

heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 21
February 2018

**Lent 2018:
Wounded and
Loved,
Regathering
the Scattered**

**PREPARING FOR LENT:
FEB 14 - MAR 29**

YOUTH MINISTRY: MEET THE DOCENTS

THE POPE ON BAPTISM AND UNITY



REGATHERING THE SCATTERED THIS LENT

Dear Parishioners,

In a couple of weeks our Lenten journey will begin. This year we will, once again, have a Lenten theme. The theme will be, "Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered." This is the title of a pastoral letter that was written by Bishop Bambera of the Diocese of Scranton.

He wrote a small group discussion guide based on his pastoral letter. The letter was a reflection on how he hoped his diocese could be renewed. We can simplify that to some degree and reflect on how Sacred Heart Parish can be renewed, so we hope to have some small groups that will use this discussion guide. This will lead to some reflection on what our parish can do to uplift its members and bring back those who have fallen away.

During Lent we will also have the Stations of the Cross with a simple meal on Wednesday nights. Fr. Matthew is going to offer a day of reflection on March 10th. We also will be passing out devotionals for individual reflection and we will be offering special times for Reconciliation. Please pay attention to the information that will be communicated to you.





MARDI GRAS PARTY: FEBRUARY 13

Come enjoy food, fellowship, and fun with a variety of games for children and for adults too! Everyone is invited to this year's Mardi Gras Celebration, which will be held from 5:30-7:30pm on February 13 in the gym and cafeteria of Culemans Hall. Food will be served until 6:30pm. A free will donation will be accepted. The social committee will be preparing Sloppy Joe's, enchiladas, chicken nuggets, baked beans and pasta salad. Desserts will also be available. We would like to thank those parishioners who generously donate baked goods.

While Mardi Gras has a wild reputation, it has roots in Catholic tradition. The French phrase, which means "Fat Tuesday," marks the last day of ordinary time before the start of Lent. Catholics have treated Mardi Gras as a "last hurrah" before the fasting and repentance of Lent for generations. Join us on February 13th for a day of anticipation, as we say goodbye to our old habits and prepare our hearts for a Holy Lent.

Boy Scout Troop 109, in celebration of their 100th anniversary, will be helping the social committee at Mardi Gras and at several other events throughout the coming year. Other events include the Feast of the Sacred Heart, September Fest, and a Veterans dinner to honor our veterans. Also, the Cookie Walk is held in December as a fundraiser to help support these functions.

We hope all of our parishioners will be able to take the time to come and celebrate this year at our annual Mardi Gras celebration!

A good way to begin Lent is to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday which is February 14. We also offer Masses every day. Another good Lenten practice is to consider attending daily Mass. This puts one in touch with the cycle of readings that challenges us to a conversion of heart.

I look forward to six weeks of renewal. May this be a fruitful time for you as well.

Blessings,

Fr. Mark



“BE MERCIFUL, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED”: ASH WEDNESDAY 2018

A REFLECTION BY FR. MATTHEW

I pray that this essay will offer some sustenance for reflection as we begin our journey through Lent. The following quotation is food for thought:

“Reconciliation is a process. It is a long and often difficult road through truth and justice aimed at the restoration of broken relationships, in order to establish a new reconciled reality.” (Cas Wepener, University of Pretoria; From Fast to Feast: Insights into the process of reconciliation from South Africa). Reconciliation involves a change in the relationship between God and man or man and man; it is a road map for our Lenten journey (ref. Romans 5:10).

From Fast to Feast? Maybe ‘From Feast to Fast’ is more appropriate for us. Considering that we celebrate Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday” in French) and St. Valentine’s Day just before Ash Wednesday, it’s like killing two birds with one stone, as the cliché goes. Well, we have bad news and good news; first the ‘good news.’ Mardi Gras is on Tuesday, February 13 - all day till the wee hours. The ‘bad news’ is, Valentine’s Day falls on February 14, the same day as Ash Wednesday (a somber day of prayer, fast and abstinence).

