

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 8, 2009

Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

222 West Redoubt Avenue Soldotna, AK

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		<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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SUNDAY LITURGY: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:30am
First Sunday of month, Youth Ministry 5pm

WEEKDAY LITURGY: Monday through Friday, 12:05pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday 11:00 – 11:45am
Saturday 4:00 – 4:45pm

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick: Available during the Sunday masses, or as needed.

Sacrament of Baptism: for children – Parents Prep class required. Call Marlys for reservations.
Best done prior to birth.
for adults – Contact the office about RCIA

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 month process (several classes and FOCUS Test and/or Engaged Encounter, or Couple to Couple...contact a priest.

Pastoral Council: meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (usually)

Prayer Chain: pjham@att.net, Pat Hamilton 262-5250

Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance Coordinator: Marlys Verba

Please Note: Submissions/articles for the weekly bulletin via email must be in by Thursdays at noon to Marlys: marlys.verba@gmail.com and you may send a copy to: csponsel@acsalaska.net

The Inner and Outer Life

We live in a highly efficient world --- a very busy world. In fact, our society places a great value on being busy. It's the badge of honor today. If a person is not busy, we think that they are either lazy or useless. But God has placed a need inside of us --- a need for quiet and prayer, and if we neglect that need, we will be out of balance. And just as our bodies become unsound when something is not going right physically, so our spirits will be unsound if we neglect the quiet and prayer which we so badly need.

We need to pray! God made us in such a way that we need to nourish our inner life as well as our outer life. One without the other just doesn't work. One of the sayings that comes from the lives of contemplative men and women is "work and pray". Do the outer work and the inner work. In the world in which we live in today, there is an almost complete emphasis on the outer world.

Don't be fooled by all those pictures you see of saints wrapped up in the ecstasy of prayer. They seem to be looking up into the heavens, unaware of the earth upon which they are kneeling. Prayer is rarely like that. Often it is a struggle just to remain for a few minutes in God's presence. Prayer needs a lot of commitment and a great deal of perseverance.

If you want to start on prayer, a good place to begin is with the prayer of thanksgiving. *If you live gratefully recognizing the good when you have a cup of tea or a comfortable seat or a nice conversation, then when something difficult comes along, this will not be the first moment when you wake up. Ninety-nine percent of the time we have an opportunity to be grateful for something.* (Bro. David Steindl-Rast, OSB). This Eucharist is our great prayer of thanksgiving and praise. May we take this thanksgiving out into our day to day lives.

Fr. Tony, OMI

Saturday February 14, 6pm, 2nd Annual Valentine Dinner sponsored by the Y.A.C.H.T. Club. Dinner and auction for any parishioner over 21. Proceeds from the auction will go toward the planning and implementation of more Youth events. We are in need of auction items (service or tangible) for both the silent and outcry auction. **Call Jen Ransom 260-1678** if you have an item to donate. If you are interested in helping decorate, serve, cook, take down, or help with the auction please call **Heather Stockton 260-6581**. Stay tuned for ticket information in the coming weeks.



A LOOK AHEAD:

Quilting for Octoberfest — Join the Fun

When: Thursdays

Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Lunch Provided (yum)

Place: O'Neill Hall

We will again be working on wool quilts. Also our wool rug. We need willing workers — no experience necessary, everyone Welcome. If questions, call **Pat Murray at 262-7801**.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing is an 8 session program for mothers of ALL ages and experiences.

Through reflection, sharing, prayer, and scripture participants learn about the true sacredness of the call of motherhood.

OLPH MOMS participants will meet weekly beginning February 28th and will follow the course guided by "MOMS: A Personal Journal".

If you are interested in participating in the Spring 2009 MOMS session, please phone **Sheilah-Margaret Pothast at 262-8551** or email at agr8fulmom@hotmail.com to register or for more information.

Please join for the Children's Play date in the Redemptorist Center — Tuesdays at 10am starting January 27. Please bring a toy that your child does not mind sharing and any snacks or drinks that you and your child may need. If you have any questions please call **Heather Stockton 260-6581**.

