

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Catholic Community

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2009

Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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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. Next class April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm, call to register.  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (usually)

**Prayer Chain:** [pjham@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:marlys.verba@gmail.com) and you may send a copy to: [csponsel@acsalaska.net](mailto:csponsel@acsalaska.net)

## Blind Spots

Someone once asked Helen Keller, who had been blind since the age of nineteen months, if blindness were the worst thing that could happen to a person.

She answered that the worst thing that could happen to a person was not to lose their sight, but to lose their vision.

Most of us have blind spots, presumptions, ideas and perceptions that we don't even think about changing. These blind spots are major roadblocks in our spiritual journey. Even a quick reading of today's Gospel shows us in a graphic way how blind the Pharisees were to Jesus. (Especially to his work!) These religious leaders were leading people into the darkness, not into the light. And these blind spots in our life are there because we have developed them. And this is not done at random. We carefully choose our blind spots to protect us from something that is perceived as a threat. The Pharisees blind spots protected them from having to give up any of their authority or power. (Maybe that is not such an unusual blind spot, is it?)

We need to look at those areas of our lives that we have blocked off from God and from others --- even from ourselves. But this is an in-built problem. If I am blind, and don't recognize my blindness, how can I move towards the healing of this blindness? Blind spots are created around our fears. Prejudice is a blind spot. We think that those who are different from us are a threat to us, and so we develop a distance from them. We fear what they may do to us. Blind spots are not rational --- they come from a fear. So you cannot argue someone out of their blindness... they are unable to listen to you. Only conversion works. And to be converted we must be open to receiving new sight.

In the reading from Ephesians we are urged to come out of the darkness:

*Live as children of the light --- for the fruit of the light is found  
In all that is good and right and true...  
Try to find out what is  
Pleasing to the Lord...everything that becomes visible is light.  
Therefore it is said, "Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead, and  
Christ will shine on you."*

May the Lord bless all of us with new discoveries and new sight.

fr.tony,omi



## 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**.

**L**enten Reconciliation Services are scheduled as follows:

Soldotna, Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

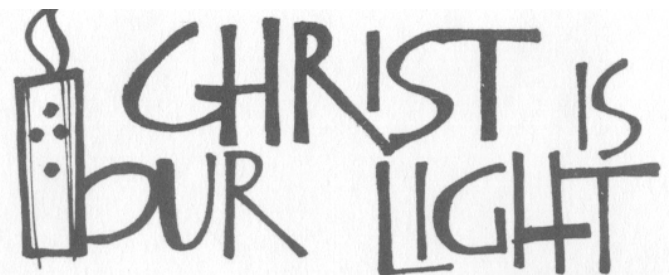
**I**t is time again for the Easter Lily Remembrance of our loved ones. For \$12, you may have an Easter Lily placed in the sanctuary during Easter in memory of your loved ones. It is a perfect reminder of the tomb and the Resurrection which we celebrate. Please put your donation in the container in the foyer, along with the names of your loved ones to be remembered. Deadline for this is Palm Sunday. Lilies may be picked up two weeks after Easter.

**S**oup Supper on Friday at 5:45pm-6:45pm followed with a presentation by Pegge Bernecker about the Blessed Mother and the Stations of the Cross at 7pm in church. Please join us.

**T**he sign up sheet for Eucharistic Ministers for the Holy Week is on the bulletin board; please sign up for one liturgy which you will be attending.

ALSO

We are in need of someone who would be willing to videotape the Baptisms on Holy Saturday? See Marlys or Father Tony.



**“Heart Cairns: Mary’s Guidance in the Midst of Chaos and Delight”** March 27, 2009, 7:00pm

Who guides your way during times of angst and joy? How can we learn to really live a life of profound faith and authenticity? The mother of Jesus shows us a way. Mary guides us to remain standing in times of tumult and despair, to ponder the perplexing polarities of life, and to celebrate the love we experience in our families and community.

Join us for a special Lenten evening of story, pondering, reflection and sharing. Listen to the prayers in your heart, and receive guidance to live a faith-filled, authentic life rooted in God.

Presenter Pegge Bernecker is an author, retreat leader, and spiritual director living in Kasilof, Alaska.

**The Legion of Mary** Near the feast of the Annunciation, the members of the Legion of Mary prepare to make their consecration to our Blessed Mother. They will hold their annual Acies on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 12 o’clock noon, at St. Benedict’s Catholic Church (8110 Jewel Lake Road). If you are unable to attend, join them in prayer on that day and make your own individual Act of Consecration to Mary, praying, **“I am all Yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is Yours.”**

**OLPH will have** a team for the Relay for Life May 29<sup>th</sup> at Skyview High School. We are looking for energetic folks willing to help brainstorm fundraising ideas, recruit walkers and help guide us as “We Race for a Cure”. Interested? Please call **Alyson at 389-3235** or email [fishhappens@gci.net](mailto:fishhappens@gci.net).

