## PACHRISTINEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie February 2015

## FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN LEART MONTH

Ask Yourself These Three Ouestions

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## DON'T TAKE LENT FOR GRANTED

Parish Director, Vicki Klima, tells us the time for repentance is NOW.

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#### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

#### **Mass Schedule**

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses. Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

#### Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am

Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow

Wednesdays 6:00pm Thursdays 6:45am Fridays 8:30am

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners, but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communications Specialist, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.





Lent Begins February 18



















## BEFORE I FORGET...



**Fr. Bill Murtaugh** Pastor

THE ONLY FORCE I

BELIEVE IN IS PRAYER.

-FLANNERY O'CONNOR

A FEW YEARS AGO there was a fabricated tale about a priest walking through the city at night when a robber sticks a gun in his side and demands money. When the priest unzips his coat to get his wallet, the robber sees his collar and begins to apologize. "Forget it," he mutters. "I didn't know you were a padre." Then the priest takes out his cigarettes and offers him one. Incredibly the man refuses and says, "Oh, no, Father, I gave them up for Lent."

Lent can be dud or diamond, trivia or treasure. It's a personal choice, an investment in one's relationship with the one we call God. The sacred scriptures invite us to give our best to God, following the example of Jesus.

This year we being the season of Lent on February 18, Ash Wednesday. The traditional elements of our Lenten observance will no doubt be the same as in years past. Of course! But can't it also be new as well? Our word "I ent" comes from an old English word which means "springtime." Obviously we're not talking about the weather here. Instead our Lenten "springtime" should reach far and deep into our souls. There our spirits cry out for nourishment that cannot be bought or sold. And God is near us all the time to offer nourishment. But let's be honest. We may already think

that Lent 2015 will be the same old, same old. It shouldn't be. It can't be. We just can't waste another opportunity to bring "new life" into the personal relationships we are invited to have with God. We are called to know and love God. This God that Jesus talked about wants a living, thriving, give-and-take, day-by-day relationship with each of us. God never gives up on any one of us. That's a "springtime" worth celebrating.

Our twenty-first century
Western culture revels in
instant gratification, the easy
fix. We want answers, our
entertainment, our sense of
personal fulfillment, and we
want it now. The idea that
something worthwhile might
require an effort on our part or
take a long time to develop is not
only uncomfortable for some,
but condemned as suspicious or
morally questionable by those
who like to think they have all
the answers.

Our consumer mentality spills over into religion and spirituality. We want our faith in a simple, easy-to-understand, instantly accessible formula. Jesus' life-transforming call to "follow me" has been warped by many churches and TV evangelists into a smorgasbord of methods for achieving wealth, health, and victory in a few painless and mindlessly easy steps.

Many churches use the phrase "born again" to indicate that a person is a Christian. Although we hear this term frequently, even in our families and circle of friends, the concept of being born again is essentially based on mistranslation.

The phrase comes from John 3:3. While some biblical translations have Jesus telling Nicodemus that he must be "born again," the more accurate translation has Jesus telling Nicodemus that he must be born "from above."

This mistranslation has led to two very different approaches to the spiritual life. Being born again (most often used by evangelical Christians) has come to mean a once-andfor-all experience of God's grace and love. If used as a first step in a life's journey of faith, being born again can be a helpful experience and concept. But Jesus never said you have to be born again. He said you have to be born "from above." Being born from above implies a journey, a process, an orientation, a way of life. As Catholics we believe we are always on the way to becoming Christians.

The Christian life is a life-long journey from the day of baptism to the day of death. Anytime we think the journey is over and we have finally achieved the truth,



we become dogmatic and begin to defend the truth, as we see the truth, against all who think differently. The Christian life is never complete. It is ultimately a journey into the mystery of God. Our starting point into the mystery of God begins with the faith tradition that is native to us. For you and me, this would be the Christian tradition. Jesus becomes the doorway, the point of entry. So we enter into the journey through our Christian tradition, especially by living the teachings of Jesus.

The late great author, Maya Angelou, speaks to the lifelong journey of faith. She says, "I'm startled or taken aback when people walk up to me and tell me they are Christians. My first response is the question, 'Already?'" Arriving at some point of spiritual completion is unlikely for most of us. Besides making us totally insufferable, this view prevents us from looking at ourselves critically, learning from other faith traditions, or even reading the Bible with openness, thoughtfulness, and the critical thought necessary to help us on the journey. The Word of God, St. Paul told us, is active and alive; it probes the mind and heart, and helps us grow!

As Catholics, we believe we are born again in the waters of baptism. And all of life is learning to live our baptismal

calling. The primary purpose of Lent is a time of preparation to renew our baptismal vows on the great feast of Easter. Our Catholic formula for salvation is NOT a once-and-for-all decision, but we see it as a lifelong process of transformation.

Relying solely on doctrines and dogma passed on from others has seldom been a satisfying exercise for those longing for something deeper spiritually or thought-provoking theologically. To not ask questions is tantamount to forfeiting one's own spiritual birthright and allowing other people's experience of the Divine to define your experience. The theologian Paul Tillich once said: "Everyone seeks answers, mostly to questions that are not very important. The great concern in life should be to discover which are the right questions. Then, even if you rarely get answers, you are at least journeying in the right direction." On any authentic spiritual journey, asking hard questions is not only permitted, but necessary.

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, we read the gospel story of Jesus being tested by the Evil One for forty days. We are reminded that in almost every story of a great hero, there is an ordeal or a test that must be passed before the



hero's adventure can begin. Before He could start His public adventure, Jesus felt the Spirit leading Him away from the crowds, away from the cities, and away from the fertile Jordan Valley, out into the solitude of the harsh, dry, barren Judean desert.

