

The Pastor's Corner . . .

The Gospel today is much more than Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. True, Jesus delays his arrival in Bethany until four days after Lazarus's death. This is brought home dramatically by Martha's reaction that "there will be a stench". This did not deter Jesus. He proceeds to call Lazarus out of the tomb and restores him to life.

A careful reading of John's Gospel reveals that this entire episode is really a test of faith. Jesus tests the faith of his disciples and their understanding of his mission. They misunderstand his meaning about Lazarus being "asleep". They misunderstood his reference to his own death.

Mary misunderstood Jesus' message about the resurrection. It was only when her eyes of faith were opened by Jesus that she recognized him as the Christ.

The people that were there misunderstood Jesus' weeping and they were dismayed by his absence when Lazarus was ill. They felt that had Jesus been there he could have used his miraculous powers to save him from death. They had seen or heard of his curing the man blind from birth.

It was only after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead that many began to believe in him. Once again we see that many did not receive Jesus' message until he performed a miracle.

Where is our faith grounded? Do we really understand and accept Jesus' total message? We still have time left in this Lenten season to listen to Jesus' message and make it a real part of our lives.

Peace, Fr. Joe Reinig

We are pleased to announce that Sally Smith, our long-time Volunteer Coordinator, has accepted the position of Office Manager. Please stop by the office and welcome Sally.

St. Francis of Assisi Seniors

Are meeting on March 13 at The Catholic Center. We start with a Potluck Coffee at 10 AM. Please bring a food item to share and your own coffee cup (to save a tree) - coffee/tea and napkins are provided. After announcements about 10:30, there will be a speaker from Hospice.



AROUND ONE TABLE • THE DIOCESAN CHURCH

Consider Hope: "4. We have raised the question: can our encounter with the God who in Christ has shown us his face and opened his heart be for us too not just "informative" but "performative" - that is to say, can it change our lives, so that we know we are redeemed through the hope that it expresses?" ... 8. "life's normal source of security, has been taken away from Christians in the course of persecution. They have stood firm, though, because they considered this material substance to be of little account. They could abandon it because they had found a better "basis" for their existence - a basis that abides, that no one can take away." The word of faith is the "basis", the "substance" that endures and it is the source of authentic hope. It is much more secure and much more durable than the passing fleeting hope which we sometimes put in material things which are things of "substance" but passing nonetheless. May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

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PLEASE NOTE

There will be no 7AM Mass and no morning confessions on March 14, due to the Priests being out of town.

GAIL COON'S NEW CD of Celtic and inspirational music is on sale at the Parish Office with 10% of the proceeds going to the Parish Building Fund. For information call the office, 382-3631

The Benedictine Monks at Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary, invite us to pray their St. Joseph Novena, March 11-19. Packets are located at the entrance of the church.

CHRISM MASS PILGRIMAGE of GRACE RETREAT and CHRISM MASS 2008

All are cordially invited to attend the 4th Annual Chrism Mass Pilgrimage of Grace - Retreat and Chrism Mass 08. St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City, OR. Chrism Mass Retreat begins Sun. Mar. 9 at the 9:30 AM Holy Mass and continues thru Fri., Mar. 14 after the Stations of the Cross at 3 PM. More information on the Retreat in coming weeks. Please make your own lodging reservations. The highlight will be the Chrism Mass on Thursday evening, 7 PM, reception follows in the Cathedral Hall. Come and pray and support your Bishop and priests. For more info please, call Judy Newport 541-923-6946.

EXPLORATIONS IN SPIRITUALITY with Fr. Logan Mon. Mar. 10; 7 PM, at the Catholic Center, in the Faith Development Room. Please read - *The Ambiguous Time after Unambiguous Consolation (Rule 8) Conclusion.*

We will resume Monday, April 14, 7:00PM in the Faith Development Seminar Room at the Catholic Center, and continue through May 19. We will explore the life and spirituality of Mother Teresa of Calcutta with the Book, *Come Be My Light*, available at the Shalom Shop.

Aloha, We are excited to announce the **26th Annual St. Francis School Auction.**

The dinner and auction will be held Fri., May 2, at the Catholic Center. This year's theme is a "Hawaiian Luau" featuring authentic Hawaiian food, drinks, and entertainment by Bill Keale.

Tickets: \$60. To purchase or for info please stop by the School office or call 382-4701.

**"An Evening With the Satellite Sisters"
A Benefit for St. Francis of Assisi School
April 4, 2008**

Tickets are now on sale at St. Francis School

PARISH MINISTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, FINANCIAL UPDATES

RCIA—"Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults"

NEW INQUIRERS - Every Thursday, from 7-8:30 PM, in the RCIA Workroom..



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting Mon., Mar. 10, 6 PM Business & General Meeting 7 PM in the Seminar Room 1. For info call Grand Knight Bob Latham, 382-1927.



Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. Please call George Neal, 388-8481 for dates & place.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

K-5: Mar. 12, 2008 at 4 PM. Class ends at 5:30 PM.
1st Eucharist: Next class Sun., Mar. 9, at 2:30 PM at the Catholic Center.

ALTAR CARE • Mar. 13,14,15- Carol Carroll, Garen McCallister, Faye Mattioda, Sue Keller

LATINO MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Tamales Sales Sun., March 16, after 7:30 AM & 9 AM Masses

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Will gather Sun. March 16, 1 PM, Catholic Center. Newcomers welcome. Info: Greg 388-3212, Mary-Ann 382-1545.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Ladies please join the Altar Society and come to the meeting Tues., Mar. 11, at 7 PM at the Catholic Center in Seminar Room 1. All ladies of the Parish are cordially invited.

Teen Seekers - Get ready for the Eucharist. Classes are the first Saturday of the Month. Teen Seekers 1st Holy Communion Celebration is Saturday, April 5, 5 PM Mass Downtown. Contact Susie, 382-3631 ext. 110 for more details!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Thank you for supporting our Retreat program with a donation on March 9. Next Meeting, Sunday, March 16 at the Downtown Church for Stations of the Cross! Please bring \$10 for dinner. We need 5 Parents for chaperones. God Bless!



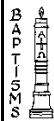
CONFIRMATION

Next Meeting is Wednesday, Mar. 19 at 6:30 PM. Please make sure you sign up for an interview time on Susie's Office Door in the Parish Office - Journals are **MANDATORY AT ALL MEETINGS!**



INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES

The next class will be held Apr. 3, 2008 at 7 PM. Please call the office, 382-3631 to register.



A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives—our gifts as well as our sufferings—can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and others.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY
Youth Ministry gathering is Sun., March 16, after the 5 PM Mass. For more info please email June at youthministry@stfrancisbend.org



"Hospitality Hour" From Stewardship

Sun., Mar. 16 coffee and donuts after the 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM Masses in the Conference Room of the Phoenix Inn; after the 9 AM Mass in the Faith Development Room of the Catholic Center.

ALTAR SOCIETY will be collecting money for the Easter Flowers after all Masses on March 8-9 and March 15-16.

Readings for the week of March 3-9 2008

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mon. Mar. 10- Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11

Tues., Mar. 11- Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30

Wed. Mar. 12- Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42

Thurs., Mar. 13- Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59

Fri., Mar. 14- Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42

Sat., Mar. 15 - Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27&29; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Sat., Mar. 15& Sun., Mar. 16- Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Matthew 26:14-27:66

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Weekly Budgeted Collection	\$17,402.00
Actual Collection 2/24/08	\$14,064.00
Over/(Under)	(\$ 3,338.00)