

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Ash Wednesday!

A Day of Fast & Abstinence

This coming Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, and it is one of two days of the present Liturgical year that the Church commands all of its adult members between the ages of 21 and 59 inclusive to Abstain from Meat as well as Fasting. The other day enjoined by the Church is Good Friday. Now it should be noted that this is not a matter of choice on our part, but rather strict Canonical legislation. We are obliged to do so if there is no legitimate reason excusing us. By Abstinence, we mean that we may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday or any other Friday of Lent. By Fasting, we mean consuming only one full meal on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday. On all other days, fasting is laudable and praiseworthy but not obligatory. All Catholics must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as well as ALL Fridays of Lent.

Ashes will be blessed at the 8 am Mass on Wednesday, and distributed immediately after they are blessed, as well as at the end of Mass. They will be also distributed after the 12:10 pm Mass, as well as at 7:30 pm in the evening.

Try to do something spiritual during the days of Lent. It is a time of self-sacrifice and it is up to you to choose. We might suggest daily Mass and Communion for a start. How we would really like to see some 50 or 60 people attending morning Mass

during this penitential season. It would do you so much spiritual good. Try it!. The most important thing about Lent is to do something and do it in secret - only let God know that you are doing it - He is the one that matters.

On the Fridays of Lent at 7:30 we will also make the Stations of the Cross with the laity participating. Try to make that as well

Peter's Pence Collection

Today at all of the Masses, there will be a special Collection taken up for the Pope called "Peter's Pence. The entire collection is sent to the Holy See to help carry on their charitable works that they are called upon during the year to assist the faithful from all over the world. Whenever a disaster occurs in any part of the world, the first to respond is usually the Holy See with a charitable donation.

Cardinal's Appeal

Remember if you have not as yet made your Pledge to the Cardinal's Appeal for 2009, we beg you to do so this week. The longer we put it off, the harder it gets. So try to do the best you can. We realize that financial situations are a little more difficult

this year than perhaps other years when there was a greater abundance, so to speak. But here, we are called upon to make a sacrifice - one that will help the

This year alone, the Archdiocese is putting out \$5,500,000 for the Christian Education of our children. The program enables over 10,000 volunteers to educate over 100,000 children in the basics of our Christian religion. This is a most important phase of our work and one that must continue if the Archdiocese is to prosper. Your donation helps this to continue. Make your pledge today!

Divine Mercy Conference

On Saturday, March 7th, Cardinal Spellman High School will play host to the 4th Annual Divine Mercy Conference. It will begin at 9 am and continue until 5:30pm. The Theme for this year's Conference is "Divine Mercy: Unique Hope For The World.. Several noted speakers will be on hand.

Flyers are available in the Sacristy if you are interested in attending this Conference.

Parish Sick & Deceased

Remember to pray for the sick and deceased of the Parish, especially so for your own dear relatives and friends. Perhaps it might be a good idea to assist at Daily Mass during Lent for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, thereby assisting them with your prayers and doing something extra for your own spiritual well-being during this holy season.

Taps

If you've ever been to a military funeral in which taps were played, This will bring out a new meaning for it. It is that song that gives us a lump in our throats and brings tears to our eyes.

Well, it all began back in 1862, during the Civil War when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The

Archdiocese of New York stay afloat for the next 12 month. It is a sharing of YOUR gifts with others. We ask you to be as generous as you can
Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or a Confederate soldier, he decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a confederate soldier but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out.

Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military funeral, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. But the request was turned down inasmuch as the soldier was a Confederate. But out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper that was found in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as "TAPS" used at military funerals was born. The words are:

Day is Done
Gone the Sun
From the Lakes, from the hills, from

the sky.

All is well, safely rest.
God is nigh!

Bright. Fading light
Dims the sight
And a Star, gems the Sky, gleaming

From afar, drawing nigh
Falls the night.

the sky Thanks and Praise
For our Days
Neath the sun, near the Stars neath

As we go, this we know
God is nigh!