

FROM FR. JOHN

PRAY FOR YOUR TESTIMONY

“No longer shall you be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham.” Genesis 17:3-9

In today's verses we read the call of Abram. A very important part of the call is how God changes Abram's name to Abraham. In the bible, name means person. A name tells of the very center of a person- their identity. A name is who someone is. So, as we see God giving Abram the new name of Abraham, we see how God is going to change Abram from the very center of who he is. He is going to have a new identity and that will affect all he thinks, says or does. Also, we must not forget the context of this call. Abram is in prayer. Abram is serious about going after God's call. He has prostrated himself in prayer and **then** God speaks. First things first. We first go to prayer and then God speaks. We will never really get His call if we do not pray. If we never get the call we will kind of wander aimlessly throughout life missing the wonder of his loving ways. An aimless identity is not what God has for us.

I spent two out of five years between college and seminary traveling around the USA doing youth ministry with a team of young adults. As a part of our evangelistic outreach, we learned how to do a testimony. A testimony is a simple and brief way to talk about how God has worked in your life. It is something that can be given in three minutes and broken down into three parts a minute each. The first part you describe how you were living your life when God was not a part of it. Then, you share how you experienced God's love and call. Finally, you would share how you have changed because of God's love and call. For example, someone recently stepped on my toes. I was getting a little bitter at their disrespectfulness. That was my life apart from God. Well, I went to prayer and **then** I heard God's call. He showed me this person was in pain and I was to love him. I called him up and we had a wonderful and healing two hour meeting. So, there you have a testimony! God is good.

I offer you to seek out one of your testimonies and share it. More deeply experience how God can change your name- how God can change you from the core. I am not talking about changing the present name you have but how you hear God calling you to a new way with a new love.

How can you find a testimony to share? Pick a person or a situation that is troubling you. Pray intensely to find out God's love and call for you in this situation. Then, act on His call.

+Fr. John



Fr. John's Daily Lenten Reflections: If you would like to receive Fr. John's Daily Lenten Reflections via email, please send him your email address at urldvfj@aol.com. There is no need to sign up if you were receiving them this past Advent.

40 Days for Life is happening again this Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday. This national campaign of prayer and fasting is from February 25 to April 5th. We unite with those across the US in praying for the end of abortion. Peaceful prayer will take place at the Planned Parenthood on S.E. 50th off of Powell and on MLK and Beech at the future Planned Parenthood site. Please contact me if you would like to take part. Kathi Nordlund (503) 760-8429 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/portland.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 23, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

+Gressi Udovini
(Ketty Gattman)

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

7:00 PM-+Douglas & Kyle Linhart
(Mary Fromwiller)

Thursday, February 26, 2009

+Louis Celoria
(Philip Rosetto)

Friday, February 27, 2009

+Marguerite Watts
(Carolyn Clawson)

Saturday, February 28, 2009

5:00 PM-Patty Sell
(Joan Kuepker)

Sunday, February 29, 2009

8:30 AM-+Kyle Linhart
(Rosemary Linhart)
10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 22, 2009

9:00 AM- Faith Formation
9:00 AM-Bible Study

Monday, February 23, 2009

10:00 AM-Bible Study-S.R.
1:00 PM-Bible Study-S.R.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 6
7:00 PM-Choir

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

7:00 PM-Ash Wednesday Mass
7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 6
8:00 PM-RCIA-S.R.

Thursday, February 26, 2009

7:00 PM-Back to Prayer Night
7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Saturday, February 27, 2009

7:00 PM-Youth Group Lock-in -S.R.

Sunday Envelopes. We know it is easy to just drop your check in the collection basket, by using your envelope you insure that your donation will get posted to the correct number and date. If for some reason you did not receive the current quarter of envelopes, please use a plain white envelope - include your name and envelope number and amount on the front. Our counters have noticed also that several folks seal their envelopes with tape or staple them. We ask you please not to do this as this makes it difficult to open the envelopes. Thank you.

Care Ministry

Ride wanted for lady with a hearing problem. She would like to come to 10:30 AM Mass and lives on 119th and Division. Please call, Becky at 503-761-8710 for more information.

Also there is a lady with MS who has a ride to church but needs someone to wheel her from the bus into the church and back each week. If you could help, please call Becky at above number.

Lenten Day of Recollection

A day of spiritual nourishment especially for our ministers to the sick. Our speaker is Fr. Rick Sirianni, from St. Henry Parish and a wonderful speaker. It will be on Friday, March 13th from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at St. Henry, 393 NW 1st, Gresham. Flyers are in the back of church with a map on the back. Pre-registration is needed in order to know how many lunches to prepare. There is no cost to ministers to the sick in our parish; \$15 to others who wish to attend. Please pre-register by calling Becky at 503-761-8710 or dropping the registration in the collection basket. Car pooling from St. Joseph the Worker is available.

Back to Prayer Night

Thursday, February 26th

will be a potluck. So please bring a yummy snack if you can!

Our guest speaker for this month is...

Deacon Mike Caldwell

So don't miss out!

The evening will begin at **7:00 PM** in the church.

Hope to see you there!

Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday

February 25, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Stations of the Cross begin on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 6:30 PM followed by the Humble Dinner in the Social Room.

Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 8,323.61

Over/Under: + 1,291.61

Youth Group News

Feb 21 GLOW Retreat

**Jr High 5:30 PM to
midnight**

St Cecilia Church

Feb 27-28 World Vision Lock-in

HS Soc Rm

7:00 PM-7:00 PM

Fasting and Abstinence Regulations

All Catholics 14 years and older must abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent and Ash Wednesday.

All Catholics between ages 18 and 59 are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

To fast means to eat one full meal; the other two meals that day should be less than the normal amount unless they are already at a minimum for good health]. Eating between meals is not permitted; however, liquids including coffee, milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Wednesday, March 11 is an

Archdiocesan Ember Day.

Traditionally, Ember Days are day of prayer and fasting. The intention of this Ember Day is for the healing of victims of child sexual abuse and their reconciliation with the Church. To fast means to eat one full meal; the other two meals that day should be less than the normal amount unless they are already at a minimum for good health. Eating between meals is not permitted; however, liquids are allowed. Observance of the Ember Day is encouraged but not obligatory.

Found: A women's gold watch, if yours, please contact the parish center at 503-761-8710 to identify.

Coffee and Donuts: Join us in the Social Room for Coffee and Donuts following the Sunday morning Masses. Sign ups for Coffee and Donuts are taken during the Coffee and Donut hour.