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Lourdes Life

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Newsletter

March - April, 2010



Snowbound!

As Friday dawns in Louisville, the forecast is for rain changing to snow today and snow showers throughout the day tomorrow. Pending snowstorms always threaten to change our immediate futures. Cancellations, early preparations and rescheduling buzz like downed wires in the frosty air. Undoubtedly, when this work day ends, people will hasten home to be secure against the storm after a quick stop at the supermarket to see if there is any bread and milk left on the shelves. Some of us may not be able to execute our original weekend plans. Some Louisvillians may be "snowbound".

Should I make the effort to get to the Saturday morning men's group? Will any one else be there? Will it be a wasted trip? Will I even be able to get there if I do decide to roll out of bed at six in the morning? What about the Lourdes night celebration? Will attendance be limited? Will the celebration need to be cancelled? There are just so many unanswerable questions to distract my attention and reduce my productivity on the last workday of the week.

For one thin slice of time, our lives may clearly not be our own. We may be huddled in the great white arms of winter and held back from

--Continued on next page--

Campaign results new accessibility to the Parish Center

By **Nina Schindler**

"All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place". I love those words and I love singing that song. I believe hospitality is one of the most important responsibilities of a Christian community. We can say it, and we can sing it, but they are only words until our facilities are accessible.

For years a handicapped accessible entrance to the Parish Center has been a dream, a very expensive dream. Now thanks to the generosity of parish donations to the Archdiocesan Building A Future of Hope campaign the dream has taken the form of bricks, mortar and cement. You have probably noticed the mud, muck and orange fencing, all signs of new construction in front of the Parish

Center. The finished ramp represents inclusion and freedom for the people who otherwise could not enter the building.



It's easy to not give accessibility much thought when you are healthy, but to a person who is limited by illness or injury a flight of stairs is as intimidating as trying to scale a twenty foot wall. If we are lucky we will never

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Dear Friends,

Thank you, dear friends, for your very generous response to the crisis in Haiti! As one wise person put it, "It is only on the darkest night that the stars shine most brightly!" Haiti is having one of its darkest nights and your light of care and generosity might be the only "star" that helps them through this time.

So often, this seems to be the case! We bring forth our best generosity in times of greatest need—whether that is response to a parish family or a world crisis. But always remember this: all of the preparation work to form that generosity and care in our hearts was done long before in our families, our church communities, our neighborhoods. That's why STEWARDSHIP FORMATION is so very, very important in our families, parish, and school.

Generosity and sacrificial love never happen accidentally! It always comes from the heart of one who has been taught what "pleases the heart of God!"

Thank you for being a sign of God's care!

Father Nick

Baptisms

Jackson Wrigley Potter
Emily Harper Vetter
Charles Patrick Wissing
Victoria James Wissing
Lucy Kate Beam
Juliette Malubay Hutcherson
Daniel Paul Roggenkamp
Erin Elizabeth Connell
Isabella Marie Hahn
Dena Claire Sims
Rhett James Stearman

Snowbound!

--From previous page--

our busy, exhausting schedules. Two deep questions are buried in our snowy binding. One: what are we kept **from**? Two: what are we kept **for**?

I trust that God does nothing by mistake. I like to imagine what it might have been that God saved me from by keeping me home during a snow storm. It might have been as simple as a case of indigestion or as serious as a life-altering accident. But whatever it may have been, I will be turned from it like a child wrapped in her mother's arms. Eyes protected against her loving heart, I will have been kept from something I will never know.

But what will I have been kept for? Gathered in those loving arms, we are kept for love. The divine Snowmaker says, "Wait. Be still. Look here in my eyes. Remember love."

Wherever you are this weekend, snowbound or not, hear the whisper of the Holy One against your storms. Listen in your homes for love. Speak care and gratitude into the icy stillness. Gathered with you will be those who long for and deserve your love. It can be easier to give love when we are storm-bound – because we can't really do anything else! Or can we?!!!

Turn the TV off for an hour, make hot chocolate and watch the snow with your spouse. Let the wash wait and bake cookies with your kids instead. Put your computer away and let your kids help sand those old kitchen chairs. So what if you "get nothing done"! Next Saturday may be clear and you can spend the day at the supermarket or Home Depot where nobody loves you or needs you!

I know many of our cities will be bright and clear this weekend. But their storms will come. Even my warm friends in sunny Florida will know their hurricanes. Keep these thoughts for those times. Wherever you are and whatever you do this weekend, may Love fold you and your families in its arms and keep you safe. In the storm, may Love teach us to be loving.

