



Dear fellow parishioners:

Well, it's that time again! For many of us, Lent is all about what we give up – television, chocolate, alcohol, etc. This period from Ash Wednesday to Easter becomes an endurance test, a struggle between what we believe we should do and what we actually want to do. But when the only focus is on depriving ourselves of something, we can actually deprive ourselves of the true gift of Lent. It is a time for us to grow prayerfully, personally, and powerfully in our relationship with God.

The best place to begin is probably not by changing our expectations about Lent. Imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent you've ever experienced. Let's even imagine that God is going to help transform our lives, leading us to greater freedom, greater joy, and deeper desire for love and service. This can be a wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it.

What might God want to give us? Lent is about God's great desire to bless us. From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God's call to us clear: "Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12). God invites me to drop the defenses that I hold up between myself and God. God is insistent, loving, gently prodding. God is the parent of the prodigal son, waiting faithfully and eagerly for us, longing to embrace us and rejoice in us.

We are especially fortunate this year to prepare for this season of reconciliation and growth with a parish mission. It begins with Masses on the weekend of February 13/14 and continues each night from Monday through Thursday, February 15 – 18 (including Ash Wednesday). Vincentian Fr. Robert Gielow, a very popular and gifted mission preacher, will provide wonderful food for thought and prayer within the context of the daily Mass at 7:00 p.m. (See announcement inside for further details.)

First and foremost, Lent is about prayer and reflection. Lent invites us to reflect on our patterns, to pray more deeply, to experience sorrow for what we have done and what we have failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

In our Sunday liturgy celebrations, daily Mass, Reconciliation Services and other activities, we try to provide support and insight to assist in your growth.

Be assured of my prayer for each of you. May whatever you do in these days of Lent lead you to a deeper and more joyful awareness of God's love.

*Fr. Denny Hanneman, Pastor*

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring for the Children**  
**BACK 2 BASICS**  
**Benefit Auction**



**What?** Our largest fundraiser complete with a heavy hors d'oeuvres dinner and dessert, complimentary beer and wine, and great items to bid on. KETV's Brandi Petersen will be Master of Ceremonies.

**Who?** Everyone is welcome! Please get your tickets now by contacting Craig or Dane' Ames at 932-7330 or [comes@nebgolf.org](mailto:comes@nebgolf.org). Tickets may also be purchased by clicking on the website link [www.stmarysbelleuve.com](http://www.stmarysbelleuve.com). Tickets are \$40/person or \$450 for a reserved table of 10. Corporate Sponsors please contact Mary Jo Navarra at 880-6165 or [maryjonavarra@cox.net](mailto:maryjonavarra@cox.net) for information and pricing.

**When?** Saturday, March 13, 2010. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

**Where?** Livestock Exchange Ballrooms — 4920 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE

# St. Mary's Church

2302 Crawford St.  
Bellevue, NE 68005  
402-291-1350

## Invites and welcomes you to join us as Fr. Robert Gielow C.M. Presents St. Mary's Parish Mission: *A Time to Renew*

**February 15-18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**



**Fr. Gielow will speak all at weekend Masses:**

**Saturday, February 13; 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 14; 7:30, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m., 12:30 & 5:00 p.m.**

**Fr. Robert Gielow** was born in LaSalle, IL in 1943.



Fr. Bob entered the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers when he was ordained in May, 1971. After receiving a Masters degree in Counseling he joined the faculty of Regina Cleri Seminary in Tucson, AZ. After four years, Fr. Bob joined the faculty at DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

During his eight years at the University, he served as Director of Campus Ministry and as Director of Athletics. Fr. Bob has also completed additional Masters degrees in Divinity and Religious studies and in Pastoral Studies. He served four years as Director of Vocations for the Midwest Province of the Vincentians. In 1987, he joined the Vincentian Parish Mission team.

You can find him at times with his twin brother, Fr. Richard Gielow, C.M., on the sidelines at the Chicago Bears away games. Fr. Richard is also a Vincentian and a member of the Mission Team. Both Gielow brothers are very popular mission preachers; they have been invited to several parishes in the Omaha area.

