

Pastor's Notes



This past Wednesday, we began the Season of Lent. Lenten practices traditionally incorporate a combination of **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**. One opportunity we are offering this year is our Soup, Salad & Speaker series. Each week a Franciscan Friar or Sister will speak on one aspect of the spiritual relationship between Clare and Francis. This coming Wednesday Friar Tom Walsh, pastor of Annunciation Parish, will lead us in a reflection of The Theology of the Cross as lived out in the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi and his soulmate in the faith, Saint Clare of Assisi. Friar Tom is well known for his ministry at Archbishop Curley High School as well as Saint Clement's Church. My hope is that we will all get a better appreciation of our patroness, Saint Clare and how she impacted the faith and life of Saint Francis.

Besides our offering Soup & Salad to enrich your spiritual **prayer** experience, remember Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays after the 8 am Mass and at 7 pm. Reconciliation/Penance/Confessions are available on Wednesdays at 7:30 am and Saturdays at 3:00 pm. There are many opportunities for **almsgiving** as I mentioned in my Lenten Letter to you. Please refer to it and pick your favorite charity to give to or choose one of your own not mentioned. Our opportunities for **fasting and abstaining** include refraining from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent as well as eating only one major meal on Good Friday. Through this experience our bodies lead us to remember that the bread which will truly satisfy us is the bread from heaven.

Next up will be a **convocation (Listening Session) for the Youth** of our parish. It will take place this coming **Wednesday, February 24th**. As usual doors will open at 6:30 pm and the session will go from 7 to 8:30 pm. This session will focus on listening to the voices of **Middle School and High School youth** sharing with me, my staff and parish leaders what they would like to see us look like as a parish. The stage side of the Hall will be set up for them and the kitchen side of the Hall will be for their parents. I say with a little tongue in cheek that we will keep you busy as we **learn from our youth how to be a more youth friendly church**. I am anxious to hear their voices.

Our new **gift shop & bookstore** has been painted. The floor will be washed and waxed, and we will soon need volunteers help us (1) create a hospitable atmosphere and (2) move the shop's items from the Parish Center to the new gift shop. Also, not too far down the road, we will need volunteers to cover the shop once it is open. I am thinking we would like to have it opened before and after weekend Masses for at least ½ hour so people can browse at their convenience. It would be good to have a team of people who would like to provide this service as a ministry to the parish community so that no one person or small group of people feels burdened by it. Please consider helping in all of these ways.

Our **Challenge Appeal** continues as we strive to raise an additional \$33,500 to cover the budgeting oversight. Our parishioners have been generous with this appeal and monthly second collection for the school. Please do what you can to help us. I assure you that whatever you give to the school will go directly to our school's cause and is tax deductible.

Before the snows, we began a new marketing campaign to fill the 230 seats of our school for next school year. I am calling it **Project 230**. We need each of you to act as ambassadors. You have tremendous power to reach out to your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers and invite them to check out our school and consider it an option to educate their children in a Catholic/Christian environment. Open houses will begin this Sunday and we will begin registering students for next year then. It is important that we have a strong registration effort as soon as we can to show how much we are backing up our desire to keep our school open by making it strong.

Our new marketing campaign involves a new logo. Here is the slogan: **I believe in Catholic Schools, I believe in Saint Clare**. It is simple and to the point. You will see this on Tee Shirts, bumper stickers, etc. I ask each of you who share our appreciation for our school, to wear a shirt and put a bumper sticker on your car.

Remember, God loves you and so do I! Have a good week!

Father Lou 410-299-6731 (Cell)

February 21, 2010
1st Sunday of Lent



2nd Sunday of Lent
 Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 9:28b-36

Mass Intentions for the Week

2/22 Monday	8am	Lorena Urbina Briceno & Eva & Kazimir Akelaitis
2/23 Tuesday	8am	Antonio Pierorazio
2/24 Wednesday	8am	Anthony Harper
2/25 Thursday	8am	Communion Service
2/26 Friday	8am	Eric Focht & Tanner Luke Holcomb
2/27 Saturday	4pm	Saint Clare Parishioners
2/28 Sunday	9am	Lilliam Woolley
	11am	Vittorino Pierorazio

Prayer List: One of the most important gifts we give one another as a Christian community is the gift of our prayers. We join in praying for one another's needs, especially for the sick: Joseph H. Bangert, Marie Bray, Joseph Bucci, Michael Bucci, Lorraine Campbell, Jeanette Gleason, Donna Goetz, Ralph E. Greer Sr., William Grzech, John Hall, James Harper Sr., Maryann Holcomb-Dziennik, Doris Jones, Rosemary Kirkpatrick, Gabrella Loprespi, Paul Mosmiller, Shelly Mulkern, Sandra Nuth, Edward & Anna Oldewurtel, William C. Ogden, Matt Paruszewski, Paula Piechocki, Chuck Plansky, George Prosser, Julie Rybczynski, Colleen Slifker, Pete Slifker, Charles Szmurlo, Cynthia Vollmer, Barbara Wancowicz, Louie Wancowicz, Peter Wancowicz, Sandy Wancowicz.