**Calendar for March 23, 2009 – March 29, 2009, with Daily Readings**

March 23, Monday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	March 24, Tuesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am  Children’s playdate 10am, at O’Neill Teen Music practice 6am	March 25, Wednesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am  Reconciliation Service @ 7pm, (RCIA)	March 26, Thursday: Eucharistic Service Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration starts after noon service Men’s Group Breakfast 6am Quilting, 10am- 3pm	March 27, Friday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration ends before noon service Soup Supper 5:45-6:45pm Stations 7pm	March 28, Saturday: 5pm Mass Reconciliation 4:00pm Music practice 1pm  MOMS 9:30- 11:30am RCIA—3pm	March 29, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses
Isaiah 65:17-21 Psalm 30:2&4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b John 4:43-54	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 John 5:1-16	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8-10 Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 John 5:31-47	Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23 John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 John 7:40-53	Ezekiel 37:12-14 (34A) Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45

**Saturday, March 28, 2009, 5:00pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sue Dukowitz, Rick Dukowitz, Jane Fellman, Jim Fellman, Margaret Johnson

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading: Christine Ermold; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Tamara Slone

**Altar Server:** Grey Hansen

**Sunday, March 29, 2009, 9:00pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathryn Dunagan, Alyson Stogsdill, Jim Stogsdill, Lauri Stropes, David Stropes

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading: Dave Carey; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Jackie Swanson

**Altar Server:** Alex Agosti  
Jacob O’Lena

**Sunday, March 29, 2009, 11:30pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Myrna Cowan, Kate Forrest, Diane Garske, Connie Gatling, Marguerite McIntosh

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading: Pat Cowan; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Jean Kudyba

**Altar Server:** Robert Johnson  
Willa Forrest

**Mop & Bucket 3/23-3/28:** Kathy Dunagan Family **Collection Counters: 3/29:** Joyce & Paul Fischer

## KEEP CONSCIENCE PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Cardinal Francis George is urging Catholics in the United States to tell the Obama Administration to retain Health and Human Services regulations governing conscience protections for health care workers.

This is vital to keep the government from “moving our country from democracy to despotism,” said Cardinal George, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. You may see the video on the Web at <http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection> and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NoCRwMqVzQ>.

Those who want to protect conscience rights can speak out through an action alert at <http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection>.

“Respect for personal conscience and freedom of religion as such ensures our basic freedom from government oppression. No government should come between an individual person and God ---That’s what America is suppose to be about,” Cardinal Francis George said. “This is the true common ground for us as Americans. We therefore need legal protection for freedom of conscience and of religion --- including freedom for religious health care institutions to be true to themselves.

“I ask you please let the government know that you want conscience protections to remain strongly in place. In particular, let the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington know that you stand for the protection of conscience, especially now for those who provide the health care services so necessary for a good society.”

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**U** pcoming Youth Ministry Activities – A great way to start Holy Week:

**M**iddle School Retreat on homeless teens on the peninsula

**When: Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Where: 253 Arlington Court in Soldotna**

We will learn about the problem, watch a movie about it, and decide what we can do about it. Middle school students will look at the same issue that the high school teens addressed in their retreat, but they will determine a different action to take to help make a difference. Sign up in advance is helpful! For more information, call Janet Shapley at 262-7313.

**T**een Night is Palm Sunday, April 5th at O.L.P.H. Mass starts at 5 pm – please show up early to sign in and enjoy the praise and worship service, beginning at 4:30 – all parishioners are welcome. Mass will include a special re-enactment of the gospel by the teens, for the teens. After mass the evening continues with dinner in O’Neil Hall, presentations of high school and junior high service projects to promote understanding of the Kenai Peninsula’s homeless teen crisis, and a to-be-announced movie – popcorn included! Teen Night ends at 8:30. Cost is \$5. Please sign up ahead of time at the Youth Ministry table in the foyer. For more information contact Adam Bell at 262-4956.

**C**ollege Students Easter Care Packages:

This weekend we will start collecting items for our college kids Easter care packages. We will be collecting items for those kids attending college away from home next weekend to be mailed on April 6. We have had a great response from our college kids in the past. They loved the home baked cookies, canned salmon & crackers, toiletries, religious items, Easter cards, socks, etc. It is a wonderful way to let them know their parishioners back home miss them and are praying for them and their success.

Please stop by the table in the foyer through 3/22 to drop off donations and to sign an Easter card and let them know they’re in our prayers. **Thanks, Karen Evans- 260-3637 or Marlyns- 262-4749.**

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**Y**outh Ministry is having a food drive March 21<sup>st</sup> from 12-2pm. Youth will assemble at O’Neill Hall to deliver invitations to homes in Soldotna. The following Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> we will meet again at O’Neill Hall from 11:30am –2pm to pick up food at homes we invited to participate. We need drivers as well as youth, if you have any questions please call **Ruthann Truesdell @ 262-4570**. Note: There will be a box in the back of church for parishioners to contribute. Thank you in advance!

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