



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
 March 4—March 10
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

4:00 p.m. Susie Comeaux; Commarata & Guzzardi Families; Patricia Kilgore; Louise Trosclair Leson; Marlene Morris

5:30 p.m. Monsignor Terry Tekippe

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)

9:30 a.m. Jane O'Brien Chatelain; Elijah Luke Hunter; Shaun & Jennifer Hunter; Bishop Sam Jacobs & Diocese of Houma-Thibodoux; Danny LeBouef & Family; Maselli Family; Margaret Bolden Matis; Kevin Mazarac & Family; Father Jim Morrison; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Dr. & Mrs. Marion G. Simpson; Chris Terrcina & Family

11:00 a.m. Cindy Hemelt; Albert Joseph Krail, Jr.; Mary Peters; John & Irma Schultz; Charles J. Zuppardo

5:30 p.m. Pope John Paul II

MONDAY, MARCH 6

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Jeane Landry Boudreaux

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

11:30 a.m. Patricia Kilgore; Jon Springman

12:00 p.m. Theresa H. Johnson

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Marcus W. Smith

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

11:30 a.m. Unborn infants

12:00 p.m. Monsignor John P. Reynolds

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Stephanie Ann Grady

TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

THE MASS IS THE GREATEST FORM OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Mass request envelopes can be found in the vestibule.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Way of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, after the 12:00p.m. Mass

Confessions

Before the Masses

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

In Reynolds Hall, after the Sunday morning Masses.

SUNDAY OFFERING—February 26, 2005

First Collection \$ 3,814

Second Collection* \$ 1,605

*Restoration & Maintenance

RITE OF ELECTION

On Sunday, March 12, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. the following participants in the St. Patrick's Parish Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program will be presented to Archbishop Hughes at St. Louis Cathedral:

CATECHUMENS

Baptized and Received into the Church

Adara Eve Hocut
 Brittney Dane Hocut
 Heleigh Rane Hocut
 Frank Minyard
 Keith W. Rush

CANDIDATES

Received into the Church

Melissa Rae Brower
 Brandon P. Guillot
 Mary A. Mackie

Please keep them and all RCIA participants in your prayers.

ST. PATRICK'S CHOIR—SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2006

TENEBRAE—SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Tenebrae is a word derived from Latin meaning "darkness." Through word and music, the service dramatizes the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus Christ. This *Service of Darkness* will be presented by the choir in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. All are invited.

SPECIAL LENTEN SERIES—MARCH 12, 19 AND 26, 2006

A special Lenten series will be given between the 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m. Sunday Masses (10:30a.m.—10:55a.m.), by Professor David Liberto, Professor of Systematic Theology at Notre Dame Seminary. The theme of Dr. Liberto's series will be: *Discourses On Love*. The talks, to be given in church, will be held on the following Sundays: March 12, 19 and 26.

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

A "Journey Retreat Weekend" is being sponsored by the Archdiocesan Vocation Office for men (high school seniors, college age and over) who are interested in taking a closer look at diocesan priesthood. The retreat will be held March 17-19, 2006 at the Cenacle Retreat House in Metairie. The retreat is an insider's look at the life of a parish priest, with time for discussion, questions, prayer, reflection and socializing. There is no charge for the weekend. For more information—
 Telephone: (504) 835-0364; E-mail: vocations@archdiocese-no.org

PARISHIONERS ON MEDICARE

Medicare Part D Prescription coverage is available to all parishioners on Medicare through Catholic Golden Age. Call 1-800-706-1268 for enrollment information.

STAY INFORMED...

Log on to St. Patrick's website: www.oldstpatricks.org

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Ree Alario; D. J. Ales; Michael Brasslet; Margie Case; Michelle Catalanatto; Jim Clynch; Jackie Dabdoub; Grace Daigle; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Regina Dillon; Joseph Ebberman; Donald Faust, Jr.; Anette Folse; Joseph French; Catherine Gegenheimer; Frank Hemelt; Marie Herty; Celeste Judell; Marilyn Kitto; Zivana Kovacevich; Albert Leonhard; Betty Leonard; Reverend Val A. McInnes, O.P.; Colin McInnis; Irene Mackenroth; Joseph Martello, Gerald L. Moran, Jr.; Lucille Ogdin; Beverly Orillion; Reverend Tim Pieris; Robert Plaskas; M.G. "Doc" Simpson; Irene Tarormina.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE DESERT, A WOMB OF EMPTINESS

Christina Crawford once said: "Lost is a place too!" That's wise. Emptiness too can be a womb. Barrenness can be fertile. Desert flowers are often the most beautiful of all. The experience of emptiness and barrenness is often best for the soul. Why? Because when we are surrounded by emptiness - when, as Shelley said, "the lone and barren sands stretch far away" - the soul is by necessity re-gestated. The experience of emptiness is what writes into our spiritual DNA what was once imprinted into our very chromosomes, namely, that we are small, alone, extremely fragile, and in need of a great providence and a great love. For this reason, among others, the idea of the desert has played a prominent part in the spirituality of all religions. The desert is the place where we feel our smallness; where, stripped of all that normally buoys us up, we feel how lonely, helpless, dependent, fragile, and mortal we really are.