Prayer Line: If you or a loved one needs prayers for any situation, including terminal illness, critical surgery, loss of a loved one, severe emotional problems, loss of employment or any other intention, please call any of th23e following to have your intention added to the prayer line: Maryrose Scism 410-391-6337; Joanne Reiter 410-682-5126 or Betty Sinisi 410-686-9513.

Stewardship Corner

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given to me?

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Parish.

2/14/10	Envelopes	\$ 11,862
	Loose Money	\$ 1,677
	School Env	\$ 1,301
	Maintenance	\$ 90
	Debt Reduction	\$ 1,229
	ABC Education Fund	\$ 670

Children's Stewardship Report
 Masses Cancelled

Many Thanks...

- ❖ To Steve Szymanski for painting the new space for our religious articles store
- ❖ To Bob Hopkins for clearing snow in our parking lots

For this and other random acts of stewardship, may GOD BLESS YOU!

THE WEEK AHEAD

2/22	Monday	10:00am	Riverview Service
		6:30pm	Boy Scouts
2/23	Tuesday	6:00pm	Soup, Salad & Speaker
		6:30pm	Cub Scouts - S
		7:00pm	NARNON Mtg - PC
		7:30pm	Living Water - MC
2/24	Wednesday	6:30pm	Religious Ed & RCIA-S
		7:00pm	Adult Confirmation - PC
		7:00pm	Youth Listening Session- H
		7:00pm	Legion Mary - MC
2/25	Thursday	11:00am	AA Mtg - PC
		6:30pm	Girl Scouts - PC &H
2/26	Friday	8:45am	Stations of the Cross - C
		4:30pm	Hot Meal - H
		7:00pm	Stations of the Cross - C
2/27	Saturday		
2/28	Sunday	9:00am	1 st Communion Class - S
		5:00pm	Youth Mass & Dance

Upcoming Parish Events

.... Mark your calendar



Feb 23	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Feb 26	Stations of the Cross
Mar 2	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 5	Family Movie Night
Mar 5	Stations of the Cross
Mar 9	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 12	Stations of the Cross
Mar 12	Confirmation Retreat
Mar 13	Annual School Auction
Mar 16	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 19	Stations of the Cross
Mar 20	Bunny Lunch
Mar 23	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 26	Stations of the Cross
Mar 28	Palm Sunday
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 9	Family Movie Night
Apr 16	Saint Clare Dance School Recital
Apr 24	First Communion
Apr 30	Spring Play
May 1	Spring Play
May 7	Family Movie Night
May 12-15	Annual Spring Carnival
May 23	Confirmation
June 11	Family Movie Night
June 12	Annual Flea Market
June 13	Annual Father Son Breakfast
June 21-25	Vacation Bible School

All Are Welcome to Join Our Parish Community

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please Check One:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes Mailed
- Moving Out of Area

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Box
or mail to the Parish Center.

Response to Child Abuse

Physical and/or sexual child abuse by anyone, especially those in a position of trust within our Church, is never to be tolerated. Please know that as a Church family, our Faith Community stands by you. If you have ever been abused at any time, please confide that in a person you trust – a doctor, counselor, social worker, priest, deacon, or staff member, etc. Please allow us to help you. If you hear of any such abuse, please remember that the law requires that you report it, and that you will be guaranteed anonymity. Call the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, 410-853-3000; the Baltimore-based Catholic Church Hotline, 410-547-5589; or any local city or county police.

Bringing the abuse to light is the first, courageous step in a long journey toward healing. Your Faith Community supports you in that journey, and holds you in our prayers.

Living Will & Testament



The future of St. Clare Church depends on YOU! Please remember your Church in your will. Our legal title is St. Clare's Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc., 714 Myrth Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21221

Listening Session For the Youth!



Tell us what you think about Saint Clare Parish?
What do you like? What don't you like?
Share your ideas!

Wednesday, February 24
Stallings Hall – Stage Side
Doors open at 6:30pm
7:00pm – 8:30pm Listening Session

Parents are welcome to come and share a cup of coffee on the kitchen side of the hall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 28, 2010
Sunday, March 7, 2010
Sunday, March 21, 2010
Thursday, April 22, 2010- 6:30 (practice in the church)
Saturday April 24, 2010 -Celebration 10am.