New Parish Center Ramp

--From previous page--

experience being disabled but if we live long enough all of us will experience being less abled.

The challenge of getting around on one leg, with one arm, or in a wheelchair can be very arduous and limiting. It is difficult to live life with those confinements even if they are temporary. The ramp will make life easier for many.

Thanks to all of you who have been so generous. "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place".

*We want YOU and your family...
in our new Parish family album!*

*Help us put faces with names... Help us connect with each other...
Help tell our Parish story with a new Pictorial Directory...*

We NEED YOU to help make our 2010 Pictorial Directory COMPLETE!

*When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?
It's really worth the time and effort, and you'll be so glad you did!!*

CONVENIENT! Portraits will be taken here at Lourdes in the school library on the second floor, accessible by stairs or elevator.



Choose your Photography Date

April 6-10; May 11-15 and 18-22; June 1-5 and 15-19

Choose your own Photography Time and Day

Tuesdays through Fridays, 3:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

EASY! There are a couple of ways to schedule your best photo time...



- **Schedule directly from home online** Go to the parish website www.ourlourdes.org and look on the left hand side under "Quick Links", click on "Schedule an appointment" and it will take you directly to the secure LifeTouch site. Select the number in your group, then click on the day you want, then the time you want. Be sure to read through all the information provided!
- **Schedule at OLOL** If you don't have a computer, or want help scheduling your appointment, bring the date and times best for you to the landing in front of the Gathering Space on Fish Fry Fridays, March 5, 12 & 19 from 7-8 pm and Before & After every Mass on March 6 & 7; 13 & 14.

RECEIVE! Just for participating, get your choice of a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait or a sheet of 9 wallet size photos; or a \$20 coupon toward purchase of additional photos, along with a copy of the new OLOL 2010 Pictorial Directory at completion.

ARE you computer-savvy? Would you be available to help schedule families online at OLOL at the Lenten Fish Frys and/or before & after weekend Masses?

Do you have time to host a 2 hour shift to sign in families as they arrive for their photo sessions in April, May & June?

If you can help with the scheduling or hosting or have any questions, please contact Ann Russo, 895-7956, AnnieR114@insightbb.com OR Paula Shaw, 245-4351, P.Shaw@insightbb.com OR leave a message at the Parish Center, 896-0241 for the Pictorial Directory Committee to return your call.

Lourdes Night 2010



By Ann Russo

There was another fun evening for everyone who came to Lourdes Night 2010. Thankfully the snow on the roads and parking lot melted in time so there was a full house to enjoy the festivities.

Lourdes Night has been an annual tradition for 28 years, starting as a potluck supper for parish adults in 1983, when new pastor, Fr. Osborne, initiated the combined celebration of our feast day with parishioner appreciation. Through the years it has evolved into a catered dinner, stewardship awards and recognitions, along with many different kinds of entertainment.

Again this year, sincere appreciation is due everyone who helped make it happen—from planning to clean-up—it couldn't have been so wonderful without each and everyone of you! After numerous emails and phone calls went out for help, many people made Friday afternoon and evening set-up come together quickly. In addition to Girl Scouts, confirmation groups, parish staff and council members, young and not-so-young long-time parishioners and new ones, worked side by side setting up tables, cleaning votives and hurricanes, and decorating to transform the Parish Life Center into Bourbon Street "north". It truly was stewardship "in Action" and as a bonus many of us made some new friends, too.

After Mass, Fr. Nick and Parish Council Chairman Larry Bloemer donned their Kings' of Mardi Gras crowns and beads to welcome one and all. With the blessing said, everyone feasted on a delicious new menu featuring a "taste of N'Awlins" dinner with fried chicken, jambalaya, shrimp etoufee and rice before trying their luck with dessert ala King Cake. If you haven't already heard, here's the "loaves & fishes" story about the "dessert babies". Only 12 babies were ordered but more than 36 were discovered! The first 12 winners were the luckiest to receive a door

prize. As it was, the rest of those with babies were still fortunate and due a year of good luck, better than all of us WITHOUT one.

After dinner, Fr. Nick and Audrey Truax recognized the current adult Leadership of OLOL's Boy Scout Troop 325 for their ongoing service. Representatives David Cerjak, Bob Pierce and Tony Taylor received a plaque to share with all the other Leaders, young men and boys in the program who donate so much time and talent to our parish and community.

