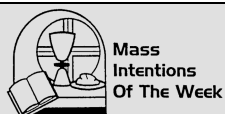


FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Monday, March 2nd

7:00 A.M. James Edwards

Tuesday, March 3rd

7:00 A.M. Edward Senger

Wednesday, March 4th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons

8:15 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul School Families

Thursday, March 5th

7:00 A.M. Intentions of Frederick Stagnaro

Friday, March 6th

7:00 A.M. Prayer for Vocations

Saturday, March 7th

8:30 A.M. Miriam Going

5:30 P.M. Edward Senger

Sunday, March 8th

7:30 A.M. Donald Multer and Elizabeth Marshall

9:30 A.M. Intentions of St. Paul Parishioners

11:30 A.M. Living and Deceased Members of the Women's Guild

6:00 P.M. Joan Tobin



The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. (Mark 1:12-13)

Satan had plenty of time---forty days and forty nights--to bombard Jesus with all manner of temptations. The Letter to the Hebrews says Jesus was *tempted in every way*.

We too are afflicted with all kinds of temptations. How comforting to have a Savior who knows and understands what we're dealing with. *We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are.* (Hebrews 4:15)

If we fail to resist the assault of temptation, God's mercy is there for us. He knows how strong temptation can be, and he can *sympathize with our weaknesses*. That is wonderful news.

But the even better news is that, in Christ, we can overcome temptation. Jesus was *tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin*.

We don't have to be the perennial fatalities of temptation. If we *approach the throne of grace with confidence*, with faith, we will *find grace to help us in our time of need*.

Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons, Pastor

PARISH MISSION. We invite you to join our parish family on March 9 & 10, 2009 as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Paul in a two-night parish mission. The mission will focus on the life and teachings of St. Paul and how we can carry his message to the world today. Fr. Timothy Sherwood will be the key presenter on Monday, March 9. Fr. Thomas Spillet will be the key presenter on Tuesday, March 10. Both evening programs will be held in the church building located at 1800 12th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend – bring a friend! Childcare will be offered but you must register for childcare by March 5th. Call the St. Paul Parish Office to register for childcare or for more information.



Is what I do after I say "I believe"...

Offertory for Sunday, February 22, 2009:

298 Envelopes.....	\$	9,402.50
Loose.....	\$	2,526.50
AOP (debit).....	\$	1,904.00
AOP (credit).....	\$	0.00
Total.....	\$	13,833.00

"The Father of mercies has given us an example of unselfish love in the sufferings of his only Son." (Solemn Blessing, 1st Sunday of Lent)

God's unselfish love inspires us to give generously.

Thank you for your stewardship commitment for the year 2009.

Lenten Penance Services

Monday, March 2nd, at Holy Family, 200 – 78th Avenue NE

Tuesday, March 3rd, at St. Paul

Wednesday, March 4th, at Transfiguration, 4000-43rd St. N.

(All Penance Services are at 7 p.m. and include the opportunity for individual confessions.)

That Man Is You!, for all men of the parish, has a special Lenten focus. Meets every Wednesday at 5:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria, and the program concludes by 7 a.m.

- Websitestpaulstpete.com
- Parish Offices.....727-822-3481
- Pastoral Associate.....Annamaria Dickhaus
- Admin. Assistants.....Charie Wassmer & Mary Carney
- Outreach Ministry.....Sr. Kathleen Stagnaro, OSF
- Youth Ministry.....ext. 12
- Organist & Choir Director.....Paul Dixon
- St. Vincent de Paul Societyext. 50
- Children's Center.....Valerie Gervais, ext. 18
- Prayer Team.....727-894-8846 or jhdmary@aol.com
- School.....Mrs. Elizabeth Fulham, Principal
727-823-6144
- Counseling Ministry.....Mary Ann Holtz, LMHC
727-327-5045



St. Paul Says

'...Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do'.

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

O.B.I.C. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEWS

The Unstoppable High School Retreat is cancelled.

March 1st - Sealed: Due to the cancellation of the retreat, we WILL meet this Sunday! Come participate as we learn more about the Sacrament of Confirmation, and watch as the 2nd guest arrives at the party -- what will he bring?

March 8th - Consumed: Which Sacrament is the "source and summit" of who we are as Catholics? Come learn more about this powerful Sacrament and watch as Jesse arrives at the party!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Krispy Kreme fundraiser! Because of **your** generosity, we raised \$512 for our trip to Covecrest. THANK YOU!

Attention New Parishioners: TODAY, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, is the meeting for new parishioners' registration in the Parish Center. Current parishioners and staff members will be present to welcome newcomers and answer questions about parish services and activities. Refreshments will be served. These meetings are held on the first Sunday of every month.

