

The
Season of
Lent



Join us for the Journey

ST MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

of Briggsville, WI

&

ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION

of Portage, WI

Pastor, Fr. Jim Murphy

(jmurphy@stmaryotic.com)

Deacon, Dennis Sutter

(dsutter@stmaryotic.com)

Parish Community Website www.stmaryotic.com

Parish Email: parish@stmaryotic.com

First Sunday of Lent

February 28 & March 1, 2009

**St. Mary Briggsville
Special Lenten Offerings**

Soup & Stations

Thursday, 7:00 pm

March 5 & 19

Sunday, 4:00 pm

March 8 & 22

Adult Formation Lenten Theme

Tuesday, following 8 am Mass

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 and April 7

**St. Mary Portage
Special Lenten Offerings**

Evening Prayer

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Portage

Sunday, 5:30 pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 & April 5

Soup & Stations of the Cross

Monday- Soup at 5:00 followed by stations at 6:00 pm

March 2, 16, 23 & 30

Faith Sharing

Tuesday, 7:00 pm

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Family Faith Formation

Wednesday, March 11- 5:30-6:30 pm

We will begin our journey through lent with a banquet to sustain us and get us headed in the right direction.

Wednesday, March 25- 5:30-6:30 pm

We will continue to move toward Easter by following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Wednesday, April 8- 7:00-8:00 pm

Shadow Stations of the Cross- Led by students from Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Come and pray the Stations of the Cross as a family along with these students in this moving, and unique presentation.

Adult Evening of Reflection

Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm

March 4, 18 & April 1

A unique 3-part video presentation and reflection time. We will also be offering a light supper for anyone who attends the session and stays afterward to share their reactions to the video. This video entitled "Into Great Silence", is called a "mesmerizing poetic chronicle of spirituality" and a "rare and transformative experience" and will be an opportunity for you to quiet yourself and reflect for a short time on the important relationships in your life. Give yourself the gift of peace and renewal.

Evening Song

Thursday, 7:00 pm

March 5 & 12

Join us for a half hour of psalms & songs of praise led by one of our choirs.

Taizé

Thursday, 7:00 pm

March 19 & 26

Taizé prayer is a quiet simple way of prayer. These meditative candlelit services include simple chants sung repeatedly, prayers of praise and intercession.

Friday Evening Mass

Friday, 5:30 pm

March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3

Portage Worship Schedule

Monday, March 2

8:00 AM Word & Communion
 5:00 PM Soup & Stations

Tuesday, March 3

8:00 AM Word & Communion
 7:00 PM Faith Sharing
 (*The One True God- In whom do you believe?*)

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 AM † Bob Irwin (Dave & Marcia Mielke)
 5:30 PM Adult Evening of Reflection

Thursday, March 5

8:00 AM † Melvin & Betty Wartner (Family)
 7:00 PM Evening Song

Friday, March 6

7:00 AM Wilfred & Venita Drexler
 (Estate of Bernadine Coleman)
 5:30 PM Mass

Saturday, March 7

4:00 AM † Elizabeth Petzke
 (The Bob Robinson Family)

Sunday, March 8

9:30 AM † Chris Pieper (Sam & Helen Hunter)
 11:00 AM † Margaret Weber (Kate Murphy & Family)
 12:30 PM Spanish Mass
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Portage Confessions

Saturday, March 7
9:00 AM

Stewardship of Treasure

Parish Support February 22 & 23

Envelopes\$9015.50
 Offertory.....\$371.42
 DSA.....\$335.00
 Fiscal Year to Date Giving..... \$333455.49

Parish Support Previous Year –2008

Envelopes Received\$12716.90
 Fiscal Year Giving.....\$328748.97

Difference from previous fiscal year giving

Increase.....\$4706.52

Scrip will be sold following each Mass
 this weekend.

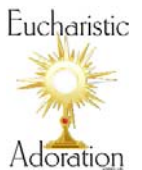
From Our Pastor

The Gospel passage for the first Sunday of Lent is always an account of Jesus in the desert. This place of prayer, reflection, centering is an image for our Lenten season. To draw on this image, there is no holy water in our fonts by the doors. Please bless yourselves as you enter but remember to long for the water of life that we will bless at the Easter Vigil. We have a barren tree in the sanctuary. This tree is in water and we hope that it will sprout buds and leaves by Easter. Our Lenten journey is about conversion and choosing life. How will our individual Lenten practices bring our faith to new life? Please consider joining in our evening prayer opportunities here at Church. I would encourage you to commit to one evening a week or sample a variety of these prayer offerings.