Next the nominees for the 2010 Lourdes Service Award were introduced and recognized for their individual contributions to the parish. Honored were Larry Bloemer, Ann Bruce, Michael Erskine, Mary Ann Holl, Doris Raidt, Don & Ilse Szymanski and Anna Maria Trier, with this year's award going to Ann Bruce. Congratulations and thanks to you all for your continued dedication to Our Lady of Lourdes parish community.

We were then treated to "A Gershwin Portrait", medleys of music written by George and Ira Gershwin, and presented by the Archdiocese of Louisville Chapter National Pastoral Musicians. Our very own Elaine Winebrenner, Jan Bloemer and Jack McKean are in this talented ensemble.

After a short intermission, birthday wishes were sung to parishioner DJ Dave Drummond who took to the stage to provide dancing music for those who weren't quite ready to call it a night, while others were photographed for a lasting Mardi Gras memory.

All too soon, and again with terrific help, the wonderful evening was over. Decorations were packed away, and the Parish Life Center was once again back to its' usual alias as a gym and readied for basketball the next day. Mark your 2011 calendar for Saturday, February 5th when we do it all over again.



Archbishop Kurtz Visits School

By Deanna Askin

Our Lady of Lourdes was recently blessed to have Archbishop Joseph Kurtz lead the rosary at their Feb. 4 prayer service. The third graders had written letters of invitation upon learning of his special devotion to the rosary from Mrs. Pifer. The Archbishop was delighted to come to Lourdes and share his affection for the rosary and did a wonderful job leading the students in prayer. He also blessed their rosaries that morning.

To show appreciation for the Archbishop's visit, the students pitched in to support a cause near to his heart, the St. John Center. St. John is a daytime center which cares for homeless men in our community. One of the many things they do is pass out socks to the homeless men they serve. Students donated packages of new socks over a two week period and when the donation was over, many boxes of socks had been collected!

At the end of the prayer service, Archbishop Kurtz was presented with a "clothesline" of socks to represent the entire collection. Each of the eighty-eight socks on the line represented ten pairs of donated socks. A third grade student was quick to do the math and let everyone know that the line of socks represented a total of 880 pairs. Archbishop Kurtz was thrilled with the sock collection and congratulated the students on living out the true message of the rosary!

See more photos on Facebook.com and insert "OUR LADY OF LOURDES, LOU KY" in the search box.

Women's Retreat Scheduled for May

Mark your calendar and plan to attend women's retreat weekend, May 21-23 at Knobs Haven in Nerinx, Kentucky. It is an opportunity to explore "The Wonder of Friendship." Come share the beauty of the Loretto Motherhouse grounds while making new friends, reflecting, and relaxing in this comfortable, clean environment. Facilitating the group is parishioner, Alice Wissing, a spiritual director and co-leader of Kentuckiana Spiritual Directors.

Parish Outreach Ministry Fair

On February 28, the Parish Outreach Team held a ministry fair to introduce parishioners to the outreach opportunities in which we participate. Several examples were: Threads of Love, Hand in Hand Ministries, St MAM, Kids Cafe, to name only a few. Information was shared and parishioners left with phone numbers and email addresses to follow up with coordinators so that they might volunteer for something new. The opportunities vary in time commitment from a couple of hours once a month to a weekly commitment. There is an opportunity for at home work (sewing or knitting or crocheting).



Lent shows students examples of Christian Simplicity.

By Michelle Gipe, 5th Grade Teacher

On Ash Wednesday, the 5th grade students went to Religion class in the afternoon just like they do everyday. Except on that day, the students were surprised to be engaged in a discussion about the environment. Students were probably wondering, 'Does Ms. Gipe think this is Science class?'

That day in Religion class, we took a break from learning about the seven sacraments and discussed the concept of "Christian Simplicity," the theme of Lent 4.5. We began by talking about the typical things that one gives up during the season of Lent—ice cream, sodas, fried foods, candy, t.v. shows, etc. As we continued our discussion, we began to realize that usually after about three or four days of giving up that special treat, we learn to replace it with something else, and our Lenten fasting becomes less of a sacrifice and sometimes a fairly easy goal to accomplish.