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season, a day of universal fast and abstinence for Christians all over the world. Palm fronds from the previous year’s Palm Sunday services are burned to create ashes. These ashes are blessed and used to mark the sign of the Cross on our foreheads. With this sign we begin a period of preparation for the death of Christ on Good Friday and a celebration of His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The first day of Lent changes every year in accordance to the lunar calendar, like Easter Sunday. Lent is generally a 40-day fast and prayer period, that should end on the Thursday before Easter Sunday (March 29 this year) which is known as Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday. The 40 day period reflects when Jesus fasted and suffered in the

desert for 40 days and 40 nights, before He started His ministry. The Prophet Joel sets the pace for our Lenten journey: “...rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing” [Joel 2:13].

Ash Wednesday is an important day on the African continent, with its multicultural countries of diverse religions and cults. In some African countries, many churches or religions that are divided on doctrinal grounds seemly worship together on this day. As a result, Ash Wednesday morning Mass at St. Mulumba Catholic Church (my former parish in Monrovia, Liberia), is unusually crammed with more than its regular parishioners: Protestants, Catholics, Muslims as well as the undecided come to ‘receive the ashes’.

The local belief is that the imposition of the ashes on the forehead by the priest secures protection from evil and ensures blessing, forgiveness, and healing from the God who is Father of us all. Christians believe that the ashes represent repentance and show that they have repented for their sins and are prepared for a ‘Holy death’, like Jesus. This later belief is supported by the words the priest says as he draws the crosses on to people’s foreheads: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

During this season, we are encouraged to be better Christians by resolving to pay attention to our spiritual life. Yes. I know that many of us did make New Year’s resolutions for 2018 (so help me God) and God Himself knows how difficult it has been so far to live by these ‘self-imposed’ regulations. No. I’m not suggesting that you overburden yourself with more (than you can carry). This season, however, offers a second chance, a unique opportunity so that we may be unbound in conscience to accomplish those well-intentioned resolutions of ours.

YOUTH MINISTRY: THE DOCENTS

2017 was an amazing year for our Religious Education program and Youth Ministry, with even more in store for the first few months of 2018. February will be a big month for parish youth, as they observe Lent, participate in activities, and take on a leadership role in our parish!

Our Youth Ministry has named themselves the DoCents, because they DO without being asked, never count the CENTS their help should cost, and because docents are people who lead others. Just as a docent might help you find your way in a museum, the Youth Ministry leads others in the way of Christ by their words and actions. The DoCents are excited to show these leadership skills in February, and throughout Lent.

The DoCents will lead Stations of the Cross during Parent/Student Day on February 11. At the DoCent stations families will learn to create "Good Deed Beads." These beads are inspired by St. Thérèse, "The Little Flower," who would carry beads in her pocket to count good deeds she dedicated to God. Making Good Deed Beads of our own lets families count the acts of love or sacrifices they make in a day for God. The ten beads will have a cross at the end, and can be used to pray a decade of the Rosary.

On February 28, the DoCents will lead the parish in the Stations of the Cross and host the Lenten Simple Supper talk. The DoCents' Catholic Relief Services version of the Stations of the Cross begins at 5:30 pm, and the Simple Supper will be served at 6:00 pm. For the Simple Supper, the DoCents have a very interesting approach to this Lent's topic, "Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered." We cannot wait to see you this Lent and to participate side by side with you!



I'm aware that many of you are already familiar with that perennial stressed out, overrated and boring sermon of priests telling you to do penance and go to Church on Sundays. But today, the Psalmist is telling us, "Blessed is the person whose disobedience is forgiven and whose sin is pardoned. Blessed is the person whom the Lord no longer accuses of sin and who has no deceitful thoughts" [Ps 32:1-2 - God's Word Translation].

At my parish in Africa, Ash Wednesday presents an excellent opportunity to remind the congregation about their Lenten responsibilities: to fast, pray, give alms and do works of charity. Because, it is by these acts that we renew our baptismal promises, to become better Christians by denouncing the tempter, Satan and all his worldly promises. Beware, however, of the human condition. None of us will achieve all that is expected during this Lent. You will be tempted, but take courage and let the Spirit lead you, like it did Jesus, so that you too will resist the many temptations and be strengthened to say, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.'" [Mt. 4:10].