The stories, humor, and rich insights into our Catholic faith that Fr. Bob shares will undoubtedly provide a wonderful preparation for our observance of Lent this year.



Weekdays Fr. Gielow will celebrate Mass, which will include the Mission message of:

Monday, February 15 7:00 p.m.

**"Follow Me"**

Tuesday, February 16 7:00 p.m.

**"Healing and Forgiveness"**

(Reconciliation available after Mass)

Ash Wednesday, February 17 7:00 p.m.

**"Prayer and Eucharist"**

Thursday, February 18 7:00 p.m.

**"Oh to be Happy again"**



A Reception will be held after weekday Masses in the Parish Center.

(No reception on Ash Wednesday.)

## All are welcome!

Limited Childcare available with RSVP to:  
Religious Education office: 291-7222  
(No childcare available on Ash Wednesday.)

**LENT – 2010**  
**JOURNEYING TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST!**



When the Liturgy Committee came together to consider Lent this year of our Lord 2010, we did so in the immediate wake of the earthquake in Haiti. The devastation and the needs of so many was and continues to be overwhelming. The readings for this year tell the story of our **covenant** with God and the absolute, unconditional, merciful and forgiving love of our God revealed in and through Christ Jesus. As we talked around the scriptures, our banners for this cycle, the harshness of the weather and the recession, and the plight of Haiti, we were led to the image of journeying to the cross in front of us. **We invite you on this journey.**

Lent is a journey to renewal of who we are, individually and as a faith community. Who we are is both simple and profound: we are children of God and members of Christ's Body, the Church. This is the gift and the mystery of our Baptism. We died with Christ in the water and we were raised into a new life following Jesus and his way of life. The core of this life is the LOVE of our God for each and all of us.

The liturgy will guide us to be open to the invitation to say yes once again to be people of God: people of a multitude of stars, of a burning bush, of the Passover of unleavened bread and freedom; of horse and chariots being cast into the sea, of a journey following a cloud by day and a fire by night; of reconciling love; of a compassionate welcome home; and a "go and sin no more." We sing of the mystery of the hope and mystery of all of our longing to walk day by day in the presence of Christ. We are invited to serve the poor and to embrace his way and cross, to sow deeds of justice, to reach out to the homeless, weary, and hungry.

The work of Lent is, of course, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (sharing generously with the poor). This year it seems like our solidarity with the people of Haiti is our immediate concern. **Rice Bowls** will be available for you to take home in order to join in the Church's Lenten action. Food drives will abound! Evening Prayer, Stations of the Cross and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are scheduled on various evenings. Most of all, let us pray for openness to new life and openness to others!

There will be resources to help us daily take this all to heart – together. The booklet "**Love that Beckons**" tenderly leads us from everyday encounters to embracing journey toward cross and resurrection. "**Shaped by Love**" invites families with children to consider the spirit of preparing for Holy Week and Triduum.

As with every Lent, the Catechumens, those seeking Baptism at Easter, will be signs for us of God's gracious and loving kindness. They will be declared ELECT on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> by Archbishop George Lucas. Their names — and the names of the Candidates — will be near the Ambo seeking the path of life and reminding us to pray for them by name as they journey toward the waters of Baptism.

