHILDCARE

Did you know there is a Childcare area for your little one downstairs on our lower level? This child friendly space is staffed by parent volunteers during the 9:30 and 11:30 am Sunday Masses. Don't let your little one keep you from attending Mass. Come join us this Sunday. Parents are always welcome to stay with their child. For more information please contact Kelly Runfola – skrunfola@verizon.net or 410-308-3630.

SOUP & BREAD SUPPER

Every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) the Community Activities Committee will be serving a light Soup & Bread supper. The supper will precede the Stations of the Cross & Benediction, which commence at 7 pm. There is no charge for the supper. Please join us for a brief period of casual fellowship.



Life in the Spirit Weekend

is coming in 6 weeks!



The City of God Prayer Group invites you to consider taking advantage of a special time of grace. This year we have a new,

one Weekend Seminar
April 23-25, 2010
in the Chapel.

Can you give God one weekend and invite Him into your hearts? Even if you attended in the past, you are probably in a different place in your life where more of God's Life and grace are welcomed. For more information, call Mary Alice Spadaro at 410-560-7192.

DECISION MAKING IN A SECULAR WORLD Wednesday Evenings at 7 pm during Lent

Dr. Robert Friday, parish member of CCSFX and theologian, will explore the implications of Catholic moral thought...just what is 'conscience'...how do we form our consciences...and what does this have to do with the way in which we make decisions as Catholic Christians...Bob will tackle many of the hot button issues of our times, so feel free to bring your questions. All sessions will take place in our Parish Hall.

LENTEN ROSARY

To bless your Lenten journey, join us in the Chapel each Sunday at 10:45 am to pray the Rosary for our Parish and Pastor between the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.



CASSEROLES FOR BEANS & BREAD

Thanks to all for the bounteous harvest of casseroles in February! Sincere thanks



go to Jennifer Wilkerson for delivering the casseroles to B & B.

Now it's time to make a casserole for the March collection. Let's keep the trend going with a harvest of 35+ casseroles so that we can keep feeding as many hungry people as we can.

Our next collection of casseroles will be **Mar. 18th**. Bring your **frozen casserole (labeled for Beans & Bread) to the church any weekday (M-Th) before 9:15 a.m. on Mar. 18th**. Pans and recipes are available in the Gathering Space. The **recipe is also available on our parish website**; follow the link in Service Projects. See the recipe sheet for delivery options.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

John Paul's legacy of Love, Human Meaning and More...a chance to learn about The Theology of the Body.

The Venerable John Paul II said, "The body, and it alone, is capable of making visible what is invisible. It was created to transfer into our visible world, the invisible mystery of God." Wow!!! That means there are answers to questions we have all been asking ourselves:

- ❖ Why was it God's plan that I be a Male? Female? Or even Human?
- ❖ Why is my body created the way it is? (God would not create such a body in His image just to have it return to dust)
- ❖ What exactly is "Love"? Where have I been looking for "Love"? Where do I truly find "Love"? And how can I be truly happy?
- ❖ How does this body, and my personal choices, help me get into Heaven if I choose a vocation of being married, single or Holy Orders?

In the first 5 years of John Paul's Pontificate, 1979 to 1984, he used his General Audience homilies to deliver his lifelong work as Priest and Bishop. His Theology of the Body (TOB) is said to be his greatest gift to our World and a work that helps us become more fully human. TOB is re-presented by Christopher West through DVDs with a workbook for group discussion. From the very first session Christopher West will impress you, make you laugh, pique your thoughts, help you understand Christ's teaching on the body, and simply leave you wanting more. Yes, he is that dynamic! Most importantly, the questions above, and so many more, will begin to make sense to you.

Now those are good reasons to attend an eight session series starting on March 9, beginning at 7 pm or March 10, beginning at 9:15 am at CCSFX. You can attend the day or evening session, choose the one best for you, but do choose. The only fee is for the booklet. To reserve a seat, call Rob Bart, Jr. at 410-963-2001 or email him at rbart46@gmail.com or sign up and ask questions at the table in the Gathering Space after all the Masses this weekend and next.

ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY at St. Mary's Seminary

Faith Seeking Understanding...Understanding Making a
Difference!

