

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Thomas Apostle

Father William Most, nationally known Scripture scholar, will give a public lecture on the teaching of the Church on Scriptures, with emphasis on current questions of interpretation, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The day following, Father Most will address priests on the question of "The Conscientiousness of Christ," 1:30 p.m. The event is part of the parish's celebration of the Holy Year.

St. Charles

A concert to benefit the Brazilian mission work of Father Tom Brown, OMI, will be held 1:30-6 p.m. Sunday February, 26 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Center, 3003 Dewey Ave, Greece. Entertainers will include "Mulligan, Miller and Dolan," Al Rehn, and the Hibernian Ceili Dancers. Admissions is \$3; \$2 for students, and children under 12 free. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Tickets are available by calling Emmett Neary (865-0992), or Beverly Lorenzo (663-5110), or at the door.

St. Philip Neri

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri Church will hold its annual tureen supper, followed by a white elephant sale, 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass and a \$1 donation for meat. Members not wishing to bring a dish are asked to pay \$3. Chairperson for the supper is Joanne Comiskey. Items for the sale should be brought to the school hall that same evening. Auctioneer is Tom Davis.

St. Andrew

The annual St. Andrew's Church and School recognition dinner for staff and volunteers held recently was termed a "huge success," by Joyce Kirk, school spokesperson. An estimated 150 turned out for the dinner, which featured a great variety of foods. "The greatest feature and the most often joked about was the Jello mold, which had not yet set by the time of the dinner. Even with this minor problem, a great time was had by all," she said. The theme of the evening was "the 'Rainbow Connection,' a blend of all colors and of all people with one ideal, to make things work effectively towards a common goal. . . the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. . . whatever and wherever that may be," she said.

Roman Catholic Melkite Rite Church. Entertainment and a variety of card games will follow the supper. The menu includes M'jadra, a dish of lentils, rice and onions; Lift, pickled turnips; olives, Lebanese bread, cabbage and garden salads, Arabic coffee, American coffee, desserts and Mahmoul, soft and hard drinks. Assisting in the preparation and serving of the dinner will be George Abou Harb and Riad Waheibi, cochairmen; Evelyn Mack, Thelma Crescenzi, Irene Tirana, Mary Ellen Abou Eid, Amahl Haddad and Christine Nesser. Entertainers for the evening will be Bill Abou Eid on drums and Riad Waheibi. Tickets for the event are \$5 and are obtained by calling Harb at 342-8064, or Father Salem Faddoul, pastor, 467-5690. Proceeds are for the parish renovation and maintenance fund.

country furniture, primitives, glass and accessories. Homemade lunches and dinners will be available.

Assumption

Fairport — Girl Scout Sunday will be celebrated at the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Sunday, March 4 at the Church of the Assumption. All Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Senior Scouts and their families have been invited to attend together, as the parish pays tribute to the Girl Scouts.

St. Catherine

Ithaca — Angela Gallo, diocesan director of Ministry to the Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics, will speak 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 29 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center, off Hanshaw Road.

Good Shepherd

Henrietta — A Christian Stewardship Program will be launched Feb. 29 at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The census part of the program, which includes asking for a 15-month commitment of "time, talent and treasure," from each family and/or single adult, will conclude March 6. More than 2,000 families will be contacted in this phase of the program.

St. Stephen

Geneva — A ziti supper, sponsored by the St. Stephen Parish Life Committee, will be served 6-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24 at the K. of C. Hall. Take out service will be available 5-6 p.m. Prepared by Frank and Ann Monaco, the dinner will feature ziti, meatballs, salad, Italian bread, cookies and beverages. Tickets are \$3 for adults; \$2.50 for senior citizens; and \$1.50 for children. The event is open to the public.

Holy Cross

The Rosary Society's 14th annual Antique Show and Sale for Holy Cross Church will be held 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, March 3; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, March 4 in the school auditorium. Among the goods to be offered by 34 dealers will be

St. Francis of Assisi

A holy hour, sponsored by the People's Eucharistic League, will be 7-8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, the corner of Orange and Whitney streets. The public is invited.

St. Anne

Palmyra — Parishioners at St. Anne's Church will celebrate St. Patrick at a dinner-dance, 7 p.m., Saturday, March 10 in the church hall. Providing music will be "The Flyin' Column." Tickets at \$7.50 per person are obtained at the rectory or from Russ and Rita Goebert (597-5365), Bobbie and Paul Kukuvka (597-6832), Chuck Richardson (597-8972) or Pete Rutkowski (597-2361). The party is BYOB with beer and setups provided.

St. Andrew

The Rosary Society at St. Andrew's Church will meet 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the school cafeteria. A pizza party and election of officers will be featured. Mrs. Mary Gaul and Kim May will be hostesses for the event.

St. Nicholas

A special lentil dinner featuring Arabic foods will be served 6-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at St. Nicholas

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Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Father Will Never Forget Us

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 6/24-34. (R1) Is. 49/14-15. (R2) 1 Cor. 4/1-5.

When Judah had been in exile in Babylon for over two score years, they fell into depression and despair. Their life had collapsed. The people could see no future. They were in the dark night that tries the soul, and they could see no dawn. They groaned that God Himself had abandoned them, and so they were at the tender mercies of a harsh and cruel world. They felt God had forgotten them and so there was no hope for a better life to come. They had only their own human resources on which to rely, and these were not sufficient for the situation confronting them. Nobody loved them. Life had become unbearable.

It was at this precise point -- the nadir of Judah's hopes -- that God sent the prophet, Second-Isaiah, to console His people. Hard as it might seem to believe, the prophet told Judah that God had neither forsaken them nor forgotten them. "Can a mother forget her infant?" Isaiah reassured them. "Even should she forget, I will never forget you."

In the Old Testament the two major covenant images are the relationship between husband and wife and the relationship between parent and child. These two images illustrate that the covenant was something more than a legal contract. Rather, it established a blood relationship (hence ratified by blood) -- a relationship of love and fidelity. Often the image of parent-child portrays God as father. Isaiah in next Sunday's first reading portrays Him as mother.

Look at the way a mother acts with her child. Does she forget its needs? Is she too busy to care for it? A mother breast-feeding a baby cannot forget the child for more than a few hours. After that time her own body reminds her that somewhere there is a child waiting to be fed. Her breasts ache with fullness and call her to remember her child's hunger. God's memory has to be at least like that. God is so full with what can satisfy our lack that it hurts Him, so to speak, not to be able to give. A nursing mother separated from her baby remembers the child not just with her mind but with her whole self, with her body that so wants to give. Is that not how it is with God -- so full of goodness that He "needs" to give?

Even a nursing mother can forget her body for a while: for after the baby nurses, her supply is depleted, and until her breasts fill again, she has no need to give suck. However, no matter how much we drink in, God's graces are never depleted. Always He is full, and His fullness which needs our need constantly reminds God of us.

Still there are mothers who do not love their children. There are some mothers, sad to say, who abuse their children; some who even kill the infant of their womb. "Even should she forget, I will never forget you." God has given us His word, and it will never be taken back. I will never forget you -- that means us too.

However, God's relationship to us implies an obligation on our part. Matthew's gospel clearly spells out the obligation. If God's love and fidelity endures through exile and desolation, then God's children must live in a trust of God stronger than the cares and tensions of everyday life. "Rest in God alone, my soul" (Response).

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