



St. John

the Evangelist
Catholic Church

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MARCH 1, 2009

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Sunday of LENT



THE SEASON OF LENT

Traditionally the forty days of Lent are marked by fasting and by other acts of penance. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor). During lent, Catholics give up a vice, add something that will bring them closer to God, and give time or money to charitable purposes or organizations. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The six Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter", a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. The forty-day-long liturgical season of fasting and prayer before Easter represents the time Jesus spent in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. The purpose of Lent is the preparation—through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial—leading us to Holy Week and the commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, where we recall the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates on Easter Sunday where we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our journey during Lent is following and remembering Jesus' Passion, and our belief in His resurrection by which we receive our salvation. Without His Passion, the Resurrection means nothing. Without his Resurrection, his suffering is for nothing. Lent was formerly referred to by the Latin term *quadragesima* (translation of the original Greek *tessaraktoste*, the "fortieth day" before Easter). In the late Middle Ages, as sermons began to be given in the vernacular instead of Latin, the English word *lent* was adopted. This word initially meant *spring* and derives from the Germanic root for *long* because in spring the days lengthen.

TODAY'S GOSPEL TELLS US OF THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS AND HIS FASTING IN THE DESERT FOR FORTY DAYS. AFTER MASS, DISCUSS THE READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN, EXPLAINING THAT TEMPTATION ITSELF IS NOT A SIN AND AS CHRIST DID, WE MUST USE THE WORD OF GOD TO COMBAT TEMPTATION.



THE SPIRIT DROVE JESUS OUT INTO THE DESERT, AND HE REMAINED IN THE DESERT FOR FORTY DAYS, TEMPTED BY SATAN
Mk 1:12-15

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST. JOHN CHURCH FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 6 PM EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

Stations of The Cross (Way of the Cross; in Latin, *Via Crucis*; also called the *Via Dolorosa* or Way of Sorrows), refers to the final hours, or Passion, of Jesus. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother visited daily the scenes of our Lord's passion. After Constantine legalized Christianity in the year 312, pathways were marked with its important stations. St. Jerome (342-420), living in Bethlehem during the later part of his life, attested to the crowds of pilgrims from various countries who visited those holy places and followed the Way of the Cross. The devotion grew in popularity as pilgrims to the Holy Land continued to walk in Jesus' footsteps to Calvary. In the fifth century, an interest developed in the Church to "reproduce" the holy places in other areas so pilgrims, who could not travel to the Holy Land could do so in a devotional, spiritual way in their hearts. Pilgrimages became too dangerous when the Moslems captured the Holy Land, forbade any veneration to the stations and suppressed this devotion in the Holy Land. Reproductions then increased with statues and artwork of the Stations of the Cross. The Stations represent critical events of Jesus' journey to Calvary and is intended to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. Originally done only outdoors, the Stations were allowed inside churches in the mid-18th century and may be done at any time, but most commonly are done during the Season of Lent, especially on Good Friday and on every Friday during Lent.

Pope John Paul II
December 2001
"Of all the pious exercises connected with the veneration of the Cross, none is more popular among the faithful than the Via Crucis. Through this pious exercise, the faithful movingly follow the final earthly journey of Christ: from the Mount of Olives, where the Lord, "in a small estate called Gethsemane" (Mk 14:32), was taken by anguish (Lk 22:44), to Calvary where He was crucified between two thieves (Lk 23:33), to the garden where He was placed in freshly hewn tomb." (Jn 19:40-42)

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE HOURS

Mon / Tue/ Wed 8am - 4pm
Thursday & Friday 8am-noon
Email: stjoh007@centurytel.net
Webpage: www.stjohnenterprise.org

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm
Sunday Mass 9am; 1pm Español
St. Mary in Geneva, Saturday Mass 7pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon, Tue, Thu, Mass at 9am
Wed 5:30pm Benediction Service with
Mass to follow
Friday 9am Para Liturgical Service

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 pm or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

In the Day Chapel:
Wednesday 9:00 am– 5:30 pm
Benediction at 5:30 pm with Mass to follow
Rosary in Spanish 7pm on 3rd Fri of Month

GIFT SHOP

Open after Saturday 5pm Mass and
Sunday 9am Mass or by appointment

BECOMING CATHOLIC Contact the church office for information on the RCIA program.