Fr. Jim

Eucharistic Adoration

All are invited to share in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, March 6 from 12:00-2:00 pm. All are welcome to come in for a visit any time during the two hours.



Stewardship Reflection

First Sunday of Lent-March 1, 2009

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

B.J.S

APPLIANCE CENTER

Sales- Service

1411 New Pinery Road

Portage, WI 53901

742-5351

Join Us for a Truly Unique Lenten Experience

“Nestled deep in the postcard-perfect French Alps, the Grande Chartreuse is considered one of the world’s most ascetic monasteries. In 1984, German filmmaker Philip Gröning wrote to the Carthusian order for permission to make a documentary about them. They said they would get back to him. Sixteen years later, they were ready. Gröning, sans crew or artificial lighting, lived in the monks’ quarters for six months—filming their daily prayers, tasks, rituals and rare outdoor excursions. This transcendent, closely observed film seeks to embody a monastery, rather than simply depict one—it has no score, no voiceover and no archival footage. What remains is stunningly elemental: time, space and light. One of the most mesmerizing and poetic chronicles of spirituality ever created, INTO GREAT SILENCE dissolves the border between screen and audience with a total immersion into the hush of monastic life. More meditation than documentary, it’s a rare, transformative theatrical experience for all.”

“**Into Great Silence**” is a very unusual film, which The New York Times called “Utterly Spellbinding”, “A Transcendent, Transporting Experience”, said the Los Angeles Times. Newsweek called it “Breathtaking”, and the Chicago Tribune said “Intoxicating. Enlarges your concepts of movies and life”

We will divide this film into three parts and watch it on Wednesday, March 4, March 18, and April 1st, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, in the school cafeteria, followed by an optional opportunity for a light supper and discussion/reflection time. Childcare will be available.

In order to plan for our supper, and childcare, if possible, please register ahead of time by calling Jeri Sutter at 742-6998. If you are unable to register, but wish to attend anyway, please feel free to join us.

Market Day

Order forms for March are available in the back of church, at the parish office or the school office. Orders are due on Friday, March 6 and pick up will be Tuesday, March 10 from 3:00-4:30 in the school cafeteria.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Friday, March 6

Cocktails –4 pm

Dinner– served 5:00-7:30 pm

Baptisms

We welcome Adalyn Jane Scanlon and Samantha Frances Weidner into our parish faith community of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception-Portage. Adalyn, the daughter of Jeron & Kelsey and Samantha, the daughter of Paul and Jacquelyn were baptized on Sunday, February 22, 2009.

As Adalyn and Samantha our strengthened in faith and nourished by our parish community, may they live and grow in Christ’s love. Congratulations!



In Loving Memory

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Lloyd Bohman. Lloyd passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 21, 2009. Please continue to keep the Bohman family in your prayers.

Our sympathy & prayers are also extended to LuAnn Mitchell and her family. LuAnn’s brother, Francis “Red” Barbour passed away on February 14 and services were held in Reedsburg on February 20th.

RCIA Schedule

All sessions begin at 7:00 pm at St. Mary-Portage

March 5th-	Reconciliation
March 12th-	Catholic Social Teaching
March 19th-	Monastery
March 26th-	Marriage/Holy Orders

St. Mary, Portage Parish Family Game Afternoon



Sunday, March 8

Noon-2:00 pm

St Mary School Gym & Cafeteria



Games & activities will be available in the gym for children, while adults can enjoy the camaraderie and competition of a Euchre tournament in the cafeteria.

This is a FREE event sponsored by the Parish Life Committee. Snacks and beverages will be provided. There will be prizes!! Please join us for an afternoon of fun.



St. Mary Portage Faith Formation Schedule

Kindergarten– Eighth Grade

*Wednesday, March 11

5:30-6:30 pm– Family Faith Formation

We will begin our journey through lent with a banquet to sustain us and get us headed in the right direction.

*Wednesday, March 25

5:30-6:30 pm– Family Faith Formation

We will continue to move toward Easter by following in the footsteps of Jesus.