*Have a happy and holy Lent — Sr. Ellen and the Liturgy Committee*

## LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR LENT — 2010

### *Journeying to the Cross with Christ!*

February 15	Mission within Mass – “ <b>Follow Me</b> ” – 7:00 p.m.
February 16	Mission within Mass – “ <b>Healing and Forgiveness</b> ” – 7:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation available following Mass
February 17	<b>Ash Wednesday Masses @ 7:00 &amp; 8:30 a.m., Noon, 5:30 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</b> Mission at the 7:00 p.m. Mass – “ <b>Prayer and the Eucharist</b> ”
February 18	Mission within Mass – “ <b>Oh to be happy again.</b> ” – 7:00 p.m.
February 19	Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church
February 20/21	<b>First Sunday of Lent – Journey to the Desert to find ourselves with Jesus!</b> Sending of Catechumen/Candidates to Rite of Election – 5:00 p.m. Saturday Sunday – Rite of Election – St. Cecilia Cathedral – 2:00 p.m.
February 24	Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m. Church
February 26	Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation for St. Mary’s School – 9:15 a.m. – Church Stations of the Cross for St. Mary’s School – 2:30 p.m. – Church Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church
February 27/28	<b>Second Sunday of Lent – God’s people – as numerous as the stars in the sky – journey to Christ’s light!</b> Rite of Penance – R.C.I.A. Candidates – 11:00 a.m. Mass
March 3	First Communion Parent Meetings – 4:45 & 6:45 p.m. – Church
March 5 – First Friday	Exposition of the Holy Eucharist – 9:00 a.m.; Benediction – 5:00 p.m. – Church Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church
March 6/7	<b>Third Sunday of Lent – In Burning Bush and Fig Tree, Jesus leads us to the Cross of renewal and repentance!</b> First Scrutiny (R.C.I.A.) – 5:00 p.m. Saturday
March 10	Stations of the Cross for Religious Education Students – 4:45 & 6:45 p.m. – Church
March 12	Stations of the Cross – Youth Lead! – <b>6:00 p.m.</b> – Church
March 13 /14	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent – God welcomes us home!</b> Second Scrutiny (R.C.I.A.) – Mass TBD
March 17	Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m. – Church
March 19	Stations of the Cross for St. Mary’s School – 2:30 p.m. – Church Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church
March 20/21	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent – Journey to find forgiveness and mercy in the Cross of Jesus!</b> Third Scrutiny (R.C.I.A.) – 11:00 a.m. “Preparing for Holy Week and Easter: A Family Celebration” – 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Parish Center
March 24	Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m. – Church
March 26	Stations of the Cross for St. Mary’s School – 2:30 p.m. – Church Parish Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation – 3:30 p.m. – Church Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church

## HOLY WEEK

- March 27/28      **PASSION / PALM SUNDAY – *Journey to Jerusalem with Jesus!***
- March 29      Chrism Mass at St. Cecilia Cathedral – 11:00 a.m.  
Parish Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation – 7:00 p.m. – Church
- March 30      Individual Confessions Noon – 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross for St. Mary's School – 2:00 p.m.

## THE SACRED TRIDUUM

- April 1      **HOLY THURSDAY – *Come, gather round the TABLE of the Lord!***  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 p.m.
- April 2      **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 3      **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 4      **EASTER SUNDAY – *Come be raised to new Life with Christ!***  
Masses @ 7:30, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.  
No 5:00 p.m. Mass!

## SACRAMENTS - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - ADULT EDUCATION

**First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m Masses.  
Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
Archbishop Emeritus Elden Francis Curtiss will be our Presider for Confirmation.**



The First Communion Parent Meetings will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at either 4:45 or 6:45 p.m. in the Church. **Please be sure to attend one of these meetings.** Important information regarding your child's Sacrament will be presented.

Confirmation is fast approaching; we are still missing some of the paperwork that is needed for your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student's Sacrament. Please forward this paperwork **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 291-7222.**

### READY FOR THE VOYAGE OF A LIFETIME?

Welcome to High Seas Expedition, a totally Catholic Summer Vacation Bible School Program where you'll explore the mighty love of God! Get ready for a swashbuckling adventure through God's Word, and discover that God shows his powerful love throughout Scripture and Church Tradition.



High Seas Expedition is awash with fun for kids, teens, and adults. Everyone involved in this summer program will dive into God's Word...and never be the same again! Not only do kids experience amazing Bible adventures but they'll also watch for God in everyday life through something we call God Sightings. Kids discover that God is active in our lives and that his fingerprints are everywhere!

Mark your calendars now for this awesome adventure at St. Mary's, **June 21-25** from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For information on how you can be involved, contact the Religious Education office at 291-7222 or email Elizabeth Tomaso at [etomaso@stmarysbelleveue.com](mailto:etomaso@stmarysbelleveue.com).

### ADULT EDUCATION (ADULT FAITH FORMATION)

Are you doing something for Lent? Why not look at one of these studies? Classes are held in the Dominican Center.

