



The holy season of Lent has begun and we can all join in prayer that these 40 days of penance and prayer bring to us a strength and determination to be more and more like Christ each day. This Lenten season is supposed to mirror the Lord's 40 days in the desert where He was tempted to abandon His suffering and sacrifices. May we rededicate ourselves to fighting those same temptations ourselves.

Be sure to check out our St. Rose Lenten schedule. We know we only get out of something what we put into it, so may we make the effort and sustain the effort so that by being one with Christ in His passion and death we may also be one with Him in His resurrection.

Special "Congratulations!" to all of our 2nd Graders who made their First Confession on Saturday. May the Sacrament of Penance and the Lord's mercy and forgiveness always be part of your life. And "Thank You!" for setting such a good example for the rest of us of what it means to humble ourselves and acknowledge our sinfulness as we rely upon God's goodness and grace.

And, of course, here we are at Auction weekend. It will take a bit to put together a financial report - and we'll print it here in the bulletin as soon as it's ready - but we already know the non-dollar benefits: the enthusiasm, the gratitude, the team-work, and the great sense of accomplishment. All of those sentiments are made even stronger by financial success, but it's enough to already declare Jurassic Park II a great success.

I join the parents, students, faculty, and staff of St. Rose School in thanking everyone who helped make this year's Auction the wonderful success we need it to be. Special "Thanks!" go out to our auction sponsors, our donors, and those who attended. Know that your generosity makes a big difference in the life and future of our School. We work hard to make it a quality school - you work hard to make it affordable! And what good is the former without the latter?

The fallout from the Leader article seems to have been rather minimal, and for that I give due and devout thanks to God. As I mentioned, I have great confidence in a positive resolution of this whole situation, but there may well be some rough patches on the road. I can't begin to adequately thank everyone for all of your prayers - especially the prayers! - kind words, encouragement and support. And may God Himself bless you for it. I'll keep you posted!

When I put the Holy Week schedule in last week's bulletin, I put in the wrong time - the correct time for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday is 6:30 pm.

Have a wonderful week ahead and be sure of my appreciation, prayers, and good wishes always. And, as always, "Thanks!" for all you do to help make St. Rose Parish the wonderful place it is!



## USED PALMS

from last Palm Sunday are being collected in the main vestibule of church.



## THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

"The essential and primary end of marriage is the good of children."  
St. Thomas Aquinas



## Q&A

**Q:** "I know the Catholic Church is opposed to artificial birth control. But why is natural family planning acceptable?"

**A:** As I mentioned last week, the Catholic Church allows for spouses' regulation of births. [CCC #2367] "Called to give life, spouses share in the creative power and fatherhood of God. 'Married couples should regard it as their proper mission to transmit human life and to educate their children; they should realize that they are thereby cooperating with the love of God the Creator and are, in a certain sense, its interpreters. They will fulfill this duty with a sense of human and Christian responsibility.'"

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* goes on to say {CCC # 2368} "A particular aspect of this responsibility concerns the regulation of births. For just reasons, spouses may wish to space the births of their children." It adds, "It is their duty to make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but is in conformity with the generosity appropriate to responsible parenthood."

[CCC # 2373] "Sacred Scripture and the Church's traditional practice see in large families a sign of God's blessing and the parents' generosity." And even if parents tell themselves that they're limiting the number of children they could have for the sake of the children they already have, "Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means (for example, direct sterilization or contraception)." [CCC # 2399]

One of the best things a parent can give to their sons and daughters is brothers and sisters. To eliminate such a gift for the sake of being able to provide more 'stuff' is a true misconception of or redefinition of generosity. Especially in this day and age, when so many suffer from isolation, and when younger generations are under-populated, the continued preference for artificial birth control is non-sustainable. We're not only compromising the meaning of marriage and damaging the psychological stability of children, but we're abandoning the holiness which needs to be part of married life. When sexual activity is disconnected from procreation and marriage, it becomes an end in itself when, in fact, it should be the means to an end. Sexual activity, therefore, becomes equated with happiness - a happiness it can never achieve on its own. . . . to be continued.

## Easter Triduum



### HOLY THURSDAY

#### The Mass of the Lord's Supper

6:30 pm; with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 9:00 pm.

### GOOD FRIDAY

#### Tre Ore

Noon until 3:00 pm: The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 12:30; The Reading of the Passion at 1:30; Stations of the Cross at 2:30 pm; the final scheduled Confessions prior to Easter will be heard in-between each of these devotions

#### The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

6:30 pm; includes the Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross; distribution of Holy Communion

### HOLY SATURDAY

#### The Easter Vigil

6:30 pm; includes the blessing of the Paschal candle; extended Scripture readings; the Baptism of the Catechumens; Profession of the Faith for the Candidates; the Sacrament of Confirmation; the first Mass of Easter

### EASTER SUNDAY

Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am