Redemptorist Center Dedication DVD are now available at the Coffee Cart — \$15.00. Proceeds to support Redemptorist Mission Orphanage in Thailand.

Congratulations to the Truth Pursuit Teams! They took 1st and 2nd at the competition last week in Anchorage! The Team Members are: **Robert Johnson, Georgia Forrest, Amanda Cobb, Lisa Hileman, Annamarie Johnson, Chantilly Hileman, Mark West and Willa Forrest. GREAT WORK!**

Tickets on Sale for the Valentine Dinner and auction

after Mass for this weekend (2/7-8). We have lots of great auction items and all of the proceeds are going to support our youth program. Tickets are \$15 for individual and \$25 for couple. Please visit the table after Mass for more information or call **Heather Stockton 260-6581**.

Teen Night is this Sunday, February 8th! Mass starts at 5 pm – please show up early to sign in and practice the much-anticipated music; the praise and worship service begins at 4:30. Dinner follows the mass. Junior high and high school will be separated for the evening’s activity section: Junior high will remain at the parish and play Bunko (complete with fun prizes) and the high school students will travel to Skyview High School for sledding and cross country skiing. Dress warm – and bring a headlight or flashlight! We will be back at the parish for parent pick up by 8:45 pm. Cost for Teen Night is \$5. Please register ahead of time at the Youth Ministry table in the foyer. For more information contact **Jen Ransom at 260-1678**. We can’t wait to see you there – feel free to invite your friends!

O’Neill Hall The New Stove is ready for use. We ask that everyone using the stove be inserviced:

- a) Lighting the ovens (convection)
- b) Lighting and using the griddle
- c) Cleaning of griddle

Also, there is an in-service on use and cleaning of dishwasher. Chef Dan Murray will be available after 9:00am Mass beginning February 1 or you may call him at 260-4474 to set up a time that would be convenient for both of you to meet. In helping us assess the use of O’Neill Hall, there will be a book available in the kitchen. We ask that you please fill in when you have an activity such as a meeting, youth group, activity, reception, etc. Thank you for your cooperation. New entry way rugs and anti-fatigue mats are coming.

As a followup for the Generations of Faith, the outreach activity this month will be a Valentine’s activity to share with Heritage Place and some of the Assisted living homes here in Soldotna. Everyone welcome: Sunday, at 10am in the Hall.

Can you help facilitate this? Please contact **Marlys 262-5542**.

Calendar for February 9, 2009 – February 15, 2009, with Daily Readings

February 9, Monday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	February 10, Tuesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am RCIA, 7pm	February 11, Wednesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	February 12, Thursday: Eucharistic Service Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration starts after noon service	February 13, Friday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration ends before noon service	February 14, Saturday: 5pm Mass Reconciliation 4:00pm Music practice 1pm	February 15, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses
Genesis 1:1-19 Psalm 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c Mark 6:53-56	Genesis 1:20-2:4a Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mark 7:1-13	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17 Psalm 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 Mark 7:14-23	Genesis 2:18-25 Psalm 106:8-9 Mark 7:24-30	Genesis 3:1-8 Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mark 7:31-37	Genesis 3:9-24 Psalm 90:2, 3- 4abc, 5-6, 12-13 Mark 8:1-10	Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 (77B) Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Corinthians 10- 31-11:1 Luke 7-16

Saturday, February 14, 2009, 5:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Bonk, John Bonk, Joe Deveaux, Jane Fellman, Jim Fellman

Lectors: 1st. Reading: Sheilah-Margaret Pothast; 2nd reading: Tamara Slone

Altar Server: Grey Hansen

Sunday, February 15, 2009, 9:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Helen Knopp, Barbara Dilley, Bob Evenson, Ron O’Lena, Sharon Shassetz

Lectors: 1st. Reading: Kathleen Evenson; 2nd reading: Monty Murray

Altar Server: Kyle Shassetz

Sunday, February 15, 2009, 11:30pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Myrna Cowan, Kate Forrest, Connie Gatling, Cindy Kircher, Anna LaRoche

