

At Your Parish...

Sacred Heart Cathedral

The Rosary Guild of Sacred Heart Cathedral will hold its annual card party for the benefit of the School of the Holy Childhood, 8 p.m.,

Friday, April 16, in the parish school hall. Tickets at \$1.25 will be available at the door or may be purchased from guild captains.

St. Margaret Mary

The movie, "Jesus Christ, Superstar," will be shown 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 7, and Good Friday, April 9, at St. Margaret Mary School.

Tickets at \$1 per person and \$3 per family will be available at the door. Proceeds will benefit the parish family ministry office.

Immaculate Conception

Members of the class of 1921 at Immaculate Conception School are planning a reunion. Further information

is available by contacting Mrs. Ruth Provost Hemmerich, 38 Hill Road, Hilton, N.Y. 14468; (716) 392-8263.



St. Boniface

Donald Wiegand, a seventh grader at St. Boniface School, portrays Jesus in the presentation of the "Living Stations of the Cross." According to Rogers Gorman, parish spokesman, the stations will be presented by pupils in grades five through eight, 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 7, in the church.

St. Cecilia

Charismatic Masses have been listed by St. Cecilia's Church, 2732 Culver Road. The Masses are celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Father Donald McCarthy will be the celebrant on April 29; Father Timothy Keating, May 27; Father William Heffron, June 24; Father Frederick La Brecque, July 29; Father Daniel Karl, August 26; Father Robert Gaudio, Sept. 30; Father James Connolly, Oct. 28; Father Robert Collins, Nov.

18. In addition, the Aug. 26 celebration will be a special children's Mass.

St. Bridget

The Youth Ministry office of the Office of Black Ministries will sponsor a special Holy Thursday worship service, 7:30 p.m., April 8, at St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive.

St. Joseph

Penfield — "Spring Fling V," this year's edition of the annual fashion show staged by St. Joseph's Parish Life Committee, will begin at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 24, at Oak Hill Country Club. Tickets are \$10 and entitle the bearer to a noon lunch of coq au vin or beef rouladin. Fashions by Jannel's and Boys Country and hair styles by Hair Zoo will be featured in the show. Further information is available by calling Julie Lareau, 377-5126.

Holy Angels

Nunda — High school students, parishioners at Holy Angels Church, recently attended a three-hour workshop on sexuality, conducted by Father Matthew Kawiak and Sue Sullivan. The program included film and filmstrip sessions, talks by the presenters, and a question and answer period. The workshop was an addition to the students' classes on matrimony and communications which they have been attending all year.

St. Leo

Hilton — The choirs of four churches here, including St. Leo's, will join to present a two-hour sacred concert 7 p.m., Sunday, May 2, in the Hilton High School auditorium.

More than 300 singers and bellringers will participate in the event which will draw the 14 choirs of St. Leo's, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hilton Baptist Church and the United Methodist Church together.

St. Patrick

Victor — A baked food sale recently held by the staff of St. Patrick's School of Religion garnered \$700 for the William Sweet Fund. Sweet, a parishioner, is in California awaiting a heart transplant.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Is Purgatory Really All That Bad?

Has the mission of the Church changed? There seems to be an exclusive emphasis on social and political issues, but great silence about grace and the supernatural.

No. The mission of the Church is constant: to teach, govern, sanctify and save all men; to prepare them for eternal life with God (Mt. 28). Social justice is part of the mission of the Church. But sanctification is a supernatural gift which comes through baptism, faith and charity. The teaching of the Church embraces both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Is purgatory out? I haven't heard a talk on purgatory in years.

What an injustice. You must be in a peculiar parish. Purgatory is part of Catholic teaching (Lumen Gentium of the Second Vatican Council).

I suppose clerics who restrict preaching to political protests, capital punishment, rights and privileges of malefactors and raising money for their pet projects but remain silent about eternal life, grace, hell, purgatory and the redemptive powers of the Mass will be in purgatory with me.

Do you expect to go to purgatory?

Oh, yes. Those sermons at priests' funerals in which the homilist canonizes the deceased give me the willies. I have instructed my funeral homilist to speak on the holiness of Christ in His Church, and in the priesthood, and end up with a reminder to pray for my soul.

I shamefully and willingly hug enough meannesses and sins in my poor soul that I certainly don't want to face

God with them. Rather, I want to be purged into perfect charity through the blood of Our Savior and my own loving repentance. Father Bernard Basset, SJ, gave a retreat to men at the Jesuit Retreat House near Minneapolis last year. The retreat, 14 conferences running 25 minutes each, is on tape cassettes under the title of "A Week-end with Cardinal Newman."

The final conference is on purgatory. First of all, he dispels the notion that the souls in purgatory are engulfed in flames. He gives the history of how this notion came about. In my home parish of Holy Family there is a beautiful stained glass window, made in Munich, with souls in purgatory dismally parked in splendid flames. Father Basset points out that this interpretation of flames is unfortunate and incorrect. And he reminds us that purgatory is also a state of joy and happiness, even with suffering.

This may be a weak parallel: what lovely lady, invited to a posh wedding, should she spill ketchup on the bosom of her silk dress, would want to enter the reception until the stains were cleaned away?

And we who die with stains from our own willfulness, but not bad enough for hell, just want to be purged and presentable before entering before God.

Remember the woman caught in adultery who was brought to Jesus? He dismissed her saying, "Go and sin no more." What if she did lapse? Do you think she would want to go before God unpurged? Thanks to her weakness, God would hardly send her to eternal punishment; but in His justice and her own charity, purgatory would be a wonderful preparation for heaven.

(Any who want the album, "A Week-end with Cardinal Newman," are asked to send a check for \$34.95 to: Holy Trinity Church, 1460 Ridge Road, East, Webster, N.Y. 14580.)

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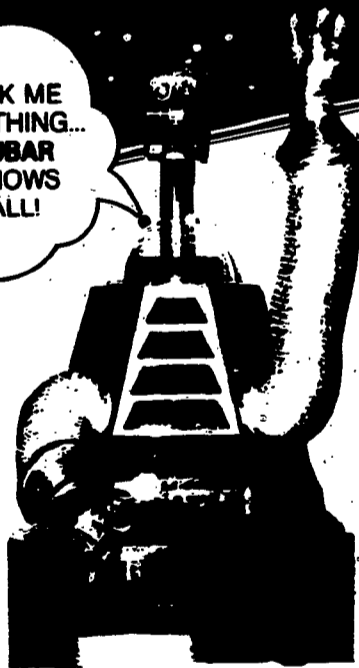
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SHOWTIMES

12 to 3, 6:30 to 8

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