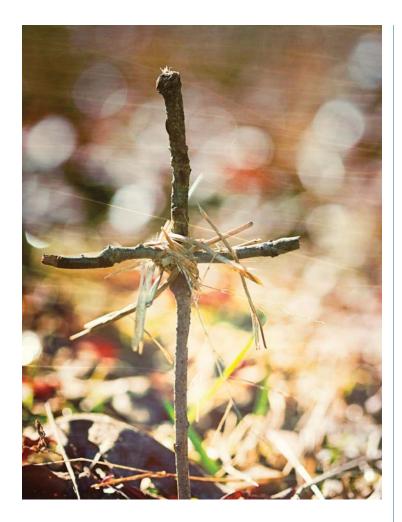
The desert experience of Jesus was a time of preparation for his great work. If we want to identify with Jesus in the work of the gospel, we must face our own inner demons and discover that we too, like Jesus, are empowered by the Spirit.

Jesus began to invite select individuals to be His followers. This was an important decision for those invited to follow Him. To become a disciple of a rabbi meant change, learning a new way to live life, a new set of values. It meant leaving behind the comforts of home and facing new danger. Once they were fully apprenticed

as disciples, they would be sent out to spread the rabbi's controversial and challenging message. One did not say YES to discipleship lightly.

We are more familiar with the word Christian than the word discipleship. Today there are all kinds of people who call themselves Christians, but they would easily disagree with Jesus and His teachings, and would call Him too liberal or radical to be a good Christian. It's time to rediscover the challenge of the earlier, more primary word disciple. The word disciple appears over 250 times in the New Testament, while the word Christian appears only three times.

To be alive in the adventure of Jesus is to hear the challenging good news of today and to receive the thrilling invitation to follow Him. This Lent, in silence, imagine Jesus calling your name and saying, "Follow me."



## DON'T TAKE LENT FOR GRANTED

TAKE FOR GRANTED (VERB – TRANSLATION):

EXPECTING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING TO BE ALWAYS

AVAILABLE TO SERVE IN SOME WAY WITHOUT THANKS

OR RECOGNITION.

DO YOU EVER take things for granted? In the midst of our hectic lifestyles, it is easy to take things and people for granted. "I don't have to take the car in for an oil change yet. I'm only a few months over the recommended date." "I never reconcile my checkbook. I always have money in there." "I don't have time for that person just now. I'm too busy."

"It can wait," until it can't wait anymore. The car breaks down, the checking account is overdrawn, the relationship collapses, and there are countless other examples of not paying close enough attention to something or someone until it is too late to avoid unwanted consequences.

Do you ever take God for granted? If you're like most people, if you're like me, your prayer life increases when you are troubled by something. We are good at coming to God when we feel a need. But when life is humming along without any major blips, we can take God for granted. We can let our schedules rule our lives; we're just too busy to take time, to make time for God.

THANK GOD FOR LENT. It comes along reminding us to take a sharp look at our relationships with God. We ask: "How can I draw closer to God? What is getting in the way of my relationship with God? What can I do to deepen that relationship with God?" We are entering a Lenten journey which gives us 40 days to make things right, to make a habit of spending more time with God.

We know that God has told us to love one another. We also want to look at how we relate to the people around us spouse, other family, neighbors, friends, coworkers, and strangers. Those relationships need consideration. Who do we take for granted? Who are we ignoring? Who do we hold a grudge against? Does anyone hold a grudge against us? When are we unkind or thoughtless, judgmental or negative, jealous or spiteful? Do we always put our own needs ahead of others' needs? Lent is a time to examine the way we treat others.



# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ON ASH WEDNESDAY



#### **JOEL 2:12-18**

The prophet Joel tells us that the Lord God is saying, "Even now, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning." Yes, repent for the sins of the past, and NOW come back to God with our whole heart. Do not allow ourselves to have a divided heart, running after this pleasure or that satisfaction. We set our hearts on our merciful God.

**FOR REFLECTION:** What divides my heart? What would be the result of putting God first in my life?

#### **PSALM 51**

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned."

Psalm 51 is a great prayer of repentance. King David wrote this psalm after committing a grievous sin. David arranged for a certain man to be killed in battle. The man was the husband of a woman he was in love with, Bathsheba. We can use Psalm 51 as a prayer in our own lives to ask God for forgiveness.



#### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:2

Saint Paul says, "Be reconciled with God," . . . because "NOW is the day of salvation." Again, there is an urgency expressed that we should work on our relationship with God NOW. Don't put it off until the timing is better. "I'll get around to it after this project is over." We also need to work on being reconciled with one another. Now is a good time to resolve differences, forgive old offensives, forget petty quarrels, and let go of hostility and strife. If not now, when?

**FOR REFLECTION:** Who rubs me the wrong way? With whom am I feuding? What can I do to be at peace with the people in my life?

#### MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-18

In this gospel, St. Matthew gives us three methods to get closer to God. He says:

"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you."

"When you pray," do not stand where others may see you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy."

The first thing to note is that Matthew never says "if" you do these things. He says "when" you do these things. It is a given that we will participate in almsgiving, prayer, and fasting.

The next thing to understand is that we shouldn't be parading our good deeds so that everyone knows we are doing them. We shouldn't do good deeds because we want to be admired by others. God knows our actions and our motivations. Matthew says that God will repay us for our good acts. God's opinion is the only one that matters.

**FOR REFLECTION:** How can I integrate prayer, fasting, and almsgiving into my life each day of Lent?



#### LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

eating to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of a single day and prohibits eating between meals for Catholics beginning at age 18 until their 59th birthday. Pregnant women and people who are sick are not obligated to fast. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**ABSTINENCE:** Catholics older than 14 years of age may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday or on any Friday of Lent.