BAPTISM CLASS is held the last Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the church. Call the office to register.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Please consult with the priest at least 6 months before the planned wedding date.

HOMEBOUND & ILLNESSES If you, or someone you know, would like to be visited at home or in the hospital/nursing home, please contact the office.

NEW PARISHIONERS Welcome! Please fill out a Parishioner Registration Card (in the church foyer) and place in the collection basket or return to the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you would like offering envelopes, please contact the office or fill out a Parishioner Registration Card (in the church foyer) and check the appropriate box on the back.

WELCOME

ST. JOHN PARISH IS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT PROCLAIMS THE GOOD NEWS AND SERVES OTHERS IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. MAY YOUR TIME AT ST. JOHN BE A BLESSED ONE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN REQUIREMENTS: FASTING AND ABSTINENCE ARE SERIOUS OBLIGATIONS: **ABSTINENCE** refers to the restriction of eating

meat and under present law, does not include egg or milk products, meat soups or gravies. Abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older and is observed Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. **FASTING** is the eating of only one full meal a day. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed but together should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast but drinking liquids does not. **Fasting obliges Catholics from the age of 18 to 59** and is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Self-imposed fasting on other weekdays during Lent is recommended.



LENTEN SERVICES: STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY during Lent at 6 pm. **PENANCE SERVICE** will be March 25th at 6pm.

LENTEN MISSION: Informational and humorous sessions will be presented by **Fr. Norbert Sharon**, a Trinitarian Missionary Priest from Washington, DC. Mark your calendar for **March 9th, 10th & 11th AT 7:00 pm** in the Church. No registration required and Everyone is welcome!

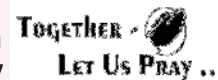
LENTEN RETREAT: **Sitting By The Well, Meeting Jesus in Prayer** Please join us **Saturday, March 7th from 9am until noon** in the Parish Hall for a retreat on prayer. This is a wonderful way to deepen your relationship with Jesus during Lent. **Father Abraham** from RENEW International will be the presenter for this retreat. Breakfast will be served so please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the foyer so we will know how many plan to attend. **For more information, call Mary Penny at 393-7907.**

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS: A few of the *Why Catholic?* small groups will meet during Lent. If interested please sign up in the foyer, regardless if you were in a group in the past. For more information, call **Mary Penny at 393-7907.**

ST. PATRICK DINNER: Leprechaun stories, outrageous pub tales, fighting Irish gags, good luck stories, kissing the Blarney Stone- ok ok. maybe its only the Irish food fare! **The Knights of Columbus** will be cooking up a **St. Patrick Day Dinner to be held in the Hall on March 17th from 5–7 pm.** Tickets will be sold before/after masses March 7, 8, 14 & 15th.



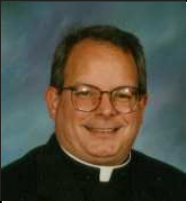
THE MARY MARTHA GROUP is a prayer and service group. Contact us with your prayer request. It is then forwarded to an email listing of people who will pray for the intended needs. An upcoming project of the Mary Martha Group is it's **yearly preparation and delivery of Easter baskets to the elderly and shut-ins in our Parish.** If you have a prayer need or would like more information in joining this ministry please contact **Mary Henson at 347-2111 or email hoca@roadrunner.com.**



PARISHIONERS: Please patronize our advertisers and **let them know you appreciate** their advertising in our bulletin.

