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Lent (Paul Turner)

Lent is the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is our most important feast. On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world and our desire to better the lives of others.

For the elect, those preparing for baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify their intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright 2002 Resource Publications, 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.



February 2015



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

**MASSES
Sunday**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm
*no 7 pm Mass on February 8th

Mondays
11:30 am & 4:30 pm
Tuesday-Friday
11:30 am



MORNING PRAYER
Monday-Friday
7:40 am

MASS IN SPANISH
Monday, February 2nd;
7:30 pm

RECONCILIATION
Sunday, February 8th
Offered after each Mass
or by appointment any time

Blessing of Throats: In memory of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, the Blessing of Throats will take place after each Mass on **Sunday, February 1st.**

Lent 2015

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18
11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Reconciliation after each Mass



Fast for Peace: Ash Wednesday, February 18th (all day). Please join as a community to be mindful of our actions towards peace and unity with those in need. We invite you to sign up to fast with one another — raising awareness and soli-

arity for harmony throughout our world. Sign up at the Edmundite Center for Peace & Justice or Campus Ministry offices.

Rice Bowls: Please pick up a Rice Bowl at any entrance of the Chapel. These will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 29th.

Rosary for Peace: Monday, February 23rd. 5:00 pm at the Back Altar space of the Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration: Please join us for some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament; every **Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:00 pm;** Back Altar space of the Chapel. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.

Taize Prayer Services: Thursday, February 26th; 7:00 pm at the back altar space. Everyone is welcome to join us for some peaceful music, silent reflection and Scripture reading.

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

Worshipping Community Programs

Partners in Ministry will begin reading *Sacred Fire.. A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity* by Ronald Rolheiser. **Thursday, February 5th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm** in the VT Room, 2nd floor, Alliot Hall. Snacks welcome but optional. Contact Stephanie Noakes at 871-9322 or at snoakes@smcvt.edu if you are interested in attending.

One in Christ Weekend for engaged couples. Couples are invited to deepen their faith and to better understand the Christ-centered nature of Sacramental marriage. **April 24-26, 2015, St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte.** Contact the Office of Catholic Formation for more information; (802) 658-6110.

WorldWide Marriage Encounter May 1st - 3rd, 2015 at Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte, VT: Married couples, let your Catholic faith strengthen your Sacrament of Marriage. If you have been married for many years, this weekend could help you enhance communication, renew commitment, and rekindle romance. Share a Marriage Encounter Weekend with each other. For further information, please contact Dave & Jennie Erkson at 802-434-4218 or at

erksonmevt@comcast.net. Applications can also be found in the Chapel.

A **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** will take place **April 10-12, 2015**, in Northern Vermont. *Rachel's Vineyard* offers an opportunity for healing to anyone struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion -- mother, father, sibling or grandparent. The retreat format focuses on God's forgiveness, compassion, and mercy to help participants work through complicated grief, anger, emotional numbness, and other spiritual and psychological effects of abortion. *Rachel's Vineyard* retreats are guided by a priest and counselors trained in post-abortion healing to help participants grieve, receive forgiveness and find peace. Contact 802-658-4118 or email projectrachel@vermontcatholic.org.

Faculty & Staff Programs

Pontigny Society: We will be discussing the book "*Death Comes for the Archbishop*", a novel by Willa Cather. Sessions begin at **12:00 pm, Monday, February 2nd** in the VT Room, 2nd floor, Alliot Hall; a luncheon will be served. RSVP required. All faculty and staff are welcome. Please RSVP to Fr. Marcel Rainville, SSE at 654.2848. Future dates: March 2 & April 13th.



VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student led programs include:

Link: A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. Everyone is welcome to join us! **Wednesdays, February 14th, 11th, and 18th; 8:00 to 9:00 pm** in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Dessert & the Divine: Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! **Wednesday, February 25th; 8:00 pm** in the Upper Room, Chapel. Please contact Anna Lester for more information at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu.

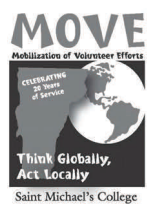
Connections: Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. **Thursdays 8:00 to 9:00 pm.**, Alliot 125 (Anna Lester's office).



Retreat Opportunities

EMMAUS - February 20th - 22rd, 2015: The Emmaus Retreat is a student-led, weekend retreat based on Ignatian spirituality which emphasizes "seeing God in all things." Emmaus will provide you with the opportunity to meet new people, reflect on your spiritual journey, pray with the Scriptures, share your faith with other students and faculty/staff, and take some time out of your busy life to rest. Best of all, you will become reacquainted with God's unconditional love revealed by Jesus Christ. This retreat will take place at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, VT. For more information, contact Anna Lester at 654.2897 or Alester@smcvt.edu.

LEAP - March 6 - 8, 2015: LEAP is a unique, communal and deeply personal experience which builds upon talks, activities and group dynamics. The weekend includes a series of presentations that explores the meaning of commitment, peace, prayer and faith in one's life. It is an opportunity to deepen one's understanding of self and others within the context of a believing Christian Community centered around the Eucharist. This retreat will take place at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, VT. For more information, contact Rev. Marcel Rainville at 654.2848 or Mrainville@smcvt.edu.



Gently-Used Books Sale: To benefit MOVE international service trips (India and the Dominican Republic). Feb. 11-14. (Wed.-Fri., 10 to 5 pm, Sat. 10-2 pm); Alliot Student Center. Also accepting book donations at the MOVE office until Feb. 11 (call Allison Cleary at 654-2901); Thank you!

Penguin Plunge: Saturday, February 7th. This fundraiser is for Special Olympics. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the MOVE bulletin board in the Alliot Lobby.

Emmaus II: Discernment Retreat: This retreat is designed for SMC Juniors and Seniors who have attended the Emmaus, Leap or Busy Student retreats. The weekend will include periods of silent prayer contemplating scripture under the guidance of a Director and engaging in issues of discernment using themes from *The Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola. The retreat will be held Friday to Sunday, March 27-29 at St. Anne's Shrine. Cost is \$50 and scholarships are available. Contact Fr. Brian Cummings, SSE at 654-2476 or at bcummings@smcvt.edu.