

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*I, the Lord, am your God . . . You shall not have other gods besides me.*

—Romans 8:31b

MARCH 15, 2009

## KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH

There's no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments (not the movie, the book.) The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

If we take this commandment literally, dishes will stay on the table and perhaps meals will not be served. The sick will go unattended and nothing that has anything to do with physical labor will be done. Is mental labor really work?

We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: "The law of the Lord is perfect, / refreshing the soul" (19:8). Our Sabbath rest is a great gift, to be received from God with joy, not with nitpicking. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

## AN IRISH BLESSING

*May you always have work for your hands to do.  
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.  
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.  
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near you.  
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

## INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

We offer year-round sessions to explore the Catholic faith. For more information, call Sr. Sharon at 439.0931 x 5.

## REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD DURING LENT

The readings for next Sunday, the *Fourth Sunday of Lent* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout this week.

**FIRST READING:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 or 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 2:4-10  
or Ephesians 5:8-14

**GOSPEL:** John 3:14-21 or John 9:1-41

*How can I return to the font of Baptism this Easter and recapture the truth of God's unconditional love for me?  
The blind man realizes his identity, dignity and self worth when he met Jesus. Is my identity and self worth based on my relationship with God?*



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We continue to pray the Stations of the Cross in Church at 5:30p.m on all Monday evenings during Lent. Everyone is encouraged to participate in order to reflect on the meaning of Christ's passion, death and resurrection in our lives.

## SOUP SUPPERS

After the Stations (approximately 6:00p.m.) we will gather in the parish hall for a Soup Supper. We ask that you bring your own bowl, cup and flatware in order to help keep our environment healthy. **A free will offering will be taken each week.**

## COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Part of our Lenten observance is the **reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Please plan to join other parishioners at 7:00p.m. on March 25** for prayer, repentance for sin, and the opportunity for individual confession.

## HELP SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**Our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry is in great need of new people who can take part in this ministry** which reaches out to many poor families in our community. Meetings are easy to attend; taking place on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. You will find out how **you** can help make difficult times turn into manageable times for families in need. Hope to see you TODAY, March 15 in classroom 2!

## PRAY THE ROSARY

Join other parishioners in the church on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary.

## IRISH PROVERB—life's ups and downs

*If God sends you down a stony path,  
may he give you strong shoes.*