BUSINESS OWNERS: Advertising in your church bulletin is a great way to announce to fellow parishioners who you are. With choices of services, most of us would gladly patronize a fellow parishioner! As in all military communities, there is a constant turn over and newcomers will not know who you are. Please consider letting our parishioners know who you are by advertising and supporting the church bulletin at the same time. There is a VERY large number of professionals and business owners within our parish, but in 4 months our bulletin only has 7 advertisers, 3 of which are not even parishioners! **Contact John Cardenas at 1-800-994-9820 or 404-626-0870 for cost information.**

FORECLOSURE? For legal advice due to foreclosure, regardless of income, call toll free **877-393-2333. Sponsored by the Alabama Bar Association.**



From the Desk of Father Jan
Dear Parishioners:
Someone recently gave this to me for my consideration. I now present it to you in part for your consideration. It's entitled: "It's Strange Isn't It."

“Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to the church, but such a small amount when you want something?”

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie or a football game?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble when talking about someone else?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read a hundred pages of a popular novel like *The Da Vinci Code*?

Isn't it strange everyone wants front row seats at concerts and games, but no one wants to sit on the front row at church?

Isn't it strange how we need a two to three week notice before an event at church in order to attend, but how easy it is to change our schedules at the last moment for a social event?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven but very few of us want to do anything for it?"

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT!?

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2009

- **General:** That the role of women may be more appreciated and used to good advantage in every country in the world.
- **Mission:** That in the light of the letter addressed to them by Pope Benedict XVI, the Bishops, priests, consecrated persons, and lay faithful of the Catholic Church in the Popular Republic of China may commit themselves to being the sign and instrument of unity, communion and peace.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Michael Albertson, Berry Beadles, Bert Baxter, Bob Bailey, Bob Brookshire, Mike Chase, Ida Dixon, Peggy Fremd, Joan Flood, Matthew Ford, Margaret Greenwood, Francis Guili, Fr. James Havens, Mike Mock, Chandra Middleton, Earl Robinson, Harry Pendle, Michelle Proctor, Elijah Seritt, Helen Walters, and Melvin Yanik

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR PLACE SOMEONE ON THE SICK LIST

ST. JOHN'S PASTOR FROM 1995—2000



MSGR. HUGH MAGUIRE

B: July 21, 1931
D. Sunday Feb 22, 2009
He is survived by one brother, Charles Maguire of County Fermanagh, Ireland

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE INFO
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HISPANIC MINISTRY
FR. MARCO SANCHEZ: C: 334-618-1101
MASAIH@YAHOO.COM

PRAYER REQUEST
CALL ROSE ROBKE AT 347-3630 OR CONTACT THE MARY MARTHA GROUP – MARY HENSON AT 347-2111
HOCA@ROADRUNNER.COM

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
BLDG FUND MAR 08



REGULAR \$5,429.95
BLDG FUND \$1,289.50

MARGARET K. WILHELM
Mother of Donna Newell



This Week in our Parish	SUN MAR 01 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT RCIA RITE OF SENDING 9AM MASS JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP 6PM, HALL GN 9:8-15; Ps 25;1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15	MON MAR 02 LADIES GUILD MTG AFTER MASS Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19; Mt 25:31-46	TUE MAR 03 ST. KATHARINE DREXEL LADIES GUILD CRAFTS HALL 10 AM—2 PM RCIA 7PM ST. COLUMBIA IN DOTHAN Is 55:10-11; Ps 34; Mt 6:7-15	WED MAR 04 ST. CASIMIR ADORATION IN CHAPEL Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51; Lk 11:29-32
	THU MAR 05 EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138; Mt 7:7-12	FRI MAR 06 DAY OF ABSTINENCE CANASTA, 1PM, RM 9 Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130; Mt 5:20-26	SAT MAR 07 STS. PERPETUA & FELICITY LENTEN RETREAT IN HALL 9AM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD TONIGHT Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119; Mt 5:43-48	SUN MAR 08 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT RCIA SCRUTINY 9 AM, MASS HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH, 6 PM, HALL GN 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

PLAN 10 DAYS IN ADVANCE! ALL NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE EACH THURSDAY AT 4 PM THE WEEK PRIOR TO PRINT. EMAIL STJOHN007@CENTURYTEL.NET