



The Messenger

Bringing Our Parish Community Together

March 2005 • Vol. 8, No. 3



An invitation to Lent

Submitted by Joanne Fritz. Written by the minister at her cousin's church.

Tonight, snow is expected. Or so I heard when I stopped at the store on my way home from church today. The cashier was talking about the weather forecast to the woman standing in line in front of me. "Really? How many inches?" she asked, looking pleased to hear about this impending snowfall. The cashier responded by assuring her it wouldn't amount to much, maybe some sleet, a little dusting on the roads. The woman looked disappointed. "I wish it would either snow hard enough to stop everything and keep me home, or not snow at all until spring," said the woman.

Maybe Lent is like that. Lent doesn't stop us from carrying on the work we've been given. Nor

will the season simply "back off" and let us celebrate the Easter feast without getting our attention first. No, Lent invites us to move through our routines prayerfully and reflectively; to slow down enough to listen and to see; to refrain from our overindulgent behaviors and cravings and allow the waters of grace to replenish our thirsting hearts.

Opportunities for spiritual nourishment this Lent await us: Special worship services to mark the season and weekly Holy Eucharist to nourish us for the journey. Come to the waters. Come to the Table. Come and be renewed in the grace God pours upon us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



St. Gabriel Catholic Church

8901 Winterpock Road.
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129
Moseley, VA 23120

Office located at: 21429 Hull St. Rd.
(804) 639-6712
FAX: (804) 639-6591
www.saintgabriel.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Pat Apuzzo
Pastor

Eva Hall
Pastoral Associate

Adele Minter
Parish Business Manager

Monica Hughes
Minister of Christian Formation

Richard Maume
Youth Minister

Cheryl Gambardella
Staff Secretary

Brenda Boehnlein
Parish Secretary

The Messenger Staff

*I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of
God and am sent to spread unto thee, and to
show thee glad tidings. Luke 1:19*

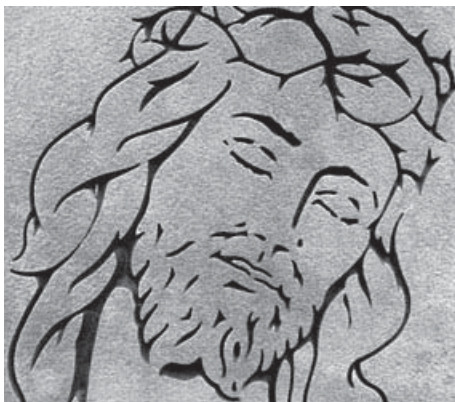
Bonnie Orzolek, Editor
639-7102 Orz5@aol.com

Janet Joyce, Art Director
739-7710 jjoyce@usa.net

Lisa Gorton, Layout/Production
763-1460 lgs@comcast.net

Contributing Angels: Gail
Casalaspì, Karen Coppola, Laura
Cressman, Laura Dewey, JoAnn
Fritz, Sharon Katzman, Joanne
Kraus-Jones, John Lemza, Joan
Scoville, Tim White.

We are always looking for people to
work on *The Messenger*. If you're
interested, please contact Bonnie
Orzolek.



Holy Week Mass Schedule:

Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Elementary and Youth Faith Formation Events

March

Live Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 18, 6 p.m.

April

K, 1st & 2nd Grade GLAD
Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade GLAD
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Middle School GLAD
Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m.

High School GLAD
Sunday, April 10, 6 p.m.

Pizza Chat with Fr. Pat
Sunday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

K of C Announces 2005 Scholarship Program

The St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus have increased their Scholarship Fund for 2005 to \$2,500. Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners and their friends to our annual Casino Night, the St. Gabriel Knights have been able to increase their scholarship fund by 25% to \$2,500 for this year. Scholarship Forms can be found at the hospitality table. The following criteria apply for eligibility to be considered:

Applicants must be registered members in the parish or a child of a living or deceased member of the St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus. Must be graduating high school in June 2005 and attending a post secondary institution in the Fall of 2005.

Scholarship form must be completed by applicant and their parents or guardian and received

no later than April 29, 2005. An essay also must be completed. The essay question is found at the bottom of the form.

The trustees of the Knights will decide the winners. More than one applicant may receive a scholarship but the total amount awarded will be \$2,500.

The awarding of these scholarships is the largest single donation we make each year. We can think of no greater investment than assisting the future of our Church and Community. None of this could be accomplished without the generous help of our fellow parishioners and friends who support us in our Casino Night. Please contact Bill Hennesey @ 744-7573 with any questions.

Don't forget our new date for the 2005 Casino Night - Oct. 15th.

