

As we are entering the third week of Lent, how are your penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving going? In Luke's Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. The fig tree does not bear fruit without putting in special effort, such as fertilizer and digging up the ground around it. This is done so that the tree can bear fruit in the future.

Maybe **we are like the fig trees** and need a little **fertilizing** with Scripture and prayer so that we can lead others to Christ. Maybe we can **cultivate the ground** around us by service to others and to God.

We have many Lenten opportunities to **cultivate the soil** in which we are planted. We have Stations of the Cross on Fridays, Soup and Prayer on Wednesdays, and small faith-sharing groups that meet throughout Lent. We have the opportunity to give money to Catholic Relief Services through **Operation Rice Bowl** or to donate items or purchase items from the **Family Life Silent Auction for Charity (weekend of March 13-14)**.

We have many excellent prayer/reflection resources on tables in the Gathering Space, and main entrance to church. We also have a parish bookrack where you can purchase resources to grow in your faith.

The fig tree will bear fruit in the **Sacraments of our Church**. Preparation for the Easter Sacraments is continuing in **RCIA** and in **First Eucharist** (33 children) and **Confirmation** preparation (36 young people). Our Confirmation Retreat is March 13, a whole day of prayer and activities at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue. Lifeteen leaders and teens will be guiding our youth to a better understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in and through our daily lives.

The fig tree that bears fruit may be like our Faith Formation Center. At the end of February parish ministry team leaders, pastoral council and pastoral staff met in our Faith Formation Center building to determine future use of the facility and how it can bring vitality to our parish. Many wonderful ideas surface from the group, and recommendations will be made by finance council and pastoral council to the Pastoral Staff. Final implementation will be determined by the Pastoral Staff and Fr Marty. **I invite you to voice your ideas for uses of our Faith Formation Center by submitting them on paper in our new "suggestion box" that is now located in the Gathering Space Hallway.** As decisions are made, we will continue to inform you. Please pray for the work of the Spirit to be present in our deliberations so "that it (the Faith Formation Center) will bear fruit."

Inferred in the parable of the fig tree is responsibility to change, to do what is necessary so that not only we, but our world will be bettered. In time, we will be called to account for our gifts and the contribution we made toward making the world a better place, one that is more humane and just.

*"Lord, transform us into living witnesses of your Gospel and guide us through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to a deeper awareness of you in each other. For us, Lord, this is a **time of pruning so that we can bear the fruit** of your goodness in every thought, word, and action. Amen. (From The Blessing Cup by R. Travnikar, O.F.M)"*

Cheryl Pawlowski



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: The Owner of the orchard in today's gospel was disappointed with the fig tree and ordered it cut down. When others disappoint us, today's gospel tells us to imitate the gardener. Don't cut them out of your life by silence or ignoring them. Rather give them more time and assistance. Families don't give up on each other. When others reject, family accepts!

NEED OR WANT A "HEARTSAVER AED" CPR CLASS:

The parish nurses are sponsoring a CPR class on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The content covers automated external defibrillator (AED) and CPR for adults, infants, and children. The cost is \$30.00 which is a 25% discount for church members. An American Heart Association Certificate will be given upon completion of the course and is good for 2 years. Deadline for registration is March 11, 2010. Call Flo at 419 626 8604 to register for the class or if you have any questions.

The Family Life Team Silent Auction for Charity will be next weekend, March 13-14, in the Gathering Space. Bids can be made beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday, March 13, and ending at 1:30pm, on Sunday, March 14. Coffee and donuts will be served after the 8:00am and 10:00am Masses, and cookies and coffee will be served after the Saturday 4:30pm Mass and after the 11:45am Mass on Sunday. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and donations for a charitable cause. You will be surprised by the variety of items offered at the Silent Auction.

March 14, 4:30, Holy Angels Church, Evening Vespers with Bishop Blair in honor of the Toledo Diocese Centenary Year. Please mark this on your calendar! All are welcome. Reception to follow in the gym.

Diocese of Toledo 100th Anniversary Book...

There are a limited number of copies of the Diocese 100th Anniversary Book in the Parish Office. The Cost is \$30.00 for a beautiful hard-bound book complete with history of the Diocese, a page dedicated to each of the churches in the Diocese, plus other information. To reserve your copy, call the Parish Office at 419-625-6655.



A Network of over 30 parishioners is praying daily for specific requests. If you have a prayer need call Rita 625-0953 or Yvette 626-9721.

The March WOW Social for widow/widowers will be held on Friday, March 19th, at 6pm in the Juan Diego room at St. Paul Church in Norwalk. The fare for the evening will be Homemade Mac and Cheese and Tuna Casseroles. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship and fun. Hope to see you there. For info, call Diane Wiles at 419-660-5813.

