

upcoming events

February 4, 2018

Holy Family
Family Sunday, 10:00
St. Ambrose
9th Grade & Confirmation
Class, 5:45
Scout Sunday 10:00 Mass

February 3, 2018

St. Ambrose
Liturgy Com., 7:00 pm

February 7, 2018

St. Ambrose Office
Pre-Baptism Session, 6:00

February 12, 2018

Discipleship Program for
Grades 1-8 & Adults

February 13, 2018

Maguire Hall
Mardi Gras
Parish Pot-Luck & Baby
Shower, 5:00 pm
Holy Name - 7:00 pm
Holy Family
Parish Council Meeting,
7:00 pm, Meeting Room 5

February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

February 16 - 17, 2018

Lenten Food Collection

February 18, 2018

Holy Family
Spaghetti Dinner - noon

February 23, 2018

Holy Family
Anointing of the Sick
8:00 am Mass

February 27, 2018

St. Ambrose
Buildings & Grounds 6:00 pm,
Parish Office

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 36, number 2

February 2018

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

It seems like we just passed Christmas, with all the joys and smiles of that season, and here we are with Lent looming large on the horizon already “Lent” – what a foreboding connotation that word held for me as a young Catholic. We needed to forego. We needed to give up. We needed to be penitent. We were supposed to do a lot of things I didn’t want to do. The only plus about Lent in my youth was that you could ride a bus to church on Sunday for free.

Age has given me, and hopefully, us a different perspective on the season. Being penitent is never a bad thing to be and its mate – asking forgiveness – is a requisite at all times in our lives. But now I see it more of a preparation, a cleansing, a recognition that the love that transformed the human race can, once again, transform us.

Several years ago, I was tasked to write a speech for a prominent national figure encouraging and urging people to action. It was one of the proudest speeches I’ve ever written and one for which I received a stipend but no recognition whatsoever. That’s OK. Sometimes, the action generated by our words is all the recognition one needs and often more than one can expect. But ever if there was a time in our history when we needed to look beyond the narrow confines of our own interest and start thinking about the human condition as a whole, it’s right now. And Lent provides us with the ideal opportunity to begin such thinking. I don’t think of Lent as a time to do without anymore but rather as a time to do for someone: to lend a hand at a food pantry (or donate to one), to rid ourselves of some of the possessions we no longer need but others might see as treasures, to open our eyes to the need all around us and to be part of the response to those needs.

When we were kids, we often donated our nickels and dimes to help “pagan babies” in far-flung places around the world. Several years ago, I attended a retreat and was reacquainted to those babies and started donating monthly to the life of a child I’ll never meet in a place I’ll never go but who might help cure a disease or discover new methods to grow crops, or to merely be in a position to show love to his fellow human beings. What greater thrill could there be than to muse about being the catalyst for such a human being?

Such opportunities are limitless. We see need in our own neighborhoods. We marvel at the dynamic energy of those dedicated souls who strive to make things better for the needy among us. We know people afflicted with serious illness, with depression, with addiction. We know people who live in loneliness. Why not resolve this Lent to heed the advice of Ghandi who challenged us to become the change we wish to see in the world? Let’s not give up this year. Let’s give of ourselves.

Powerful Prayer Life

By Christian Hehr

Think of your absolute best friend. Think of all the laughs, memories, and conversations you've had. You've told that best friend everything: from your fears and struggles, to your joys and excitements. You know that when you're with your best friend, you can be 100% yourself and you can really be open especially when you need help. This is the way God wants you to talk and behave with Him. Even your best friend can only know so much about you but God, knows you even better than yourself! After all, He saw everything you would be well before you were born, and He knew all your days before one of them even happened (Ps. 139:16).

Yet when we think about praying, our communication with God, we are limited to some ritualistic mantra spoken aloud in a uniform monotone. That's all that prayer is suppose to be?

First of all, the fact that we as believers get to talk directly to God (the same God that literally talked the universe into existence) at all is a beautiful privilege in itself. Thanks to Jesus, we don't have to continue making sacrifices and having high priests plead on our behalf. We can go right to God with our prayers.

Prayer, therefore, allows us to go and ask for anything that we need or seek. God wants us, expects us, to ask not just for little, tiny things, but big and bold things! He wants us to "go boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). After all, God can do "immeasurably more than we can ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

You really can pray about anything, and I mean ANYTHING, even the things you think God would

be deem insignificant. Quite the contrary: God LOVES to hear that you want Him in every aspect of your life, including the small stuff. Ask Him to help you fix your hair in the morning. Ask Him to help your beef stew come out correctly. Ask Him to help you find a coupon for those delicious Jingle cookies you can only get at Christmas time. Our God is a God of love, always and forever.

