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# Third Sunday of Lent

## March 15, 2009

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

We are a Sacrificial Giving Parish, Giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure  
Our offertory collection for last Sunday was \$6,482.00.  
(For 2007-2008 our average weekly expenses were \$6,509.00.)

**Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of Merrick & Amie Burleigh  
Delores & Rodney Burleigh  
By: Family**

### PARISH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

We have been planning to construct a covering over the driveway at the handicap entrance of our church (the door of the north-wing area). This would give protection from rain for the elderly, for funerals, and for emergency vehicles. We plan to make this covering match the architecture of the church, and the final details of the work are now being decided. Our hope is to begin construction before the end of March.

A related project is to enlarge the parking space on the north side of the church. It has become clear that we need more parking around the church. We have already begun to fill in low areas and have set up a one-way flow of traffic through the present, limited parking space. We would like to extend the parking area down towards the cemetery. This will require grading, a crushed rock cover, and a new entrance ramp. This project may take some time to complete, but we would like to move it along as soon as possible.

A conservative estimate for the cost of the two projects is \$25,000. In this Bulletin announcement I appeal to all who would like to make a special contribution for these improvements. In a couple of weeks we will begin a series of second-collections on Sundays to raise funds. If you wish to contribute please designate your offering for the "Improvement Projects".

Thank you for your generosity. I look forward to completing these improvements to our church.

*Fr. Jim Lambert, S.J.*

**Altar Servers** are reminded to pick up a copy of the new schedule on the table at the entrance of the church.

### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is scheduled for this **Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 P.M.** in St. Charles Church. There will be five priests for private confession.

### The Season of Lent

#### **Church Regulations on Fast & Abstinence**

**FAST:** All Catholics 18 years of age but not yet 59 observe fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. One may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength according to one's needs. The eating of solid food between meals is not permitted.

**ABSTINENCE:** We do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. Abstinence is observed by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.

Lent is a time for **prayer** and **penance**. The "Works of Mercy" offer us many opportunities to: visit the sick, help the hungry and homeless, comfort the sorrowful, counsel the doubtful, pray for and admonish the sinner, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and dead.

### **Activities of the Week March 16-22**

M 16	4:00 PM Vigil Mass 7:00 PM Lenten Guided Prayer Meeting
T 17	
W 18	9:30 AM Pro Life Rosary
TH 19	5:45 PM 10:30 Mass 7:00 PM Adult Sacrament Class
FR 20	7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### Minister Schedule-March 21-22

<b>Vigil</b> -Lector	Jim Burleigh & Shirleen Louviere
Communion	Deacon Sam Henry, Caro Louviere Kalina Cormier, Mills & Jackie Vautrot
Altar Server	Nicholas Smith & Armand Olivier
<b>7:30</b> -Lector	Julia Quebedeaux & Melba Courtney
Communion	Deacon Herd Guilbeau, Joe Landry, Sr. Betty Renard, Jackie Savoie Stephanie Richard
Altar Server	Taneshia Cormier & Carlie Pierre
<b>10:30</b> -Lector	John Olivier & Mary Claire Trant
Communion	Tim Trant, Keith & Ginger Myers, Margie McClendon, Lorraine Marks
Altar Server	Meghan & Emma Bush, Hunter Myers

### Church Cleaners for March 21-22

Barbara Broussard	Jeanette Williams
Barbara & Stephanie Senegal	
Vickie Meche	Wilda Richard
Irene Lavergne	Genevieve Ray

**Christ the King Mission in Bellevue will hold A Lenten Mission for all of St. Charles Parish Community.** Deacon Ignatius Joseph will speak at 7:00 PM on March 30th, 31st and April 1st concluding with Holy Mass on Wednesday.

**Pro-Life Rosary** will be prayed on Wednesday, March 18th at 9:30 AM after the SIS Mass in the Church. All are invited to attend and pray with us.

**St. Ignatius School** will offer its 19th Annual **Bar-B-Que Plate Lunch** next **Sunday, March 22nd** on the SIS campus. Dinners are \$6.00 and include either 1/2 chicken or a pork steak, as well as rice dressing, coleslaw, baked beans and a roll. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses today (March 15th). Tickets can be purchased also from any SIS student or at the school's administrative office. Thank you for supporting our parish's Catholic school.

