

Lent-Easter 2015

St. Pius X Parish WellSpring

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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for all communities and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor6:2)....

"Where is your brother?" (Gen4:9)...All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors (Lk16:19-31)? In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways. In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven...

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away...

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you.

The full text of Pope Francis' Lenten Message:
http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/01/27/pope_warns_of_globalization_of_indifference_in_lenten_messag/1120128.

From the Pastor's Desk...

It's Lent again, YEA! When I was younger I did not look forward to the Lenten season! What would I have to give up? How many more times did I have to go to church? Why can't I have a hamburger today? As I have grown older, hopefully wiser and deeper in faith I have begun to really appreciate the season of Lent. It is a way for me to push the pause button in my life. I am sure all of us are busy doing many things and time does not seem to slow down. Lent is a time to remember why we do many of the things we do. It is a time to remember who we are called to be as individuals, as families, and as a Parish. We all need a break in our busy lives, and Lent is that break/remember/reflection time that is so important for us. It is a time to remember as Pope Francis said his first day: "Pray for me." We are called to pray to acknowledge our weakness, our sinfulness and remember the mercy and compassion of God. Ash Wednesday reminds us as we receive ashes on our foreheads, "Repent and be faithful to the Gospel."

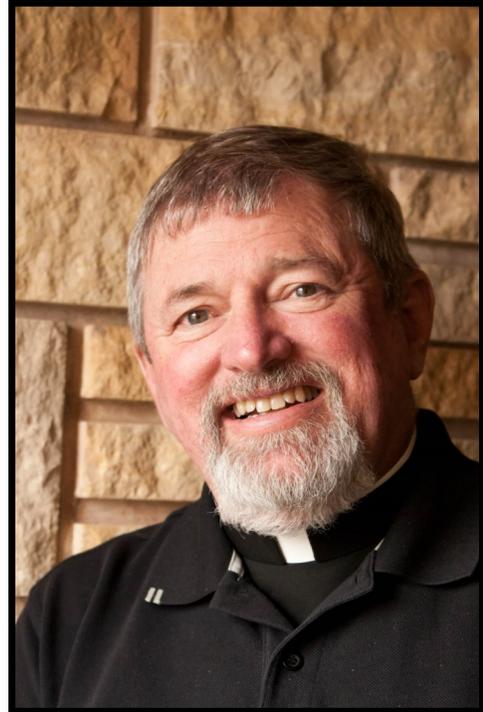
Lent is the time to pray, to calm our spirits, to pause and ask ourselves are we doing what we really are called to do in this life? The prayers, different activities, opportunities and services of Lent help us to refresh ourselves, to reenergize ourselves, and help us to prepare for the great feast following Lent, the Feast of God's Love and forgiveness: EASTER.

Fr. Wayne

Lenten Journey ~ a means to grow closer to Jesus.

Are you looking for a thought-provoking and prayerful Lenten opportunity? Our parish's Education Commission, with assistance from our Knights of Columbus, is offering *Priest Prophet, King: A DVD series* by Fr. Barron of *Word on Fire*, on the six Sundays of Lent, Feb 22 – Mar. 29, from 6:30pm to 8pm each Sunday.

"The better we understand Jesus, the better we understand ourselves," Father Robert Barron says about the release of his new film and study program. Fr. Barron's studies have been used by various groups in our parish over the years, by young adults, Bible studies and others. This latest series is sure to open minds and hearts.



Living the Eucharist Feb 14-Mar. 29

Beginning 1st week of Lent through Palm Sunday St. Pius parishioners are participating in the Living the Eucharist Lenten spiritual renewal. They are gathering as groups in host homes, at coffee shops and on the parish campus. Teens, young adults, families and couples gather. As a community we will grow in our faith through learning more about the Eucharist, participating more actively in Sunday Mass and living the Eucharist each day as disciples of Jesus.

Thank you to Barbara Kostuchowski who coordinated the LTE program this year.

Thanks also to Mary Ann Diedrich, last year's coordinator, who helped Barbara get started this year.

Palms to Ashes

This past year our Worship Commission decided to reinforce the origin and symbolism of the ashes used on Ash Wednesday by inviting parishioners to bring their palm fronds from Palm Sunday back to the church in the fall so we can burn them prior to Ash Wednesday. They asked Jessie Rohrer, our director of youth ministry, if our youth would be interesting in managing this process. So Jessie and Judi Pike, our liturgy coordinator, gathered up the palms that many of you brought in and on November 12 youth ministry joined for a prayer service and then engaged in the first (at least in years) burning of palms into ashes for our Ash Wednesday service.

So why do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday? The following text you read in *italics* is used by permission by Creighton Online Ministries. http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Ashes_Why.html

Why Do We Use Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ashes are placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, in one of the most counter-cultural acts of our faith. It is done for two reasons: a personal act of remembrance and as a sign or a witness for others.