## PRAYER: SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

THERE are many forms of prayer and all of them are acceptable. We carve out time for prayer, reflection, spiritual reading, and whatever else brings us closer to God. We spend time with God in a prayer nook at home, in church, through nature, while driving, while waiting on hold on the phone, or whatever works for us. A relationship doesn't grow unless time is spent together. Through prayer, we align our thoughts with God's thoughts.

# FASTING: DENYING OURSELVES SOMETHING THAT WE WANT

**WE MIGHT** fast from a certain food or from a certain amount of food. We put aside our own physical wants, and the hunger we experience can remind us of our hunger for God. It can also unite us with the poor. Fasting can be setting aside the desire for something other than food. We can fast from things that are not bad in themselves but are getting in the way of our relationships with God or others. We could fast from technology, television, a hobby, an expensive purchase, or just wasting time.

# ALMSGIVING: GIVING AWAY SOMETHING TO SOMEONE LESS FORTUNATE

**ALMSGIVING** or charity is a way of giving back to God in thanksgiving for our blessings. All that we have comes from God. We share that abundance with those in need. Giving alms takes us out of our obsession with our own lives and helps us look outside ourselves. Almsgiving stretches us so we can enlarge our hearts and invite others into our lives. If we cannot give money, we might be able to offer our time and talents to someone who needs our help.

#### IN SUMMARY:

WE'RE honing the good habits of discipleship, turning away from those things that have led us to stray, and realigning ourselves with Christ. We're preparing to recommit ourselves. With renewed hearts, we will again answer "I do" to the promises of baptism at Easter. Put these three disciplines into practice for the six weeks of Lent, and they might become habits that continue throughout the rest of the year.

#### WE ARE THE CHURCH: REMAINING DYNAMIC AMIDST CHAOS

Pax Christi Lenten Retreat Day • March 21, 8:30am-3:30pm

Led by a Christian Brother from Chicago, Brother Jim Zullo will help us reflect on how we move forward as a church despite difficulties within our parish and within the archdiocese. How can we invigorate our faith community? How can we grow as disciples and not use the status quo as our default? The suggested fee is \$15.00. Complete details and registration at www.paxchristi.com.

# SUNDAY READINGS FOR LENT:

## REFLECT ON THE LENTEN READINGS BEFORE ATTENDING MASS EACH WEEK



#### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 22, 2015

READ: GENESIS 9:8-15; PSALM 25; 1 PETER 3:18-22; MARK 1:12-15

Take courage knowing that Jesus was tempted and so can understand when we are tempted. We can reflect on the temptations in our lives and bring them to God with the prayer: "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil."

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 1, 2015

READ: GENESIS 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18; PSALM 116; ROMANS 8:31B-34; MARK 9:2-10

Jesus appears "transfigured" and speaks with Moses and Elijah. Moses represents the law and Elijah represents the prophets. Jesus reveals His divinity and shows that He has come to fulfill everything in the law and the prophets. God says, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." How do we follow this command to listen to Jesus? We listen through prayer, scripture, and reflection.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 8, 2015

READ: EXODUS 20:1-7; PSALM 19; 1 COR. 1:22-25; JOHN 2:13-25

Jesus tells the people to stop making the house of worship into a marketplace, a practice He thought was a misuse of the temple, though not against the Jewish law. In what instances of our lives do we obey the letter of the law, but we do not obey the spirit of the law? How can we make our actions authentic and match our values and beliefs? Then, Jesus says that the temple of His body will be destroyed and raised up in three days, predicting His death and resurrection.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 15, 2015

READ: 2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23; PSALM 137; EPH. 2:4-10; JOHN 3:14-21

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." Salvation is a gift. What situations, attitudes, or relationships do we need to be saved from? What are we being saved for? Jesus is the light that exposes wickedness. What parts of our lives are in darkness; where do we need the light of Christ to shine?

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 22, 2015

READ: JEREMIAH 31:31-34; PSALM 51; HEBREWS 5:7-9; JOHN 12:20-33

Jesus knows that His death, like a seed that is planted, will produce much fruit. He will be glorified. In what ways do we have to die to ourselves in order to become something else? Jesus will be lifted up from the earth onto a cross. In what ways do we share the cross of Christ?



## GRACING LIFE DURING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY





LENT IS A SUMMONS
TO LIVE ANEW.

–JOAN CHITTISTER

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is just a few weeks away, and we may be in the pondering stages of how we would like our Lent to look and how it may be defined. The Church invites us to consider an integration of the three disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. One simple definition of prayer is "talking and listening to God." Prayer takes time and a deliberate intent to communicate with God and to avail ourselves to the opportunity of what may be heard in that communication. Richard Rohr, in his book, The Price of Peoplehood, gives some helpful guidance to the person who prays:

The most simple rule for good prayer is honesty and humility. One can never go wrong with these two. Talk honestly to God. Don't give God the self you think you're supposed to be. Give God yourself in your nakedness, who you really are, even if that means giving God your anger or distractions.

We used to try to avoid distractions. But it's much better to use our distractions. If you're obsessed with a thought all afternoon, that's what you give to God. Lord, why am I so caught up in this fantasy? Why am I so caught up in this preoccupation? Why am I so worried about this bill or this mortgage or

whatever it might be? Make that the subject of your prayer instead of trying to avoid it and getting into some spiritual or theological world. That's the meaning of integrated, incarnational prayer.

Perhaps the following Morning Prayer for Africa by Joel Kurz will help us reflect on the spirituality of abundance and the type of honesty and humility Rohr is speaking of as we begin the Lenten journey:

Day by day we bless you, O Lord, rising or sleeping—mosquito net or not. Day by day we bless you, O Lord, for clean water to drink—no matter how far we walk. Day by day, O Lord, we take the abundance or lack, knowing you still provide. Day by day our prayers arise like red dust from the roads we travel in dark and light. Day by day, O Lord, we put our trust in you. Let us not forget you, for you are our hope, and we never hope in vain.

