

## From the Pastor's Desk

We know that the cold of winter is lessening when Lent arrives. There is hope for new life with spring time. Ash Wednesday begins Lent; the time when we slow down and reflect on our life for forty days. Lent is good.

Commercialism hasn't effectively overtaken this penitential season. You don't see too many "Lenten Sales" going on at all besides the Friday Fish Dinner Specials.

Once again, we will have the "Little Black Book" that has become very popular. We have ordered about 400 this year, they are in the Parish Hall.

Below is a reflection as we begin this great season. Fr. Harris

### **Almsgiving, fasting, prayer**

What has fasting got to do with religion?

Actually, fasting is a form of prayer – bodily prayer. Other traditional forms of bodily prayer include striking the breast, genuflecting, making the Sign of the Cross, bowing, kneeling, standing, lying prostrate on the ground, extending one's arms, folding the hands.

Fasting is one of these, and when seen in that light, can take on a different character. To fast is to remove food from one's life in order to "make room" for God.

Just as one might shut off the TV or radio in order to pray, fasting "shuts down" a major area of life, namely, eating and digestion. The latter consumes a huge amount of energy which, when fasting, can be used to activate our mind and spirit. Ernest Hemingway used to say, "I wrote better when I was hungry." Taken from: "The Little Black Book"

### **What's Inside**

New Members/ Announcements	2
Triduum	3
Faith Formation	4
Youth Ministry	5
School News	6
Senior Gathering	7
Admin. Report	8
Stats/Campaign	9
Lent/Easter Schedule	10

### **Ash Wednesday is February 17.**

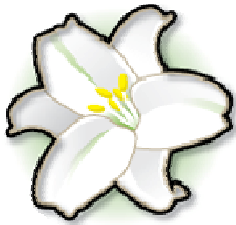
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is our forty day journey to Easter, remembering Jesus final days and great salvation.

Masses will be at 9am, 5pm and 7pm with distribution of ashes at all Masses.

**Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers** are needed for the extra Masses and

Services during Holy Week. Please sign up for these duties in the sacristy or usher's room.

Please visit our **NEW** church and school websites at [www.saintbridgets.org](http://www.saintbridgets.org). You will find user friendly sites with tons of important information.



**Foot Care Ministry for Seniors** is now available at St. Bridget Church in the upper room. Services include: nail clipping, buffing of calluses and a foot soak. A free will donation to be given to church ministries and needs in our community will be accepted for services.

Upcoming dates for foot care are Feb. 11, Mar. 11 and Apr. 8. Hours for service are 10a.m. to 3p.m. Call Virginia Magner, RN at 715-220-7792 to make an appointment.

## Welcome New Members

- |                           |                                    |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ~Jeremy & Amy Swanson     | ~Matthew & Becky Koehler           | ~Ryan/Renee French           |
| ~John/Tracy Jackson       | ~Luke & Annie Ross                 | ~Thomas III & Sally Griffen  |
| ~Melissa Jones            | ~Allison & Ryan Sura               | ~Ron & Jane Matzek           |
| ~Amy Kraemer              | ~Ryan & Christa Doyle              | ~Joshua/Dana Sykora          |
| ~Jamie/Carolyn Grupe      | ~Alicia Robinson                   | ~Alice Baldini               |
| ~Carisa Allen             | ~Jason & Desiree Fredrickson       | ~Jennifer & Chris Sell       |
| ~Katherine Ricci          | ~Mark & Nancy Weinreich            | ~Stephanie Johnson           |
| ~Joseph Radlinger         | ~Jonathan Cardwell & Sophia Banitt | ~Cindy Hill                  |
| ~Richard & Cheri Barton   | ~Patrick & Barbara Baumgartner     | ~Martha Wolfe                |
| ~Melissa Rauch-Borgerling | ~Mark & Alma Pendergast            | ~Christina Woodman           |
| ~Grace Schwinner          |                                    | ~Chad & Emily Goetsch        |
|                           |                                    | ~Dennis & Bridget Armbruster |

## Announcements

### **Communal Penance Monday**

March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm

### **Individual Reconciliation Opportunities:**

Every Saturday 4:00 – 4:30pm  
 Tuesdays: March 2, 9, 30, 4:30 – 5:00pm  
 Thursdays, March 11, 25, 8:00-9:00am  
 Fridays, March 12 & 25 7:30 – 7:50am

### **Memorials/Donations for Easter Flowers:**

This is your opportunity to help us beautify the church for the Easter season. If you are making a donation in memory of a loved one, please place your donation in an envelope with the proper notations.

\*\*If you or your family is interested in helping with the ministries

listed on page 3, please sign up at the table in the Parish Hall or call the church office – 425-1870.

**Men's choir** will be singing at noon on Good Friday. If you would like to be a part of this group, contact the parish office 425.1870 to sign up.

## Lenten Regulations for Fasting

Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent. Everyone at least 18 years and under 59 years is bound to fast on Good Friday, only one full, meatless

meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between

meals is not permitted. When health and ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. As always, there is a one-hour fast period prior to receiving communion.

## The Triduum

*The Easter Triduum, marking the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection. It is the most important time of the church year. It begins with the evening Mass of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and ends on Easter Sunday evening.*

### **Holy Thursday, April 1st: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm**

On Holy Thursday, we have the washing of feet in obedience to the Lord's command to serve one another with his love.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the Mass, with closing vespers at 10:30 PM. Please spend time praying in church following the Mass.

\*Operation Rice Bowl Collection & collection of non-perishable food for the local food shelf.

### **Good Friday, April 2nd: 12 Noon Service**

The Good Friday rites center on the reading of the Passion of Jesus. According to ancient tradition, an image or relic of the cross is venerated this day, and the sacrament of Christ's love for his church. Holy Communion is received. It is a day of fasting and quiet reflection.

\*Holy Land collection is received.

### **7:00pm Evening Prayer**

### **Holy Saturday, April 3rd: Easter Vigil Mass 7:30pm**

**(NO 5:00pm Mass)**

The Easter Vigil is the highlight of the Easter Triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. The evening is rich with symbols, rites and readings.

During the Easter Vigil, we will welcome new members into the church.

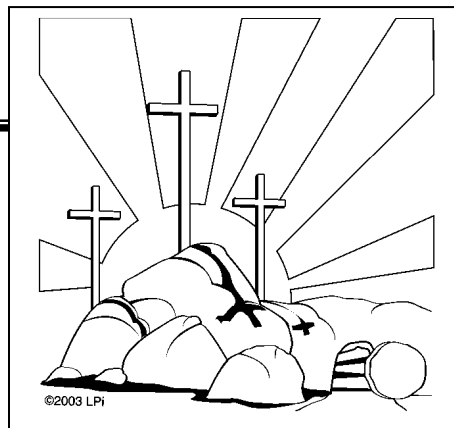
If you would like to spend an hour or two in the morning preparing the candles for the Easter Vigil, or would like to carry in the flowers during the celebration of the Liturgy, please sign up in the parish hall or call the church office at 425-1870.

**“On the third day he rose again.”**

*Easter Sunday, April 4th*

Easter Sunday Masses:  
7:00a.m. 8:30a.m. & 10:30a.m.

\*NO 5:00pm Lifeteen Mass



©2003 LPI

## