



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

— St. Luke's version of the Beatitudes (today's gospel passage) is distinctive in its inclusion of "woes". For every person who is blessed (ie. poverty of spirit, hunger for God, etc.) Luke includes corresponding people for whom there is misfortune. This example/counter-example of Luke leads biblical scholars to believe that St. Luke ministered in a highly diverse local church. Luke's original listeners may have included both rich and poor, joyful and despairing, honorable and dishonorable alike. In hearing Luke's inspired words, these listeners would have to consider whether they were living in blessing or in woe.

Isn't it the same with us? As the season of Lent is less than a week away, we too are confronted with questions about our commitment and solidarity with the Lord in our lives. Does the gospel have a message of blessing and comfort or one of woe and warning? Or is the message we hear a mixture of both? We hear a lot about "putting God first" in our lives. What exactly does that mean? The Beatitudes, I would suggest, is a good starting place to find out.

Fr. Mannebach



ASH WEDNESDAY, this year on February 17, is the beginning of the Lenten season. This (as is Good Friday) is a day of fast and abstinence for Catholics. The Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their eighteenth birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97 and 1252). Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes will be at 12:05 p.m. and Eucharist with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

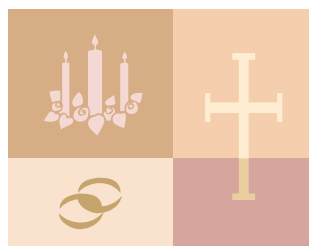
PALM BRANCHES will be collected in



baskets in the church entrance until Monday afternoon, February 15 and will be burned after the 7:00 p.m. Mass that evening. The ash will be blessed and used for the Ash Wednesday liturgies on February 17.

ASH WEDNESDAY collection will be taken to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and the spreading of the gospel message through Catholic mass media.

WAY OF THE CROSS will take place after the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Thursdays during Lent.



GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS for the northern part of the Archdiocese will be held at St. Christopher Church in Vandalia on *Saturday, April 17* at 2:00 p.m.

Rev. David E. Brinkmoeller will be the principal celebrant. Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th, or 75th *Wedding Anniversary* during 2010 should notify the parish office by Friday, February 19. All jubilarians will receive a scroll, and golden jubilarians will also receive an invitation to the Mass in Vandalia.

THE RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST for a second collection to support the suffering people of Haiti in the wake of the massive earthquake last month has been overwhelming. Catholics from throughout the Archdiocese have donated more than \$875,000 so far. Contributions are still welcome and needed. The money will be used to support Catholic Relief Services' humanitarian assistance as well as the U.S. and Latin American Church's longer-term efforts to rebuild the churches, schools and social services that have been destroyed. The Archdiocese has not retained any of this money as administrative overhead. I encourage you to visit www.crs.org to learn details about CRS's ongoing response in Haiti. May God bless you for your abundant generosity! Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH

MINISTRY:

No CCD classes on Wednesday, February 17 for grades one through twelve. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the observance of Ash Wednesday.

Parents First Communion meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Needed: Small glass jars (baby food size to hold small candles) are needed for a Lenten project for elementary CCD on February 24. Please drop them off at the parish office by Friday, February 19.

All elementary CCD students in grades four through six should come to the after school session on Wednesday, February 24 for a Lenten program. There will be no late sessions that day for grades four through six. All students in grades one through three should come at their regular time.

HOLLYWOOD VS. FAITH will be presented by Frank Runyeon at Holy Redeemer Church on Saturday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in church. Frank Runyeon, a veteran of over 1000 television shows (including *As the World Turns* and *Santa Barbara*), is a man of faith with impressive academic credentials. In *Hollywood vs. Faith*, Frank suggests, with humor, how to watch TV "inside-out". He discusses the subtle impact of commercial sponsorship, as well as the real reasons for all the sex and violence in the media, offering a fresh perspective as an actor who desires truth in storytelling, not censorship. This is open to people of all ages, from kids to senior citizens.

VOCATION VIEWS – Jesus reminds us who are the blessed and warns us about who are cursed. Pray that you may be among those who are blessed. (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

FIRST BOOK CLUB MEETING will be held on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in classroom #1. *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom will be discussed. All are welcome. Any questions call Becky Koverman at 419-629-3470.

LENTEN BLACK BOOKS, with daily reflections based on the scripture of the day, are available in the church entrance.

THANK YOU for supporting the breakfast

sponsored by the Mission Committee at Speedway Lanes last month. The committee really appreciates the continued support. They are currently working on getting a group from Grenada to visit here this spring so the money raised will be used to buy plane tickets.

OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT-

February 7 - \$5,020.46	Attendance – 938
Adults - \$4,517.00	High School - \$11.00
Grade School - \$51.20	Anonymous - \$441.26

DEAR FATHER THOMAS, *Just a quick note of thanks for the wonderful donation of 120 non-perishable food items delivered on Friday, February 5th by Mr. Jeffrey Elking. We are so grateful for these donations and they certainly provide the much needed food for our little pantry shelves.*

As you know, our numbers continue to increase and we are helping more and more individuals and families. We have seen so many of our clientele with greater needs over the past year with the loss of jobs, reduction of hours, utility bills so high and so many other hardships. We know that we must do all that we can to continue to assist those in need and it is through donations such as this that makes this possible.

Again, thank you to everyone at Holy Redeemer for all that you do for Agape. We truly do appreciate it. Very truly yours, Kathryn A. Bayless, Executive Director.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED to attend Fasching Fest, a traditional German Heritage celebration held on the day before Ash Wednesday, known as Fat Tuesday, on Tuesday, February 16 at the New Bremen American Legion, 06458 State Route 66. Enjoy delicious German food, consisting of sausage and sauerkraut, stuffed cabbage rolls, German potato salad, mashed potatoes, rye bread and strudel, along with free entertainment by Bette's Polka Band. The event will also feature a polka dance contest and many door prizes from local businesses. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. with meal service beginning at 4:30 p.m. Bette's Polka Band will perform from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and can be purchased at Howell's IGA & Speedway Lanes in New Bremen, Minster/NB Marathon, the Chamber of Commerce in New Bremen, True Value Hardware in Minster and Gels IGA in St. Henry. Walk-Ins and drive-thru will also be available.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
February 17, 20 & 21

Ash Wed. 12:05 p.m.

B. & J. Clune – J. Suchland

Ash Wed. 5:00 p.m.

J. Berning – F. Borchers – C. & R. Brookhart

D. & J. Gehle – C. Opperman – D. Stachler – C. Wissman

Ash Wed. 7:00 p.m.

A. Elking – J. Hirschfeld – D. Knapke – H. & P. Overman

L. & R. Rutschilling – D. Schwartz – C. Turner

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

E. Ahrns – R. Dicke – F. Frey – L. Holdren – S. Niekamp

A. Speelman – B. Suchland – M. Topp – L. Utz

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

P. & S. Kaiser – B. & C. Killian

R. & R. Kremer – J. Thieman

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

B. Feltz – A. & M. Flaute – M. & S. Francis

S. & J. Niekamp – N. Riethman – E. Rump, Jr.

C. & S. Wissman

LECTORS:**February 17, 20 & 21****Ash Wed. 12:05 p.m.**

D. Dicke – M. Sommer

Ash Wed. 5:00 p.m.

R. Bertke – S. Bertke

Ash Wed. 7:00 p.m.

D. Freeman – F. Goettemoeller

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

R. Tangeman – A. Thieman

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

G. Topp – J. Eshelman

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

S. McDaniel – D. Knapke

USHERS:**February 17, 20 & 21****Ash Wed. 5:00 p.m.**

D. Champagne – L. Dicke – C. Griesdorn

G. Nosek – W. Steineman

Ash Wed. 7:00 p.m.

D. Anderson – S. Dwenger – J. Kremer

R. Niekamp – T. Wentz

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

D. Alig – P. Heitkamp – L. Lane

M. McClurg – D. Steineman

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

R. Homan – M. Mueller – J. Niekamp

B. Parker – G. Wendeln

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

R. Brandt – B. Kramer – J. Lehman

T. Wenning – R. Ziegenbusch

MASSES:**ACTIVITIES:**

- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
 - CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 - Parish dinner, 12 noon, parish hall
- Mon. - Adult choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. in music room
- Tues. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), 7:30 p.m. in conference room
- Wed. - Soup Supper, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in parish hall
- Thurs. - Finance Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. in conference room
 - Parents First Communion meeting, 7:30 p.m. in parish hall
- Sat. - Men's Prayer Group, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in conference room
 - *Hollywood vs. Faith*, Frank Runyeon, 7:00 p.m. in church
- Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist
 - CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 - Baptism of Mia Michelle, daughter of Jack and Jaime (Ellis) Wellman and William Mack, son of Chad and Teresa [Tess] (Hierholzer) Elshoff, 11:00 a.m.

February 13 to 21**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Ken Jutte**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Living & dec'd. Ontrop-Voskuhl family**10:00 a.m.** Holy Redeemer Parish**Mon. 7:00 p.m.** Rev. John H. Lamott**Tues. 8:30 a.m.** Freda Dirksen.**Wed. 12:05 p.m.** Liturgy of the Word with Ashes**5:00 p.m.** Jan Brockert**7:00 p.m.** Rev. Paul L. Poeppelman**Thurs. 7:00 p.m.** Jerome Wentz**Fri. 8:30 a.m.** Roger Heitkamp**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Special Intention**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Holy Redeemer Parish**10:00 a.m.** Christine Showalter**SERVERS:****February 15 to 21****Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

K. Ahrns – E. Balster

Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

J. Broerman – V. Wilson

Ash Wed. 5:00 p.m.

A. Feltz – J. Rutschilling

Ash Wed. 7:00 p.m.

C. Albers – C. Paul

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

M. Russell – M. Thieman

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

J. Kuenning – O. Meyer

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

D. Kremer – R. Selby

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:**February 20 & 21****Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Joseph & Angela Hamberg family**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Anne & Matthew Hamilton**Sun. 10:00 a.m.** Daniel & Peg Harrod**COLLECTION COUNTERS – February 21**

K. Gruebmeier – J. Moore – G. Schwartz

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**February 21**

Cathi Hall

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FRIST SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13



"Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.
Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied." Lk. 6:20-21