The ashes come from the burnt Palms from last year's Passion Sunday celebration, which begins Holy Week. So, these ashes bring us back to our last celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus for us. On this first day of Lent, we begin a journey of renewal - from death to life. This is a joyful season. We will make sacrifices, in order to try to let God reform our desiring, but this is a time for God to be generous to us.

When the ashes are placed on our foreheads, The SourceBook, which is used by our parish Worship Commission for planning liturgies and sacraments, states the two formulae available: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" (used here at St. Pius) and the one many of you may remember. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We are reminded that we are creatures and that our lives were given to us. But, we are also reminded that our lasting home is in eternity, with God. This is not our lasting home.

We are reminded that our call is to turn away from sin and to believe the Good News of our salvation in Jesus. This is a joyful reminder. It challenges us, for sure, but reminds us of why we want to turn from sin.

Finally, we wear our ashes as a sign. It is not a boastful sign through which I say, "Look at me and see how holy I am." No, it is much more like, "I'm willing to wear this sign in the world and say that I've been reminded of where I come from and where I am going. And, I've heard the call to turn away from a life of sin and to give my life to living the Gospel of Jesus." And, occasionally, in this world which is too often caught up in the denial of death, I might be required to answer the question, "What's with the smudge on your forehead?"



Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. - Joel 2:12-13

A Thank you from...



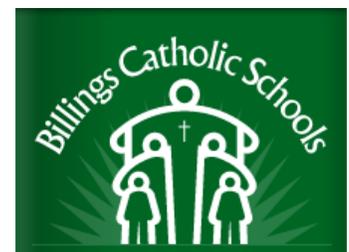
On January 24-31, 2015, Billings Catholic Schools (BCS) once again celebrated Catholic Schools Week (CSW) with our staff, students, families and volunteers, our local Catholic parishes and Catholic schools across the nation. Father Wayne and Father David celebrated the BCS all-system CSW mass with Bishop Warfel, and at the conclusion of mass presented BCS with a check from our Catholic parishes in the amount of \$615,000. Numerous speakers that day expressed their thanks and acknowledged that our schools would not exist without the support of St. Pius and the other four Catholic parishes in Billings. St. Pius parish member Carlos Arce spoke about the Catholic schools at the 5:00 mass on January 24, sharing the words his daughter had written about her Catholic school education. These words written by Maya Arce, graduate of the BCCHS class of 2014 and currently a freshman at Santa Clara University, truly express the value of an exceptional Catholic education.

“I have attended Billings Catholic Schools since the first grade. I know all the corresponding hand motions to the most popular church hymns, can pray the Hail Mary in Spanish and deeply despise wearing a white polo. Receiving a Catholic Education has played an undeniably critical role in shaping my fundamental characteristics. Just as I was taught how to write, I was taught how to pray. As I have matured I have sought independence and my own unique voice. My school does not tell me what to write or believe, but it is because of my school that I have the ability to do both to my fullest capacity.

To me, a Catholic education has meant exposure to religion and the reality of the conflict that accompanies it. I cherish the peace of Morning Prayer, but have also come to realize the value of discussion and the heat of debate. I have watched black and white facts interact and morph into complicated shades of grey. Records from Genesis might contrast timelines from a biology textbook, but instead of deeming one medium true and one false, the opportunity for discussion and analysis has always been made available. My Catholic education has meant that I am able to learn, interpret, and formulate opinions with guidance from all aspects.

Academically, attending Billings Catholic Schools has been an advantage to me. The stress placed on small class sizes is a genuine benefit to the students who have the opportunity to not only become comfortable within their learning environment, but to form a relationship with those guiding their learning process. The dedication to each student at Central has resulted in the creation of unique and individual classes, collaboration with colleges and organizations, and participation in school events on a national level.

(Continued on page 5)



...Billings Catholic Schools



As I look forward to graduation, I am confident that I am ready. My teachers have spent hours in the lab working with me, edited and disposed of countless drafts of college admittance essays, buried me with homework, scolded my negativity, praised my accomplishments and demonstrated honest interest in my success. At Central we are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, a characteristic sought after by universities. Numerous scholarships have been made accessible by the activities I was encouraged to participate in, including music, debate, and service.

As a recipient of a Catholic education, I would like to thank you for your support. The Billings Catholic School system could not exist without it.”