Your prayers need not be complicated, or long, or flowery. Look what Jesus says in Matthew 6: 7-8; "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"

How often do you hear or say a prayer like this... 'OH BLESSED, BLESSED AND MERCIFUL GOD! HEarken YOUR EAR TO US MISERABLE SINNERS AS WE IMPLORE YOU TO INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF! OH GOD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, HOLY ONE, HOLY IMMORTAL ONE, SHOWER THE DIVINE LIGHT UPON US!'

The prayer is asking for something noble, and God is all of those things and deserves praise, obviously. But why do we think that flattering God with extravagant language is going to get our prayers more likely to be answered?

Here's the simplest prayer you can say, and it is guaranteed to bring God's power and grace into your situation.

Ready?

God, I need help.

That's it folks. It really can be that simple. The part about prayer that God really, really wants to see in us is that we genuinely want Him in our lives. That's why it is so important for us to talk to God all the time - not just in

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church. Go ahead and have a full-blown conversation with God about your day on the ride home from work. Talk with Him through your kid's hockey practice. Talk to Him when you wake up and before you sleep. Too often we repeat the prayers we've been saying since we were young and we don't even think about the words coming out of our mouths. Personalize your prayer life. Make it radical and bold. Ask God to be in every single area of your life!

I leave you with a challenge. The next time you say a prayer in church, I want you to change all the 'our' and 'us' into 'my' and 'me'. Instead of 'Our Father', say, 'My Father.' I promise this will change not only the way you look at the prayers you say everyday, but the quality of your prayer life as well.

We welcome into our parish family:

- Elizabeth O'Brien
- Mary Schnorr
- Mary Catherine Adymy
- William Solowski
- Elizabeth O'Brien

Student Honors - First Quarter

Mount St. Mary Academy

Honor Roll

Kathryn Coughlin

St. Francis High School

First Honors

Ryan Young Freshman

Student Honors - First Quarter

Mount Mercy Academy

First Honors

Julia Maria Acosta	Kathleen Ball
Emily Burns	Elizabeth Higgins
Elizabeth Lang	Alyssa Lickfeld
Madeline Lickfeld	Phoebe Palmisano

Second Honors

Kayla Armbruster	Madeline Bigouette
Fiona Danahy	Abigail D'Anthony
Reilly D'Anthony	Emma Lewis
Mary Catherine Thie	Audrey Welsby

Merit Roll

Roisin Lynch	Madalyn McCarthy
Madison Lauber	

Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School

First Honors with Distinction

William Daley	Jackson Dunn
Brian Hilmey	Patrick Kline
Micheal Klodzinski	

First Honors

Brett Armbruster	Justin Bott
John Donahue	Sean Jordan
Matthew Lynch	Roger Marchione
Ryan O'Keeffe	Michael Sands
Owen Smardz	David Thie

Merit Roll

Joshua Derwin	William Eberhardt
Jacob Fallon	Matthew Horrigan
Sean McCarthy	



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Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of
Lauber Financial Planning

Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it. Ecclesiastes 7:12

Most people, when asked, believe money means “security” and many people use money to shelter them; shelter from need, from criticism, from feeling alone, from pity. But using money this way can promote a false pride and leave you feeling empty. Consider using money from a place of wisdom, which will help you feel abundant and content. Using money with prudence (not miserliness), a kind heart and wisdom helps you to know that true shelter is within God’s love.

Thank You Notes

“Our deepest appreciation and thankfulness for the marvelous bounty received from Our Lady of Charity Parish for St. Patrick Pantry. God bless all who donated in helping those less fortunate.”

Sister Karen of the South Buffalo Community Table sent a note of thanks for our generous donation.

The Sisters of Mercy were thankful for our support for their mission in Peru.

The Midwest Jesuits were grateful for our continued commitment to their mission and ministries in Nicaragua which makes their work possible.

The Consolata Missionaries, were very thankful to the members of Our Lady of Charity Parish who join with them in spirit as they preach the Word of God and try to help people in desperate need in Kenya.



Friendship Corner

By Audrey Kunz

“People don’t notice whether it’s winter or summer when they’re happy.”

Anton Chekhov

“Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am – you alone. I am your sheep; make me worthy to overcome the devil.”

St. Agatha (Feast Day-Feb. 5th)

“Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a grace it is to know God!”

St. Josephine Bakhita (Feast Day-Feb. 8th)

“All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.”

Abraham Lincoln (Birthday-Feb. 12th)

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another.”

Thomas Merton (Valentine’s Day)

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

1 Peter 5:6 (Lent)

“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

George Washington (Birthday-Feb. 22nd)

the bridge

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