St. Gabriel's Community Sharing Faith and Scripture at the Feast



Scripture is not about
someone else's story,
it is our story

By Ray Anthony

I love the diversity of our community and I love the openness of our community. In preparing for the Feast, our hope is to provide an opportunity for people to share and to listen to the stories of faith with each other. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide us to present not what "we want" but instead to present what the "community needs." Then to come to the Feast and experience the openness of the people in our community is truly humbling. This past Feast was no exception.

Scripture is a great place to see the diversity in our Catholic community. I saw many Bibles at the last Feast, some of them were new, some had tabs and book marks sticking out all over the place and some were highlighted with notes in the margins. I want to thank each and every person who shared their "scripture" story, whether you stood up at the Feast, shared at the table, in an e-mail or at the grocery store. It is so important to hear each others stories and to understand that we are all in this together. It is truly inspirational.

And when I say inspirational, I mean that many friends shared with me that they never really took the time or even understood why they should read the Bible outside of what they heard on Sundays. A couple of people shared that they even found the Bible a bit intimidating. But as we listened at the Feast, it became obvious that Scripture is not someone else's story, it is our story.

Scripture touches everyone differently. What came clear to me at the Feast is that it is not important whether you are a scripture scholar, or you participate in a Bible study or discussion group. What is most important is that you take some time to read the Bible. Of all the stories we heard people share about scripture there was one common thread: the Word of God is making an impact on people's lives. They may have found it comforting, they may have found it challenging, they may have even found it entertaining, but it is always thought provoking and life changing.

"Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"
Psalm 119

Paradoxical Commandments

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

The Paradoxical Commandments were written by Kent M. Keith and published in 1968 in his booklet for student leaders titled *The Silent Revolution: Dynamic Leadership in the Student Council*. The Paradoxical Commandments immediately began circulating among student leaders and later the general public in the United States and overseas.

As the Paradoxical Commandments were shared, those who shared them occasionally changed a few words or changed the title and format. One version is known as the "Ten Commandments of Leadership." The version that Mother Teresa put up on the wall of her children's home in Calcutta was titled "Anyway" and consisted of eight of the original ten Paradoxical Commandments, reformatted as a poem. Another version of the Paradoxical Commandments often attributed to Mother Teresa, but noticeably different from the version on her wall, is "The Final Analysis."

Here is a short list of sightings: Books, Speeches, Miscellaneous; and In *Mother Teresa: A Simple Path*, compiled by Lucinda Vardey (1995), page 185.

2004 Fiscal Year Offertory Contributions

(832) Families

<u>\$ / WEEK</u>	<u># of FAMILIES</u>	<u>% of PARISH</u>
ZERO	86	10.3
\$.01 - 5.00	263	31.6
\$ 5.01 - 10.00	180	21.7
\$10.01 - 15.00	91	10.9
\$15.01 - 20.00	83	9.9
\$20.01 - 25.00	53	6.4
\$25.01 - 35.00	41	4.9
\$38.00 - 227.00	35	4.3

Average Donation of 832 Families = \$10.88 / Week

Every four months, our Finance Council will provide the Messenger an offertory giving report like the one above.

The average contribution of close to \$11 a week can be deceptive. It doesn't mean that every household gave that amount each week. Not nearly.

The average contribution is higher than most households actually gave. That's because about 1/3 of our households gave a lot more than the average. In fact, without their generosity, we'd have to slash our ministries drastically. We'd be pinching pennies just to operate for Mass on the weekends, never mind the hundreds of activities that go on every day of the week.

The parish owes a debt of gratitude to that 36% of our households whose financial sacrifices are so critical to operate. We must be grateful, as well, to those who cannot give more, but give what they are able at a great personal sacrifice.

As the report shows, well over half our households (64%) haven't given more than \$10 a week. That includes 42% who have been giving \$5 or less.

Except for those who cannot afford more, the generous 36% of our households, and those who give less at great sacrifice, are an example for every household to follow.



Next Feasts:

"Sin and Healing"

March 6th, 7th and 8th

"Trinity"

May 1st, 2nd and 3rd

We just as sorely need, and are just as grateful for financial contributions to debt reduction. Those contributions help us pay off debt for the facilities we have and set us on the way to providing more facilities for our ministries in the future. As crucial as those funds are to our life as a parish, they realistically don't provide the additional funds it takes to operate daily.