Pastoral Care Ministries has a number of *CareNotes* and *Notes from a Monastery* on prayer in the brochure racks near entrances #2 and #3 for your use during your Lenten pilgrimage. *Written by Jane Schmitz, Director of Pastoral Care.* 



### IDENTITY THEFT AND FINANCIAL SCAMS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**IN A RECENT SURVEY** done by AARP, Inc. (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons), four in 10 Americans have been notified by a company they have done business with in the past year that their information has been subject to a security breach. To compound this concern, nearly half of Americans have not changed the password of an online account in the past six months or are using the same password on two or more of their accounts, according to the same survey entitled *Identify Theft: Who's at Risk?* 

Christopher Widelo, associate state director in government relations and advocacy for the AARP in New York, says that identity fraud is one of the fastest-growing types of fraud.

Anti-fraud experts offer these ways to avoid identity theft:

- Be sure your anti-virus software is up-to-date.
- Change critical passwords frequently, possibly every other week.
- Don't leave valuable documents in your car or dump them into the garbage unless they have been shredded.
- Watch your bank records and check your free credit report each year for anything out of the ordinary.

The Boomers and Beyond will be sponsoring an informational session about financial scams and identity theft on **THURSDAY**, **MARCH 5**, **11:00-12:30pm**, with a light lunch served after the presentation. Marcy Harris, of the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County (CAPSH), will lead the discussion on scams and forms of identity theft that target seniors. Additionally, the presentation will include information on the types of fraud, why seniors are more vulnerable, how to recognize identity theft, and what to do if you've been a victim. This presentation is free to Boomers members, with a fee of \$5 for non-members to cover the cost of the lunch. Please RSVP online at www.paxchristi.com, or call the RSVP line, 952-405-7251, by February 25. All are welcome!

MAY THE LIGHT OF YOUR SOUL BLESS THE
WORK YOU DO WITH THE SECRET LOVE
AND WARMTH OF YOUR HEART.

-JOHN O'DONOHUE, ANAM CARA

#### FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

**THERE ARE** many things to consider regarding our lifelong cardio-vascular health including lifestyle and the potential of heart disease, suffering heart attack, stroke, and cardiac arrest. Five years ago, the American Heart Association announced its new health impact goal: to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association websites have many resources to help us reduce the risk of heart disease and improve our health, including an article and infographic (heart.org/makinganeffort) that ask "What are my risks for getting heart disease? Ask yourself these 3 questions:"

- 1. How many risk factors do I have?
- 2. Do I know Life's Simple 7® keys to prevention?
- 3. Am I making an effort or making excuses?

There are nine major risk factors for heart disease that can affect vascular health. Age, gender, and family history are non-modifiable. Risk factors that we can work to change are high blood pressure, high cholesterol, physical inactivity, obesity and overweight, diabetes, and smoking. Life's Simple 7® addresses these heart health factors by discussing ways to manage blood pressure, control cholesterol, get active, eat right, lose weight, reduce blood sugar, and stop smoking. Take a few minutes this month to complete the My Life Check™ online assessment (heart. org/mylifecheck) to find out your personal heart score and receive a custom plan to live better.

Boomers and Beyond is hosting an event on **THURSDAY**, **FEBRUARY 5, 1:00–3:00pm** that includes a presentation on heart health, heart disease, and stroke. Hands-only CPR training and blood pressure screening will also be available for those who are interested. This event is sponsored in partnership with Lyngblomsten, an organization that is influenced by Christ and provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life. There is no fee to attend, but please RSVP online at www.paxchristi.com, or call the RSVP line, 952-405-7251. Questions? Contact Ann Dunagan, Parish Nurse, 952-405-7200, or adunagan@paxchristi.com.

### **BUT YOU PROMISED....**

WE HAVE PROBABLY ALL SAID OR CERTAINLY HEARD THE PHRASE, "BUT YOU PROMISED" IN AN EXPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN AN EXPECTED OUTCOME. PERHAPS MORE LIKELY FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN, ADULTS FEEL IT EVEN IF THEY DON'T SAY IT.



THE PROMISE OF
OUR BAPTISM IS NOT
EITHER LOVE GOD OR
LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR.
CHRISTIAN LOVE CALLS
US TO LOVE GOD AND
LOVE NEIGHBOR. IT IS
WHAT THE SCRIPTURES
PROCLAIM!

AS PEOPLE OF FAITH, we consider this phrase from the vantage point of God when looking at our baptismal promises: "But you promised..."

In baptism, we promise to follow the example and teaching of Christ to love God and love our neighbor. How are we doing at keeping these promises? How is our love of God? How have we acted on the command to love our neighbor?

The promise of our baptism is not either love God OR love our neighbor. Christian love calls us to love God AND love neighbor. It is what the scriptures proclaim!

From the scriptures the Church has formed the body of Catholic social teaching; teaching designed to help us keep our baptismal promise. The primary principle calls for lifting up the "life and dignity of the human person." God gives us life and marks life reflecting God's own dignity. To do this faithfully, we are called to meet the direct needs necessary for life (charity) and to advocate for changes in systems that trample on the dignity of the human person (justice).

There are seven main principles of Catholic social teaching used by Popes,

bishops, and faith communities to guide and direct efforts to love God and love neighbor. These principles help us "read the signs of the times," and apply gospel values to make a difference in service of the world around us.

Pax Christi celebrates and responds to the baptismal call as a community. Ministries are directed at both charity and justice, ministries to help us all keep our baptismal promises. Do you know about the parish ministries?

