

*From the
Chaplain*

**LENT: RETURN TO
THE LORD, YOUR GOD!**

March 9 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Lent lasts for forty days. The color is violet. It signifies repentance. It is a time to reform. When we are signed with ashes we are told, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel" (Mk 1:15). We are invited, "Return to the Lord, your God" (Joel 2:13); and we pray, "Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness, in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense" (Ps 51:3).

Lent is a time to get back to doing what we should have been doing all along. As we plan ahead for what we might do, we might decide, "I am going to say my morning prayers every day," except we should have been praying every morning anyway. Or, we might pledge to ourselves, "I am going to go to Confession this Lent," except we have been guilty of sin for a long while and could and should have approached the sacrament earlier. We might decide, "I am going to attend daily Mass every Friday;" or, "I am going to attend daily Mass every weekday;" or, "I am going to go to Eucharistic Adoration once a week;" or, "I am going to say the rosary;" while those opportunities were available and by-passed previously.

It is the same thing with good works. Our Lenten pledge might be, "I am going to say something kind to a different person each day," when we could have been much more charitable before; or, "I am going to contribute alms for the needy and donate to some charitable agency," when we should have been more generous previously.

And again, it is the same thing with self-denial. We might promise, "I'm going to give up sweets or desserts," except we should have been consuming less sugar and fewer calories, and paying more attention to our diets previously; or, "I am going to



*Grand
Knight's
Message*



Greetings Brother Knights,

Happy spring and St. Patrick's Day to my Brother Knights and their families. After the snow and cold that we have experienced this winter season, I am happy to report that I am writing this column after a couple days of temperatures that have been above normal. This nice bit of weather is quite welcome. Even though winter isn't over yet, this is a wonderful sign that – Yes, spring is coming – really it is.

Thanks to everyone that helped make the Mid-Winter Breakfast a success again this year. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all that attended. We received a last minute request to assist with the St. Stephen's Cana Dinner. Thanks to those who helped with wine service and clean up, so married couples in our parish could have a night out to renew and reflect on their marriage commitment.

By the time that you are reading this, we will have had our Major Degree at the end of February. Thanks to everyone that gives of their time to bring in new members and help advance those who have done their first degree, but have not become 2nd or 3rd degree members. This is very important to sustain the vitality of our council.

The arrival of spring also means opportunities to get involved in upcoming council events. Our Easter Ham Bingo, Tootsie Roll Drive and Father Mike's Fish Fries are all looking for people to get involved and volunteer for a shift or two. If you are available to help, please contact one of the chairs of the event or any of the officers and we can help you get signed up in an area that interests you. Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support.

Jim Masteller, Grand Knight

limit my TV watching," when we should have been monitoring and limiting our TV time all along.

We need Lent. We need to pause and look at our lives. As we do our spiritual assessments, it is amazing, distressing, how often we find that we have wandered away from the basics of Christian living, how we have grown lax in doing the simplest things, small, ordinary good things. Lent is the season to get back to doing what we should have been doing all along. Now is the time to "Return to the Lord, our God."

Fr. Mike Van Sloun

IN MEMORIAM

George Ziegler passed away around the first of February. He was a member for over 50 years. A memorial service will be held in June. We will publish the information at a later date. Please remember George and his family and friends in your prayers.



**Prayer
List**

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Leo Kimmel (son of former brother knight Richard Kimmel); Ruth Lovsted; Jim Lovsted; Tom O'connell; Patrick O'Gorman; John Patchen; Blake Wahlberg; Beth Zelenak (daughter-in-law of Bob); Ralph Smithers; Richard Schanhaar; Michael Lehn; John Gobernatz; Robert Nichols; Leon Barnier.; Bill Ayers; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Bob Belousek; Brian Petschl (son of Mike); Benno Barthel.

If you wish to add a name to the list, please contact Shield Editor Mike Petschl at 763-421-7926 or mbpetschl@msn.com.

History 2018 Winter Storms

Before this lovely winter of '11 passes on into history, I want to look at some memorable blasts from the past. I think all of us have been sufficiently pummeled, pasted and blasted in our lifetime, but do you remember which years those were? Maybe some of this will help refresh your memory.

A three day biggy blew from February 13-15 back in 1866. Yes I realize that was a bit before our time, but it helps set the stage for what's to come. This one produced 20 ft. drifts that buried barns in some places. My point here is that we don't seem to have storms of that magnitude today. Is that because we now have large metropolitan areas as opposed to open prairie?

There is a pattern in many of these storms. It is often said that it was a mild day; people were caught off guard; there was a major temperature drop and of course there is always that blasted wind! January 12, 1888, was one of those mild days until a cold front moved in with a blinding snowstorm dropping the temp to -37 and wreaking havoc. The kids were sent home from school early, but many perished on the way. The death toll was set at 200. On January 31, 1893, there was a temperature drop of 40 degrees in 5 hours. On October 19-20, 1916, there was a 50 degree drop in the temp. And that leads us up to the Armistice Day Storm of November 11, 1940, which started out as a beautiful, mild day for duck hunting and then POW! The bottom fell out of the thermometer along with intense winds and blinding, blowing snow. Many people froze to death when they became stranded. I saw a picture once of horses and a wagon atop a huge drift after the storm. They were up there with the protruding telephone lines.

