



CROSSROADS III

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

March			
24	9:00 am	St. James, Rochester	Visit and Eucharist
27	am	Southeast Region	Day of Reflection

Fifth Week of Lent

Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34. Hebrews 5:7-9. John 12:20-33.

Jeremiah's message of "placing my law within them, and write it upon their hearts" is a shift of understanding of God's activity. Previously, the Hebrews looked for signs of hope from without — external signs. God was witnessed as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Jeremiah summoned the people to an inward vision. Look within your hearts.

John's Gospel furthers this concept when he writes of the seed dying in order to give life. The coming of Jesus and his universal message of love calls the people to discern within themselves the direction of God's Spirit. The strong temptation for first century Christians was to seek outside direction rather than perceive the inward message of hope.

Our Lenten journey intensifies as Christians enter deeply into the spirit of the season. The outward experiences of charity, fasting, almsgiving and prayer must initiate inward renewal and conversion. The secret of Lent's call to a deeper relationship with God is once again related.

Project:

1. pray for those who will be baptized and/or confirmed at the Easter Vigil;
2. visit, listen to and pray with someone who is in a nursing home or hospital — broken but healing, life rising from the dead;
3. read this week's scripture, listen to the voice of God.

Parish Lenten Programs

St. Andrew

The Rosary Society of St. Andrew's Church will meet for an evening of recollection, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 26 in the church. Mrs. Catherine Tedone, president, will be in charge of the event. The evening's theme will be the Easter Vigil.

St. Ambrose

The theme for the upcoming Parish Renewal at St. Ambrose will be "Happiness is the Lord." The event will run 7-10 p.m., March 24 through 29. Topics will include, "Why Renewal?" "Who Is Jesus in My Life?" "Who Is Jesus?" Who Am

I?" "What Is Prayer?" "Christian Family," "Who Is the Church?" and "Sacraments." The final evening will include a sharing supper. Past participants have been invited to the closing Mass, 8 p.m., Friday, March 29. Persons wishing to register for the event are asked to call Patrino Ragone, 288-0197; Elena Roman, 288-5544; or the rectory, 288-5000.

St. Salome

The parish community of St. Salome's Church has scheduled a Week of Renewal, March 24 through 29. Father Bonaventure Stefun OFM of St. Mary's Friary in Herman, Pa., will preside and preach at the liturgies and services. The renewal's theme is "Growth in the Life of the Lord." A parish release stated: "Since Lent is the special season for understanding and intensifying our life in the Lord, the Week of Renewal will give the people a better opportunity to draw closer to the Lord and thus celebrate more fruitfully the great solemnity of Easter." No parish meetings or activities are scheduled for the week so as to minimize distractions from the renewal, the parish release said.

Perpetual Help

Parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will participate in a Renewal and Reconciliation Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23 in the parish school. Speakers for the event include Father James Hewes, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, on "God's Call;" Mrs. Stephanie Batterman, adult religious education coordinator at Assumption of Our Lady Church in Fairport, "Response to God's Call;" Father Daniel Condon, associate of St. Joseph's in Penfield, "Prayer and Grace;" Deacon and Mrs. Leo Kester, Holy Trinity in Webster, "Witness Perseverance;" Father John Hedges, pastor of St. Helen's Church, "Sacramentals;" and Father

Andrew Grzela, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, "Eucharist." The program will also include Mass, a penance service, time for meditation and socializing and meals.

Precious Blood

A tithe of the Lenten Sunday collections at Most Precious Blood Church be given to a number of charities, including Precious Blood Missions, St. Martin's Place, St. Michael's Woodshop, Adorers of the Blood of Christ Mission, Bethany House, Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, and the parish human development committee. In addition, profits from a Feb. 20 bread and soup supper will be distributed to the agencies.