CHARITY: Twelve Baskets
Drives – Back to School, Hat
and Mittens, Thanksgiving
Meal Appeal, Share the Joy,
Bridging, Easter Baskets, Baby
Care, and Book Drive. Food
collections for PROP and the
Franciscan Brothers of Peace,
and the Crops for PROP Garden

all help meet the direct needs necessary for life, along with support for homeless shelters.

JUSTICE: Pax Christi Affordable Housing Advocates, work with the Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, and the Minnesota Catholic Conference all help advocate for systemic change. The Environmental Challenge Ministry calls for the care of God's creation, another principle of Catholic social teaching.

Let us grow in our capacity to keep our promises to love God and love our neighbor. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150, or email Michael Griffin, mgriffin@paxchristi.com, for help or additional information. Written by Michael Griffin, Director of Justice and Faith Formation.





## PAX CHRISTI JUSTICE GRANTS: SOCIAL TEACHING, STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

**FROM THE FOUNDING** of Pax Christi, this community has set aside a portion of Sunday giving to be distributed to people in need beyond the parish in the form of "Justice Grants." Grant recipients are groups and organizations with a mission to meet basic needs or advocate for systemic change. What started as a modest expression has grown and evolved into a vibrant ministry putting Catholic social teaching into action.

It is obvious that the need is great and, even on the best days of parish finances, funds alone would never be enough. The Justice Grants Board coordinates this ministry for the parish. This leadership group has incorporated the parish value of stewardship and calls for the members of this community to share time and talent in addition to treasure, in order to make an impact on the lives and needs of people.

Pax Christi is filled with members with time and talent to share. A small percentage of members have helped to add to the mission of recipients by supporting projects, activities and other needs on top of the grant from the parish. Imagine what would happen if all members contributed time and talent!

Some years ago, the grants board made a strategic shift in the relationship with recipients. First, the board decided to focus on two main areas for support to better coordinate and concentrate parish participation. These areas are 1.) Homelessness, and 2.) Childhood development and education to alleviate poverty. Grants would also be larger, but to a fewer number of organizations to deepen the relationship.

Opportunities to share your time and talent abound! Liaisons from the grants board stand ready to help get you connected. Go to www. paxchristi.com/volunteernow or call the parish office. Help put your stewardship, and the stewardship of Pax Christi in action.

### TWELVE BASKETS MINISTRY: THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

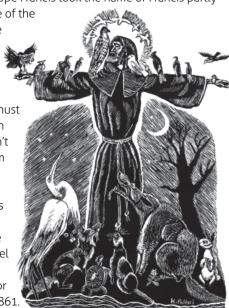
A SPECIAL COLLECTION for Bridging will be directed by the parish Twelve Baskets Ministry in this winter season. Bridging helps people move from homelessness to stable housing by providing furniture and furnishings necessary to make a house a home. Watch for details of the collection coming soon!

Later this spring, Twelve
Baskets will conduct an Easter
basket drive, a baby care drive,
and a book drive. Find out how
you can be part of the "hands
and feet of Christ" in the spirit
of Twelve Baskets at www.
paxchristi.com/twelvebaskets.

### FROM ST. FRANCIS TO POPE FRANCIS TO YOU, CREATING A CLIMATE FOR SOLIDARITY

THE PAX CHRISTI ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE MINISTRY invites you to a special presentation, From St. Francis to Pope Francis to YOU, Creating a Climate for Solidarity, on February 8, 10:00—Noon in Room 212. Rooted in the life of St. Francis and animated by Catholic Social teaching on climate change, this multimedia presentation highlights the impact of climate change on the world's poorest people. It offers concrete ways to respond to this call of Pope Francis, "Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!" (March 19, 2013) In 1975, Pope John Paul II named St. Francis the Patron Saint of Ecology for his love of the earth and all living things. Our Pope Francis took the name of Francis partly

because of the importance of the environment to vulnerable people who often suffer most from environmental degradation. But it's not St. Francis nor Pope Francis, it's All of US who must care for this beautiful earth that God has given us. Don't miss this excellent program hosted by Pax Christi and provided by the Catholic Climate Covenant. There is no charge and hospitality will be provided. For more information contact Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230, mgriffin@paxchristi.com, or Donna Murphy, 952-944-2861



LOVE IS THE MEASURE OF FAITH, AND FAITH IS THE SOUL OF LOVE. WE CAN NO LONGER SEPARATE OUR **RELIGIOUS LIFE, OUR** LIFE OF PIETY, FROM SERVICE TO BRETHREN, THOSE REAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS WE MEET. WE CAN NO LONGER **SEPARATE MEETING** GOD IN PRAYER, IN THE SACRAMENTS, FROM LISTENING TO THE OTHER, FROM **BEING CLOSE TO THEIR** LIVES, THEIR WOUNDS. REMEMBER THIS: LOVE IS THE MEASURE OF FAITH. HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE? -POPE FRANCIS





# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX ON LOVE AND LENT

**MEMORIES** of loving family moments can warm the coldest winter. It was February of 1992, and we decided to take our girls to see the Ice Palace in St. Paul. It was a frigid day, and we had the girls bundled up as much as humanly possible. Now the younger one, at four years of age had developed quite the affinity to checking out the local bathroom whenever we were out and about. That afternoon was no different; as we stood in line, she noticed the row of porta-potties and declared her need that must be met. I tried to get her to wait with suggestions that it would be quite a chilly experience, as well as time consuming with all the layers of clothing that needed to be removed, but she was adamant. Sighing, I complied and opened the door. She hopped in, at the ready to explore the innards of this bathroom facility. As I set about unencumbering her, she exclaimed, "Hey,

cool! A mitten holder!" and promptly tossed her mittens into the urinal where they immediately became soggy and unwearable. Now I am not one to dampen the spirit of invention, especially when so enthusiastically shared, but this instance of "outside the box thinking" was not a successful repurposing of the porta-potty urinal. Out came the trusty "extra" plastic bag, in went the soggy mittens, and off came mom's mittens for the remainder of the day. The things we do for the ones we love.

