

GOOD NEWS

March 8, 2009, Second Sunday of Lent
Gn22:1—2,9a 10-13,15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk9:2-10

I've never been good at baseball. I played other sports. Baseball took skills I didn't have. Probably also I didn't practice enough. But those who play well say there are times at the plate when hitters will see the ball. Good hitters work on watching the ball, on timing, on technique. On some occasions, all this concentration comes together in a special way. Sometimes a hitter sees the ball differently. One fellow told me that at those times the ball looks as big as a grapefruit to him. He hits differently. He doesn't think about hitting—he just hits. He's in some sort of "zone."

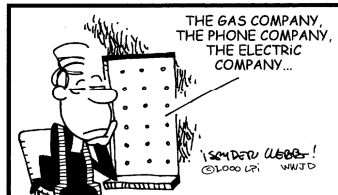
There are other versions of this sort of thing. Maybe it's similar to the "feel" for music a singer gets when her part is practiced so much and so well it takes on a life of its own. She is singing rather than thinking about singing. She is taken up in the music. Singing with others, the harmonies "work" --they aren't strained—they take all of the singers somewhere they could not go by themselves. Musicians get into some sort of "zone" too. Jazz singers talk about being in "the pocket," a place that is sensed and found, not analyzed.

The apostles experienced something unique in Jesus at the transfiguration. Was it like being in the batter's box or the singer's zone? No. Their experience was fuller, more specially graced. Something monumental and spiritually singular—a divine apparition, a special gift—happened on that mountain, and the apostles became part of it.

In Christ, we know his humanness is every bit as human as we are and yet is something profoundly more—it is where God meets us.

So here's another thought. If someone told you he or she had been transformed by one of these experiences, what would it take for you to believe it? What would it take to describe it?

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



THE CARDINAL MAIDA ACADEMY ADDS 7TH GRADE~

The Cardinal Maida Academy, 315 Franklin Avenue, Vandergrift, Pa is now accepting applications for the fall 2009 semester for Preschool to grade 7. CMA offers all day kindergarten, bus transportation (grades 1-7). Library, Art, Music, and PE in a Christian atmosphere. Take advantage of our small class size and hot lunch program. To schedule a personal tour, please contact Mrs. Judy Wright, Admissions Coordinator, or Mr. Tom Stabile, School Principal at 724-568-3304. Tuition assistance available. Space is limited. Open to all denominations.

OBLATES or SAINT BENEDICT ~ a series of monthly classes on Benedictine spirituality will continue on Sunday, March 15 from 3—4:25 p.m. in Brownfield Room 202 of Saint Vincent Seminary. The topic will be "Conversion of Heart (*Conversatio Morum*)" and Fr. John-Mary Tompkins, OSB, chaplain at Latrobe Area Hospital, will be the presenter.

THE OBLATES of SAINT BENEDICT, Latrobe Deanery, will meet at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. The topic of discussion will be the chapter entitled "*Lectio Divina* Holy Reading)" from the book *The Path of Life*. Those wishing to pray Vespers with the monks at 5 p.m. and then stay for supper should contact Fr. Donald at 724-805-2291. Also, Oblates and their guests are welcome to join the monks of the Archabbey for the celebration of the Vigil of the Solemnity of Saint Benedict on Friday, March 20, beginning with a festive Vespers at 4 p.m. For information and registration, contact Chris Karem 724-216-5830 or Fr. Donald.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD February 28 & March 1

- Offertory Collection.....7,309.00
- Children's Collection..... 10.39
- Loose Collection.....339.70
- Ash Wednesday.....1,497.00
- Home Missions of Americas.....1,075.75

May the Lord bless you for your financial sacrifice to your Parish.

MEMORIAL CANDLES

In memory of Arthur & Frances Andring by Mary Ann Ruffner

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS who are hospitalized, invalids or seriously ill at home: Mary Moehring, Margaret Blanciak and all the sick who need our prayers.

IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for the repose of the souls of Dorothy Kovalcik and Al Krauth. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace.

ST. GERTRUDE ROSARY SOCIETY ~ will meet in the church at 6:30 on Tuesday, March 10 for recitation of the Rosary. A meeting will follow in the church hall.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL asks that donate nonperishable food and/or paper products or other sundry items so that Easter baskets can be assembled for needy families. Boxes are located at all church doors. We will, of course, accept monetary donations that can be placed in the Poor Box.

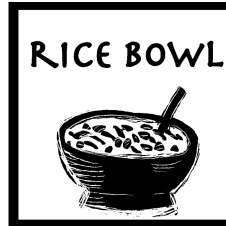
Easter Nut-Roll Sale ~ Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 339 E. 10th Ave. Tarentum, will be holding its Annual Easter Nut Roll Sale on April 1, 2 and 3. Cost is \$10. per roll. Please place your order by calling Lynn, between the hours of 10 a.m. & 8 p.m. at 724-352-0031.

Religious Tours Planned: May 17-25 there will be a tour to Italy ~ in September, 2009, to the Holy Land. A trip to Oberammergau in 2010 is arranged to attend the famous "Passion Play" performed once every ten years. More info call 724-722-3141.

Baking Easter Nut Rolls at St. James, Apollo, on March 30 & 31. \$8. each. Taking orders now by calling Myrtle at 724-727-7553, Bea at 724-478-4280 or Veronica at 724-478-2404.

The Vandergrift Festa Italiana Committee will meet on Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m. at the Bari Social Hall. All officers members and new members, please attend. We are making plans for our 6th annual event. Let's make it another Banner Year for Festa Italiana di Vandergrift.

ST GERTRUDE CEMETERY REMINDER ~ PLEASE PICKUP YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANYTHING LEFT PAST MARCH 28 WILL BE DISCARDED.



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As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that as a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need. The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. May our **fasting** move us to action on behalf of the poor. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about agriculture programs in the Philippines.

Readings for the week of March 8, 2009

- Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10
- Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31
- Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

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Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

CHURCH HALL ~ Sunday
Doors open 5:15 p.m.
Please invite your family & friends.



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Saturday, March 7, Lenten Weekday

4:00 p.m. St. Gertrude Rosary Society

Sunday, March 8, Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

10:30 a.m. †Gene Frederick (An.)

Monday, March 9, Lenten Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Ann Molinaro

Tuesday, March 10, Lenten Weekday

8:30 a.m. †David Vojotaskovic

Wednesday, March 11, Lenten Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Carmella, Ottavio, Bobo Naccarato

Thursday, March 12, Lenten Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Pete, Angelina & Jacint Angiulli

Friday, 13, Lenten Weekday

9:00 a.m. †Mark Retter, Sr.

10 - 12 N. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 14, Lenten Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Frank Paolo (An.)

4:00 p.m. †Joseph A. Petrarca (An.)

Sunday, March 15, Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

10:30 a.m. †James Rametta, Sr.

MARCH 14 & 15

4:00 p.m. ~ Kathryn & Emily Summerville

8:00 a.m. ~ Ashley & Aaron Waner

10:30 a.m. ~ Amy & Eric Bennardo