

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**14 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following  
 Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa  
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

**15 Monday**

Communion Service: 9am  
 Finance Council: 7pm - Benincasa

**16 Tuesday**

Mass: 9am  
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm  
 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon: 12pm - Victoria Hall  
 Lent Scripture Class: 7pm - Benincasa

**17 Wednesday**

Communion Service: 9am  
 Liturgy Committee: 7pm - Benincasa

**18 Thursday**

Mass: 9am  
 RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa  
 Choir: 7pm - Church

**19 Friday**

Mass: 9am

**20 Saturday**

Lenten Retreat: 12-4pm - Benincasa  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm  
 Mass: 5pm  
 AA Meeting: 7pm - Benincasa Basement

**21 Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following  
 First Eucharist Class: 9:15 - Benincasa Basement  
 Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa  
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

*Readings for March 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Philippians 3:8-14  
 John 8:1-11

PRAYERS

Luis Batayola  
 Joe Byrne  
 Kay De Ambrosio  
 Evan Dubicki  
 Bob Flakus  
 Martha Harris  
 Frank Martin

James McNamara  
 Mary Roberts  
 Effie Rohner  
 Evelyn Stetz  
 Don Sullivan  
 Chris Young

PRAYERS

..... *A Word from Victoria* .....

Lent began with the call: "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart." Today we hear one of the greatest gospel stories of return—the story of the prodigal son. This story provides for us a model for the dynamics of return and a model for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Any parent whose child has run away from home knows great anguish. In the story, the younger son asks for his share of the inheritance. In doing so, he is saying to his father that his father is as good as dead to him—an inheritance is only given with the giver has died. How often do we turn away from God, by our daily behavior indicating that God is a good as dead to us?

We know the story—the son goes off and loses all his money. He finds himself with a job tending pigs, which, for a Jew, would be forbidden. He is starving, and no one even offers him the food given to the pigs. "Coming to his senses," the son realizes that even the hired hands in his father's household have more than enough to eat. His return to the father has begun with his realization of his own sinfulness.

Our own return to God begins when we "come to our senses." Often, when we first begin to sin, we are not attentive to the consequences of our choices. What we have chosen seems like a good thing. Only later do we "wake up" and realize the sinfulness of our actions. In that moment of conversion, we turn back to the Lord.

After conversion comes confession. The son in the story has turned back. He begins to rehearse his confession to his father: "I have sinned against heaven and before you." He even says that he no longer deserves to be called his son. He is thinking that he could serve as a hired hand in his father's household.

Once we have begun our return to the Lord in our moment of conversion, we think about confessing our sin. This confession of sin is often three-fold. We want to confess to those we have hurt by our behavior—our families, our friends, our colleagues, our victims, our selves. We ask for God's forgiveness. Finally, we may want to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the gospel story, even before the son can make his confession to his father, the father has run out to welcome him home. The father has been waiting and watching for his son's return, and is ready to celebrate this great moment. "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; was lost and is found!" In his mind, they must celebrate and rejoice.

The final moment of our return is also one of celebration. God is waiting to embrace us, welcome us home, and forgive us. We are beloved children, not hired hands. There is much joy—on God's part and in our hearts. How blessed we are to have this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are assured by the priest, who has just heard the worst about us, that God forgives us, that we are still beloved children of God.

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR RETURN TO THE LORD AT OUR LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 AT 7PM.

*Victoria*

## Announcements

### **LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

*Communal service with individual confession*

Wednesday, March 24, 7pm

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Holy Thursday, April 1, 7pm

Good Friday, April 2, 7pm

Easter Vigil, April 3, 8:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 4, 8:30am & 10:30am

### ***St. Patrick's Luncheon***

Sponsored by the Altar Society on Tuesday, March 16 at noon in Victoria Hall. There will be a variety of salads and desserts, and Irish Dancing. For information or tickets, call Marjorie Ringness at 523-2150.

### ***Social Justice***

If you are interested in Social Justice or learning more about it please join the Social Justice Committee every 3rd Sunday of the Month. Call Shannon Fleming Bray for details. The Social Justice groups works to educate the parish about issues of social justice, as well as advocate for change, and engage in the gospel call towards a faith that does justice.

### ***Lenten Retreat on Prayer and Justice***

You are invited to join us for a Lenten Social Justice retreat on March 20th from 12-4PM. Sr. Linda Haydock from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center will lead us in a short retreat focused on issues of justice and peace. What an appropriate time to make this journey as we continue to make our way through the Gospel of Luke this Lent. We will share a meal together and then spend some time in reflection, prayer, small group sharing, and learning together. Contact Shannon Fleming Bray.

### ***Sr. High Youth***

Youth Group is happening and all students in the 9-12th grades are welcome! You can find the schedule on the Sr. High Youth Group page of the parish web site.

**Whirly Ball** - This Sunday, meet at 4:15 in lot. Cost is \$25/person and includes snacks/food.

### ***Baptism of Infants***

The next baptism of infants will be at the 10:30 mass on April 25. Other dates and masses are available. Please contact Victoria soon if you would like to have your child baptized in the next few months. A meeting with Victoria and attendance at the preparation class is required.

### *Parish Stewardship*

**March 7, 2010**

Collection Total: \$11,561.00

Rice Bowl: \$545.00

### ***Help Needed Making Lunches***

Can you help make lunches for the Mt Carmel drop-in day shelter for the homeless and hungry? This would be just once a month, often in the morning, but times are flexible. A group of women from the Altar Society has been doing this, but needs help. This could become an outreach project for a group of families or individuals, even alternating months. Call or email Victoria soon if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

### ***CYO Track and Field Registration***

Track season is upon us and it is open for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please fill out the registration form and return it to the office by March 15, 2010. We are also looking for parents who can help out with practices and coaching. If you would like to help out with the track and field team please indicate this on the registration form. If you have any questions please contact Kyle Wong at wongohana@q.com or 206-362-5011.

### ***Bishop Blanchet High School Play***

"*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" - April 21-25 at 7pm and April 24 & 25 at 1pm. Tickets available at Act Theatre Box Office, at 206-792-7676 or service@acttheatre.org.

### ***Census information***

This month, the 2010 Census forms will be mailed to all residents. This required census is used to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives and to distribute federal funding to state, local, and tribal governments. Please complete and return your form and encourage others to do the same. For more info, visit 2010census.gov.

### ***Peter Mayer In Concert***

with opening artist Jennifer Kelly, to benefit ISC's Spiritual Enrichment for Young Adults program. Friday, March 19th, 8pm at Seattle University - Chapel of St. Ignatius. Tickets - \$20/advance; \$25/at the door. For more info/tickets - www.ignatiancenter.org.

### ***A Men & Women's Palm Sunday Silent Retreat***

March 26-28: This retreat, taking place over Palm Sunday weekend, will be a guided, silent, group retreat for men and women, with scripture-based presentations, offering guidance for prayer and discernment. [www.SeattleArch.org/Palisades](http://www.SeattleArch.org/Palisades)