Did you know...right here in Baltimore...there is this
gem – the Ecumenical Institute of Theology. Here folks
from a variety of Christian traditions gather together to
study and explore their relationship with God. Many
from our parish community have graduated from this
institute. The E.I. offers Master's –level courses,
certificates & degrees in Scripture, theology & church
ministries. No previous study of theology is required.
Most classes are held in the late-afternoon, evening and
on Saturday. There are also two sessions in the summer.
Want to know more – 410-864-4200;
www.stmarys.edu/ei. On Monday, March 15th at 7:30
pm – Free Lecture – Brian McLaren will be speaking on
*The Gospel, the Postmodern Context, and the Church
that is emerging.*

MEAL BLESSING FOR LENT

*God of mercy and compassion, with humility of
heart we ask your blessing upon us and upon the
meal we are about to receive. During this season
of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, may we be
inspired to share our gifts with those in need. May
the sharing of this meal urge us on to work
tirelessly to bring your Word to all who seek
meaning and direction in their lives. Amen.*

BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet on **Tuesday,**
March 9th at 7 pm in the Chatard House
to discuss Annie Dillard's *The Maytrees*.

This is a short novel of lifelong love in
marriage set in New England. All are welcome. Please
join us!

Next Sunday's Readings MARCH 14, 2010

<i>1st Reading</i>	JOSHUA 5:9, 10-12
<i>2nd Reading</i>	2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21
<i>Gospel</i>	LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

The readings will be more meaningful and familiar if
you take the time to read them before Mass.

GOSPEL OF LIFE

40 Days for Life/40 Days of Lent: This spring, from
Feb. 17 through Feb. 28, Archbishop O'Brien strongly
encourages every parish in the Archdiocese of
Baltimore to participate in the **40 Days for Life**. This is
a nationwide ecumenical pro-life campaign to defeat the
'culture of death' and to build a 'culture of life'. Please
consider signing up for this important campaign in the
following ways: **1) Be a witness at a Peaceful Vigil
outside an Abortion Facility** **2) Pray – Fast** (Pray a
Rosary for Life, attend a Holy Hour for Life or attend
Eucharistic Adoration, etc.) **3) Educate others in the
community** on the importance of preserving and
defending the sanctity of all life. Through past
campaigns, baby's lives have been saved and their
moms spared the heartache of abortion, as well as a
number of closures of abortion facilities and
conversions of hearts. *Won't you be a voice for those
who have no voice?* Contact your Respect Life Chair,
Sandy Korzick stkorzick@comcast.net or
Johanna.coughlin@archbalt.org in the Respect Life
office or go to www.archbalt.org/respect-life

31st Annual Maryland March for Life: On Monday,
March 8th, you have a great opportunity to join fellow
Catholics and other faithful Christians by attending the
31st Annual Maryland March for Life. We will gather
in solidarity to encourage our state legislators to protect
the sanctity of all human life, particularly the most
vulnerable - mothers in crisis pregnancies, their unborn
children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled. At St.
Mary's Church, 109 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis,
MD 21401, **Archbishop O'Brien** will celebrate Mass
at 5:15 pm, with the March to the State House
beginning at 6:30 pm. A 7:00 p.m. rally begins in front
of the State House, with an 8:30 pm after-march
celebration at St. Mary's. (Shuttle service will be
available for elderly patrons and those with special
needs to and from the rally). For more details, go to
www.marylandmarchforlife.org

Pregnant, Need Help? Call the Gabriel Network 1-800-
ANGEL-OK

Suffering Post-Abortion Stress? Call Project Rachel 1-
800-286-4224

Our own Gospel of Life website: www.sfxforlife.org

CCSFX Prayer Chain – Contact Rick Rider
Rrider82@msn.com

AA Meeting – 7:15 pm on Wednesday – Chatard House
<http://222.baltimoreaa.org> or 410-663-1922

THE LITTLE WHITE BOOK

We will soon be halfway through the season of Lent, a time of penitence and a time of preparation for the greatest feast of the entire Church year. And when the long-awaited observance of Easter arrives, the Church calendar provides fifty (50) days to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. It may seem to be a bit early, but copies of the "Little White Book" for the Easter season are already available in the Gathering Space. This handy pocket-size publication provides an easy (six minutes a day) way to observe those seven weeks of Easter which culminate with another great day, the feast of Pentecost.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Contact Deacon Don

deacondon@ccsfx.net or 410-785-0356 x12

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT MASS

There are nine (9) different ways to be of service when we are at church. And yet there is always a need for and room for one more volunteer. Check out the ministries for being of service to fellow-members of this Catholic Community. Pick one and then sign the MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS sheet in the Gathering Space. The entire Community thanks you!

Altar Server – Choir – Childcare – Eucharistic Minister – Greeter – Hospitality after Mass – Lector – Sunday Scriptures for Children – Usher.

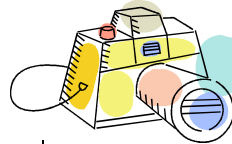
CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

LAST CALL until May 23! Three times each year, there is the opportunity for "unconfirmed" adults to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Of the three sacraments of Catholic Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), quite a few adults have missed out on Confirmation. The next Confirmation for Adults will be on **Sunday, March 21**, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of the Assumption in downtown Baltimore. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien will preside. For further information, contact Deacon Don this week. LAST CALL until May 23!