School News

***"We are a community
shining with Christ's light"***

Registration is currently underway for the 2010-2011 school year. Please help us "Fill the Seats". Each Wednesday, the school will have an Open House for prospective families from 9-11 a.m. For information regarding tuition please contact the school.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual School Auction on Saturday, March 13, 2010. The success of this event is largely dependent on the donations that we receive. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the auction. Some popular donation items are: tools, electronics, jewelry, gift certificate/cards, sports memorabilia/items, small appliances, event tickets, personal services, home décor, and themed gift baskets. Thank you in advance for your support! Please see the flyer to order tickets!

A special thank you to Mr. Hurley for all of his work during our snow days to make the school safe for us to return!

Keep Turning in Labels!

BoxTops for Education
We need to 320 Box Tops!



Campbells Labels &
Manufactured Products



Tyson Project A+
We only need 13
Tyson's bag tops!

Essex Elementary School is looking for volunteers to come to the school and assist students with reading, learning their letters, etc. Also, they have a chess club on Wednesdays and are looking for people who can play chess against the kids. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tammy in the Parish Center on 410-687-6011, ext. 124 or tholcomb@saintclare.org.

St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you from SVdP Committee to Chesapeake Urology for their donation of 25 turkeys and 15 hams for our Christmas Baskets and Hot Meal Kitchen

Our pantry is running low. Please consider donating the following items:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Mac and Cheese, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Tuna, Oatmeal, Cereal, Canned Chicken and Turkey, Instant Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Soups, Tea Bags, Any other kind of Pasta, Jell-O, Puddings, Rice, Spaghettios, Raviolios, Potted meats(homeless), Peanut Butter crackers(homeless), Snack Packs of puddings or Jell-O (homeless), and any kind of flip top canned goods that we can put into our homeless packs. Please be sure to check the expiration dates on your donations. We cannot give away food that has expired.

Thank you again for all your donations not only for the Food Pantry but you generosity in the Poor Boxes.

*Are you active in a parish ministry such as parish council, liturgy committee, finance committee, religious education or youth ministry?
Would you like to develop your ministry and leadership skills?*

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then the **Church Leadership Institute (CLI)** is for you!

CLI is the Archdiocesan formation program for those active in parish ministry. CLI provides basic foundation and formation in theology, spirituality, and ministry specific leadership skills. If you want to become more competent in your current ministry or are just interested in enhancing your ministerial skills then CLI is for you. For more details on how CLI can benefit you and your parish call the Division of Ministry Formation and Development at 410-547-5470 or email us at cli@archbalt.org.

Starting Thursday, March 25th from 7:00 – 9:30 pm one of the CORE classes, Leadership for Ministry will be held at **Saint Clare Parish**. There will be eight classes running through May 20th, no classes during Holy Week or Easter Week.

Saint Clare Family Movie Night

Join us for our Monthly
Family Movie Night
The 2nd Friday of Every Month*



Friday, March 5*

*Please note the date change for March Only!
7pm
Stallings Hall

Featuring: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
PG USCCB Rating: A-II (Adolescents & Adults)

Admission: Non-perishable food to benefit SCP
Hot Meal & St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries

Bring your own Lawn Chair or Blanket
Pizza & Refreshments will be available for
purchase at a nominal fee.

Come Shine with Stars at the Saint Clare School Annual Auction

"A Red Carpet Affair"

Saturday, March 13
7pm – 11pm

Saint Clare Stallings Hall



\$25 per person or a table of 10 for \$200

McKinney Caterers
Heavy Hor D'Oeuvres, Carving Stations
Premium Open Bar

For more information or to purchase tickets:
School 410-687-7787 or
Barb Suehle 443-226-0950

Riverview Ministry

Every Monday morning a group of Saint Clare Volunteers head over to the Riverview Rehabilitation & Health Center to assist residents in attending a communion service. This ministry is in desperate need of more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider giving a small amount of your time to this incredibly rewarding ministry. For more information, please contact Carla or Tammy in the parish center – 410-687-6011.

NEWS from HAITI

A little background...ST. Francis is located in Desarmes, Haiti, a community of 50,000, approximately 35 miles from the capital of Port au Prince. Fr. Mackenzy Celestin is the ONLY priest in the ONLY parish ministering to the area. There are 3 schools in the parish at 3 different locations. They are Our Lady of the Nativity at Gabriel in the mountains; Our Lady of the Nativity at Majuin, about 10 miles from Gabriel, and the Church, Rectory, St. Francis School and cafeteria site located in the center of downtown Desarmes. Fr. Mackenzy advises the parish has lost over 50 children, in addition to undisclosed number of adults. (There are no final numbers yet).

