



LENT — 2011



We are invited week by week:
to fix our eyes on our Lord;
to receive a glimpse of God;
to recognize who we are in Christ;
to be sent out as glimpses of the God we have encountered;
to enrich the World and build up the Body of Christ; and
to celebrate a glimpse of the joy of new life to come.

The Lenten liturgies draw us into the desert and to the mountain top to get a glimpse of Jesus. Then through the woman at the well, the blind man and Lazarus, we learn more deeply each week our own giftedness and our weaknesses that keep us from turning completely to God. So that led from the desert through WATER – LIGHT – RESURRECTION we come to forgiveness and NEW LIFE and to a wonderful renewal at the Baptismal Pool on Easter.

Each of us is created in the image and likeness of our God. We are a reflection of God's goodness and beauty. Along with weekly readings, bulletin articles, resources, prayer cards, rice bowls, and Mass attendance, the liturgy committee invites you to take home a mirror. Use it in your prayer to see the beautiful reflection of who you are in Christ. If you feel the reflection is blemished, shine it up a bit by works of **prayer**, **fasting** and **almsgiving**. Like the people of our Lenten Gospels may we find the Christ that brings us life, openness, and fullness of redemption. Then we will be eager to celebrate Holy Week and claim once again that we are the people that glory in the cross and resurrection of our Savior. May the glimpses of new life that we have made our own these 40 days radiate from this place, transforming our lives and the lives of all we meet.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

— Sr. Ellen M. Dolan, RGS and the Liturgy Committee

Special Events offering glimpses of holiness in Christ on our Lenten Journey:

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions — Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. — Saturdays 3:30 p.m.

April 20 — Noon - 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Communal Liturgies — April 15 — 3:30 p.m.

April 19 — 7:00 p.m. (No 5:00 p.m. confessions)

Stations of the Cross

Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 11 — April 15

Renewal Events

Parish Mission — March 24 — 7:00 p.m.

Liturgical Ministers Renewal Night — March 29 — 6:30 p.m.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

THIS SPRING, from March 9 to April 17, our community is uniting with hundreds of other cities around the world for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history: the *40 Days for Life* campaign. Recognizing that “with God all things are possible,” people of faith are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion.

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has already mobilized over 400,000 people worldwide, saved more than 3,500 lives from abortion, led to the conversion of 43 abortion workers, and seen nine abortion facilities close. *40 Days for Life* is made up of three components:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** believers throughout our city are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion
- **Peaceful Vigil:** stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness outside our vigil locations:
 - [The Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska](#)
1002 West Mission Ave., Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
 - [Planned Parenthood](#)
3105 North 93rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68134
- **Community Outreach:** help take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility

Learn more by visiting:

www.40daysforlife.com/Omaha

MARCH 9
to APRIL 17



St. Mary's Parish will participate in the 40 Days for Life Campaign on Friday, March 25th from 8:00 a.m. until Saturday, March 26th @ 7:59 a.m. Please come and pray for an hour any time outside the Bellevue Abortion and Contraception Clinic on Mission Ave. Pray every day for the end of abortion. Look for more information in upcoming parish bulletins.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS..



SOPHIA WISDOM AWARD

Over 100 friends of Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center gathered at Erin Court on Friday, September 17, 2010 for our "Simply Spirit" dinner and auction. The event raised \$35,000 to support the mission and ministries of the Center. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Sophia Wisdom Award. In the Hebrew book of Wisdom, Sophia gives direction and is described as intelligent, holy, unique, passionate, strong, and faithful. The award is given annually to an individual whose life reflects the wisdom of Sophia and whose actions spark others to recognize their own wisdom. This year's recipient was **Kathy Townsend**.

Kathy holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Northwestern University, and a Masters degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Educational Psychology. She also holds a Leadership Diploma in Religious Education from Creighton University. Kathy is a Columban Companion, serves on the Archdiocesan Social Ministry Commission, and is the co-founder of Transition Omaha – part of an international grassroots movement to reduce energy consumption and encourage the use of locally produced food and goods as a way to heal our community and Earth. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors for Knowles Mercy for five years. Kathy is married to Robert Townsend, and is the mother of two and grandmother of six.