This year, the students are being challenged to make their Lenten sacrifices reflect the concept of Christian Simplicity. After we discussed that giving up ice cream wasn't going to kill us, students began to become intrigued with the question of, "Well what in the world am I supposed to do this Lent?" Before the students were given an explanation of how to change their Lenten sacrifices, we discussed the concept of Lent 4.5: the fact that if everyone in the entire world were given a plot of usable land to live off, each person should get 4.5 acres. At first, the students did not think this was a big deal. Then, we explored the fascinating and outrageous statistics of how much land we really use throughout the world. For example, the average person in India only takes about 1.9 acres to sustain their lifestyle. Other figures included Egypt at 3.5 acres, Columbia at 7.4 acres, Italy 12.2 acres, and there were many

more. Last, the students were given the statistic for the amount of land that Americas take to sustain our lifestyle, and they were shocked at the horrendous answer of 22.3 acres per person!

We discussed what this meant to us as Americans. Many of the students were in such shock that they didn't know what to think about it! Immediately, students began describing Americans as "wasteful, selfish, and greedy" people. Then we began exploring how exactly these statistics came to be by discussing that everything that requires energy releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which heats the Earth. As a class, we went to the website, http://www.zerofootprintkids.com/kids_home.aspx, and calculated the 5th grade class' carbon footprint. Students were once again amazed that, compared to all other countries around the world, their own carbon footprints were much larger.

This Lent, students in the 5th grade are trying to live more simply as we are all called to by Christ himself. Please help these children reach their goal of living more simply this year by encouraging them to recycle at home and at school by using the recycling bin in the parking lot and the drawers in the atrium that collect various recyclable items (batteries, ink cartridges, etc.). Students brainstormed things that they could do at home like walking to school or to a friend's house, reading a book or playing outside instead of watching television, playing an instrument or making up a song instead of using the iPod or computer, using a refillable water bottle, turning off the lights, and many other small solutions. I encourage you to discuss "Christian Simplicity" with your child, and to always ask yourself, "What would Jesus think about our actions and lifestyles?"



Sunday Fun!

Pre-schoolers have a blast at Pre-School Sunday School held during 11:30 Mass.

Sacrament preparation could use your help.

By Sheila Hiestand

On behalf of the SAC, Happy Spring! Even though there may still be a chill in the air, it is time to consider how the students and parents at OLOL are going to help the school and the parish prepare for the changing seasons. There's no question that the grounds will need tilling, tending, pruning and primping. But let's not forget that our children need the same special care and attention.

To that end, the SAC would appreciate everyone helping the Second Graders remember and understand the importance of receiving their First Holy Communion on April 25 and 26 here at Our Lady of Lourdes. Everyone should also take an active roll in helping our Eighth Graders with their impending graduation and transition to high school. They have all worked so hard, and are all very deserving of our recognition.

We at the SAC all hope you each had a thoughtful and reflective Lent and enjoy the Easter Season.

SAC Report



Deaths

Janet Cawthon
Helen Bowling
Mary Ellen Fusiek
Benedict Heslen
Mary Lola Dant
Thelma Whetstone
John Galvin



Welcome! **New Parishioners**

- Michael & Jane Merman
- Gerri Perez and Blake
- Brad Kendall
- Phil Abraham
- Homer Abraham
- Heather & Sean Flaherty and Christian
- Keith & Jackie Gueting
- Mark & Elizabeth Hahn and Isabella
- Rob & Fleurette Hutcherson and Juliette
- Ben & Jaime Kayrouz
- Theresa Kellar
- Nico & Marle Maluby
- Carolyn Reker
- Kristin Roggenkamp and Daniel
- Emily Stephen
- Travis & Christy Holsewede and Hanna & Ava
- Brad & Kelly Connell and Erin, Chelsea & Torry Worley
- Shannon & Susie Gullett and Jack, Lilly & Megan
- James & Angela Wilson and Mark II & Savannah
- Paul & Sarah Adamson and Becca & Matthew
- Jamie & Meredith Gardner and Madison & Anna

Lourdes Life

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Lourdes Life is the bi-monthly newsletter for parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 508 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville KY 40207. It is published in January, March, May, July, September and November.



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Coming Attractions . . .

March 23

Parish Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m.

March 27/28

Palm Sunday (wear red), Begin in the Activity Center.

April 1

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Services at 7 p.m.

April 2

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, services at 7 p.m.

April 3

Easter Vigil services at 8 p.m.

April 4

Easter Sunday services at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

April 24/25

First Communion Celebrations at 5:30 p.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

May 8

Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

May 25

Eighth Grade Graduation at 8 p.m.

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www.ourlourdes.org

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