Cyclonic winds of 85mph in Grand Forks and 75 mph in Duluth accompanied a storm on March 14-15, 1941. Grand Marais had 3ft. of water from Lake Superior in the streets on November 28, 1960, from a storm that produced 20-40 ft. waves. The same storm dumped a foot of snow on Duluth with 73mph winds. Try that on for size!

Check your memory, here comes 1975. The year started with a monster storm in January with 1-2 feet of snow at various places throughout the state, closing some roads for 11 days with 20 ft. drifts. In March of that same year another storm brought a foot of snow with 100mph winds around Lake Superior and then in November the big one

arrived that put the Edmund Fitzgerald on the bottom. And then there was the Super Bowl Storm of '84, and the Halloween Storm of '91. Maybe I should quit whining so loud about our daily dustings this year. Anyhow, I'm going to take a nap, 'cuz I'm tired just thinkin' about all that snow removal and my time is up. See ya' next month!

Mike Petschl
historian

Congratulations

Our Warden, Brian Hoffman, has become a proud, first-time uncle with the birth of a boy to his brother and sister-in-law down in Hastings, Minnesota.

Saints for March

This is a light news month, so we'll fill in with a little knowledge of four saints.

7th - **Sts. Perpetua and Felicity** are mentioned together because they were martyred together. Perpetua was a 22 year old young mother of noble status and Felicity was her servant, eight months pregnant. They were both imprisoned for refusing to deny their Christianity. Perpetua's father begged her to change her mind, but she refused. According to the laws of that time, a pregnant woman couldn't be killed until after she gave birth. For this reason Felicity feared she wouldn't be able to die along with Perpetua, but two days before they were scheduled to be martyred, she gave birth to a daughter, who was raised by a local woman, and the execution took place as scheduled in 203.

9th - **St. Frances of Rome** was born into a noble family and by the age of 11 had decided to be a nun. Her father refused to allow that because he had already promised her in marriage to the son of another wealthy, noble family. His word was law at that time and she gave in to the marriage at 13. The strain of the social life caused her to collapse and brought her near death. Given the choice of recovery or not she accepted God's will and fully recovered. She had a good marriage, a good husband and gave birth to three children. During a famine she gave of what they had to the poor. After many trials and tribulations, enduring a civil war, the loss of two children and the destruction of their household she emerged with her faith in God still intact and, with the support of her husband, founded the Oblates of Mary, an organization of lay women. Upon his death she moved in with the Oblates and became the superior. She died 4 years later at the age of 52.

(The last one appears on the back page.)

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The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

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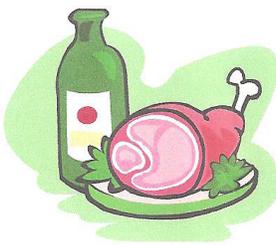
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 1 Planning Meeting, 7:30PM
KC Hall
- March 8 Business Meeting, 7:30PM
KC Hall
- March 9 Ash Wednesday
- March 12, 19, 26 Fr. Mike's Fish Fries
6:30PM, St Stephen's FCC
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 Lenten Stations

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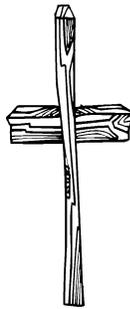


HAM BINGO

Ham Bingo night is coming soon. The date is Saturday April 9, 2011. It will be from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This year's event will be held in the Faith Community Center. We need lots of help so please give me a call if you can work. There will be two shifts again. The first shift is from 6:15 to 8:15 and the second shift is from 8:15 to 10:15. I would really encourage you to attend this event with your family. Everybody always has a great time whether you are working or playing Bingo.

Vern Rausch, Bingo Chairman
 vrrjrr@hotmail.com
 (763) 422-1128

LENTEN STATIONS



The Anoka Council of the Knights of Columbus will host the Lenten Stations on Friday, March 18th at 7:00 PM At St. Stephen's Church. Members and their families are encouraged to attend this Lenten prayer service.

Ken Erkens, chairman

VISITATION ROSARY

This is a reminder to all brother Knights in Council 2018 that members of our council will say the rosary at the visitation service of any deceased Knight from our council, **if the family makes that request.** Please inform your family members of your wishes, so this service can be included in the plans. They must contact us with the request.

Saints

(continued)

March 18th - **St. Cyril of Jerusalem** was born around 315 and was raised in Jerusalem. As an adult he was ordained a deacon and then a priest and placed in charge of instructing the catechumens. Upon the death of Bishop Maximus Cyril became the Bishop of Jerusalem. When famine struck he sold church goods to feed the poor. This was used against him when he became embroiled in a territorial dispute with the Arian bishop, Acacius, who was the head of that area. Cyril claimed that Jerusalem was an Apostolic See and, therefore, did not fall under the jurisdiction of Acacius. The dispute lasted for years with Acacius trying his best to have Cyril banished from Jerusalem. It worked for a while, but Cyril was eventually exonerated and returned to Jerusalem. He lived for 8 more years and died around 386.