RCIA. Today, March 1st, is the day of "Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names" celebrated by Bishop Robert Lynch at St. Jude's Cathedral at 2 p.m. It is a liturgical celebration when the Bishop declares the Church's approval of the Catechumens and Candidates for the reception of Sacraments of initiation at Easter Vigil. This is the second step on their Faith Journey towards full reception into the Church. After this rite they will be known as "the Elect". We congratulate our Catechumens and Candidates on becoming "the Elect".

Daily Mass during Lent will be celebrated in the main Church, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Monday through Friday at 7 a.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Participation in daily Mass is a grace-filled way to observe prayerfully the season of Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

SENIOR CLUB will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd at 1 p.m. in the Parish Center. A short business meeting, bingo, and refreshments are planned. All senior men and women are invited to attend. The next meeting will be a St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17th.

The Children's Center is having an Open House and accepting applications for enrollment on March 11th, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry Friday, Mar. 13th, served between 5 - 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Cost \$10/adult \$5/Child. Tickets at Parish Office or purchase at the door.

Please Pray for the healing of the sick and the consolation of the afflicted, especially:

Patrick Burns	Marlene Connelly	Barbara Brant
Gerry Howe	Dennis Stajkowski	Tom Geary
Lillian Thurline	Frederick Stagnaro	Rose Groth
Mike Cushman	Margaret Macking	Alma Geary
Dee Eilerman	Joe McCourt	Marianne Teska

MARRIED & LOVING IT! (MOST OF THE TIME). Calling all married couples. Spend the day learning and laughing together just like you did in the "old" days – whether that's last year or 50 years ago! Join other married couples for a special day of enrichment in our parish on March 7th at 9:30 a.m. The day concludes with Mass at 5:30 p.m. with your family followed by dinner. The MARRIED & LOVING IT! (MOST OF THE TIME) Program is a great opportunity to look at the positive side of your marriage, and learn new techniques to be a great spouse and great parent. Call the parish office for information or to make your reservation. Reservations must be made by Thursday morning, March 5th. Complimentary childcare will be provided and the fee for all materials and meals is \$30.

Festival is coming!!! March 19 - 22. Discounted ride tickets and wristbands are on sale NOW in the parish office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday or thru the school brown envelope. Tickets are \$10 per sheet and wristbands for unlimited rides are \$75.

Your APA pledge allows the Catholic Church to have a presence in the state capital. A portion of your contribution to the diocese's Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA) supports the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC), the Florida bishops' permanent office in Tallahassee. That office will be particularly busy once the legislature convenes this week for its annual session. The FCC promotes Catholic values in the arena of state government. You may pledge to the APA on-line at www.diostpete.com/apa/. Make sure, on the "please select a parish" line, that you select "St. Paul – St. Petersburg."

5th Annual Medical Mission to Haiti. During Lent, Partners with Haiti is conducting an appeal to support the upcoming medical mission to Haiti. As in previous years, our ability to provide badly needed medical care to our twin parish depends on your generosity. Specially marked donation envelopes are in the pews. They may be returned to the collection boxes at the church entrances, in the offertory, or to the parish office. On behalf of our struggling brothers and sisters in Haiti, we thank you.

St. Paul Knights of Columbus and our Parish Nurses will be holding their Annual Cardiovascular Health Fair on March 28th here in the parish office. \$75 includes an Echocardiogram, Abdominal and Carotid Ultrasound as well as Blood Pressure and Cholesterol checks. New this year, there will be limited slots for a Cervical Spine Analysis as part of the \$75 package. Call the parish office for more information or to reserve an appointment slot. ALL proceeds go to St. Paul Medical Mission to Haiti.

Lenten fasting. *To assist in promoting a common observance of penance during the season of Lent, the following Lenten penitential regulations have been issued for the Diocese of St. Petersburg for 2009:*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GOOD FRIDAY is a day of FAST.

On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast.

ALL OF THE FRIDAYS OF LENT, including GOOD FRIDAY, are also days of ABSTINENCE.

On days of abstinence, meat may not be taken. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years of age or older.

If members of the faithful are unable to observe the fast and abstinence regulations because of ill health or other reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of penance and self-denial suitable to their condition.

Parish Capital Campaign Update as of January 31, 2009

Amount Pledged	\$2,320,514.82
Amount Paid	\$1,761,384.33
Balance	\$ 559,130.49
Number of families pledging	673
Average gift	\$3,448.02

The campaign has been financing the renovations of our church & school buildings.

With the funds now being paid, we are paying off the cash advance loan that financed last summer's renovation of the south wing of the school.

