

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday February 3, 2008

Ash Wednesday!

Lent Begins ...

This coming Wednesday with the advent of Ash Wednesday. It is a period of self denial for each of us, voluntary self denial, so that we take it upon ourselves to do some sort of penance to make up for the sins of our past lives. It is a time when we can say ourselves that it is a time to make ourselves better Christians, better followers of Christ.

How? It is up to you to examine yourself. If we are truthful, we are sure to find much room for improvement in our spiritual lives. None of us are walking saints. So the best thing to do is to see what best needs to be corrected in your life to make you a better person, and that is what should be tackled on Ash Wednesday.

The Reception of Ashes is merely a reminder that we came from the dust of the earth and that one day, we shall return to that same dust. The only thing that counts is what we do in between now and the time that we are called..

And during Lent, those of us who are over the age of 21 should not be shy to take upon ourselves the obligation of fasting - which means eating one full meal each day during Lent, and a little repast in the evening and a very little breakfast in the morning. Generally speaking, we can all afford to lose a pound or two during these six weeks of Lent. And we don't even stop to consider the great spiritual benefits we get from the laws of fasting. But even besides that for those of us between the ages of 21 and 60, we could

make additional acts of self denial - sweets, tobacco, movies, just about anything that we have a special craving for. Even if we do not give it up entirely, we can cut down the times that we use it.

Ashes will be distributed in our Church at the blessing of Ashes at the 8 am Mass, and then after the 12:10 Mass at Noon, and in the evening at 7:30pm, just before the St. Theresa Group will begin their half hour of Prayer and Meditation in the Church, followed by the meeting of the St. Anne Society.

Blessing of Throats

Today is the Feast of St. Blaise, Patron Saint who would protect us from diseases of the Throat. We will bless throats after each Mass on Saturday evening as well as on Sunday morning, and again at the 12 Noon Mass.

Way Of The Cross

Each Friday during Lent, we will have the Way of the Cross. At 7:30 pm. We encourage as many people in the parish to attend and make a little sacrifice during this period.

Preparing for Confession

In preparation for Lent, we thought it most appropriate to get all our people a pamphlet on "How to Prepare for Confession." It is a great pamphlet that you can take home and have the entire family profit from it. It is meant to put you into a very prayerful mood so that by receiving the sacrament of Penance, you would be availing yourself of the many graces coming from that sacrament and the real purpose for which Christ instituted it for mankind, as a real help to attain a better life. And we know that all our people will try to use this book with sincerity of heart and hopefully attain to their final end, which is union with Christ and the Church.

We hope that by distributing this booklet to all of our people, each will be drawn closer to Christ and to His Holy Church especially during this holy season of Lent.

Peter's Pence Collection

Next Sunday, there will be a special Collection for the Pope which has always been called: Peter's Pence.

The Pope during the course of the year is called upon to help so many causes throughout the world that calls for aid. Anyplace that has suffered any sort of natural calamity or even worse, such as earthquakes or mudslides and the like, nations and peoples alike always have recourse to His Holiness for financial aid. Once each year, in all the Catholic Churches throughout the world, a collection is taken up to help the Pope when he sees a needy hand stretched out looking for help that he feels is abandoned and only he can help. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

Cardinal's Appeal

The Cardinal's Appeal will begin shortly in the Parish. By this time, some of our Parishioners may have received their packets in the mail and we hope that you will read them and receive them in good spirit. Our goal this year is still \$5,500. And we pray that we will reach it without difficulty..

Trip to Atlantic City

Anyone wishing to go to Atlantic City by bus this month can give Mary Frattini a Call at 212 -242-0195. She will explain all about the trip going on Wednesday, February 21st, she will assign a seat for you and give you departure times as well as a time for your return to New York. Mary has always been a good supporter of our Church. And we like to be able to support her endeavors if possible. She makes very little profit from the bus rides, but the little she makes, she places it aside and once each year, she makes out a check for Most Precious Blood Church.

A True Story

A Michigan woman and her family were vacationing in a small New England town where Paul Newman and his family often visited. One Sunday morning, the woman got up early to take her early morning exercise, and after walking for five brisk miles, she decided to treat herself to a double dip chocolate ice cream cone and undo all the good she did by her brisk walk. She hopped in her car, drove to the center of the village and went straight to the combination bakery/ice cream parlor.

She was in for a big, really big surprise. There was only one other patron in the store, Paul Newman, sitting at the counter having a doughnut and coffee. The woman's heart skipped a beat as her eyes made contact with those famous baby blues.

The actor nodded graciously and the star struck woman smiled demurely. Pull yourself together! She chides herself. You're a happily married woman with 3 children, your forty-five years old, not a teenager!

The clerk filled her order and she took the double dip chocolate ice cream cone in one hand and her change in the other hands, avoiding even a glance in the direction of Paul Newman, she went out the door.. When she reached her car, she realized that she had a handful of change but her other hand was empty! What happened to the ice cream cone. Did I leave it in the Store?

Back into the store she went, expecting to see the cone still in the clerk's hand or perhaps in a holder on

the counter, or something. But no ice cream was in sight. With that, she happened to glance over to Paul Newman.

His face broke into that familiar warm friendly grin and he said to the woman:

“You put it in your purse.”

Parish Sick& Deceased

Please remember to pray for your sick and deceased relatives and friends, especially those who you know may be depending on your prayers because they no one else who might be praying for them. A true spiritual work of mercy!