

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We invite you to join us in worship

NOTE: If there is a Funeral, weekday Mass is canceled.

	SAINT BRIGID	ASSUMPTION	BLESSED SACRAMENT
MON, Mar 15	6:45a Mass OR Scripture & Communion	8:00a Word & Communion	_____
TUE, Mar 16	6:45a Scripture & Communion 8:30a Mass	8:00a Mass	8:30a Mass 6:30p Our Mother of Perpetual Help
WED, Mar 17 <i>Saint Patrick</i>	6:45a Scripture & Communion 8:30a Mass 7:00p Confirmation w/Bishop Cistone	8:00a Mass 9:00a Individual Reconciliation	10:00a Mass at Brittany Manor 4:00p Individual Reconciliation 7:00p Evening Prayer
THU, Mar 18 <i>Saint Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	6:45a Scripture & Communion 12:05p Mass	8:00a Mass 7:00p Individual Reconciliation	8:30a Mass w/School Children
FRI, Mar 19 <i>Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	6:45a Scripture & Communion 8:30a Mass w/School Children 7:00p Stations of the Cross	8:00a Mass 7:00p Stations of the Cross (followed by Reconciliation)	7:00p Stations of the Cross
SAT, Mar 20	9:00a Individual Reconciliation	3:00p Individual Reconciliation 4:30p Mass	8:30a Rosary 12:00n Individual Reconciliation 5:00p Mass
SUN, Mar 21 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	9:00a Mass 11:30a Mass 5:30p Mass	9:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 11:00a Mass

Next Week's Scripture...

Reading I: Isaiah 43:16-21
Reading II: Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1-11

STEWARDSHIP: A Way of Life!

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

TREASURE

Regular Offertory
Children's Offertory

\$15,572
\$96.86

	TARGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
MAR 7, 2010	\$14,305	\$15,669	\$1,364
Year to Date	\$514,981	\$508,225	(\$6,756)

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

WHAT I GAVE TO GOD

- Cleaned my room.
- Helped Mommy with recycling.
- Made my Dad's birthday special.
- Wiped off my dance teacher's car.
- Shared my Lincoln Logs.
- Helped my Mom.

Thanks to all who supported the bake sale at the Fish Fry last Friday night. We appreciate your generosity! The proceeds will benefit the group going to World Youth Day in Madrid in 2010.

The **Fair Trade** table has four new organic coffees, most in whole bean as well as ground. We also have expanded varieties of organic tea, including *Rooibos*, a no-caffeine tea. Find us in the parish hall today, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

REMINDER: Liturgical Ministry schedule is available on line or you can pick up a copy if you do not have access.

MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY	1:30 P.M.	Legion of Mary
TUESDAY	1:00 P.M.	Bible Study
TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	K of C Council
THURSDAY	6:30 P.M.	Parish Choir
THURSDAY	7:00 P.M.	Boy Scouts

Lenten Alms Collection – The Saint Brigid Christian Service Commission will be collecting personal care and other necessary items to be donated to *Pinecrest Farms, Midland Council on Aging, Open Door, 1016 Treatment Center and Shelter House* at each of the Masses today and next Sunday, March 21. Suggested items are toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, disposal razors, feminine products, soap, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dish detergent, face cloths, cold remedies, diapers and body lotions.

Basketball Slam Discount Coupon: Your \$10 coupon purchase automatically enters you into the Sweepstakes for cash prizes. The discount coupon site gives you an access to discounts from many national retailers such as Old Navy, Dunham's, Radio Shack, T-Mobile, MC Sports, Pro Golf, Disney, Kings Island, and many others. Through the use of this coupon your \$10 investment may be redeemed many times over. Coupons will still be available at the School and Parish offices and at the Fish Supper on Fridays.

RUMMAGE SALE: Start spring cleaning early! Saint Brigid's 1st Annual Rummage Sale, Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More information to follow. *We need volunteers!* Please contact Jill Walker at 839-7630 or Michele Tessin at 839-2680.

Cemetery Clean Up: In preparation for our annual spring clean up of the cemeteries, please remove all decorations from crypts, niches and ground spaces before March 31, 2010. We will remove all items left after the March 31 deadline as part of the general cemetery clean up.

Group Grief Recovery is being sponsored by the three Catholic Parishes of Midland beginning Tuesday, April 13 and continues on April 20, 27, May 4, 11 and 18 at Blessed Sacrament, corner of E. Ashman and Swede Ave. The sessions will be in the Lounge from 7-9 p.m. To register or for more information, please call Blessed Sacrament at 835-6777.

A Message from Deacon Al...

