

**Ministers of the Liturgy
March 5 & 6, 2016**

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Karen Hebert (L), George Spaulding,
Carl A. Guidroz, Hubert LaBorde,
Merle & Charles Dittmer, Joseph Segari,
Rose Marie Greco Federico,
Patrick C. McKinney, Aime Grunewald,
Flora Maria Be, Raymond Vitrano, Sr.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
J. Rodosta, L. Segari
Cantor: Trish Foti

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
M. Evola, P. Fleming, L. Director, C. Frederick
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Dianne Z. Harrison, Mary Comberrel,
Ebling Family, Colgan Family, Melvin Ducote,
Kelvin Ducote, Mary & Jules Haydel,
Joseph Donald Bernard, Myron Yochim,
Isabella Forsythe, Poor Souls
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
N. Bostick, L. Frey, S. Gordon, L. Peters
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Mary Esler
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
A. Calongne, T. Keller
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair
Pianist: Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses (3/7-11)

Monday	7:00 a.m.	Raymond A. Melan, Jr.
	5:30 p.m.	Ryan Vignes
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	Larry Hogan
	5:30 p.m.	Raymond Kimble
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Parishioners
	8:20 a.m.	Special Intentin (L)
	5:30 p.m.	Thanks to St. Michael
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Constance D. Genovese
	5:30 p.m.	Rita Burch
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Bill C. Johnson
	5:30 p.m.	Carlos Castellanos



Fish Fry

The last Fish Fry of the Lenten Season will be **Friday, March 11**, from 5:30 - 8 p.m., in the cafeteria. Pre-sale tickets for adult fish plate - \$10 (\$11 at the door), child fish plate - \$6 (\$7 at the door), soft shell crab plate - \$11 (\$12 at the door) and grilled redfish with shrimp cream sauce - \$11 (\$12 at the door). Fish taco, Tai Shrimp taco, corn and crab bisque, seafood gumbo and pizza are also on the menu. Eat-in or take-out available.

Easter Memorial Flowers & Lilies

The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter at St. Benilde Catholic Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the Easter Flowers Memorial Envelopes. Donations toward the cost of Easter flowers in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received. The suggested donation is \$10 per remembrance. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, the Poor Box or bring them to the Parish Office **before March 27**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Memorial Envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Easter Season. The names of all those for whom our Easter flowers are in memory of will be printed in the parish bulletin in the weeks following Easter Sunday.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
March 12/13**

4 p.m. C. Casente, R. Aucoin
9 a.m. R. Meche, B. O'Hara, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot
11 a.m. P. & R. Serio, J. Hutchinson, R. Oleksik
6 p.m. L. Daigle, B. David



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary
Light in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux



Altar Ladies

Week of March 6
M. Seeber, F. Alvarez

Linens

Large - K. Birrcher *Small* - A. Duersel, J. Zeringue

Last Week's Collection

Envelopes	\$3,915.00
Loose	2,916.00
Repairs and Maintenance	206.00
Msgr. Richaud Endowment Fund	103.00
Totaling	\$7,140.00

Fr. Cooper's Corner

Lenten Almsgiving

Of the three marks of Lent — prayer, fasting and almsgiving — almsgiving is normally the most neglected. And yet, in the only place where the Bible brings all three together, the inspired author puts the emphasis firmly on the last: “Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life” (Tobit 12:8-9).

Why is almsgiving better than prayer and fasting? Because it is a form of prayer, and it involves fasting. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is “giving to God” — and not mere philanthropy. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving — not just giving something, but also giving up something, giving till it hurts. Jesus presented almsgiving as a necessary part of Christian life: “when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Mt 6:2-3). He does not say IF you give alms, but WHEN. Like fasting and prayer, almsgiving is non-negotiable.

The first Christians knew this principal of the faith very well. “There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need” (Acts 4:34-35). That was the living embodiment of a basic principle of Catholic social teaching, what tradition calls “the universal destination of goods.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it succinctly: “The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race” (CCC 2452). However, these goods cannot be made available to all God’s people unless we put them to good use — and that requires effort. Just as prayer and fasting require effort, so too with almsgiving. If we have a plan, we will find it easier to do. Throughout history, many Christians have used the Old Testament practice of “tithing” as a guide — that is, they give a tenth of their income “to God.” In practice, that means giving it to the poor, to the parish, or to charitable institutions.

My friend Ed remembers the day he decided to start tithing. “When I was a senior in high school, I read an article on charitable giving in the Catholic newspaper,” he recalls. “And it had a lot of testimonies to the fruits of tithing. Breadwinners told how God provided whenever they were in need or had an emergency. I decided, then and there, to start tithing, and I’ve been doing it ever since.” For Ed, those 65 years have had their financial ups and downs. He served in the military during World War II, went to college and raised a family of nine children. Through it all, he says, he was often tempted, but he never wavered in his tithing. “There were many times when I reached a point where I said,

give — but I’m not going to give up on my tithing.” It’s a matter of trusting God, Ed adds, “and God will not be outdone in generosity.”

Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35), but those who tithe often find themselves on the receiving end as well. “I worked as an industrial engineer through the highs and lows of American industry,” Ed recalls. “Twice my job fell victim to corporate mergers, but the phone always rang just in time. I never lost an hour of work to layoffs.” He sees the difficult times as God’s test of our trust. “It is especially hard in the beginning. On your first paycheck, it hurts. On the second, the pain is a little less. At about the third or fourth, there is no pain at all. You get used to it. It is a habit. But you have to make that firm resolution: I’m going to do it and not give in.” Ed, like many others, interprets tithing to mean taking ten percent off the “first fruits” — gross income, rather than net. He divides this up as “5 percent to the parish and 5 percent to other Catholic institutions and charities.” He also gives of his time and, for many decades, been a volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Charity begins at home, where we daily make the choice to give our time, our attention, our affirming smile, and give generously. However, charity must not stop there, because for Catholics “home” is universal, and our family is as big as the world. We need to dig deep and give much where much is needed. But, whenever possible, our charity should also involve personal acts, not just automatic withdrawals from our bank account. Pope St. John Paul asked us to see, and be seen by, “the human face of poverty.” (*Full article on frcooper.info*)

Palms Needed for Palm Sunday

Again this year the Rosary & Altar Society needs your help to supply the congregation with palms for Palm Sunday. To help lessen the work of our volunteers, please bring only **fresh, healthy, cleaned** palms. Containers to place the palms in will be in the foyer of church from **Saturday, March 12 until the deadline of Thursday, March 16**. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Discernment Weekend

Come and See Vocation Discernment Weekend for high school juniors and seniors, and college-age men will be held March 18-20, at St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington. This is an opportunity for men who are interested in the priesthood and who would like to find out more about seminary life. There is no cost for the weekend but availability is limited on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register, call the **Archdiocesan Vocation Office** at 504-861-6298 or e-mail vocations@archdioceseno.org.

Lenten Masses and Devotionals

For our complete Lenten Schedule visit: www.stbenilde.org/lent