GET YOUR smiles READY... PRACTICE SAYING cheese...

A photo opportunity IS ON THE WAY!!!

Yes, it is hard to believe but it has been four years since our first photo directory so the time is ripe to do it again. If you've been wanting a new family photo or an updated mug shot, here's your chance. Or maybe you'd like to be able to put a name with a face or a face with a name in our parish community, now you can.



Every person/family joining in the photo directory will receive a free 8x10 Olan Mills

portrait in addition to a personal copy of the church photo directory. Several and varied photos will be taken when you come for your photo session and YOU will select the photo of your choice.

Sign Up sheets are in the gathering space so be on the lookout. There are numerous times and dates to accommodate everyone's schedule. But sign up early to secure your spot! Sign ups continue.

Photo sessions will be held in the lower level of our church. Dates for photo shoots are March 24 and March 25, from 3 to 9:30 pm. Photo sessions will take approximately one (1) hour.

It is also possible to go to the Olan Mills website and select a time. Simply visit www.signup.olanmills.com and follow the prompts (one question asks for the church phone number which is 410 785 0356).

If you are out of town during the photo dates or you have any difficulty signing up, please contact Betty Contino at 410 456 8228. Remember all you have to do is sign up, show up for your photo session and SMILE! the rest is up to Olan Mills! Continue to watch for bulletin and email updates! Questions, call Betty Contino 410 456 8228.

SUPPLIES FOR OUR MILITARY GALS & GUYS

Last weekend you heard Steven Demny speak about the project he is heading up to collect funds and basic items for our military fighting overseas. There is a trellis set up outside the main worship space doors with envelopes. Donations of cash are welcomed. Supplies needed are:

AA & AAA batteries
Baby wipe refills
Lip balm
Tylenol or Excedrin
Zip Lock Bags – gallon size
Hand warmers
Individual pkgs of dry drink mix (like Gatorade)
Small pkgs of nuts, dried fruits or non-melting candies
Dry erase & permanent markers (Sharpies, Expo)

If you missed his talk, he has taken the time to upload them onto YouTube. Visit www.youtube.com and search “Supplies for Military Gals & Guys”.

Deadline: March 14th



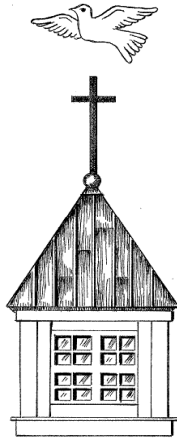
LITURGY CORNER

It began on Ash Wednesday, two and a half weeks ago already. "It," of course, is the season of Lent. Less than four weeks to go, you know. Less than four weeks? That cannot be correct. Easter is four weeks from today and Lent ends on Easter. Well, it turns out that it is correct. (Explanation follows.)

Lent ends at sunset on Holy Thursday, not on Easter. Yes, it is sort of confusing. However, between the Lenten season and the Easter season, there is a very brief liturgical season. Not only is it brief, but it has a funny name. Triduum. Tri-du-um. (Careful, that middle syllable is not pronounced "dee.") Sandwiched between the two longer seasons of Lent and Easter, the three days of the Triduum are the high point of the entire year.

It is then that we re-live the central mystery of our faith. We celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate the fact that we are redeemed, that the long-awaited Messiah has carried out the will of the Father. The three liturgies of the Triduum are unique. Miss them this April and it will not be until next April that the opportunity will come around again.

The Triduum. Three days. From sunset on Holy Thursday through Good Friday through the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening and through all the Masses on Easter Sunday. At sunset on Sunday, the three day Triduum ends and the fifty day Easter season begins, a joyous celebration that extends through Pentecost. Keep an eye on this spot over the next three weekends. Become a Triduum expert. (Tri-du-um, not Tri-dee-um.)



WHAT IS A HEALING MASS?

Every quarter at Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier, the City of God Prayer Group arranges a special liturgy focusing on the charism of Healing.

The music, readings, homily and prayer of the faithful are chosen to increase our faith that Jesus is indeed the healer of our infirmities, both physical and our "heartaches".

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered during Mass by request.

Prayer teams are available afterward for individual prayer.

You may request that prayer for yourself or sit in proxy for someone else.

**WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2010
7:00 PM in the chapel**

**For information:
Mary Alice Spadero
410-560-7192**

"Is anyone sick among you?" James 5:14

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Did you know that there is an e-mail prayer chain?

To add a prayer request or to join those who are intercessors,

contact Rick Rider rrider82@msn.com or Dick Weger jr.weger@ieee.org