Marisa Gilbert, KMSC Director, (l) presents the 2010 Sophia Wisdom Award to Kathy Townsend (r).

St. Mary's Parish is proud of parishioner Kathy Townsend, and thanks and blesses her for her unique gifts to the parish, community, and world.

On September 23, 2010, parishioner **John DuBay** received the "Nebraska Health Care Association/Nebraska Assisted Living Association (NHCA/NALA) **"Volunteer of the Year Award"** in the Adult Category. The award was presented to him at a luncheon that was held at Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Nominations for this award were submitted by health care facilities from the entire state of Nebraska, and there were many entries for this award.

John's name was submitted for this award by Hillcrest Health Care Facilities, Bellevue, in recognition of the exceptional work he has done the last 4-5 years while taking Communion to Catholics who were at Hillcrest facilities, as well as visiting with, talking to, and praying with those he met.

"Hillcrest Health & Rehab has a strong volunteer program that we depend on to enrich the lives of our residents and rehab patients. John DuBay by far stands out as an extraordinary volunteer. He is selfless in his dedication to serve others. John has a remarkable ability to give people what they need - whether this be the comfort of Holy Communion, the power of prayer, a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on, a silly costume, dance or joke to bring smiles, wonderful music to brighten spirits or the gift of creating art." ...

"John's entire life now revolves around his love and compassion for others. He is also extremely talented and is always willing to share. His water color class has helped many improve their small motor skills while creating a work of art. His music often fills the halls and uplifts our customers and staff alike."

Ann Wieringa, Director of Recreation, Hillcrest Health & Rehab

Currently, John takes Communion on Tuesday mornings to all Catholic residents; on Friday he assists with gathering residents and taking them to the Chapel for the Communion Service and Rosary. On the first Friday of each month, a Mass is offered by a Columban Father, and John plays the music for the service. Other times, John has been seen taking Communion to those at Hillcrest who have requested it, even though it was not scheduled.

"... When the patients see John they immediately smile and know he will listen and spend quality time with as many residents or patients who desire his time."... "John is a deserving candidate of this award, for he truly exemplifies the meaning of what volunteering stands for, and is committed to making a difference in the lives of our patients and residents. However, it also show how volunteering can bring out the best in people and show how each of us can make a difference in the world." ...

Kevin Sauberzweig, Administrator, Hillcrest Health & Rehab

Congratulations John - St. Mary's Parish thanks and blesses you for "doing as Jesus would do"!

What's been happening at... **St. Mary's School**

21st CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS

The teachers of St. Mary's School attended a workshop on February 23rd at ESU #3 to learn more about 21st Century learning skills. As technology changes and the world becomes more of a global community, it will be important to prepare our students for the 21st Century in which they will live.

Twenty-first Century learning skills include reading, writing and math (the 3R's). The students of the 21st Century will need a strong foundation in the basic core areas. Students will also need to learn seven new skills for the future: critical thinking, creativity, communication skills, computer/technology skills, cultural awareness, career awareness, and collaboration.

Researchers predict that new technology will enable information to double every four hours in the near future. Our students will need to be able to decide which information is necessary for them to know as well as how to function in a global community.

Teachers attended the workshop to learn how they can integrate the seven 21st Century skills into our faith instruction and academic curriculum. We truly want to prepare our students to be successful citizens in the 21st Century!

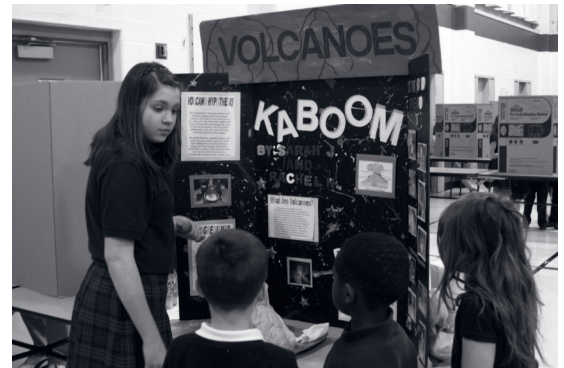
HATS ON DAY

Students at St. Mary's School raised \$135 for children currently suffering from cancer. Students wore their favorite hat during Catholic Schools Week to raise awareness and money for children who have cancer. The money will be used to support the children and their families. The money is used to provide treatments as well as help pay expenses for families who must be away from their homes and work to be with their children during treatment. Thanks to all of our students and families for supporting a very good cause.