*Wednesday, April 8

7:00-8:00 pm– Family Faith Formation

Shadow Stations of the Cross– Led by students from Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Come and pray the Stations of the Cross as a family along with these students in this moving, and unique presentation.

Please Note:

Please register for any of the above evenings by calling Jeri Sutter at 742-6998. All parishioners are invited to attend any of these evenings.

High School Faith Formation

Mini Courses

*Special Lenten Event– Family Faith Formation

Wednesday, April 8

7:00-8:00 pm

Shadow Stations of the Cross– Led by students from Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids.

*Intro to Liturgy & Sacraments

Sunday, March 1, 8 & 29

9:00 –10:30 am

*Creed Part II

Wednesday, March 4 & 11

7:00-8:30 pm

*Intro to Christian Prayer

Sunday, March 29 , April 5, 19 & 26 & May 3

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Catholic Press Month

A reminder that February is Catholic Press Month. This will be the last weekend for the display in the back of church. If you haven't, take some time to look at some of the Catholic Periodicals available. If you have ordered something and would like to share your review of the periodical, please call Jeri Sutter at 742-6998.

Please Help! Donations Needed!!

St. Mary Faith Formation office is looking for supplies for a Lenten Almsgiving project with our students. We need a large number of these supplies as soon as possible. Donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Napkins
- 13 gal. garbage bags
- Laundry detergent
- Diapers sizes 2 & 3
- Hand towels
- Washcloths
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Bags of dried beans
- Spaghetti sauce
- Spaghetti noodles
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned soup
- Cereal
- Raman noodles
- Canned ham
- Canned tuna/chicken
- Flour
- Sugar
- Jell-O
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Women's underwear
- Women's socks
- Children's shoes new or nice used

*Donations can be dropped off in the parish center, or left in the food pantry baskets in church, by **Tuesday, March 24th**.

School News

From the 7th Grade Classroom

We have just completed a poetry unit in language class. Our project consisted of assembling a collection of different kinds of poetry including writing one of our own. Our last math unit included reading and creating different types of graphs and we are now starting a chapter on geometry.

In computer class we have been working with "Animoto" which is a program that helps make your own movies. We worked in groups to make movies about St. Mary School. Volcanoes will be erupting in science class when everyone brings in their own homemade volcanoes. Our musical this year is entitled Shakespeare in Shackles, and we are starting to learn our parts in music class.

In art class we are presently working with clay. We have a choice of making shoes or gooney birds for our projects. If you're finding it strange hearing one of us ordering apples instead of French fries, its because we're Movin' and Munchin' in phy ed. class. We're working on exercising and making better food choices. And speaking of exercising - our basketball season is almost finished. Both the boy's and girl's teams have had a lot of fun this year. We will be ending the season with a conference tournament at St. Mary School on March 7.

Mrs. Real-Seaman



Briggsville Worship Schedule

Tuesday, March 3

8:00 AM People of the Parishes
(Adult Formation following Mass)

Wednesday, March 4

8:00 AM Word & Communion

Thursday, March 5

8:00 AM Word & Communion

7:00 PM Soup & Stations

Saturday, March 7

5:30 AM † Betty Joyce (Family & Friends)

Sunday, March 8

8:00 AM † Verna & Morris Howard
(Phyllis & Alfred Wiesneth)

4:00 PM Soup & Stations

St. Mary Briggsville Faith Formation Schedule

***Sunday, March 1, 8, 15 & 30**

Class following 8 am Mass

***Sunday, March 22**

Parent/Student Session following 8 am Mass
(all adults from the parish are invited to this session)

First Eucharist

The Rite of Enrollment will be held on March 8 at the 8:00 Mass for those who will be receiving their First Eucharist in April.

Liturgical Schedule

for the weekend of March 7 & 8

Reader:

5:30 pm– Charles Newling

8:00 am– Terry McGowan

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

5:30 pm– Chris Clark & Betty Nadolski

8:00 am– Marcia Ginther & Jean Isaacson

Servers:

5:30 pm– Jenalee Wilson

8:00 am– Dakota Musiedlak

Welcome

*We welcome the following new members to the
St. Mary, Briggsville Parish Family.*

TERESA CODER

AND

SANDRA AND PEDRO MARTINEZ AND THEIR SONS

CRISTIAN & CRUZ

Scripture Readings

for the week of March 1, 2009

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/
Mk 9:2-10

Reminder:

Lenten materials are available at each entrance of the church, including the Rice Bowl boxes.

