



PASTOR'S CORNER

Judging the Past

Often enough, while working with married couples, I have had to counsel each partner to “not hold grudges” and “to let go of the past.” Anyone with life- experience in relationships and friendships knows how difficult this advice can be to follow. And yet, it is ESSENTIAL to learn from the past while living in the present.

It's not only true in relationships, but in most of our modern way-of-thinking; we are tempted to judge the past as if it were the present. For example, is it possible to compare Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Derek Jeter based on their stats alone? ...as if the game of baseball, the players of baseball and the technology of baseball were “the same” for each of them? No, of course not. For while there are certainly ways of making comparisons among these players and their respective eras, it is a process that requires a much deeper and broader understanding of the history of baseball, the life stories and personal attributes of each player, the context of their playing days (team, cultural events and trends, fan expectations, etc...) and an appreciation for the game of baseball that can truly connect the things of baseball that have largely remained the same over the years. This kind of “depth” of understanding is not largely encouraged by a culture that prizes the quick-response, knee-jerk vomiting of initial emotions, as if they were considered positions and reasoned conclusions. But the 24 Hour cycle of sports TV and the near universality of the internet, require camera-ready people to comment, react, and often invent their opinions on matters they've never deeply considered.

This shallow thinking is even more disastrous for us in the realms of science, medicine, religion and politics. For example, we can easily get caught up in the currently shallow debate of “to vaccinate or not to vaccinate,” without getting to some deeper thinking. Like, if some people have not been vaccinating their children from measles, they've most likely not been vaccinating them for more than this past year. And yet, there have been no outbreaks of measles in those other times in which the unvaccinated and the vaccinated have lived together. Why? What's different in the communities most affected by the current outbreak? Shouldn't we be looking more closely and deeply at such a reality?

And, what was the most difficult evidence of this judging of the past by the under-reflected-upon present, was from the mouth of President Obama this week at the Annual Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. Formed by modern, shallow-thinking-university versions on history, the President gave national voice to the superficial judgment of the Christian Crusades as equal in horror and severity to the actions of Radical Islamicists today. We, as Christians, should learn from our past mistakes, but to equivocate crusades to free peoples and the Holy Lands from Islamic armies who had conquered them with violence, with the burning alive of a Jordanian pilot, the crucifying of Christian children, the beheading of non-combatants, and the sworn end-goal of the destruction of Israel and the West, is outlandishly misguided and misleading. Are you ready to learn more about the past, so as to learn its' real lessons?

Praying to have the strength to accept the Truth,
Fr. Eric.

Mass Intentions

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8, 2015

Saturday – February 7th – St Colette of Corbie

4:00PM – Steve Steffie
by Ann Spengler

7:00PM – Edward Marth
by Daniel and Bernadette Klucsarits

Sunday – February 8th – 5th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Margaret and John Nicholas
by Great Grand-daughter, Elizabeth Gontkosky

10:30AM – Scott A McCloskey
by Family

Monday – February 9th – Bl Marianus Scotus

8:00AM – Donald N Knarr (B)
by Wife, Barbara

Tuesday – February 10th – St Scholastica

8:00AM – Mass of Thanksgiving
by Pauline Albert and Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – February 11th – Our Lady of Lourdes

6:00PM – Margie Secara
by McCloskey Family

Thursday – February 12th – St Saturninus

8:00AM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Vomero

Friday – February 13th – St Catherine de Ricci

8:00AM – Bob Spengler and Bernadine Wehr
by Ann and Dale

Saturday – February 14th – Ss Cyril and Methodius

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
4:00PM – Dorothy E O'Donnell
by McCloskey Family

7:00PM – Mamie Dougherty
by Peggy McCarty

Sunday – February 15th – 6th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Mary E Kalamar
by Carole and the Choir

10:30AM – Msgr Francis J Revak
by Holy Name Society



Pray the Rosary each Sunday:
8:15AM and 10:15AM

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$ 4,907.85
Fuel Collection \$ 3,149.00

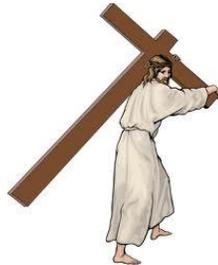


NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Muschko J.Shaul	K.McCloskey	J.Ottinger
7:00PM	C.Gair D.Gair	J.Englert	J.Yanek
8:30AM	S.Popovic D.Popovic	J.Strohl	J.Ottinger
10:30AM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	J.DeLong	F.Hutterer

The Living Stations are BACK!

This year, the Living Stations will be performed twice at St. John Fisher Parish – Palm Sunday, March 29th at 7pm to help us all enter Holy Week, and on Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm to help us pray this most solemn day of the year. Rehearsals are being held on Sunday nights from 6 - 7:30 PM in the church. So all you thespians (that's "actors," you know) ages 6 to 18 in our parish come and help us make the Stations come to life – help our parish to draw closer to Jesus in His Passion. Parents, we also give a shout out to you as well – we need your help with the props, the costumes, lighting, etc. All adult help is WELCOMED! Any questions? Call Louise Oswald 610-264-2435, Jen DeLong 610-762-4380, Jane Rucci 610-264-7312.



Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, February 25th**, at 1:00PM in the Church Social Hall.