Omaha Stormchasers with the preschoolers after reading in class.

Science Fair Presentation

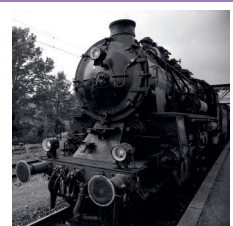


Spelling Bee Winners

Estee Stover 3rd
Jordan Roberts 2nd
Ben Reckmeyer 1st
(left to right)



17th Annual 'Spring for the Children' 'ALL ABOARD' for the Benefit Auction!



What? Our largest fundraiser, which supports both the school and parish, will feature a complete sit down dinner and dessert, complimentary beer and wine, and hundreds of items to bid on. WOWT's John Knicely will serve as this year's emcee.

Who? Everyone is welcome! Please get your tickets now by contacting Craig or Dane' Ames at 402-932-7330 or came@nebgo.org. Tickets may also be purchased by clicking on the website link at www.stmarysbelleveue.com. Tickets are \$40/person or \$450 for a reserved table of 10.

When? Saturday, March 26, 2011. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Where? Livestock Exchange Ballrooms — 4920 S. 30th Street, Omaha, NE

HOLY WEEK

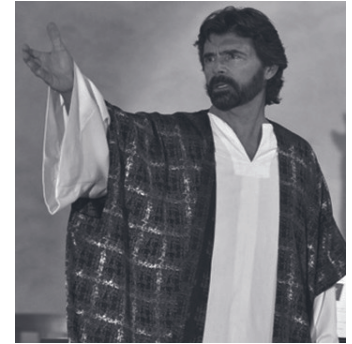
- April 17 **PASSION / PALM SUNDAY – *Journey to Jerusalem with Jesus!***
- April 18 Chrism Mass at St. Cecilia Cathedral – 11:00 a.m.
- April 19 Parish Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation – 7:00 p.m. – Church
- April 20 Individual Confessions Noon – 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

- April 21 **HOLY THURSDAY – *Come, gather round the TABLE of the Lord!***
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 p.m.
- April 22 **GOOD FRIDAY – *Come, gather round the Cross with Christ!***
 Morning Prayer – 9:00 a.m. – Church
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- April 23 **HOLY SATURDAY – *Come to the empty tomb and wait for Christ!***
 Morning Prayer and Blessing of the New Food – 9:00 a.m. – Church
 The Easter Vigil – 8:30 p.m. – Church
 Reception – Agape – follows in the Parish Center
- April 24 **EASTER SUNDAY – Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**
 Masses @ 7:30, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
 No 5:00 p.m. Mass!

PARISH MISSION - SACRAMENTS - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S - ONE DAY MISSION
"SERMON ON THE MOUNT"
MARCH 24, 2011-7:00 PM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH



By TV star
FRANK RUNYEON
Few parts of the Bible are as famous as
the Sermon on the Mount.
It includes the Lord's Prayer, the Golden Rule...
But did you know: it also includes a story?
It is a story that is brought to life in this spellbinding performance.

Followed by:
"HOLLYWOOD vs. FAITH"

Frank discusses, with humor, the very different beatitudes the media are teaching us,
and the choices we face daily as Americans and as people of faith.

First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m Masses.
Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, May 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Archbishop George J. Lucas will be our Presider for Confirmation.



First Communion rehearsal will be Saturday, April 9, 2011 in St. Mary's Church at 9:00 a.m. and pictures will be taken in the parish center.

The Confirmation Night of Reflection and rehearsal will be Thursday, May 5th in the parish center and church beginning at 5:30 p.m. Confirmation is fast approaching; we are still missing some of the paperwork that is needed for your 8th grade student's Sacrament. Please forward this paper work **as soon as possible**.

