

dear Padre

March 29, 2009

How can I keep my mind on the rosary?

I just can't keep my mind on my prayers when I say the rosary. I finish a decade, or even the whole thing, and I wonder where I was and what I was thinking of. What's going on?

Distracted

Dear Distracted,

You will never figure it out. When you give yourself over to prayer, even raggedy and distracted prayer, you have jumped into God and, like a swimmer in the ocean, you are in over your head.

The rosary is clearly something to hold on to, *literally* hold on to, like a rope in the ocean. In grave illness or death it will be enough just to clutch the rosary or wordlessly rub the beads.

The rosary is music, a hymn. A woman I knew was unable to keep her mind on her prayers until she began to pay attention to the words. The secret was not in the meaning of each word; it was in the rhythm of beads and quiet words and breathing. This was the music. This was a woman absorbed in her work, lifted by her own soft singing. Afloat on this chant, she could meditate on the mysteries of the rosary: on Jesus' agony, on his birth, on his death, on the glory of his resurrection. The rosary becomes the deep prayer of holy monks and nuns.

A few things in life need repeating: "Please, oh please!" "Thank you. How can I thank you!" "I'm sorry, so sorry." "I love you, love you." Prayer says these same things over and over. Hail Mary, full of grace...Hail Mary, full of grace.

John Hamrogue, C.Ss.R.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

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TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. GERTRUDE'S



thank you so much for the generosity and thoughtfulness that was shown towards me during my recent visit. It was truly an honor to come back to the Church which was so instrumental in fostering my vocation to the Ministerial Priesthood. Please be assured of my daily prayers and the prayers of the people whom I am called to serve.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Jim Sichko

P.O. Box 22872

Lexington, KY 40522

Diocese of Greensburg Annual Lenten Appeal Update ...

to date, \$25,515.00 has been raised toward our Diocesan target of \$38,664 dollars. Your sacrificial gift will be used to fund the various departments of the Diocese that in turn provide services back to the parish. All monies received over the above mentioned target will be given back to the parish 100% to be used for our church restoration projects.

PLEASE HELP ~ we will be cleaning the church on Wednesday, April 8, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, and we need your help. Please bring rags and a pail for water. We would appreciate whatever time you can spare.

Thank you,

St. Gertrude Rosary Society

LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for the 2nd annual Cardinal Maida Academy "Evening Under the Stars" Gala, April 4 at 6—10 p.m. at Lingrow Farm. For tickets call a CMA parent or the school office at 724-568-3304.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

March 21 & 22

Offertory Collection.....	\$5,645.00
Children's Collection.....	7.00
Loose Collection.....	283.00
Utilities.....	241.00

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

MEMORIAL CANDLE

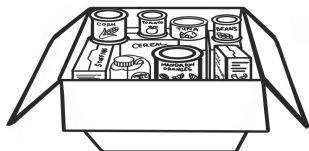
In memory of Ralph & Theresa Zaccagnini by the family

NEXT WEEK, our brothers and sisters representing the **Christian Catholic Families of Bethlehem** will be selling Crucifixes, religious art work and rosaries—all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the holy land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. **Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have “something” authentic from the holy land.** Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS who are hospitalized, invalids or seriously ill at home: Louis Cocco, Domenica Sack, David Charlton, Delphina Milito, Angela Marino, Sophie Williams, Evelyn Race, Taylor “Bebe” Troiano and all the sick who need our prayers.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF Anthony DelleDonne, from our parish and Fr. Geno Rivi, a retired priest of the Diocese of Greensburg. May they Rest in Peace.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brownie Scout Casey Tomiczek who received the Family of God Emblem, presented by Rev. Father Michael Sciberras, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, on Scout Sunday—March 8.

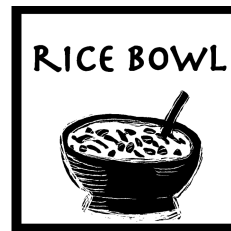


THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL asks that you donate nonperishable food and/or

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE ~ everyone should receive the Sacrament of Penance during the Lenten Season. Four Penance Services have been scheduled in our Region. Several priests will be available at each service. Plan now with your family to attend the Penance Service of your choice.

Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m.~ St. James, Apollo
Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m.~ St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell
Saturday, April 4, 11 a.m. ~ St. Joseph, New Kensington
Monday, April 6, 7 p.m. ~ Christ the King, Leechburg



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As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that human beings are not only sacred, but also social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of the families and communities that are hungry. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about education programming in Ghana.

PHONE TREE FOR PRAYERS, we have parish members who have joined us in our chain of prayers and we will pray for your needs. They will be praying always in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. If you have a request for special prayers, you can begin the “**Phone Tree for Prayers**” by calling Fran Millie 724-568-3044 or Josephine Moliterno 724-567-7359.

Church Hall
Sunday
Doors open
5:15 p.m.
Please invite
your family & friends.



BINGO

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Jn 12:23-24

MASS
INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 28, Lenten Weekday
4:00 p.m. †John Palatella

Sunday, March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
10:30 a.m. †Eugene & Carmie Calderazzo Fam.

Monday, March 30, Lenten Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Anthony & Helen Busofsky &
†Clarence & Agnes Smith

Tuesday, March 31, Lenten Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Vito & Elvira Silvestri (An.)

Wednesday, April 1, Lenten Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Tina "Pomatto" McCready

Thursday, April 2, Lenten Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Francesco Amato (An.)

First Friday, April 3, Lenten Weekday
9:00 a.m. †Leonardo & Rosa Manganello Fam
10 -12 N. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6:30 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, April 4, Lenten Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Lawrence & Caroline Morgante
4:00 p.m. †Jim Dunmire (An.)

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday
8:00 a.m. †Theresa Spang
10:30 a.m. For the Parish & Rosary Society

April 4 & 5

4:00 p.m. ~ Nicole Shannon &
D. Carino
8:00 a.m. ~ Kaitlyn Sciuлло &
A. Pullet



10:30 a.m.. ~ J. Reynolds & Austin Feydt