Fr. Mackenzy says, "The long lines of survivors arrive all day, families living in extreme conditions of housing and in precarious economic situations find themselves in the obligation of welcoming close relatives, friends and even strangers arriving haphazardly from open roads, the rectory itself shelters about twenty people coming from Port au Prince. Facing a situation of insecurity food-wise, facing problems of clothing and sanitary conditions, we are sending a cry of alarm to our sister parish of Saint Clare and the Diocese of Baltimore". (through saint clare's generosity \$12,000 was sent from the earthquake collection)

Fr. Mackenzy cites three major problem areas:

1. Trying to feed and clothe parishioners as well as refugees who often are family and friends of parishioners in this crisis.
2. The rebuilding of the school at Gabriel which was destroyed; repair to Majuin School which has damaged walls and weakened structure making it especially dangerous to the children should a collapse occur.

Fortunately the Church, Rectory, St. Francis School and the cafeteria site received only slight damage.

Fr. Mackenzy concludes with the following:

"Looks of sadness exchanged at each celebration and which carry the sequel of a drama that took at least a son, a daughter, a nephew, a sister, a brother, an aunt, an uncle or a cousin, a friend, when it isn't the father or mother who were taken. But we feel the faith and the solidarity, in spite of all the misery that rages today in the region.

Thank you on behalf of all persons who are benefiting from your wonderful generosity . Pray for us, pray for Haiti. We will pray for you also".

The Haiti Committee will continue to give information as it is received.

To the Adults of Saint Clare!

This weekend we celebrate the first Sunday of Lent. We hear in the gospel this Sunday the awesome story of Jesus in the desert for 40 days and nights. One of my favorite depictions of this story is from the movie *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. Satan in this movie looks like any other person as he tempts Jesus. The temptations that Jesus faced are the same temptations that the Israelites faced and the same ones we still face today. These same temptations are coming fast and furious to our young people who do not have the spiritual weapons to fight off the temptations. I would imagine many of us can agree that we too are lacking in our spiritual weapon arsenal to fight off temptations. But that is okay because it is never too late to take stock of where we are at and make the necessary changes. I would like to propose a starting point for all of us, the same point of Jesus' departure into his ministry: Waking Up! One of my favorite spiritual writers, Anthony De Mello, says that "Spirituality means waking up. Most people, even though they don't know it, are asleep. They're born asleep, they live asleep, they marry in their sleep, they breed children in their sleep, they die in their sleep without ever waking up. They never understand the loveliness and the beauty of this thing we call human existence." If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, godfather or mother then we have to make it our work to wake up. When we wake up then and only then can we truly help our young people as they move along this pilgrimage called life. Jesus had to be fully awake to do what he came to do. We can begin the process of waking up by spending time with Jesus in the sacraments of the church. May God bless you and strengthen you during this Lent.

In Christ, *Mr. Stebbings*

To the Youth of Saint Clare!

This weekend we begin our Lenten journey toward Easter. I would like to invite all young people in grades 6-12 to come to our Youth Ministry meetings on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm. During the next five weeks we will get to know Jesus. For the next five weeks middle and high school will meet together as we follow in Jesus' footsteps! If you have any questions, please ask!

May God bless you and strengthen during this Lent!

In Christ, *Mr. Stebbings*

Stallings Hall Alarm Codes

Stallings Hall alarm codes have changed!

The codes that were previously in use are no longer valid so please do not attempt to use them. Individual codes are being distributed. If you think you are in need of a code, please contact Carla or Tammy in the parish center on 410-687-6011.

Please note that if old alarm codes are entered into the system, the alarm will sound and the false alarm fee will be billed to your ministry or organization .

Communion to the Home Bound

A ministry in need of a leader and volunteers!

Our parish regularly receives requests for communion to homebound parishioners, and we need help fulfilling these requests!

First, if you are already providing this service for our parish, please let us know as we are attempting to build this ministry and need to know who is already involved and what is already being accomplished.

Second, are you interested in working in this ministry, which is flexible within your schedule? It can be done during the day or evening, weekday or weekend, and can simply take a few minutes of your time while providing a rewarding service for God, please let us know. You will receive training.

Lastly, a leader is needed! This person would create a list of volunteers for the ministry and coordinate visits as requested.