Information Needed:
CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM
BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
SPONSOR INFORMATION
CONFIRMATION NAME



These items may be forwarded to the Religious Education Office, School Office or to the Rectory.
If you have questions, please contact the Religious Education office at 402-291-7222.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2011

At PandaMania, kids discover that God is wild about them — a fact that will change them forever! PandaMania is filled with incredible activities that allow kids to see, hear, touch and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool faith-filled songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help connect faith to real life.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join the fun each day as a VBS rowdy volunteer. We have the perfect spot for you! (You will have fun too!)

Mark your calendars now for this awesome adventure at St. Mary's, **June 27-July 1** from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration forms may be found on St. Mary's Website: www.stmarysbellevue.com or at the front entrance of church. For information on how you can be involved, contact RE at 402-291-7222 or email etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com.





OUR MINISTRIES ARE ACTIVE - GET TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING!



**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
WE'RE MORE THAN
COFFEE & DONUTS!**

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained
angels without knowing it."*

Hebrews 13:2

On any given Sunday, we have the opportunity to welcome the stranger, through the introduction before Mass begins, at the sign of peace before receiving Holy Communion and at the coffees and other gatherings in the parish center.

Hospitality is about recognizing the Christ in one another. It is about seeking out those who are visitors and newly registered and those who are carrying an extra burden.

The Hospitality Committee attempts to do this as we help to host the coffees each month; provide cards in the pews for prayer requests and other intentions; make certain that those who bring Communion to the home-bound are aware of the prayer intentions so they can add the requests to their prayers; respond with a note to those who have filled out the cards in the pews; send information about the parish to people new in the area, and organize greeters at the entrances of church on Sundays.

In the future, we would like to recognize newly registered parishioners at Sunday liturgy and provide help to those in the parish who have loved ones deployed.

If you feel drawn to this ministry or have other suggestions on how we can 'welcome the stranger' please contact Sylvia Thompson at 402-293-1337 or call the rectory at 402-291-1350.

Have you wondered who the parishioners are taking blood pressures at the Hospitality coffees? Do you know about the "Health Ministry" committee and what they are about? This committee was formed by a group of health care providers who feel that our physical health needs are an important part of total mind/body/spirit wellness. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? So use every part of your body to give glory back to God". 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We do more than just check blood pressures. So, for parishioners who may be in need of information or education, the members of the Health Ministry can be a great resource. Please stop by the Health Ministry table for a blood pressure check and to ask questions you may have about your health issues. The committee held its first educational offering last November and is planning something for this spring. So, be on the lookout for future classes and opportunities to help you become a truly healthy "temple of the Holy Spirit."

St. Mary's Health Ministry Team

MARRIAGE MINISTRY TEAM

Join us for **"Tables for Two"** - St. Mark's Hall
March 12, 2011 - 6:30 p.m.
Heavy Hors d'œuvres, Drinks & Dessert
Cost: \$20 per couple

This marriage enrichment evening will be led by John Parr and Laura Baum-Parr, noted marriage enrichment facilitators, who will present: "Cooking Up Love" & "The Not So Newlywed Game"!

Please RSVP to:

Stan 402-298-8717 (neemptynest@windstream.net)

or

Elizabeth 402-291-7222

(etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com)

**DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEMORIALS & LIVING TRIBUTES COMMITTEE**

As a part of the new St. Mary's Development Council, the Memorials and Living Tributes Committee has been formed to encourage gifts to St. Mary's Church in honor of loved ones, both living and deceased. We are also responsible for acknowledging and recognizing the generosity of parishioners and friends of St. Mary's. Our goal is to make it simple and convenient for persons to make gifts and to thank donors in meaningful ways.

The committee has developed an envelope to make it easy for gifts to be made according to the wishes of the donor. This envelope allows the donor to designate Memorials for a deceased person and Living Tributes for persons who are living. Adding the Living Tribute designation gives donors an opportunity to recognize persons on special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and baptisms or to simply let someone know he or she is being honored with a donation.

To show St. Mary's gratitude for donations, we plan to send a personal note of thanks to each donor, periodically publish the names of donors in a St. Mary's publication, and hold an annual event in recognition of all donors to St. Mary's Church. We welcome any suggestions you may have to promote and enhance the Memorials and Living Tributes program at St. Mary's.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Memorials and Living Tributes Committee and its mission, please contact Amy Longo at 402-291-1144 and leave a message or email alongo@ellickjones.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6192
205 INDUSTRIAL RD.