- ◆ **Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. - Women of the Bible**  
Discover how these strong women can relate to us in modern times. Connie Watson facilitates this study.
- ◆ **Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m. - Revelation**  
Revelation is the first "ongoing" study in *The Great Adventure* Bible Study program. Come and explore how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven, especially through the celebration of the Mass. You will also learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation represent, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has already happened, and what is happening now in salvation history. Dave Garrison facilitates.
- ◆ **Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. - Catholic 101**  
Come learn the "basics" of your Catholic Faith. Gary Bash will answer your questions about what makes us Catholic.

### GLORIA DEO (CATHOLIC) BOOKSTORE IS COMING!

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> — 4:00 - 8:30 p.m. — St. Mary' School Gym**

First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, and Easter gifts will be available along with gifts for the home, books, pictures, rosaries, bibles and much more. We make shopping easy by bringing the bookstore to you!

Parking is available behind St. Mary's School; enter by the gym doors located on the southwest side of the building. We can only accept cash or check and proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Religious Education Media program which is used to update religious resource materials, films and music used by the students at St. Mary's School and Religious Education programs.

*All are invited to come and browse!*

Kacie Sis is the daughter of parishioners James and Carolyn Sis. Kacie is currently living and working in the Dominican Republic as a member of the Peace Corps. See her story of service in the next column!



### **YOUTH LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND EVENING PRAYER**

The young people of St. Mary's would like to invite our entire parish family to join us for the Youth Living Stations of the Cross and Evening Prayer on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 6:40 p.m. in the church. This prayer event features youth storytelling the traditional Way of the Cross and also includes evening prayer and a reflective meditation. We hope that you will consider bringing the entire family out for this unique, wonderfully moving Lenten prayer experience.

### **JOIN A MISSION TEAM: SEEK THE TRUTH THROUGH SERVICE!**

The youth ministry office is asking all of our youth and adults to answer the call by volunteering some time at any of our local service opportunities through the spring or to consider signing up for one of our summer mission experiences. This summer, we will participate in two local mission experiences and also send a team of high school youth to St. Louis on a service learning trip. There are mission experiences planned for June and July for every age group; please check the St. Mary's Website for the most current information on these and other service opportunities. Adults are needed for chaperone and driving duties on all mission trips; contact the youth office to learn more about helping lead a service trip!

Greetings from the Dominican Republic!

My name is Kacie Sis and while I have called Bellevue and the Parish of St. Mary's home for all of my 24 years, I currently live and work in a small, rural, mountain, community in the northern region of the Dominican Republic. This adventure began about a year and a half ago when I joined the United States Peace Corps, but really, I knew long ago that a life without service to others would not suit me.

During this time my community has taken me in as one of their own, teaching me what exactly it means to be "Dominican": eating lots of rice and beans, dancing the traditional merengue and bachata dances, and having a steadfast faith in God. I am not the same person I was upon arrival and I think I have learned more from Dominicans than they have learned from me! In any case, it has been an eventful time in my life as I continue to live and learn from this incredible experience.

My Peace Corps program title is Community Economic Development; therefore, my primary project is working with a women's income generation initiative, a small chocolate factory (Dona Lala) owned and run by local women from my community. The women make traditional Dominican chocolate (Choco Lala) from start to finish - from harvesting the cocoa beans that grow on their land to stirring up a fresh cup of steaming hot chocolate.

I want to thank the St. Mary's once again for your monetary donations (as well as your prayers!) for this project in June of last year. With your generosity, the women from the chocolate factory and I have been able to accomplish many of our pending goals. Life moves slowly here, but in the last six months we have been able to officially register the factory as a legal company, register the newly designed logo and slogan, and design and develop promotional materials. We are currently in the process of buying bar codes for the products and modernizing and updating the factory, and plans for this year include our first marketing venture into the nearby tourist area of Puerto Plata.

Other projects either in the works or in planning stages include: English classes to all ages, business classes with youth, summer art class and camp, and a girls' empowerment club. Each of these projects touches on important issues here in the Dominican Republic, whether it be providing more opportunity for rural areas or building self-esteem within marginalized groups.

