

Living Christianity [Radically] March 2006

A monthly publication for pastors and parish staff prepared by the Department of Stewardship and Development



SAVE THE DATE



Spring Training

ABC's of Stewardship
and
Parish Development 101

*With Designated Hitter Mike Gleason and
Closer Anne Marie Tirpak*

Also hear from Our Lady of the Ridge's Business Manager Joe Dillon as he shares the parish's path to stewardship, and hear from Holy Name Cathedral's Business Manager Joe Konen about the benefits of electronic giving.

FREE! Ballpark hot dog lunch included!

March 14th St. Giles, Oak Park

March 15th St. John Brebeuf, Niles

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

All parish leadership invited.

Please RSVP by March 3rd by dialing (312) 655-7713.



DISTINGUISHED PREACHER SERIES

Most Rev. James Patrick Keleher, S.T.D.

“THE SPIRITUALITY OF STEWARDSHIP”

Ss. Faith Hope & Charity Parish

April 30, 2006

11:30 a.m. Mass followed by Q & A

Most. Rev. James Patrick Keleher is the former Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. He is a native of Chicago, attended Quigley and St. Mary of the Lake Seminaries, and later served as President/Rector of St. Mary of the Lake. Prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Kansas City, he served as Bishop of Belleville, IL from 1984-1993. Archbishop Keleher has been chairperson of the Committee of Economic Concerns of the Holy See of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, a member of the NCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship, and other committees. He has been a national leader in Stewardship for over a decade in his role as Episcopal Moderator for the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

Sunday Bulletin Inserts

Adapted from the Archdiocese of St. Louis

February 26, 2006

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant..."

(2 Corinthians: 3:5-6)

St. Paul reminds us that we cannot take credit for anything we have. It is only because God has blessed us with many talents and gifts that we have what we do today. So we must ask ourselves: **Why did God bless me? What does God want from me in return?**

Petition: That we may remember that we would have nothing without the generosity of our loving God.

March 5, 2006

1st Sunday of Lent

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan." (Mark 1:12)

Now is the time for us to think about what things may tempt us and keep us in the desert. Do material possessions or time-consuming activities tempt us and prevent us from sharing time, talent and treasure with our God?

Petition: That we may resist temptation from material goods and recognize the difference between what we need and what we want.

March 12, 2006

2nd Sunday of Lent

"I know how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." (Genesis 22:12)

Abraham was so devoted to God that he was willing to sacrifice his only son. How does our own devotion compare? Do we withhold time, talent and treasure from the God who sacrificed His only Son for us?

Petition: That we may sacrifice willingly for God in gratitude for all the gifts God has given to us.

March 19, 2006 3rd Sunday of Lent

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth." (Exodus 20:4)

This week, question whether you have idols in different shapes. An idol can be in the shape of money, or sports, or fashion, or travel, or anything else that we value more than God.

Petition: That we may learn to turn away from the false idols of our society – including materialism, fame, fortune and power.

March 26, 2006 4th Sunday of Lent

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John 3:16)

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of Jesus is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but God does ask that we make some sacrifices for Him.

Petition: That we may show our gratitude for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice by willingly making sacrifices in our own lives.

April 2, 2006 5th Sunday of Lent

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20: 21, 22)

We were welcomed into our Christian community at Baptism and given the gifts of the Spirit at Confirmation. How have we accepted our commission to be God's hands, feet and voice wherever we find ourselves, trusting that God's Spirit equips us with all of the necessary resources to do God's work?

Petition: That we may trust in the Spirit to go where we are being sent, utilizing our God-given gifts to bring God's love and peace to others.

This is what the Lord asks of you: to live justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8