Stewardship of Treasure

Parish Support February 22 & 23

Envelopes Received	\$968.00
Offertory	\$70.00
Maintenance	\$60.00
DSA	\$80.00
Votive Lights	\$10.00
Children's Envelopes (February)	\$12.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$65.00
Latin America	\$10.00
Catholic Her. Envelopes	\$30.00
Eastern Europe	\$40.00
Total	\$1345.00

St. Mary Briggsville Calendar of Events March 2-March 8

Tuesday, March 3

Following 8 am Mass Adult Formation

Thursday, March 5

7:00 pm Soup & Stations

Sunday, March 8

Following 8 am Mass Faith Formation Class
4:00 pm Soup & Stations

St. Mary Portage Calendar of Events

March 2-March 8

Monday, March 2

5:00 pm Soup & Stations cafeteria
(Stations @ 6:00 pm in church following Soup)

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 pm Just Faith school
7:00 pm Faith Sharing PC-LL
Topic: *The One True God,
In whom do you believe?*

Wednesday, March 4

6:30 pm Celebration Choir Practice Mus. Rm.
7:00-8:30 pm High School Mini Course Rm. 208
(Creed Part II)
5:30-6:30 pm Adult Evening of Reflection cafeteria

Thursday, March 5

7:00 pm RCIA PC-LL
7:00 pm Evening Song church

Friday, March 6

12:00-2:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration church
5:30 pm Evening Mass church

Sunday, March 8

9:00-10:30 am High School Mini Course PC-LL
Intro to Liturgy & Sacraments
12:00-2:00 pm Game Afternoon cafeteria
12:30 pm Spanish Mass church
(followed by potluck lunch)
3:00-4:30 pm Bell Choir Practice church
5:30 pm Evening Prayer church

Meeting Room Key

Parish Center Lower Level	PC-LL
Parish Center Upper Level	PC-UL
Parish Center Conference Rm.	PC-CR

Habitat for Humanity– Portage

Excitement is building in Portage. We now own 3 lots and will be building on one of them this spring. This will be a Thrivent Build meaning that much of the funding will be coming from the Thrivent Foundation. A family has been selected. Jim Krinke, an experienced builder who has worked on several habitat efforts, will be acting as the construction manager for this project. About 60 folks came out for the rally on January 28, so Building Volunteer, and Fundraising/PR committees were organized. For those interested in the planning, design, and scheduling of the build itself, contact Bruce Koch (lbkoch@verizon.net or 608-370-2083). To be put on a list for upcoming workdays, contact Bill Schleichert (fatcat@centurytel.net or 608-635-2452). For fundraising and PR, contact Jamie Phephles (jamiemp@c21affiliated.com or 608-963-6923). If you would like to become involved and be our parish contact, please let Fr. Jim know.

Area Events

National Association for Mental Illness

NAMI– Support Group

The NAMI support group will be meeting at the Portage Public Library on Wednesday, March 4 from 4:30-5:30 pm. This group is open to the public and to all those who suffer some sort of mental illnesses and their family members. If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like to know the day of the next meeting, you can contact Loretta Corning at 608-617-2422 and leave a message, or call the Portage Public Library to see what evening we will be meeting over the next couple of months.

The ARC of Columbia County

3rd Annual Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser

For Special Olympics- Saturday, March 7

Tolleys Alleys

Shifts at 10 am, 1 pm & 4 pm

\$25.00 age 13 & up and \$15.00 age 12 & under
cost includes shoes & 3 games

Ways To Donate

Sponsor a Bowler, Sponsor a Lane, Bowl at the Event
Cash Donation, Donate for the Raffle

The Arc Serves Citizens with Developmental & Related Disabilities Call 742-0260 Columbia Country ACR for more information ALL ARE WELCOME!

Briggsville American Legion Post #329

ALL– YOU– CAN– EAT

Homemade Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup Supper

Saturday, March 7

4:00-7:30 pm

\$6.00 per person

\$3.00 per person (ages 12 and under)

includes dessert & beverage

Live Music by “Maggie Mae & Heartland Country”

8:30 pm-12:30 am

Portage Blood Drive

Thursday, March 12

11:30 am– 5:30 pm

United Methodist Church