**St. Ignatius School** in Grand Coteau is currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2009-2010 school year. If interested please contact the school office at 662-3325.

**7 Mile Yard Sale** from Grand Coteau to Arnaudville will be held on **Saturday, March 21st** 7 AM-4 PM. Vendors are welcome. For more information, contact Janice Fox @ 662-3058.



### LIVING LENT Day by Day

#### March 16 Monday

In today's reading from 2Kings 5.1-15 a leper is healed. Is your medicine chest full of over-the-counter pills that may not be cures? Take a moment to clean the shelves of outdated medicines and ask the Divine Healer to strengthen your faith.

#### March 17 Tuesday

Make today a "no-credit; cash only" day. Each time you use cash instead of credit, think about the servant in today's Gospel (Mt 18.21-35). How much do we depend upon the Lord's mercy?

#### March 18 Wednesday

Look for burnt-out light bulbs to replace today. As you replace them, think about how God's law functions in our lives. Like a light, the laws guide us on the Way.

#### March 19 Thursday

Today is the Solemnity of St. Joseph. He had rock-solid faith. Carry a rock in your pocket today to honor St. Joseph. Pray for your father today.

#### March 20 Friday

Loving your neighbor requires a choice to reach out to them with compassion. Take a moment today to do a kindness for a shut-in or lonely person in your neighborhood.

#### March 21 Saturday

Find a comfortable chair in a quiet corner of your home and put some prayer things there: a rosary, prayer book, Bible, devotional reading. Make a date with God and go to the chair often.

#### March 22 Sunday

Write the words of John 3.16 on a card and mount it on the refrigerator. We all need a reminder of the Good News. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal Life."

Our parish will participate in the Diocesan Collection for **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** next Sunday, March 22nd. Envelopes and checks notated for CRS may be given with the regular offertory collection. The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports legal and resettlement services for refugees, advocacy, and disaster/emergency relief. When you donate to CRS, you give hope. Please be generous!

## THENSTED CENTER Report of Services Jan. 2008-2009

Needy families were helped with a variety of donations. These families may have had low incomes or may have suffered from a recent tragedy such as fire or death in the family.

Donations included:

- 650 food boxes prepared and distributed
- 400 bags of toiletries (toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc)
- 320 bags of cleaning supplies
- 265 packs of pampers
- 800 bags of clothes donated to individuals and non-profits
- 720 meals prepared and served to Senior Citizens
- 6600 meals prepared and served to children
- 250 household items (mattresses, sheets, blankets, dishes, etc)

### PROGRAMS

**Summer Program** - 110 children participated 5 days/week for 6 weeks. These children, with nowhere else to go, listened to and interacted with musicians and poets; did art projects with a professional artist and had fun playing, learning and socializing with their peers in a safe and healthy environment.

**Tutorial Program** - All 35 children who came for after-school tutoring were promoted.

**Budgeting Program** - 18 adults worked toward financial stability and independence. They received advice on how to avoid predatory loan programs as they learned how to budget their incomes and live within their means.

**Representative Payee Program for Mentally Challenged** - 7 mentally challenged adults learned strategies for living within fixed incomes. Thensted Center serves as the representative payee and pays their bills, medical expenses and other necessities. It also distributes weekly allowances (from their checks) to ensure that their disability income will last throughout the month.

**Empowering Elders** - These bi-monthly gatherings offer educational, social, spiritual and wellness components and are always followed by a hot meal. Between 45-55 Elders attend.

**Angel Food Network** - This new program provides nutritious food at minimum prices and attracts 40-50 participants each month.

**Office Visits** - about 1360 persons donated, volunteered or received needed supplies.

**Home Visits** - Volunteers and Staff made approximately 200 visits to home-bound residents to assess their needs, assist with household chores, bring food, offer consultation and help access additional social services if needed.

**Holy Communion** - about 55 home-bound Elders requested and received the Eucharist in their homes.

**Counseling Services** - Besides 10 group counseling sessions there were 135 individual sessions to help people with issues such as family problems, relationship challenges and personal transitions. Five presentations were given to community groups regarding topics such as coping with grief and family problems.

**Saturday Fun Day** - Monthly activities for children ages 6 to 8 were hosted by students at the Academy of the Sacred Heart.

**FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES** - Family Fun Day - first Sunday in May  
Gumbo/Bingo - October or November