I also work quite closely with the Mother's Club in my community. They meet weekly working towards goals of solidarity, income generation, problem solving and motivation within the community, and to share time together. However, they do not have a meeting space, just a patch of dirt where a meeting place should be. Our secondary project has developed, therefore, into constructing a community center where they, and other community groups, will be able to hold meetings, community events, and social gatherings. As of right now, the community has the land, some start-up materials, volunteer workers, and motivation; what they lack is sufficient funding. Together, the community and I have submitted a Peace Corps Partnership Grant, which allows us to raise funds online through friends and family.

If you are interested, you can read more about the project and make a tax-deductible donation online at [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov); you can click DONATE NOW, last name Sis, or project number 517-337. My country of service is the Dominican Republic and the project name is Community Center. By clicking on my name or project title you can find more information regarding the project. If you would like to watch a short slideshow I have put together showing this community's need, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Vfj74jtqiV>.

This project is currently the most important in my work as it is the most time sensitive. With only 9 months left in my service, we are all hopeful that we can raise the money and the structure before my time is up. I know timing is difficult with the recent earthquake and devastation in our neighboring country, Haiti, but the need here is still visible to me each and every day, and I dedicated two years of my life to this community. If interested, donations, prayers, and help spreading the word are all most appreciated.

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers and know that here in the community of Las Lajas we appreciate and thank God for the people of St. Mary's. If you would like further information, have questions, or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to write me at [kacie.sis@gmail.com](mailto:kacie.sis@gmail.com). I always look forward to hearing from home!

Peace & God Bless, Kacie Sis



**ST. MARY'S WEBSITE  
HAS A NEW LOOK!**

**www.stmarysbellevue.com**

We have been working hard to make our website easier to read and to find current information about our Parish, Archdiocese and Community. We wish to thank **Tom Hanig** for his time and efforts to achieve our vision of a friendly and welcoming website. Check out the new look or visit us for the first time! Thanks to **all** our volunteers and staff that help us keep trying to improve our look and our efforts to make contact with our parish and community!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6192  
205 INDUSTRIAL RD.**

**FISH FRY LENTEN DINNERS  
FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 19 - APRIL 2**

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; prices range from \$3.00 to \$9.00 with a \$1 discount for senior citizens. (Taxes applied to all dinners.)

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



# St. Mary's School

**PRE – KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN ROUND – UP  
(ENROLLMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011)**

When: Monday, March 8, 2010  
Where: St. Mary's School  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Who: Parents of students entering Pre-K or Kindergarten (Must be 4 or 5 before October 15, 2010)

Come and learn about the Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Program at St. Mary's School. We can enroll your child that night into the program to hold their spot in the class for the next school year. To learn more about the school go to the website: [www.stmarysbellevue.com](http://www.stmarysbellevue.com) and click on the school link. For more information about the round-up, please call the school office at 291-1694.

## Saint Mary's Church

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Bellevue, NE 68005

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### Address Service Requested

#### MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING (MOMS)

The Ministry of Mothers Sharing has a new co-leadership team - Cindy Donahue (731-6005), Suzanne Hasiak (680-5744), and Cheryl Stover (813-6299). We are pleased to announce that we will once again be holding small group sessions **starting the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>**. These are 8 week sessions which are for women of all ages and stages.

The session is designed as a time to share with other women and experience the support of others as you discover the depth of your spirituality. The sessions are led by a team of facilitators. There will also be a fall session which will start the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending a session or want to learn more about MOMS, please call Cindy, Suzanne, or Cheryl. Registration forms are located in the main entrance of church.

#### VINCENTIAN MISSION PRAYER

*By St. John Gabriel Perboyre, C.M.*

Divine Savior, transform me into Yourself.

May my hands be Your hands.

May my tongue be Your tongue.

Grant that every faculty of my body  
may serve only to glorify You.

Above all, transform my soul and all its powers,  
that my memory, my will and my affections, may be  
the memory, the will and the affections of You.  
I pray You to destroy in me, all that is not of You.

Grant that I may live but in You,  
and by you, and for You,  
and that I may truly say with St. Paul,  
"I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me.

*(Please see the article on page 2 about our  
Parish Mission and COME!  
ALL are welcome in this place!)*