*Fr. Matthew A. B. Cole, SMA
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SMA Fathers 23 Bliss Avenue, NJ)*



POPE FRANCIS TO CHRISTIANS: 'BAPTISM UNITES US'

At an ecumenical Vespers service, Pope Francis told members of several Christian communities that the grace of Baptism creates a unity in the family of God.

Even when differences separate us, we can recognize that we have the same Baptism, and we belong "to the same family of brothers and sisters loved by the one Father," the Pope said.

"This is our experience as believers. As we grow in spiritual life, we increasingly understand that grace reaches us together with others and is to be shared with others. So, when I raise my thanksgiving to God for what he has done in me, I find I do not sing alone, because other brothers and sisters have my same song of praise."

Francis spoke during a Vespers service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls to mark both the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which this year focused on the theme: "Powerful is your hand, Lord."

In his homily, the Pope reflected on our common Baptism using imagery from the story of the rescue of the baby Moses from the river by Pharaoh's daughter.. "All of us Christians have passed through the waters of Baptism, and the grace of the Sacrament has destroyed our enemies, sin and death," he emphasized.

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2018

ASH WEDNESDAY : Wednesday, February 14

- Masses: 6:30 am; 8:30 am; 5:45 pm; 10:15 am All School Mass
- Ash Wednesday Soup Supper to follow the 5:45 pm Ash Wednesday Mass in Fellowship Hall

FR. MATTHEW'S DAY OF REFLECTION : Saturday, March 10

- 9 am to 2 pm, Audio Visual Room, Culemans Hall

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 / 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, February 28, 2018 / 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018 / 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 14, 2018 / 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018 / 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 28, 2018 / 5:30 pm

LENTEN SIMPLE POTLUCK SUPPERS with GUEST SPEAKERS

- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 / 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 28, 2018 / 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018 / 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 14, 2018 / 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018 / 6:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Wednesdays during Lent / 7:00 am to 4:45 pm / St. Francis Chapel

EVENING PRAYER

- Wednesdays during Lent / 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm / St. Francis Chapel

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

- Monday, March 26, 2018 / 7:00 pm

BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS

- Saturday, March 31, 2018 / 10:15 am / St. Francis Chapel

HOLY WEEK AT SACRED HEART

- March 29, 2018 – *Holy Thursday* – *Mass of the Lord's Supper* / 7:00 pm Mass
- March 30, 2018 – *Good Friday* – *The Passion of Our Lord* / 3:00 pm Service
- March 31, 2018 – *Easter Vigil* / 7:30 pm Mass Reception of New Catholics / Fellowship Hall following Mass
- April 1, 2018 – *Easter Sunday* – *The Resurrection of the Lord* / 7:00 am; 9:00 am; 11:00 am Masses

However, our experience of God's love and tenderness in our daily lives should not just be kept in our hearts, he stated. These individual experiences can be linked to an even greater history, that of the salvation of the people of God...

In the last 100 years, the different Christian confessions have realized that we are standing together on the same shores of the Red Sea, he continued. We have all been saved through our Baptism, and can sing a grateful song of praise together.

Today, "in a world that is increasingly rich in means and poor in love," Christians and people of other religions face many attacks on human dignity, the Pope said, such as religious persecution, modern forms of slavery, hardship and hunger.

"But like the Israelites of Exodus, Christians are called to safeguard together the memory of what God has accomplished in them."

Source: Catholic News Agency



SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH

MOLINE, ILLINOIS

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MOLINE, IL 61265

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HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Mass Times

- Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
- Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
- Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
- Our Friday Mass, when school students are present is at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted in the parish bulletin
- Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesdays during Lent: 5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and by appointment, call 762-2362.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

(St. Francis Chapel)

- Wednesdays during Lent: 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
- First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

