

**FROM FATHER BILL:** *Just as we celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays, we can use Operation Rice Bowl throughout Lent as a way to break bread together with family and loved ones. We join in the traditional practices of Lent and pray as a community, fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, give concrete assistance to those most in need, while we learn about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. Speaking of breaking bread, I hope to see all of you at our ANNUAL ST. PETER'S CORNED BEEF DINNER this Thursday, March 12. *A Holy Lent!!**

**LENTEN MEALTIME PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, may your holy word and the bounty of this table feed our hearts and bodies and bring us through lent to Easter joy. Amen.

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE USING PSALM 33:22** IS my attitude toward God one of trust? Do I really believe that God's mercy is freely given, or do I think that I have to perform penitential acts in order to "make" God act mercifully? Can I rely on the Lord and not myself.

**A LENTEN MEDITATION:** On a mountain top you meet Moses and Elijah, great prophets whose special relationship with God led people to new life and hope. WHO in your life has a special relationship with God? SPEND time with them this week. GIVE your time to someone who feels far from God. SEIZE the moment – ACT NOW!

**LENT AT OUR PARISHES**

Sunday and Daily Mass  
Friday Stations of the Cross  
Rice Bowl  
Daily Spiritual Activities  
Sacrifice, Fasting and Praying  
Dedication to the "Called To Be Church" Process  
Sacrament of Reconciliation, every Saturday, 3:00 pm at St. Paul's  
Sunday Latin Confessions at St. Peters  
Joint Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service, St. Peters, Thurs., April 2, 6:30 pm  
Making a WEEKLY Silent Holy Hour at St. Paul's Adoration Chapel  
Loving One Another as Jesus Loves Us

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

ST. PETER (LATIN) – following the NOON Mass each Friday except Good Friday.  
ST. PAUL (ENGLISH) – 3:00 PM each Friday except Good Friday.

*RICE BOWLS ARE STILL TO BE FOUND at the entrances of our Church. TAKE ONE!!*

**THIS THURSDAY - SAINT PETER'S CHURCH, TROY, ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER** will be held at the **LYCEUM** (corner of Hutton and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.) on THURSDAY, March 12, 2009 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, *as part of the Parish's 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.* Adult Dinner - \$8.00; Children 12 and under - \$4.00. Proceeds will be donated to JOSEPH HOUSE, Troy. Tickets are being sold before and after Masses at St. Peter's. Phone the Rectory, also, to obtain your tickets – 518 272-2750. The General Public is invited. *Please join us for our last Corned Beef Dinner at St. Peter's!*

**EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES** are to be found in your envelope packet or at the entrances of our Churches. Write, on the envelope, the names of those you wish to be remembered at Easter-time. Please write as clearly as possible. AN EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL LIST WILL BE FOUND IN THE BULLETIN ON EASTER SUNDAY. YOUR ENVELOPE MUST BE IN THE BASKET BY PALM SUNDAY SO THAT WE CAN PRINT ALL THE NAMES AT ONCE. We will not be able to print names submitted after Palm Sunday. Remember your loved one's at EASTER.

**WHAT DOES THE TERM "EASTER DUTY" mean:** Because of the central importance of Easter to the Christian faith, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their **First Communion** receive the Holy Eucharist sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through **Pentecost Sunday**, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the **Sacrament of Penance** before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

**LENT BEGINS WHEN WE SAY, "Help ME, LORD!"**

**SPECIAL THANKS to MASTROIANNI BROTHERS** for providing us with such delicious bread for our **CORNED BEEF DINNER** and for all other parish dinners for the last three years. We are indebted to them and deeply appreciate their support of St. Peter's Church.

*Pray for the souls of Father Paul Bondi & Sheila Harrington. God grant them Eternal Life.*

Catholic Information: 1-800-MY FAITH  
Pro-Life Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE

**CALLED TO BE CHURCH – IMPLEMENTATION PHASE PRAYER:** Loving God, you who are present with us in all of life's moments, make yourself known in these challenging times of parish closure, merger and linkage. Comfort those who mourn. Receive and transform the anger of those who feel powerless. Ease the minds of the fearful. Give wisdom to our leaders and patience and insight to your people. Help us to appreciate the way you are re-creating your Church. Make us partners with you in this effort. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord and brother through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**The Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

**OUR RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS CEREMONY HELD** on February 15, followed by a reception at the Rectory was a well attended, great success thanks to our wonderful St. Peter's 185th Anniversary Team. St. Peter's picked up the tab for this occasion - \$495.61.

**A PRAYER FOR "COOKS":** Dear Lord, as you nourish us with your love, let me prepare this nourishment with you at my side. Give me the joy of being creative and loving, self-sacrificing, and generous. As part of my baptism and my priesthood, let me offer this meal as a religious experience for me and for my family. As I prepare, help me to contemplate the women of the campos, barrios, and villages around the world who are preparing meals today for their families-with great love, and with what they have. Thank you for your love. I now prepare to share it. AMEN!

**CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to THE LITTLE SISTERS of the POOR**, whose foundress, Jeanne Jugan (Sister Marie de la Croix), will be canonized a Saint on October 11, 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's in Rome. Father Bill hopes to attend the Canonization Mass and ceremonies in Rome. You might remember when the Little Sisters of the Poor were located on 9<sup>th</sup> St. in Troy – right smack in the middle of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parishes in Troy.

**SECOND SUNDAY of LENT – the TRANSFIGURATION:** It's all about invitation and response isn't it? The Gospel that is....the Good News of God – it's all about invitation and response! Years earlier Jesus has called Peter, James and John to follow him and they responded, abandoning boats and nets to go where he would lead, to become his disciples, to live for others-and they would never be the same again. So it is with the TRANSFIGURATION. It's all about invitation and response. This time Jesus invites Peter, James and John up onto a mountaintop. There on that mountain with Moses, the law giver and Elijah, the prophet standing at his side, the disciples hear the voice of God, once again, naming Jesus, the beloved. The disciples are transfigured – changed, if you will. They are called now to see Jesus as the one who will bring to fulfillment all that Yaweh, the God of their ancestors, had promised. Jesus is the one who will make all things new. The disciples were invited to live for others-and they would never be the same again. SO IT IS WITH US! IT'S ALL ABOUT INVITATION AND RESPONSE. THE GOSPEL INVITES US TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD NOT ONLY FROM SOME LOFTY CLOUD BUT IN THE VOICES OF THE LEAST AMONG US. We are invited to make a better life for himself, his family and his country.

**PSALM 51 offers guidance for prayer:**

“YOU ARE ALWAYS MERCIFUL! PLEASE WIPE AWAY MY SINS.  
WASH ME CLEAN FROM ALL OF MY SIN AND GUILT.”

**EVANGELIZATION:** The Discipline of Lent.....La Disciplina de Cuaresma.

“WE ADORE YOU O CHRIST and WE PRIASE YOU, BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.”