Many thanks for your attention,

March Schedules

March 5-6	March 12-13	March 19-20	March 26-27
Children's Liturgy of the Word			
Jan & Dana Kuhn - 5:00	Michelle Ambrose - 5:00 Lisa Blair <i>Katherine Orth</i>	Cathy Kelley - 5:00 <i>Susan Glynn</i>	EASTER WEEKEND
Mark & Karen Davidson - 8:30 <i>Kenzie, Kailyn & Karlyn Lockie</i>	Alexa Dembek - 8:30 Debbie McNeil <i>Jessica Kuehl</i>	Jim Eck 8:30 Maureen Prince <i>Andrew Godhum</i>	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Beth Harbula - 10:30 Andrea Dodson <i>Katie Harbula</i>	Lisa & Stu Gorton - 10:30 <i>Brad Gorton</i>	Debbie Martin - 10:30 Margaret Poe Marijane Strolla <i>David Brukasz</i>	
Cantor			
Jennie Joyce - 5:00 Katie Schick -8:30 Peter Dawes - 10:30	Peter Dawes - 5:00 Michelle Chimento - 8:30 Eva Hall - 10:30	Colleen Dawes & Traci Bonds - 5:00 Katie Schick -8:30 Ray Anthony - 10:30	Michelle Chimento - 8:30 Janet Joyce -10:30
Eucharistic Ministers			
Team 6 - 5:00 Team 4 - 8:30 Team 5 - 10:30	Team 7 - 5:00 Team 2 - 8:30 Team 1 - 10:30	Team 4 - 5:00 Team 5 - 8:30 Team 3 - 10:30	EASTER SIGNUP
Nursery			
5:00 Sally Hinski Brittany Gambardella Katherine Orth Eric Curtis	5:00 Brenda Escamilla Traci Bonds Logan Cochran Ryan Goode	5:00 Eileen Petree Kaitlynn Petree Kailyn, Karlyn & Kenzie Lockie	EASTER WEEKEND
8:30 Lisa Blair Katie Harbula Kelly Shelton Margaret Dupler	8:30 Janice Goodbody Chelsea & Kaitlyn Dinges Amanda Latham	8:30 Halina Marek Katherine Marek Julie Maurer Kimberly Lincoln	NO NURSERY!
10:30 Mary Angela Lopresti Catherine Faszewski Lauren & Sarah Faszewski Ashley Alvarez	10:30 Theresa Biagioli Chelsea & Lauren Biagioli Amanda Rosswog Katie Lemza	10:30 April & Lincoln Swineford Megan Kohut Heather & Shannon Grosse Amanda Loviza	
Lector			
5:00 Frank Gulla -reader 1 Erin Shea-Bower - reader 2 Dawne Gulla - reader 3	5:00 Joan Gripshover - reader 1 Marty Rodgers - reader 2 Connie O'Neill - reader 3	Volunteer sign up at table for Holy Week	EASTER
8:30 Steve Haut - reader 1 Kathy Haut - reader 2 Tommye Finley - reader 3	8:30 Kathy Anderson - reader 1 Ed Ostrowski - reader 2 Jay Cowan - reader 3		
10:30 Curt Killar - reader 1 Greg Mroczkowski - reader 2 Gary Fritz - reader 3	10:30 Jeff Lobb - reader 1 Jay Rosencrance - reader 2 Carol Sherman - reader 3		



Stations of the Cross

By Monica Hughes

Love is so important to all of us. We busy ourselves with so many activities, getting caught up in the rush of our lives, but at the end of each day what matters is love. We are made for love – to love and to be loved. God gave us the greatest commandments.

“He said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt 22: 37-39

What is love, though? The Stations of the Cross are, above everything else, about love.

Each year the Church sets aside 40 days as a special time called Lent. In the northern hemisphere, where the days are short and the nights are long, Lent begins when all seems to be in darkness. As the days pass and daylight begins to stay longer, signs of spring begin to show themselves. The 40 days duration of Lent was determined in the fourth century.

Reflecting on our faith and on the number 40 recalls the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai when he received the commandments, the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert before reaching the land they were promised and the 40 days of fasting by Jesus in the desert. When we journey with Jesus on the Way of the Cross these 40 days, we learn what real love is.

The Gospel of John tells us that at the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples that they were no longer servants, but friends – friends of God. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for a friend.” In Lent we try to think about Jesus as He carried a heavy cross and died for us. We think

about how He showed us love. One special Lenten prayer that helps us understand this love is the Stations of the Cross. From the time of Jesus’ death, people have traveled to Jerusalem and walked down the same street where Jesus

carried His cross. They walk and pray and stop at special places to remember how he suffered. Since traveling to Jerusalem isn’t possible for most people, Christians all over the world now follow this kind of “moving prayer” as they reflect on key moments in Jesus’

Passion. There are 14 traditional “stations” or scenes that take us from Jesus being condemned to death, through the carrying of the cross, to his death and burial. Some people add a 15th station to rejoice with “Jesus rising from the dead.”



St. Gabriel Catholic Church
21429 Hull Street Road
P.O. Box 129
Moseley, VA 23120

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