St. Theodore

A passion play entitled, "The Way of the Cross," will be presented by students from Bishop Grimes High School in East Syracuse, 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 29 at St. Theodore's Church. The church is wheel-chair accessible, and the program will be interpreted for the hearing-impaired. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

St. Joseph

Rush — Parishioners at St. Joseph's will take part in a Renewal, 7:15-10 p.m., March 24-29. The theme of the event is "In His Image." Speakers and topics include Father Richard O'Connell, "Why Renewal;" Sister Rita Kaufman RSM, "Who Is Jesus, Who Am I;" Sister Margaret Mary Mattie RSM, "Prayer and the Word;" Father Sebastian Falcone, "Who is the Church?" and "Sacraments;" Joe and Mary Ellen Fitzgibbons, "Christian Family;" and John Schmitt, "The Call to Commitment." The closing night of the renewal, the high school youth group will perform a play entitled "Living Your Beliefs." The premise of the play is, "If you were arrested for being a

Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

St. Stephen

Geneva — Parishioners of St. Stephen Church are taking part in a week of spiritual study, love, penance and prayer through March 22. The program, under the general theme, "Our Growth in the Life of the Lord," opened at the 5:30 p.m. Mass last Saturday. Remaining events scheduled include: (March 20) "God's Gift to the World," Mass, 12:10 p.m.; "Four Ways to Find Jesus," Mass, 7:30 p.m.; "Who Is the Jesus We Love," talk, 8:30 p.m.; (March 21, a day of Adoration) "Sin Blocks out God's Gift," Mass, 12:10 p.m.; "Sins of Weakness, Sins of Strength," Mass, 7:30 p.m.;

(March 22) "Ongoing Yes of Life," Mass, 12:10 p.m.; "Faith Shares the Lord's Life," Mass, 7:30 p.m.; "The Church Is Christ's Body," talk, 8:30 p.m. The schedule also calls for question-and-answer sessions during the evening program, and for confessions on Thursday.

Single Parents

DePaul Mental Health Services will offer Single Parenting Groups for all single parents and children. Adult groups and children's groups will meet on a regular basis. The program is sponsored by a grant from the City of Rochester. There will be no fee involved to participants. Persons interested are asked to contact Joan E. Tannous, associate director of DePaul Clinic 436-4840.

St. Michael's OLPH St. Stanislaus Holy Redeemer

Landmark Churches

Four diocesan churches in northeast Rochester are on the itinerary of a special historic bus tour planned by the Landmark Society of Western New York Sunday, March 24.

The society's recent building survey of the 14621 neighborhood revealed a vast diversity of architectural styles and periods, said Cynthia Howk, Landmark neighborhood conservation coordinator. "This area's churches illustrate that diversity," she said, "and reflect the various immigrant populations that settled in northeast Rochester at the turn of the century."

The bus tour will leave from the Brewster-Burke House, 130 Spring St., at 1 p.m. and return at 5 p.m. The tour will visit St. Michael's, 865 N. Clinton Ave.; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1089 Joseph Ave.; Holy Redeemer, 634 Joseph Ave.; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1015 St. Paul St., and St. Stanislaus, 1124 Hudson Ave.

The tour is open to the public at \$6 per person. Reservations are available through 546-7029.

Insights In Liturgy

By Sister Seraphine Herbst SSJ

Signs Of Hope

Pam Schaeffer of the diocesan Liturgy Office called me and asked if I would write an article on the signs of hope which I encounter each day in my ministry. I agreed and then found myself, for the next two weeks, thinking of different ways I could tell you about the beautiful children and adults at the School of the Holy Childhood.

Let me say first, that it has been such a privilege to work with these special people for many years. The School of the Holy Childhood is presently serving 102 mentally retarded children and 48 adults. We always refer to them as exceptional or special because that is what they are. They are special because daily they reaching forth in love, in hope and in joy. So many times people have said it must be depressing to work with these children. If only they knew the great joy that we experience every day in our school. Our children and adults are beacons of hope. Despite whatever handicap they may have, and some of them have many — mental retardation, seizure disorders, cardiac impairment, severe speech impairment — they constantly strive to do the best they can in whatever we ask. They are simple in their approach and yet they are filled with God's love and joy, and generously pass that on to everyone they meet.

It's so easy for us to say, "I can't" — "I can't do this or I can't do that." Those words don't seem to be in the vocabulary of our special children and adults. They try! They try to speak, they try to read, they try to print, they try to make change, and they are always trying to be better people, the best they can possibly be. You may ask why, with all they have to overcome, do they continue to hope? I think the answer lies in their simple faith. They believe in God's power and in God's love and they rely upon that. They have taught me more about the gospel and even about human relations than many great books. For this, all of us at Holy Childhood are truly grateful. We have seen Jesus in them. We have seen Jesus radiating goodness, we have seen the mirror of purity, we have seen Jesus meek and humble, and many times we have seen Him suffering.

May the signs we see in these special children be beacons of hope to us as we try to draw closer to our God during this Lenten season.

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