It's not too late to make a pledge!

*Call the parish office or e-mail
parishoffice@stpaulstpete.com*

First Report Annual Pastoral Appeal 2009 Diocese of St Petersburg

Our parish's assessment.....	\$169,022.00
Total pledged as of 2/20/09.....	\$13,194.00
Number of pledges.....	68
Average pledge	\$194.03

Over 300 St. Paul's families made pledges to last year's Annual Pastoral Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge or gift to the APA for 2009. Envelopes for this purpose are in your monthly envelope packet, or you may pledge on-line at www.diostpete.com/apa.

The Magnificat of St. Petersburg invites women of all ages to a prayer breakfast on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Cathedral of St. Jude Parish Center with speaker, Sharon Price. Tickets are \$7. Call 727.826.1707 or 727.347.1242 by March 4. No tickets at the door.

Sacrament of Baptism: A Parent, who is a practicing Catholic, should prepare for the Baptism of a child by

From the Green Team : Let's think about how beautifully all of our human lives are interconnected and our responsibility to each other to care for this fragile gift, our planet, that sustains us. May we hear Christ's call to live more simply and gently on this earth so that the resources we have may sustain all fairly. Let us pray, God our Father and Creator, may we receive from you the grace required to truly see in each other the brother, the sister, You created us to be.

Could God be calling you to become a Priest? Check it out at a Vocation Awareness Weekend, Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2009, at St. John Vianney College Seminary, Miami, Florida. Spend a weekend figuring out your future. Join seminarians for three days of prayer, discussion, fraternity and fun. Costs only your time. Transportation and meals provided. The weekend is open to: High School Juniors, Seniors, and older. For more information contact Fr. Len Plazewski, Director of Vocations at 727.345.3452, or Email spvocation@aol.com.

Theology on Tap. Are you a young adult in your 20's or 30's? You are invited to an exciting Lenten speaker and dialogue series on topics that matter in our lives. Come to one or all four Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, & 24 at Margarita Mama's Velvet Room located at Channelside Mall in Tampa from 7-9 p.m. Come hear the opening night panel presentation by Rev. Daniel R. Kayajan, C.S.C., Andrea M. McSorley, and Christi Helms on "*Mission Possible: Discerning God's Call in a Hectic World.*" As young adults our lives are fast paced and busy. Sometimes it feels impossible to figure out what our purpose and mission in life may be. Come find out how to communicate with a God who doesn't text message. For more details check out the website at: www.tampabaytot.org or call 727-344-1611, ext 328.

The St. Vincent de Paul Center of Hope, a transitional housing facility, is seeking a volunteer to teach a relaxation class once a week. Various topics, such as meditation, yoga, or tai chi would be welcome. The Center of Hope, at 401-15th St. No., serves formerly homeless veterans and others who need a chance to regain their independence. Please contact Mary Jo at 727.896.3300.

Pregnancy Plus Medical Volunteer Orientation- March 9th from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Jeff Forbes Catholic Charities Center at 1213 - 16th Street North. Volunteers needed- ultrasound, marketing, fundraising, mentors, office assistant. Please call Francesca at 727.550.4236.

Respect Life! Thank you VERY much for all those who participated in and supported the FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act) postcard campaign! We collected 110 postcards for each Senator and our Representative! If you did not get the opportunity to sign the postcards it is not too late. They will be in the parish office and you can mail them on your own. May God bless you always. If you have any questions feel free to email Francesca and Stu at francescattm@gmail.com.

contacting the parish office, preferably before the arrival of the child. Adults seeking Baptism or desiring to join the Catholic Church should call the parish office or contact a parish priest.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sacrament of Holy Marriage: Couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance. The Catholic party is expected to be attending mass regularly.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Those who are being admitted to a hospital should receive this sacrament at Mass whenever possible. The infirm may receive the sacraments regularly at home by calling the parish Outreach office at 727.822.3481.

St. Paul's Catholic School & St. Paul's Children's Center: Our parochial school provides an outstanding

Catholic education for children from pre-kindergarten (beginning at age 3) through 8th grade. Our children's center provides quality day care for children age 2 and under.

Parish Membership: Every Catholic household is encouraged to register in the parish. You may register on the first Sunday of the month by attending the information meeting held in the Parish Center after the 9:30 a.m. mass. St. Paul's parishioners strive to be good stewards of God's gifts. Christian stewardship includes a sharing of time, talent and treasure with the parish community. Each household is expected to accept its responsibility for the welfare of the parish and its educational and charitable ministries by participation in Sunday Mass, active involvement in the parish, and by weekly use of the church support envelopes.