The next Casino trip to Mount Airy will be **Friday, February 28th**. The bus leaves the Church Parking Lot at 10:00AM. The price is \$22.00 per person. For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

The next bus trip will be on **Wednesday, March 18th**, to the Rainbow Dinner Theatre to see "Squabbles". It features two live-in laws and a baby on the way. Dave and Cindy kick off the new season with this one. If you liked "Weekend Comedy", you'll love "Squabbles". The price is \$75.00 per person. A \$10.00 deposit is required. For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

Ladies Invited...

The Social Committee of our parish is sponsoring a **Ladies' Night Out**, Friday, April 10th beginning at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. For the price of a ticket -- \$20 – participating ladies will share in Dinner, a chocolate demonstration by Dove Chocolates, a jewelry making opportunity with the Artists At Heart, and a showing of the latest Spring colors and cosmetics, as well as a How-to-best apply make-up demo from the pros at Revive Spa. Reservations must be made by March 22, by filling out a registration form and making payment by way of the Sunday collection basket. Any questions? Please call Mary Beth McGinley at 610-264-4494 or Peggy McCarty at 610-264-0307.

...Gentlemen Wanted!

We especially welcome the help of hearty gentlemen of the parish at the Ladies Night Out who would be willing to serve dinner and clean-up. If interested, call Mary Beth or Peggy at the numbers above. Thanks.

Nut Roll for Your Easter Table?

Or something just as yummy? We are now accepting orders for **Strudel Rolls** from the *Country Cottage Bake Shop* in Tamaqua to be picked up April 1st – just in time for Easter. These strudel rolls are available in Nut, Poppyseed, Lekvar, Apricot, and Raspberry flavors. Cost for each strudel roll is \$15 payable with the order form which must be received by March 15th. If you'd like to sample the rolls before you order, please stop by in the parish hall for Donut Sunday, February 15th, for a taste! Any questions, call Mary Beth at 610-264-4494 or Peggy at 610-264-0307.

CHURCH HALL PIEROGIES

Church Hall Pierogies will be made on **Monday, February 23, 2015**. Anyone wishing to place an order should contact Rose Marhefka at 610-264-3384 by **Monday, February 16, 2015**. Cost is **\$5.50 per dozen**. Orders will be limited to 700 dozen so get your order in as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee pierogies once the limit has been reached. Check future bulletins for further information.

Attention: Men of St. John Fisher's Parish!



There will be a men's prayer group starting **Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7:00pm** after the Stations of the Cross in the Church hall. This will give the men time to pray together and enhance their spirituality and learn more about our faith. If you are interested, please fill out the

form with your name and phone number, and place in the collection basket so we can have an idea of the number of men that will be coming.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

SLOVAK FOUNDATION

It is our privilege to continue to offer St. John Fisher parishioners of Slovak ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to give to the Slovak Federation. It had been the annual custom to hold a collection at St. Andrew's on the feasts of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in February, but this year, envelopes for this collection -- benefitting the unifying and promotion of Slovak ethnic identity for second, third, fourth generations and beyond, -- can be picked up at the doors of the Church and deposited in any Sunday collection of February.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN



Join us, as over 300 cities worldwide take part in the 40 Days for Life Campaign, which brings people of faith together in prayer and fasting to end abortion. It coincides with Lent from February 18th to March 29th. A large part of 40 Days for Life is the peaceful prayer vigil in front of the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way, Bethlehem, from

7:00am to 6:00pm Mondays through Saturdays. Make a Lenten sacrifice of one hour of prayer! If you are unable to stand witness, there are other ways to help. Contact Theresa, 610-704-6935, or, Theresa4597@hotmail.com for information.

CAT'S MEOW OF ST ANDREW

A second shipment of the former St Andrew Roman Catholic Church Cat's Meow has been ordered! Order forms are available at both church entrances or call 610-264-1225 to order. The Cat's Meow replicas make a great gift for anniversaries and birthdays, or as a special keepsake to remember St. Andrew Church.

DONUT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, February 15th, will be our next **Donut Sunday**. Thank you to **The Sullivan Family** who is sponsoring this month's event. Please stop by after the **8:30AM and 10:30AM Masses** for some coffee, tea, and some donuts!



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST TRICKY TRAYS

Saint John the Baptist Church, Whitehall, will sponsor their Ninth Annual Tricky Trays/Basket Social on **Saturday, February 14th from 9:00AM to 7:00PM** and **Sunday, February 15th, 9:00AM to 4:00PM** at their Social Hall, 3120 Chestnut Street, Whitehall. You can purchase tickets at the door. There will be a special raffle for big-ticket items. Plenty of parking can be found behind the hall. You do not have to be present to win. Kitchen will be open. Winners can pick up baskets Monday, February 16th between 4:00PM to 6:00PM at the hall.



CYO Spring Sports Signups:

Baseball – 7th and 8th grade boys - \$60.00

Co-ed Track – 5th to 8th grade - \$50.00

Co-ed Volleyball – 5th to 8th grade - \$50.00

Sign-ups are **Thursday, February 12th at 6:00PM** at Good Shepherd Gym. CYO is available for all the children of our parishes. Info: kellymilisits@gmail.com.