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, known as "Laetare Sunday." This Sunday derives its Latin name from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of today's Mass text which is "Rejoice." Rejoice in Lent?? Yes. We are at the mid-point of Lent and the Church offers us a respite, a pause from the rigors of Lent, as the opening prayer says, "Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourn for her." On this Sunday, which marks the middle of Lent, we are offered a measure of consoling relaxation so that we may not weary of our Lenten penitential practices, but may continue to persevere as we prepare for the great Feast of Easter. In today's Gospel, we hear about the man born blind. Jesus heals him in two stages: First, Jesus applies clay made with His saliva on the man's eyes. Then Jesus orders the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. We ought to marvel at the faith of the man born blind... surely he must have thought that using an expensive medication or treatment would have cured his blindness. Instead, we learn that it is his faith that cures him! Having his physical sight restored was only the beginning of the blind man's journey... just as his heart had to be awakened, so too must our hearts be open to the presence of Jesus. Those who will be saved are those who admit their sins and seek the Lord's forgiveness. These are the people who see with divine faith. Those who will not be saved are those who are satisfied with themselves and think that they do not need Christ in their lives. These are the people who say that they see, but are in fact really blind. So we decide our fate... depending on whether or not we see, or remain blind in our sin. During this last half of Lent, we ask the Lord to open our eyes, that we may see more clearly, and confess with our hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This Wednesday, March 17th, Bishop Joseph Cistone will be at Saint Brigid Parish to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 32 of our youth and adults. Since there will be no Lenten Soup & Substance this week, everyone is invited to attend the Confirmation Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity to welcome Bishop Cistone to Saint Brigid, as well as to support our brothers and sisters receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our Saint Brigid Lenten Fish Dinners continue this coming Friday in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall, serving from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will pray the Stations of the Cross in Church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday.

Each Saturday during Lent, the Sacrament of Private Reconciliation is available in Church at 9:00 a.m. Our Communal Reconciliation Liturgy in preparation for the Easter Triduum will be on Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Our CSA campaign enters the 3rd week. Registered parishioners should have received a letter from Bishop Cistone describing the need for this annual Diocesan appeal, along with a form on which to indicate your gift to CSA this year. If you did not receive a mailing from the Bishop, we have placed CSA campaign envelopes in the pews for your use. Our target goal this year is \$75,233, which is considerably less than the target amount in prior years. Meeting the CSA goal is one of the key components the Diocese considers in assessing the viability of a parish. Please help us meet our CSA goal by making your contribution commitment as soon as possible. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Lay Ministry Program is one of the formation programs funded by the Diocese through CSA. The Department of Formation for the Diocese is currently seeking candidates for entrance into the 4-year Lay Ministry Program beginning this fall. If you are interested, please contact me or speak with any one of our commissioned Lay Ministers for further information about the program.

The approval process for the expansion of our Parish Center Building currently rests with the Diocese. Our Building Committee has met with the Diocesan Building Commission to present the plans for the expansion and with the Interparish Deposit and Loan Commission to apply for the funding necessary to complete the project. In the meantime, it is important that we continue meeting our commitments to the "Preserve the Past... Embrace the Future" campaign, as the more funding we provide upfront, the less debt we will have to incur.

God Bless you for your generosity to Saint Brigid Parish.

Deacon Al

SCHOOL

There is no ***school on Monday, March 15***. The teachers have a professional development day.

Join us in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Marty Doring, parent educator from the Midland County ESA, will present a workshop for all parents. This workshop will give skills to parents so they will be able to help their own children.

SAVE THE DATE: Please join us in donating blood on Tuesday, March 23 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall. This blood drive is sponsored by the Saint Brigid Middle School Life Skills Class. More information will be coming at a later date!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

R.C.I.A.

Our Elect, chosen for Baptism this Easter, and our candidates, preparing to complete their Christian Initiation within our Catholic Christian tradition, ask for your prayers as they draw nearer to the Easter sacraments.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1:30-3 p.m. in the Rainbow Room. Details: Bill, 989-750-2919 or Sally, 631-3743 or Karla, 835-2735.

YOUNG ADULTS

P³...TONIGHT for Pizza Pop and a Priest at 7:00 p.m. in Pizza Sam's

SAINT ELIZABETH PARENT & TODDLER'S GROUP

Will meet on Friday mornings in the Rainbow Room from 9:15-11:00 a.m. Questions? Call Janet, 486-1083.

VBS

It's time to be thinking about Vacation Bible School which again this year will be held at Blessed Sacrament in early June. If you would like to be involved in VBS as a catechist or to help in other ways please contact Anne Marie in the Faith Formation office for details 835.8831.

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Confirmation on Wednesday...first Parent/Child First Eucharist session next Sunday, March 21st at 1:30 p.m. in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall

VIRTUS

There are upcoming Virtus sessions at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw on Tuesday, March 23rd and Wednesday, April 14th. For details please contact Sr. Janet Fulgenzi at 989-797-682.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION: Come join Neil and Dan in the Rainbow Room from 6:30-8 p.m. for food and great conversation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION: NO MEETING TONIGHT due to the overnight retreat this weekend.

LENTEN CAFÉ: High School youth are invited to Coffee Chaos on Sunday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. during Lent for good fellowship and discussion on the Sunday scriptures. Hope to see you there!!

FEED THE FIRE: The next Diocesan Feed the Fire event for all youth will be March 20 from 4-8 p.m. at St. Agnes in Freeland. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with other Catholic teens for Mass, dinner and a great speaker. See you there!