

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Tuesday, March 28 **9:00 a.m. Communion Service**
Saturday, April 1 **5:00 p.m. Dowling –
Parish**
Sunday, April 2 **9:30 a.m. Perrysburg HS –
John Farley, Sr.**

*Eberly's address is 24610 Hull Prairie Road in
Perrysburg

Reading for this Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9; Jn 12: 20-33

*You can now find the daily readings on our Parish
Website!*

WEEK-DAY MASSES THIS WEEK

On Tuesday of this week, there will be a Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service at 9:00 a.m. at the model house (River's Edge) instead of Mass. Bible Study for the following Sunday's readings will follow.

There will be no Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday at Eberly's. (It will resume the following week.)

FR. HERB GONE THIS WEEK

I will be at the Saturday Mass, March 25, and return in time for the Sunday Mass, April 2. Fr. Bob Wilhelm will be here for Sunday, March 26, and Fr. David Nuss will be at the Dowling Church, Saturday, April 1.

-Fr. Herb

WELCOME, FR. BOB WILHELM

This Sunday morning we welcome Fr. Bob Wilhelm, who is joining us for this liturgy. Please welcome Fr. Bob and help him feel at home. Fr. Herb will be back for next Sunday's Mass.



**PASTOR'S NOTE:
IN THE WIND**

On a windy day I happened to spy two birds flying overhead. The first one was a little sparrow. It was fighting the wind, trying to go against the opposing force. It would fly up and then down and then try again. It made little progress, but I admit I admired its courage and tenacity.

The second bird was a hawk. It flew high in the air and soared on the wind. Instead of fighting the elements, it harnessed the wind and put it to its own use. I admired the hawk for its ability to be lifted up by nature's power.

God is the creator of each of the birds that I observed. To each God gave a unique way of surviving the weather. Both birds, moreover, provide us with a lesson.

Sometimes it is necessary to resist the forces that try to keep us from moving on. Like the sparrow we have to keep trying even when we feel like we get nowhere.

There also are times when we can let the power of God's grace lift us up and carry us along. Spirituality often grows fastest when we realize how much God is working in us and for us. Like the hawk we need to accept God's power directing our lives.

We don't have to choose between the sparrow and the hawk. We can learn from both and apply lessons from each.

Fr. Herb

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



THE NEXT GOF COVERING PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

This is the last weekend to register for Generations of Faith for the April 2/3 gathering. Our topic this month is Passion/Palm Sunday. Please register today! If you will not be attending GOF due to the Perrysburg Spring break, please call 419-662-3180 or email Marla at moverholt@blessedjohn.com so that an accurate food count can be taken. Thanks. -Marla

My family and I have moved to our new home in Horseshoe Bend. If you should need anything this week while Father Herb is gone, please call me at 419-931-4145. My Blessed John email should be up and running on Monday afternoon.



LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Lent is the primary season of the church calendar for repentance and reconciliation. You are invited to participate in any of the following Deanery-wide Reconciliation Services:

- 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 27, at St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns
- 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, at All Saints, Rossford
- 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 6, at St. Rose, Perrysburg
- 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 10, at St. Aloysius, Bowling Green.

Fr. Herb will be at All Saints, St. Rose, and St. Aloysius. In addition, there are opportunities for celebrating Reconciliation at Christ Lutheran Church before Saturday Mass on Saturday, April 8, 3:00-4:00 p.m. (No confessions on Saturday, April 1)

PRAY FOR LAND FOR CHURCH

Please add to your prayers a request that we will find and be able to purchase the right land for our church building. Thank you.

HOME VISITS/PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you are unable to, or someone you know cannot, attend Mass on a regular basis, we welcome the opportunity to bring Holy Communion to your home. Please contact Linda Edwards 419-878-0465 or the parish office 419-662-3180.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our Sunday offering last weekend was \$3,046. Thank you very much. Giving is really our way of expressing our thanks to God for all that we have received.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES TODAY

Thank you to all who remembered the importance of the Catholic Relief Services. There is an envelope in your packet that you may use...or any other envelope marked CRS.

The CRS is the Catholic International Assistance Organization. If there is an earthquake, a tsunami, famine, or some other tragedy, CRS is there to help. This is a fine organization and worthy of our support.

LOOKING AHEAD: ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As we look ahead, we see that the Annual Catholic Appeal for our Diocese will take place shortly after Easter. You'll see more information about this in the days ahead.



FIRST EUCHARIST CLASS

First Eucharist Class will continue on March 30 from 7:00-8:00 p.m., in Dowling. Children, please bring your books each week.



RCIA PRAYERS NEEDED

Please keep the RCIA candidates in your prayers. We have four adults joining the church at the Easter Vigil. Let their faith inspire ours.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.BlessedJohn.org



EASTER SCHEDULE

Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 8-9, with Masses at the usual time. On Holy Thursday, April 13, we will have the Last Supper Mass at 7:00 p.m., at Perrysburg High School. If you have not been to this celebration before, you will be touched by the humble power of the foot washing and other parts of the celebration.

On Good Friday, our service will also be at 7:00 p.m., at the High School. This is the only day of the year we are not allowed to celebrate Mass. The service will include the account of the Passion, a special veneration of the cross, and Communion.

The first Mass of Easter will take place on Saturday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. Beginning outside, we will light the new fire and bless the new water. Those in RCIA will join the church at this liturgy. There will be lots of joy-filled music. Again, if you have not attended the Easter Vigil before, you owe yourself attendance this year.