February is the month of love as well as the month where our Lenten season begins. How do love and Lent fit together? Pope Francis shared some thoughts on that last October, encouraging us to share love and our faith with the people we encounter. Our actions can show others

the love we hold for them and thus, our faith. Perhaps some outside the box thinking will help you show love in your upcoming Lenten journey. Instead of giving up, how about just giving? Give of the best thing you have - YOU, yourself. The gifts you have to share can make all the difference to the recipients. Make it personal. Let this Lent be one filled with your personal response to God. Maybe you will fast from the clutter in your life, or abstain from negativity. You could pray for the person who you have a hard time loving. Think about the ways you can honor your faith by giving back lovingly and generously and then put those answers into actions. Think outside the box and come up with your personal stewardship response to Pope Francis's question, "How much do you love?" Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship.

### THE POWER OF PAX CHRISTI



I GLORIFIED YOU
ON EARTH BY
ACCOMPLISHING
THE WORK THAT YOU
GAVE ME TO DO.

–JOHN 17:4

#### **MEET DONNA MURPHY**

IN 1982, DONNA MURPHY. a native of Belle Plaine and career educator with the Bloomington Public Schools, joined Pax Christi Catholic Community. Donna has always been thrilled that Pax Christi uses "Community" in its name, as all of her volunteer efforts have been focused on building a sense of community. Whether it be with the Pax Christi community, the city of Eden Prairie, the inner city, or the international community, Donna's service has been truly exemplary.

During Donna's earlier years at Pax Christi, she served as a member of the Social Justice Committee, being selected as chairperson for some of those years. Various activities included a Peace Camp for kids that involved many Eden Prairie churches, several mission trips

to Guatemala, a Haitian festival, Native American Day, and Habitat for Humanity. This last project involved a collaboration of 300 volunteers from numerous churches building homes for the needy.

The spirit of Christ has moved Donna in a multitude of ways at her Pax Christi home away from home. She currently has served for eight years as the chairperson of the Women with Spirit Bible Study group. In addition to weekly meetings, she helps to coordinate three retreats per year for the group. During the summer, Donna collaborates with 15 other women in programming for this dynamic ministry.

Another passion for Donna is the Environmental Challenge Ministry. This caring for creation will find Donna rolling up her sleeves on buckthorn or cleanup days; other special events include a birding expedition and star-gazing night.

Donna feels several other ministries she is involved in include many unsung heroes at Pax Christi. Examples are the funeral hospitality and those who deliver the Eucharist to nursing home residents. Donna is a 30-year volunteer for Loaves and Fishes, which cooks and feeds 150-300 people at St. Stephen's, an inner city parish.

What keeps Donna going? She says, "Being part of a faith community gives one a satisfaction of contributing by working with others on common goals for our common good. A byproduct is friends and fun!"

God bless you, Donna, for your many years of service to Pax Christi. Written by Pat Wittrock, parishioner.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE TIME AND TALENT**

#### SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS: AN OPEN INVITATION

**WHY SING?** Why play an instrument? Why do we do what we do? We do it for ourselves, for others, to enhance our sung prayer by breaking open the Word, and to help change the world (one piece at a time.) Our aim is to enhance the beauty of our liturgies, to model faith and service, to become people of prayer, to create the works of justice, and enjoy our music-making time together in the process!

Robert Shaw once said, "There is no communication without community and no community without communication. To be an artist is not the privilege of the few, but the necessity of us all. We are all artists—gifted in some way to be shared for the good of all."

You are invited to become a member of music ministry at Pax Christi. We gather weekly to prepare for weekend worship, building community as we work together as a team, all at different levels of ability. Rehearsals for the season of Lent and the high holy days of Triduum/ Easter have begun. Join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in Room 213. You will find an open and welcoming group ready to greet you! Questions? Contact Donna Kasbohm@paxchristi.com.



The Facilities Council, along with the ad-hoc Shrine Planning Team, has nearly wrapped up their work on the renovation for the St Francis Shrine area and is now set to begin an even more ambitious project over the next year. The Council has determined we need to develop a master plan for our outdoor spaces in order to prioritize and coordinate efforts to improve the experience of our entire campus.

Over the next several months, the council and others will seek input and formulate an overall vision for gardens, walking paths, and site usage that will encompass all the areas that are outside the groomed areas we see and use already. We have about 15 acres of property that is in a natural, but not necessarily friendly, state.

The plan may include restoring some of these areas to preinvasive species conditions, improving trails and sitting areas, and maybe even to create additional spaces and facilities for increased ministry usage. Many ideas have been shared over the years only to be shelved for a future date or even forgotten. Capturing all those ideas in one plan will ensure we do not miss parishioners' unique insight, and the opportunity to improve this site.

We want to work towards an orderly improvement of the entire site to create beautiful, functional spaces. However, we also want to do so in a manner that will be cost effective through shared expense and coordination of efforts among all the sub-projects contained in the vision.

Please watch the bulletin, website, electronic updates, and video screens over the next months to find opportunities to include your ideas in this plan. There will be room for all to express ideas and to help create the spaces once the plan is complete. If you are interested in being a part of the leadership team developing this plan or for more information, please contact Ken Reineccius, Director of Operations, 952-405-7250.



