

Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2009



Announced Masses

Sat	03/07	4:00 pm	Msgr. James Gaffney (3rd aniv.)/ Anne Rocanella
Sun	03/08	10:30 am	Margaret Hallahan/ Denise Bramble & Family
		12:00 pm	Open
Mon	03/09	8:00 am	Frances Shopa/Beverly Alberts
Tue	03/10	8:00 am	Open
Wed	03/11	8:00 am	Open
Thu	03/12	8:00 am	People of the Parish/Fr. Ken
Fri	03/13	8:00 am	Open
Sat	03/14	4:00 pm	Connie Clark/Nick, Tara, Ryan & Alyssa Rhodes
Sun	03/15	10:30 am	Samuel B. Pelle, Jr./ Denise Bramble & Family



* * *

The People's Tithe

Ash Wednesday: \$394.00

First Sunday of Lent: \$1,626.00

Black and Indian Missions: \$373.50

Thank you for your continued generosity!

* * *

Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend's Second Collection is for Operation Rice Bowl. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from this collection stays in our diocese to help fund new and existing poverty alleviation projects. Please be generous.

Sick List

Please pray for those who are ill and those who care for them:

PLEASE NOTE: If your name or the name of a sick friend and/or family member has been removed from this sick list and you would like it put back on, please notify the rectory. Also, please notify the rectory when you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the sick list.

* * *

What's Happening Around SJOA

Sunday, 03/08/09:

RCIA	9:15 am	School
Rel. Ed.—English	9:15 am	School
Rel. Ed.—Spanish	10:45 am	School

Friday, 03/13/09:

Stations of the Cross	4:30 pm	Chruch
-----------------------	---------	--------

* * *

Operation Rice Bowl

Second Week of Lent - The Transfiguration

Today in Mark's Gospel, we find Peter, James and John being disturbed hearing Jesus talk about carrying a cross and losing his life. In answer to their misgivings, Jesus took them up to a mountain and was transfigured before them. They were filled with awe as they realized his glory was also theirs, a glory not experienced in his future kingdom, but also here on earth.

As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that as a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need. The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. May our **fasting** move us to action on behalf of the poor. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about agriculture programs in the Philippines.



Second Sunday of Lent



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

When I visited the Philadelphia Flower Show this week, I saw the exhibit by the Camden Children's Garden, of which our parish is a member. The Children's Garden received a grant to create gardens throughout the city. They would like to create one on our property.

In order to do this, I need one person who will volunteer to be the "contact person" for the garden. The Children's Garden will supply all of the tools, seeds, fertilizer and training for both adults and children to plant and maintain the garden. The "contact person" will have to make phone calls to the children and their parents and to keep track of the watering of the garden.

All of the crops harvested from the garden will go to the people who work on it. The plants to be grown will be chosen by the participants.

This effort is intended to teach children two lessons: (1) growing our food is a healthy and enjoyable activity, and (2) eating nutritional vegetables and fruits make people healthier.

If you would like to volunteer for this effort, please contact me as soon as possible. The Children's Garden has employees that speak both Spanish and English.

This week's Rice Bowl tells the story of a farmer from the Philippines named Ruben Halasan who improved his yield by following the instructions he received from Catholic Relief Services [CRS].

Throughout the world, the people who plant, grow and harvest our food are treated unfairly. They work very hard and are paid very little for their work.

The Popes have often spoken out against this injustice to the people who provide for one of our most basic necessities. CRS tries to improve the lives of farmers, especially the small farmers who are poor. CRS shows them how to use crop rotation, more efficient fertilizers, preservation of topsoil to improve their yield.

CRS also offers poor farmers better ways to market their products so that they increase their income. Your donations to the Rice Bowl help CRS to accomplish these improvements in the lives of farmers. Thanks for your generosity.

Peace,
Fr. Hallahan

* * *

Stewardship Reflection

Withhold not your Stewardship

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. 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?

From the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1976, the U.S. bishops adopted **Operation Rice Bowl** as a national program and it is now Catholic Relief Services' official Lenten Program. I write you to ask every parish to participate in this Lenten observance through the annual Operation Rice Bowl Collection which will be taken up in each parish during a Lenten weekend designated by your pastor, which is this weekend, March 7-8, 2009.

Seventy-five percent of Rice Bowl proceeds are used to fund projects in 40 countries around the world—projects that will help communities gain access to enough food that will meet their daily nutritional needs. These include agricultural training projects that teach better farming methods to produce more food; clean water projects to bring clean water into communities and improve people's health; micro-credit projects that give small loans to help people start or expand their own businesses and provide more for their families; assistance to communities affected by the AIDS pandemic; and mother/child health projects that teach mothers about good nutrition for themselves and their children.

Twenty-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl funds stay in our diocese to help fund new and existing hunger-and poverty-alleviation projects. For more information on eligible projects and the funding application process, please contact Jennifer Dyer, Director, Division of parish and Community Ministries at Jennifer.Dyer@camdendiocese.org.

In addition to your support of this collection, I encourage you to partake in Operation Rice Bowl activities at home with your family and loved ones. There are many interactive resources available at www.orb.crs.org. Throughout Lent, Operation Rice Bowl will challenge us to put our faith into action and walk in solidarity with our neighbors in need around the world.

Fraternally,
Bishop Galante

* * *

Palm Weaving

Our palm weaving classes will take place as follows: Sunday, March 22nd at 1:00 pm, Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm, Sunday, March 29th at 1:00 pm and Monday, March 30th at 6:30 pm. All classes will be held in the rectory basement. Everyone welcome! Mark your calendars and come join us and learn how to weave beautiful palm decorations for our church for Palm Sunday!

* * *

RENEWAL

The Catholic-Jewish Commission of South Jersey, The Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of South Jersey and The Cherry Hill Religious Leaders Coalition invite you to a presentation of **RENEWAL**, a documentary of stories of people whose passion and deep moral commitment are making a difference in a time of grave ecological threats on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 pm at the Cherry Hill Public Library, 1100 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill. Admission is free, but registration is required. Register on line at www.chpinj.org or call (856) 903-1202.