On Easter morning we will have two Masses: at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Because we will have enough room with two Masses, please do not hesitate to invite others to join us. The choir will be at all three Easter Masses.

HOSPITALIZED PARISHIONERS

We want to be there for you. Because of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act), hospitals will not release names of patients without your approval. If you are hospitalized, it is important for you, or a family member, to **call our office** and also to answer, **“Yes,”** when you are asked if you want your church to be notified of your admission.

REGISTRATION

Please remember to register to become a Blessed John Parishioner. Our goal is to have 200 registered by Easter, and we are so close.

LENTEN REMINDER

On Ash Wednesday, the Gospel reading spoke of the three traditional ways of observing Lent: prayer, almsgiving (charity and service), and fasting (self-denial). All three are important ways for us to open ourselves, to avail ourselves, to God’s grace. Please use the time of Lent that remains to let God become active.

The Lenten bowls that many are using for the money saved through your Lenten self-denials will be turned in the Sunday *after* Easter. All money will go to help with classroom materials at the school of St. Clement of Rome in the New Orleans area. The school has re-opened but with very limited supplies and the loss of many classrooms. We hope to help provide paper, pencils, markers, dictionaries and reference books, workbooks, and more. Thank you to all who are taking this very seriously.

PRAYER PRAYER CHAIN

Many people have added names to the parish prayer chain. Thanks to all who have continued to pray for those who are sick or otherwise in need of prayer. If you are interested in joining or you have a prayer request, go to our website www.blessedjohn.org and click on prayer chain. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the office 419-662-3180.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

The following parents have volunteered for the co-op nursery which we have every Sunday at Mass. We would like two parent volunteers on hand who will provide care and fun for your children. Please contact Lisa Suelzer at alisa.suelzer@owenscorning.com if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Apr 2	Marc and Lisa Suelzer
Apr 9	Adrienne Amborski <i>Need 1 more</i>
Easter	No nursery
Apr 23	Dave and Valerie Suelzer



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We would like to offer a warm welcome to new parishioners: Greg and Mary Oatis and family, Joan Kornasiewicz, Bradley and Nicole Jackson and family, Steve and Karen Pierce and family, and Robert and Kathleen Maxwell.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

'STATE OF THE PARISH' SUMMARY

Last week I gave a brief "State of the Parish" address. Here is a summary. – Fr. Herb

In looking at our parish, which was announced a year ago, we have come a long way. Here are four areas.

First, in terms of **Being Church**, we have nearly two hundred households registered. More important is that visitors and newcomers regularly feel at home. Our liturgical celebrations are inspiring and hope-filled.

CHALLENGE: As we continue to grow, we want to make sure that we continue to accept and include everyone. The task of welcoming is everyone's work.

Second, parish efforts at **Faith Formation** are superb. Generations of Faith includes people of all ages who are learning and growing in their faith. Also with the "Going Deeper" sessions with Fr. Herb or the Lenten Small Faith Groups, people are finding many ways to be educated, renewed, re-committed.

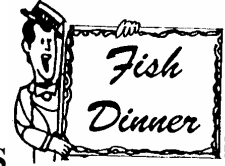
CHALLENGE: We have expanded GOF to include more individuals and families. We continue to invite new parishioners to join and not wait until next fall.

Third, parish **Finances** continue to improve. At the first Mass, the collection totaled just over \$1,200. Now we frequently break \$3,000. Thanks to all who give. Some people give because they have been taught to do so. Some give because they are happy with the way the parish is developing and they feel they are being spiritually fed. Thanks to both groups.

CHALLENGE: There's a better way to look at giving. That is, to give as a sign of thanksgiving to God. Everything is a gift from God. By setting aside a percentage of income, from the top, you are making a commitment of trust to God. We learn to give not just because there is a need but because we have a need to give. We all need to take a moment to check out what percent of our income is given to the church or charity. Although tithing suggests 10% of gross income, try starting with at least 3%.

Fourth, in terms of **Land** for the church, this has been an up-and-down search. Some very promising possibilities have fallen through for different reasons. Once again, we are in serious dialogue with an owner.

CHALLENGE: We have to be patient, knowing that the right place will come in God's time. Until then, we can continue to build church, the faith community that we are blessed to have.



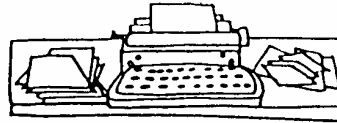
LENTEN FISH FRIES

The Knights of Columbus and the local Boy Scout Troup are sponsoring all-you-can-eat Fish Fries at **St Rose Cafeteria** between the hours of 5 – 7 p.m. each Friday during Lent except for Good Friday. Take out will be available. Please come and support the Knights of Columbus and the Boy Scouts.



JUST FOR LAUGHS

At a head table in the cafeteria of a Catholic school, one of the nuns had placed a big bowl of bright red, fresh, juicy apples. Beside the bowl, she placed a note which read, "Take only one. Remember, God is watching." At the other end of the table was a bowl full of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, still warm from the oven. Beside the bowl was a little note scrawled in child's handwriting which read: "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for next week's bulletin is Monday at 12:00 noon. Please submit your article by email to tcarella@blessedjohn.org or call 419-662-3180.

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHTED ADVERTISER

Please place "Newlove Realty" ad here