In January, we welcomed local St. Paul artist, DeAnne Parks to Pax Christi's Pacem in Terris Gallery. Bible passages inspire much of her work. Her style is lively, colorful, bold, fanciful, energetic, and chaotic. Her work is sure to put a smile on your face. She says, When I begin painting, I have no idea what the outcome will be. It's like a spontaneous dance. I focus on texture, color, and shapes, expressing my feelings at a given moment. In fact, I often dance while painting. Creating art is such a joyful experience that I can't seem to stand still. Bright colors and thick paint are used to express themes related to spirituality and human relationships, especially those of community, hope, and love.

**ENDS SOON** 

With no clear plan of the outcome, I create chaos on the work surface. Paint drips uncontrolled and pigments separate as I turn the canvas, adding layer upon layer. Listening to sermon podcasts and spiritual music may lead to Bible verses, lyrics, and surprising images in the work.

In time, order is brought to the chaos and images rise, conveying messages of hope, community, and concern for social justice to the viewer.

Many of the works depict scenes of chaos in the Bible. Other works call attention to the turmoil in our world today. I often wrestle with the surreal images that appear on my canvas. They seem to ask the question, can we, despite war, poverty, and our many forms of brokenness, accept the blessing that we are God's beloved children? And if we do, can we love our neighbors as ourselves?

This amazing display of talent is here through Wednesday, February 4. There is still time to visit. This is a display not to be missed!



#### **FEBRUARY**

#### **BOOMERS AND BEYOND HEART HEALTH PRESENTATION**

Thursday, February 5, 1:00-3:00pm

February is Heart Health month. Boomers and Beyond is hosting a presentation promoting heart health, including vascular health, heart health, heart disease, and stroke along with Hands-only CPR training, and blood pressure screening. This event is sponsored in partnership with Lyngblomsten, an organization that is influenced by Christ and provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life. Additional information on page 11. There is no fee to attend, but please register online or call the RSVP line at 952-405-7251. RSVP

#### MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

Next Meeting Thursday, February 5, 3:00–4:30pm, Room 221 - Sojourner Truth

At Pax Christi, the Mental Health and Spirituality Group is an opportunity for participants who have mental health concerns to both give and receive support, to make a deeper connection with God and oneself, and to be exposed to tools which might help make one's life more manageable. The group meets on the first Thursday of most months from 3:00-4:30pm.



Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at www.paxchristi. com for additional information and details. If an event indicates RSVP, you may register/signup online at www.paxchrisi.com/event registration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

#### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, February 6, Beginning with Mass at 8:30am

On the first Friday of each month, join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel, followed by coffee and rolls in the Chief Joseph room. Mass is at 8:30am followed by a social gathering. The event is sponsored by Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome. If you wish, stay for card or board games following the social.

#### PAX CHRISTI'S ANNUAL CANA DINNER

Saturday, February 7, 2015, 6:15-9:00pm, \$75 per Couple

This is not your church basement kind of dinner. Our speakers this year are John and Phyllis Reardon who promise "An evening of fun, in which couples will, in a light way, touch on some insights and actions that create successful and meaningful marriages." The Cana Dinner is an annual tradition for many couples because it's not only a great night, it's a great bargain! The cost of the entire evening, including childcare and a kids' meal in the nursery is just \$75. Join us at this well-known annual event; make new Pax Christi friends, and mingle with old friends. Last year's event SOLD OUT. Save your spot and register TODAY! **RSVP** 

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE MINISTRY EVENT

Sunday, February 8, 10:00am-12:00pm, Room 211

The Pax Christi Environmental Challenge Ministry invites you to a special presentation, *From St. Francis to Pope Francis to YOU, Creating a Climate for Solidarity.* Complete details on page 13. For more information contact Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230, mgriffin@paxchristi.com, or Donna Murphy, 952-944-2861.

#### NAMI – NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30–8:30pm, Room 239, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illness and their families. NAMI Minnesota offers education, support, and advocacy. Understanding Early Episode Psychosis will help young people who have experienced psychosis and/or their family members and loved ones understand symptoms, causes, and treatments of psychosis. Participants who have experienced psychosis will learn how to self-advocate and get back to work or school and achieve recovery. Loved ones and family members will learn how to help and support a young person through recovery. Registration is required. **RSVP** 

#### FEBRUARY CONTINUED

#### 55+ SINGLES' SUNDAY BRUNCH

#### Sunday, February 15, 11:00am, Jimmy's Food and Cocktail

Are you a 55+ single? Join other area singles for food and fun. This month's site is Jimmy's Food and Cocktail, 11000 Red Circle Drive, Minnetonka. Come join us and order off the menu. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, February 11. Please call Pat at 952-473-9728.

#### LENT BEGINS – ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES AND SOUP

#### Wednesday, February 18, Masses with the distribution of ashes: 6:45am, 12:00noon, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm

Ashes made from last year's palm branches are blessed and distributed to people of all ages. We mark ourselves with ashes as a reminder that life is short ("You are dust and unto dust you shall return"), and so the time to repent and live out our baptismal commitment is now. We agree to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting for people between the ages of 19–59 and a day of abstinence from meat for all older than 14. See page 8 for more information on these Lenten regulations.

We will serve a light meal of soup and bread twice that day: after the Noon Mass (Dorothy Day) and again at 5:45pm (Nazareth Hall). Come to 5:00pm Mass followed by soup, or come for the meal around 6:00pm and then go to the 7:00pm Mass. No RSVP needed. Childcare is available 4:45–8:00pm by calling 952-405-7242.