[For more information on Billings Catholic Schools, check out their website at <http://www.billingscatholicschools.org/>]

Lenten Soup & Stations Fridays of Lent

- Friday, Feb 20 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary
- Friday, Feb 27 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary
- Friday, March 6 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary
- Friday, March 13 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary
- Friday, March 20 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary
- Friday, March 27 Soup 6pm—Fellowship Hall
Stations 7pm—Sanctuary



Pray for our Catechumens & Candidates

Catechumens

Ciara Giesick
Laken Goldsby
Summer Kennedy
Teshah Ugalde-Narcia
Skylar Kennedy
Lisa Burdette
Ruchi Fitzgerald
Kelsey Komar
Dawn Ramlow

Candidates

Nolan Berkram
Colby Manuz
Felix Milburn
Sarah Cox
Kendra Cox
Erik Marquis
Noah Marquis
Ngoc Nguyen
Trian Nguyen
Robert Beers
Britni Evans
Jason Fitzgerald
Rhonda Ladson
Chelsi Podoll
Randon Podoll
Tiffanie Skillestad
Ryan Thomson

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA process is a faith journey for men, women and children over the age of 7 who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Church. It is a spiritual journey that happens over time. The process allows an individual the time and resources to grow and mature in faith. It is a time of conversion, a turning to meet God in a whole new way.

The process begins with the Inquiry stage. This is a time of welcome, of getting comfortable with a faith community, and of learning how God has been at work in all our lives. It is a time to ask questions and to realize that the questions are sometimes more valuable than the answers. The Inquiry stage is flexible and requires no commitments.

The Catechumenate is the next phase of the spiritual journey. The unbaptized inquirer enters the church as a Catechumen through the Rite of Acceptance. Christians, already baptized, who feel called to live out their baptismal commitments as Catholics, are welcomed as Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church. Both Catechumens and Candidates pray, study, reflect, serve and worship together within the larger community, allowing the Holy Spirit to draw them deeper into the mystery of God.

Those who feel ready to incorporate this mystery into their lives as Catholics are called by the Church to celebrate the Sacraments of—Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Their lives, born anew in Christ, bear eloquent witness to who we are as the people of God.

Please pray for the Elect as they continue toward the Easter Sacraments. Please join us on Holy Saturday at 8:30pm for the most beautiful Liturgy of the year, the Easter Vigil.

Mark Your Calendars!

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|--------------------------|--|
| Feb. 18 | Ash Wednesday Services 8:30am and 7pm |
| Feb. 21-22 | Youth Ministry Retreat |
| Feb. 22 | Rite of Election KC Breakfast for Catechumens & Parish after 9am Mass, Candidates & Parish after 11am Mass Rite of Election @ 2pm St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral |
| Feb. 22 | Food Drive for Peace Lutheran's pantry: used for Teens and west end families |
| Feb 22 – Mar. 29 | <i>Priest Prophet, King</i> : A DVD series by Fr. Barron of <i>Word on Fire</i> , offered the six Sundays of Lent. |
| Mar. 1 | Catechist Retreat |
| Mar. 7 | 4 th Grade Retreat – Youth Center |
| Mar. 7 | KC Taco Bar Fundraiser for Catholic Social Services – following 5pm Mass |
| Mar. 12 | Lenten Penance Service at St. Thomas the Apostle, 7:00 pm (west-side) |
| Mar. 13-15 | Catholic Youth Coalition Convention in Helena (register by March 2) |
| Mar. 22 | Anointing Mass with Bread of Life – 11am on Sunday |
| Mar. 22-24 th | City-wide parish mission with Fr. John Hurley at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, 6:30 pm each night. |
| Mar. 25 | Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral @ 6pm |
| Mar. 28 | First Eucharist Retreat (candidates and sponsors) 9am-12pm – Youth Center |
| Mar. 29 | Palm Sunday |
| Mar. 30-Apr. 4 | Holy Week |
| Apr. 2-4 | Triduum |
| Apr. 2 | Holy Thursday – Mass @ 7pm |
| Apr. 3 | Good Friday Stations of the Cross @ 3pm Good Friday Service @ 7pm |
| Apr. 4 | Easter Vigil @ 8:30pm |
| Apr. 5 | Easter Sunday Masses: 9am & 11am |
| Apr. 11&12 | National Volunteer Week begins – blessing of all parish volunteers, all Masses |
| Apr. 17 | Elementary School Youth Group Late Night: 6:00pm - 12:00 am, Youth Center |
| May 3 | Confirmation & First Eucharist @ 2pm – Sanctuary |
| May 10 | Mothers' Day |
| May 17 th | Baccalaureate – 11am Mass |



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Citywide Lenten Penance Services

March 4, Wednesday, Mary Queen of Peace - 11:00 am
March 10, Tuesday, St. Bernard's Parish - 7:00 pm
March 12, Thursday, St. Thomas the Apostle - 7:00 pm (west-side)
March 19, Thursday, St. Patrick Co-Cathedral - 7:00 pm

Triduum & Easter Sunday

Apr. 2, Thursday Holy Thursday – Mass - 7pm
Apr. 3, Friday Good Friday
Stations of the Cross - 3pm
Good Friday Service - 7pm
Apr. 4, Saturday Easter Vigil 8:30pm
Apr. 5, Sunday Easter Sunday Masses: 9am & 11am