Lectors: 1st. Reading: Pat Cowan; 2nd reading: Karl Kircher

Altar Server: Willa Forest

Mop & Bucket 2/9—2/14: Carolyn Cannava Family **Collection Counters: 2/15:** Shirley & Paul Zobeck

FINAL ANALYSIS OF SURVEY FINDINGS: It appears that the financial realities of opening a Catholic school at this time, particularly with the current economic downturn we face, would place a significant strain on the people of the four parishes surveyed. While it is very important that we acknowledge the great desire for Catholic education on the Kenai Peninsula, we must also be realistic about the actual number of people who feel able to support this endeavor. Every Catholic has the responsibility to provide for the Catholic education of its young and this would include the provision of financial aid for families who do not have sufficient income to sustain the cost of tuition. As expressed by many, other parish needs must also be honestly addressed and completed before other costly endeavors are pursued.

This survey also brings attention to the need for a strong faith formation program for both elementary and secondary young people in order to insure that the Church will continue to flourish. This is essential in every parish and, indeed, is a challenge that must be met not only in this Archdiocese but throughout our country and the world.

The Archdiocese of Anchorage and the Office for Catholic Schools remains open to the future possibility of a Catholic school on the Kenai Peninsula, but must first be assured that the financial sustainability is evident and supported by the entire Catholic community of this area of the Archdiocese.

If interest in this project remains firm, a committee with representatives from all parishes could be established to further study and present a viable plan that would:

1. Identify the best location for a Catholic School;
2. Determine the choice of a building — leased or constructed;
3. Insure that sufficient funds have been raised to cover the initial cost of the school;
4. Receive a majority vote of approval from all parish communities;
5. Present the completed plan to the Archdiocesan Finance council for final approval.

We encourage the members of each Parish Council and/or Finance Council of the four parishes surveyed to listen attentively to the people and to be fully transparent with the financial status of the parish they serve.

Sometimes life isn't fair. We work hard, play by the rules, try to live a good life, and yet there are times when life seems to turn against us. Innocent suffering, especially our own, is very hard to accept. Other times, life seems to work in our favor when we've done nothing to deserve it.

In today's first reading, we hear only a little slice of a man's story who is the biblical model for innocent suffering. His name is Job and he suffers terribly. A good and just man, perhaps his most intense suffering, however, is his inability to understand why he is suffering. He asks the questions - What have I done to deserve this? Why is this happening to me?

On the other hand, perhaps you will recognize a modern day example of a fortunate person. Most of us watched the Super Bowl last Sunday. The older and wiser players realize that this is a special moment, a moment that very few players get to experience. Yet, no thanks to his own plans or efforts, I know of one man that played in 3 Super Bowls with 3 different teams - a remarkable accomplishment. He too probably wondered - What have I done to deserve this? Why is this happening to me?

What about our stories? Most of us can look back at our lives and point to both good times and bad - "Super Bowl" moments and "Job" moments. In both cases, in the face of unexplained good fortune and especially in the situation of innocent suffering, we realize that we're not in total control, that we don't have all the answers, that God's perspective is bigger than ours, and that much of life is mystery.

How are we to deal with this mystery? Should we follow Job's example and obsess on getting an answer to the "Why me" question? I believe it is normal to ask the question - "Why?" - especially at first. However, it's important to not get stuck there. Towards the end of the story, Job eventually realizes that his questioning of God is not helpful. Instead of making himself the center of the universe, Job tries to see things from God's perspective. He recognizes that suffering is a mystery; that his concept of justice and fairness is limited; and that God's ways are not always our ways.

We too must admit that some things are beyond us. And we can take the next step, a step that Job never took. We can call on God to be with us in our distress, to heal us physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. We can turn it over to God, lean on God, and trust in his love for us - in good times and in bad.

Fr. Joe

NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION

This weekend, the people of our archdiocese and those of the entire American Catholic Community are asked to give to the National Collection for Black and Indian Missions. This special collection raises funds for evangelization programs throughout the United States --- including our own Native Ministry in the Anchorage area and in Kodiak. Please give generously.