Please contact Carla in the parish center on 410-687-6011, ext. 117 or cberkenkemper@saintclare.org.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Volunteer Opportunity & Training Invitation

Joseph Richey Hospice, an non-profit organization serving the terminally ill, is looking to grow its volunteer base to meet the needs of its patient population. The Hospice will provide a Volunteer Training Course on Saturday, April 10 & 17 from 8:30am-3:30pm. To register, please call Bea Kalina-Bursi on 410-523-2150, no later than 4/2/10.



Lenten Schedule 2010

Prayers, Fasting & Almsgiving

Stations of the Cross

Held either in the church or in the Grove (if weather is conducive)

Fridays at 8:45am – Led by the School after 8am Mass
7pm – Led by Parish Ministries

April 2 at 3pm – Live Stations performed by Confirmation Candidates



Lenten Soup, Salad & Speaker Series

Please join us as we gather on Tuesdays of Lent for great conversations and amazing speakers!

Each week, a different speaker will talk about the spiritual bond between Saint Clare & Saint Francis of Assisi

Please join us for dinner from 6:00-7:00 in the hall and then the speaker will be in the church from 7:00-8:15!

- February 23 Friar Tom Walsh - Theology of the Cross as lived out in the lives of Francis & Clare.
- March 2 Friar Donald Grzymiski - Francis & Clare in the context of their times... a message for our times.
- March 9 Friar Michael Martin - Francis & Clare – the heart of community. The communal nature of religious lives and how we can model that today.
- March 16 Sister Margaret Magee – Clare the Heart of Franciscan Spirituality
- March 23 Friar Matt Foley – Prayer from Francis' & Clare's Perspective

Reconciliation/Penance/Confessions

Communal Reconciliation – Monday, March 15 at 7pm

The Light Is On For You – Reconciliation on Wednesday Mornings in Lent 7:30am before the 8:00am Mass and Saturdays at 3:15pm

Anointing Masses – March 20 at 4pm & March 21 at 9am & 11am



Outreach Opportunities to the Poor & Vulnerable

- Parish-wide Food for the Food Pantry – St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Coin Folders for Lenten Sacrifice
- Friday Hot Meals for the lonely, poor & homeless 4pm – 5:30pm
- Clear Jar for Haiti – Religious Education Sponsored
- RICE BOWL for Catholic Relief Services Sponsored by the School

Fridays - Catholics of majority age abstain from meat
Ash Wednesday & Good Friday – Catholics of majority age abstain from meat and have two small meals, which do not equal their main dinner

To assist you in your prayer life during this season of Lent, please look to the bulletin to find daily prayers and family prayers that you may share.

Daily Prayers for Lent - Week Two

First Sunday of Lent

We cannot live only on food. We need every word that God has spoken. (see Matthew 4:4)

Monday

Your are the Lord, our God. You are holy, and we must be holy too! (see Leviticus 19:2)

Tuesday

Our Father, in heaven, help us to honor your name. (see Matthew 6:9)

Wednesday

"Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt." (Psalms 51:2)

Thursday

Lord help me to treat others as I want them to treat me. (see Matthew 7:12)

Friday

"With all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you! I trust your promises!" (Psalm 129:5)

Saturday

Help me, Lord, to love my enemies and to pray for those who mistreat me. (see Matthew 5:44)

Family Prayers for Lent

Blessing for the Family Meal

Bless us, Lord, and the food we are about to eat. May our love for one another, and the food we share, strengthen us to share your love with others. Amen.

Week One – Lord of Life

Blessed are you, Lord of Life.

You take on our humanity and call us to be all we can.

Give us the courage we need to change our lives.

To live, like Jesus for others.

Help us grow daily in our commitment and caring.

All: Lord, hear us and keep us in your love.

Week Two – Lord of Growth

Blessed are you, Lord of Growth

You grew up, like us, in a family

Where love and support were daily needs.

Help us to share the best of ourselves with our family, To affirm each other's growth and cherish each other's gifts. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen!

All: Lord, hear us and keep us in your love.

Adult Confirmation Class

Wednesdays - February 24 through March 24

7pm in the Parish Center

Lead by Kevin Barr

Have you ever wanted to have your marriage acknowledged in the Church? Would you like to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist? Would you like to be a sponsor or God parent?

If you are an adult, have not been confirmed and are interested in any of the above, then please join us for an opportunity to strengthen your faith and become full members of the Catholic Church. Confirmation is a sacrament of mature Christian commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts. Like Baptism and Eucharist, it is a Sacrament of Initiation for Catholics and a Sacrament of faith in God's fidelity to us.

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

-it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father";

-it unites us more firmly to Christ;

-it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;

-it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;

-it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1303

For more information or to sign up, please contact Carla in the parish center on 410-687-6011, ext. 117 or cberkenkemper@saintclare.org.