Firelands Montessori Academy is hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 21, 2010 from 8am-12pm at the Elks Lodge at 120 E. Adams in Sandusky. Parishioner Trevah Harvey and her elementary students in grades 4-8 are coordinating the event.

In our Prayers...We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Daniel Killian**, a parishioner who died recently. May warm and treasured memories of the past be their consolation.

Thank You
to our Bulletin Sponsor of the Week
Catholic Cemeteries of Sandusky

SANDUSKY CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Mar. 7: SCCS Open House; 11:00-1:00
 Mar. 11: Mass Grades K-6; Sts. Peter & Paul Church
 Mar. 10: Reconciliation Grades 9-12, 1:45; SMCC
 Mar. 12: No School – Teacher Inservice Day
 Mar. 15-19: OGT Week
 Mar. 26 & 27: SMCC Musical “The Wizard of Oz”; State Theater
 Tickets must be purchased at the State Theater Box Office.
 Sandusky Central Catholic School is having a Scholastic Book Fair on Sunday, Mar. 7th from 11:00-1:00 p.m. The Book Fair will be located in room 12 outside the high school cafeteria. All are welcome to come in and shop for some great bargains!



THE FAMILY LIFE TEAM will sponsor a **Silent Auction for Charity** in March.


We are looking for families to help us by donating items to the auction. If you have questions or items to donate, please call Cheryl Pawlowski at the Parish Office.

All money collected from the auction will go to Catholic Relief Services earmarked for Haiti Relief. Thanks for helping!!

Daughters of Isabella will meet Wed., Mar. 3rd, at 7:00 at St Mary's Commons, 429 Central Ave. for a business meeting. There will be a program about St. Patrick. Refreshments will be served.



Altar Rosary Society monthly meeting is tomorrow, Monday, March 8, Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Program - Health Issues. Chairpersons – Jan Hudson & Judy Leonard.



SANDUSKY LIFE TEEN

"There cannot be anything more profitable, perfect, and blissful in the mind or the heart than the contemplation of God himself."

-Saint Albert the Great

March 7th: Pope Benedict XVI has announced this year to be the “Year for Priests,” Sandusky Life Teen would like to take an evening to honor and celebrate our Priests. Join in for an evening of fun and learn more about what these men who have sacrificed their lives for us are like. Join in and bring your questions!

*****March 14th:** SANDUSKY LIFE TEEN come see the BISHOP! Come to Holy Angels at 4:30pm to celebrate Vespers with Bishop Blair to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Diocese. Stick around after Vespers for the reception and a possible opportunity to meet the Bishop!

March 21st: **THIS LIFE NIGHT IS OPEN TO ANY 8TH GRADER WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN!!!** Someone once said “Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.” The question is, are you being a great friend, or are you gossiping and being unkind to your friends? Come to this life night and examine what it means to be a good friend to your friends, family and Christ.

If you are interested in receiving the Sandusky Life Teen Weekly Updates, please email Brittany at btaylor@sanduskylifeteen.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Readings from the Gather Hymnal #912

Monday, March 8 – Lenten Weekday
 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30

NO NOON MASS

Tuesday, March 9 – Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35

12:00 For the Parish

Wednesday, March 10 - Lenten Weekday

Dt 4:1-9 Mt 5:17-19

12:00 Bella Magi, Debra Manuella & Anthony Samaritoni

5:15 Soup, Bread & Evening Prayer

Thursday, March 11 – Lenten Weekday

Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23

8:15 Fr. Joseph Sudock

12:00 Elko & Mark Sennish, Nancy Hinton & John Losey

Friday, March 12 – Lenten Weekday

Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34

12:00 Charles Wagner

12:30 Anointing of the Sick

6:00 Children's Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13 – Lenten Weekday

Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14

4:30 Guido Venerucci, Dr. Will Dickman (Ann.), John

Hamburger (Ann.) & Barbara Bower

Sunday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10-12/ 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-31-32

8:00 Robert Feltner

10:00 Fr. John Brennan

11:45 Salvatore LaRose

HAVE A HEART FOR HEARTBEAT. Your Social Concerns team is asking for your help with the needs of Heartbeat Pregnancy Center. Collection boxes are out at all entrances to church for your convenience in donating much needed items to help in the care of newborns and new moms. Baby products, such as newborn diapers size 4 & 5, pacifiers, powder, lotion, gowns, bibs, wipes, etc and maybe something for mom such as toiletries and stationary are some suggestions. God bless you for your generosity.



Anyone wishing to remember loved ones on **Easter** should place donation and information (please print clearly) in an envelope marked **Easter Memorial** and place in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Sacrificial Giving
 (Week of 2/28/10)

Sunday Collection: \$10,828.01
 Numbers of Envelopes Returned: 304
 4% of Sunday's collection (\$433.12) went to the Boys & Girls Club