LENTEN DINNERS
FRIDAYS, MARCH 11 - APRIL 15

It's that time of year again for the annual fish fry dinners offered by the Knights of Columbus Council 6192!

The menu features Atlantic salmon, baked white fish, fried shrimp and fish, and fish sandwiches. Dinners include baked potato or French fries, salad, or a cup of clam chowder, coffee and iced tea. Non-fish diners can choose from stuffed pasta shells, macaroni and cheese, grilled cheese sandwiches or a large slice of cheese pizza.

Dinners are served from 5:00 - 7:30 PM; with a \$1 discount for senior citizens. (Taxes applied to all dinners.)

Desserts by the Catholic Daughters will be available for purchase. Takeout available by calling 402-291-6887.

WHAT IS THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS (AOH)?

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding, in New York City on May 4, 1836, this year. The Order was formed to protect the clergy and church property from persecution. At the same time, the vast influx of Irish emigrants fleeing the famine in Ireland in the late 1840's prompted the growth of various social societies in the USA, the largest of which was and continues to be the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The AOH supports peaceful and legitimate means to achieve the reunification of Ireland.

The AOH operates three charitable programs at the national level. The *Hibernian Hunger Project* encourages state boards and local divisions to sponsor programs designed to alleviate poverty and hunger in America. *Project St. Patrick* provides stipends to those who seek a religious vocation in the Catholic Church. The *Hibernian Scholarship Fund* provides scholarships for members of the society's children.

Sarpy County Division # 1 of the AOH has supported Project Hunger by making contributions to the Stephen Center and the Bellevue Food Pantry. The Division has donated books and audio-visual material to the Sarpy County Catholic schools, and has made contributions to the Irish Flood Relief program and has donated to Project Rosary, which provides rosaries to members of the Armed Forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. This year the Division made a donation to Daniel Gross High School.

Members come from all walks of life and social and economic backgrounds. For more information concerning the Ancient Order of Hibernians, contact Larry Doyle @ 402-5291 or email LarryCroppoy@aol.com.

Saint Mary's Church

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2010-2011 GIRLS' RELIGIOUS AWARDS PROGRAM

The Girls' Religious Awards Program at St. Mary's Parish is a 12-week program offered in a group setting. Since the end of August 2010, seventeen registered girls from five parishes had the opportunity to learn more about and grow in their Catholic faith. The group-level work concluded in December and girls received their medals during Mass at St. Mary's on January 16th or in their respective parishes.

The *Family of God* group enjoyed learning to be more helpful to their families, making holiday cards for the priests and lay people, and doing role plays from Bible stories. The *I Live My Faith* group collected clothing and supplies for A Woman's Touch and delivered the items after school one day. They watched a beautiful movie on the life of Mother Theresa of Calcutta and learned about Mother Theresa's call within a call. The girls talked about the power of prayer and the importance of respecting and treasuring life at all stages. They enjoyed putting together a prayer service and seeing God's hand in the world around them. The *Marian Medal* group interviewed Deacon Iwanski about his call to serve God. They watched several movies, learned to make knotted cord rosaries, shared favorite foods from their ethnic heritages, and performed a variety of Christian witness projects. Finally, the girls learned how Mary, the Mother of God, could be an important role model for their lives.

Program highlights included presentations from Sister Mary Gehringer and Father Frank Baumert. Sister Mary Gehringer spoke about spirituality and Mary's example. She showed the girls the Marian Medal she earned when she was a teenager. Father Frank spoke to the girls about faith. The girls and parents also visited the retired priests and residents at St. John Vianney, sang songs, delivered holiday treats and handmade wreath rosaries.

The Girls' Religious Awards Program at St. Mary's is the official group-run program for both St. Mary's and St. Matthew's Parishes. Dedicated and experienced teachers have designed the program to support and complement the catechetical efforts of the Catholic parishes and schools. **The next 12-week program starts August 28, 2011.** Girls who are 8-18 years of age and enjoy making new friends, reading the Bible, working on service activities and growing in their faith are invited to join the 2011 class. For additional information, please contact Maria Reiter, Group Program Coordinator at 402-871-7099 or e-mail reiterr@cox.net.