Great religious persons have always understood this and that is why so many of them, Jesus included, often went out physically into some desert to intentionally place themselves into a womb of emptiness. The idea was to go out into the most barren landscape you could find, hole-up in some cave or crag, and simply sit there; alone, without protection and sustenance, with only sand around you, scorched by day, freezing at night, soaking in the barrenness, waiting for something deep to shift inside of your soul. The hope was that by immersing yourself in such emptiness your soul would empty itself

of all that is false and prideful.

This kind of desert, as we know, is not just a physical, geographical thing. It is too a place in the soul. More particularly, it is that place in the soul where we feel most alone, insubstantial, frightened, and fragile. What happens to us when we go there? What do we experience in the emptiness of the desert?

We feel the depth of our own loneliness. In the desert, in the womb of emptiness, voices within us begin to remind us of a painful fact: "I am alone! I am but a small part in some immense sea! I was born alone, I will die alone! All the love, support, and achievements in the world don't erase the fact that, in the end, I am solitary." This feeling of loneliness brings with it too a sense of helplessness and dependence. In the desert, alone among the barren sands, painful realizations break through: "I am not sufficient onto myself; I cannot keep myself alive! I cannot provide sustenance for myself! I depend on many things and many people - for life, for support, for love, for friendship, for meaning. Everything I rely on can easily disappear. It's fragile. I'm fragile. I could disappear!"

These feelings of fragility help break down our carefully nurtured sense of our own specialness. In the desert a brutal truth hits us: "I do not stand out! I cannot do anything really to distinguish myself! Nothing I can do will ultimately make me special, beyond anyone else. I am only a tiny piece of a great fabric within which I can only take my place. I am one of billions, one among many, no more important than anyone else."

Finally, too, when we are surrounded

by emptiness, our mortality seeps through, raw and painful. A voice long kept at bay now begins to say: "I too am going to die! Almost nothing sits between me and death. I stand on the brink of nothingness!" The desert is full of painful voices. They tell us of our smallness. They remind us that being lost is a place too.

I once read an interview with a famous sports star, an exceptionally talented and sought-after athlete, who had a rather original sense of his own self-importance. He talked about "the magnitude of me!" The desert works to create the opposite sense. It puts us in touch with our seeming insubstantiality ... "the insubstantiality of me!" Medieval philosophers called this contingency. For them it was important that we recognize the fact that we, unlike God, are not self-sufficient. God alone (in the classical words of medieval philosophy) is *Esse Ipsum Subsistens*, self-sufficient being. The rest of us rely on what's outside of us for life, love, air, food, and meaning.

We have no real maturity until our souls are shaped by that realization. The desert, letting emptiness work in us, is what re-gestates the soul. Emptiness is a womb. It re-molds the soul and lets us be born again, adults still, but now aware, as we once were as small children, that there can be no life and meaning outside of acknowledging our littleness and reaching out, as do infants, to a great providence and a great love outside of us.

Lost is a place too, an important place, a biblical place, a desert place. Jesus invites us there. Lent is about going there.

Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

FOCUS WORLDWIDE NETWORK

An excerpt from a letter by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, Retired Archbishop of New Orleans

Our FOCUS company has completed a documentary on the ravages of Hurricane Katrina called *Katrina Aftermath*. It portrays a representative view of the destruction in all the civil parishes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi.

We are also very interested in recording stories of unusual heroism by individuals or groups of individuals during the hurricane, which we shall include in a series of TV documentaries in the future. We have been greatly impressed by a number of these accounts and we are convinced that there should be a record of these actions for the inspiration and information of the people at large. Our TV programs are aired in fifteen arch/dioceses throughout the country as well as in dioceses outside the U.S.

We intend to record these stories in our TV studio in our office building at 106 Metairie Lawn Dr.; Metairie, LA 70001.. and we have arranged to have a very knowledgeable person to receive these stories—Ms. Karen Metternich, telephone (504) 840-9898. She will be at her desk in the FOCUS headquarters every day from Monday to Friday from 11:30a.m.—4:00p.m....

With cordial best wishes, deep gratitude and prayers for all your efforts, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Philip M. Hannan
President of FOCUS Worldwide Network
Retired Archbishop of New Orleans