Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019

Youth Conference Meeting Today

We are planning our Fall youth trip to Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). This is an amazing opportunity for all high school students who will be in 9 to 12 grade next year. There will be an interest meeting at 12 noon at the Fr. Willis Hall on the 17th.

If you are considering this trip for your teenager, please come to the meeting or call Brigid at 607. 434.5874. We need to have numbers to the Diocesan office by end of March.

Rice Bowl 2019

The Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program, which offers us an opportunity to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer -- fasting – almsgiving. The program invites us to eat simple, meatless meals each Friday from various countries (recipes inside your Rice Bowl box). Twenty-five percent of the money collected stays in our community. Rice Bowl checks due: April 28.

Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' Series

Dr. Freeman and the Knights of Columbus have resumed the showing of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' Series Wednesdays at 7 pm in Father Willis Hall, St. John the Baptist.

CRS' Rice Bowl - *Journey to Uganda*

Since her parents' deaths four years ago, 16 year old Annet has been caring for her three siblings: Gladys, 6, Irene, 8, and Emmanuel, 10. It has not been easy since ongoing violence in South Sudan has forced Annet to flee to Uganda. Despite threats from rebel soldiers, she has kept her siblings safe. Now Annet and her sisters and brother have been living in Bidi Bidi, one of the world's largest refugee settlements home to nearly 300,000 people.

CRS is building houses for families like Annet's, teaching them to farm, and to give them tools to succeed. She now has her own plot of land to plant so she can provide for her siblings.

Sunday at St. Peter & St. John.

Attack on Surrogate Mother for Profit Ban

Language that would undo New York's long-standing ban on surrogate motherhood for profit has been placed in the proposed State Budget by Governor Cuomo. In addition, legislation (A.1071-A) to accomplish the same goal is being advanced in the legislature. This would enable the buying and selling of children and the exploitation of women, and will lead to an increased reliance on IVF (in vitro fertilization) and the destruction of more human embryos.

Let your elected officials know that you oppose all efforts to legalize commercial surrogacy. The State Budget must be finalized by April 1 so send your message today! It just takes a minute to be heard. Use link: www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/qjP03FORt2tMME421TsjGw.

Parenting Pointers — Susan Vogt

The Spring Equinox is Wednesday -- when we have nearly equal light and dark. Why should you care? Do you know that it determines the date of Easter! Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox. That is why it changes every year.

Fasting Tips

Offer your fasting up for someone who needs spiritual strength. It can enliven the soul of those for whom we suffer (Archbishop Fulton Sheen: *a type of suffering called a 'spiritual blood transfusion'*). Think about that person every time you are tempted to break your fast. Then, overcome it and know that your efforts are making a difference with the help of the Holy Spirit.

TV for FREE

Free television available for pick up at St. Peter.

If interested, call 746.3083 to make arrangements.

Marriage Moments — Susan Vogt

The Spring Equinox is Wednesday. What does this have to do with marriage? Well, it may be a stretch, but since "equinox" is rooted in equality (the date that we have nearly equal light and dark) connect this with the tradition of spring cleaning. Consider cleaning together for an equal amount of time this week.

Drink Coffee/Help Farmers

Created in partnership with Equal Exchange, *Mama Tierra* is a delicious organic coffee from communities where Catholic Relief Services works. Every purchase supports the work of CRS to restore and protect communities in southern Mexico and Central America with clean water, healthy soil, and resilient farmers.

For every bag of *Mama Tierra* coffee you purchase, CRS receives a $2 donation -- save money, buy in bulk with your community, church, or to share with friends, family -- you get a lower price, and CRS gets a $5 contribution per case!

Purchase *Mama Tierra* today at CRS.org and feel the satisfaction of drinking coffee with impact.

Family Perspective — Bud Ozar

Jesus "went up to the mountain to pray," and He was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for the members of your family, pray before each meal, and if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.

Faith Formation: 6th grade thru 12th grade

Right to Life Oratory Contest 2019

Write and present an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech about: Abortion, Euthanasia, Infanticide, or Stem Cell Research (6th - 10th grade may also use: "Why Being Pro-life is Important to Me") to present Sunday, March 31, 12:30 pm at St John the Baptist.

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Lent Daily Masses

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

8 am at St. Peter; 9:30 am at St. John

Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross

6 pm at St. Peter and St. John

Second Lenten Journey Element~ *Fasting*

Fasting should not be practiced as a formal fast, or one which in truth "satisfies" us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others. It should help us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him. It involves choosing a sober lifestyle -- a way of life that does not waste, a way of life that does not "throw away." Fasting helps us to attune our hearts to the essential and to sharing. It is a sign of awareness and responsibility in the face of injustice, abuse, especially to the poor and the little ones, and it is a sign of the trust we place in God and His providence.

Local Events during Lent

⊛ Sacred Heart, Stamford:

Lenten Mission with actor Frank Runyeon at 7 pm --

March 22: Luke ~ "Stories on the Road"

March 23: Sermon on the Mount" and "Hollywood vs. Faith--The Struggle to Live Faithfully in the Media Age"

April 12: Living Stations of the Cross, 7 pm, reception.

⊛ St. Mary's Church, Oneonta:

March 18, 10 am & 7 pm: Spiritual Wholeness~ Even if you are a wimp or a couch potato~ Sr. K. Hanley

March 19, 10 am & 7 pm: Mental Wholeness: Mental Health, Faith, & Self-Care~ Grace Fay

March 20, 10 am & 7 pm: Physical Wholeness: "et incarnates est …," Rev. David Mickiewicz

All presentations are free and will be held in the Parish Center (across the street from Church).