#### LENTEN CROSS EXHIBIT

#### On Display February 18–April 5, Artist Reception Following Morning Masses on Sunday, February 22

This year's Lenten Cross Exhibit will feature crosses from local artist, Rick Brack. All of his crosses are one of a kind, and are individually handcrafted from rich colorful natural stone, using granite, onyx, marble, travertine, quartzite, or sandstone.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL SNOW TUBING EVENT

#### Saturday, February 21, 3:00-7:00pm, Lake Elmo, \$20

Don't miss this exciting, fun-filled afternoon of swooshing down snow covered slopes on a comfy, bouncy inner tube! All 5th – 8th graders and their friends are invited to this annual event which will be taking place at Green Acres Recreation in Lake Elmo this year. We'll meet at 3:00pm in Nazareth Hall for a quick check-in before boarding our buses. Fee is \$20 and includes transportation and tubing. Please bring additional money to purchase dinner and snacks (the concession stand has pizza, hot dogs, nachos, etc). The deadline for registrations is February 18 but don't wait—register NOW! Also, be sure to download and fill out the waiver. This MUST be signed by parents and brought along on February 21. RSVP

#### LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

Pax Christi Lenten Book Discussion of *Why Stay Catholic: Unexpected Answers to a Life-Changing Question* begins the end of February. There are three options for the 5-week discussion groups:

**Sundays, February 22–March 22, 6:30-7:45pm** following the community meal

**Mondays, February 23-March 23, 9:00-10:15am** following the 8:30am Mass

**Wednesdays, February 25-March 25, 6:30-7:35pm** following the 6:00pm Mass

1,100 copies of the book were distributed during the season of Advent. Additional books may be purchased from Loyola Press, www. loyolapress.com/why-stay-catholic.htm. If you are finished with your copy or did not read it and would like to share it with another parish member, please return it to the reception desk. Returned copies will be made available on a first come, first served basis.

The table discussion series will be open assignments. Come when you are able, or come to the whole series. You may even change the days when you participate week-to-week.

In the Lenten season call to renewal, join with other members of the parish community to reflect on the question, "Why Stay Catholic?" For more information contact the parish office or Michael Griffin, 952-405-7230, or mgriffin@paxchristi.com.



#### **MARCH**

#### FINANCIAL SCAMS AND IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR

Thursday, March 5, 11:00am-12:30pm, Dorothy Day \$5 for non-members

Boomers and Beyond will be sponsoring an informational session about financial scams and identity theft with a light lunch served following the presentation. Marcy Harris, of the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County (CAPSH), will lead the discussion on scams and forms of identity theft that target seniors. Additionally, the presentation will include information on the types of fraud, why seniors are more vulnerable, how to recognize identity theft, and what do to do if you've been a victim. Additional information on page 11. This presentation is free to Boomers members, with a fee of \$5 for non-members to cover the cost of the lunch. Please register online or call the RSVP line at 952-405-7251. All are welcome! RSVP

#### **MAKE PLANS NOW**

#### NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC)

November 19–21, 2015, Indianapolis, IN, Fee of \$700 (est.)

Pax Christi's Sr. High Ministry will be joining over 20,000 Catholic teenagers for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, and we want you to join us! This incredible weekend is filled with stellar music, inspirational speakers, amazing experiences of prayer and worship, and much more! NCYC is an incredible way to see the Catholic faith in a new way, to grow closer to God, make new friends from around the country, and be inspired to live a life of faith! Sign-up today and get ready for the experience of a lifetime! **RSVP** 

#### THE GREATEST WEEK OF YOUR SUMMER!

Summer Bible Camp Week - July 27-31

Summer Bible Camp week at Pax Christi Catholic Community offers a special world of programs and activities for children ages 3 through youth entering 8th grade.

Each year during one week in July, Pax Christi comes alive with the excitement of Bible Camp engaging children and youth in worship, crafts, music, games, activities, and our drama team's biblical storytelling bringing Bible stories to life! Watch for upcoming registration and volunteer information.



#### **WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1, 2015**

**SUNDAY:** Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**MONDAY:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

TUESDAY: Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43
WEDNESDAY: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6
THURSDAY: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13

**FRIDAY:** Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29

**SATURDAY:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34

#### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8, 2015

**SUNDAY:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

MONDAY:Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56TUESDAY:Gn 1:20--2:4a/Mk 7:1-13WEDNESDAY:Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23THURSDAY:Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30

**FRIDAY:** Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37 **SATURDAY:** Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10

#### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15, 2015

**SUNDAY:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31--11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**MONDAY:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13 **TUESDAY:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21

**WEDNESDAY:** Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**THURSDAY:** Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25 **FRIDAY:** Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15 **SATURDAY:** Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

#### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2015

**SUNDAY:** Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15 **MONDAY:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

**TUESDAY:** Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15 **WEDNESDAY:** Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

**THURSDAY:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

**FRIDAY:** Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26 **SATURDAY:** Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

#### **FEBRUARY** at Pax Christi See pages 17-19 for details. **SUNDAY MONDAY** WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **TUESDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** FAITH FORMATION HEART HEALTH FIRST FRIDAY **CANA DINNER PRESENTATION** COFFEE/SOCIAL HANDS-ONLY CPR MENTAL HEALTH/ SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT 14 10 FAITH FORMATION NAMI EVENT **FAITH FORMATION** ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE EVENT ASH WEDNESDAY 19 16 20 MASSES: 6:45AM 55+ BRUNCH LEADERSHIP MTGS. CONFIRMATION MIDDLE SCHOOL 12:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM **TUBING EVENT** RETREAT STATIONS OF SOUP LUNCH/DINNER THE CROSS CROSS EXHIBIT OPENS 26 23 24 28 **FAITH FORMATION FAITH FORMATION** STATIONS OF THE CROSS **BOOK DISCUSSION BOOK DISCUSSION BOOK DISCUSSION** FAITH FORMATION SCAMS/THEFT FIRST FRIDAY **FAITH FORMATION SEMINAR** COFFEE/SOCIAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS



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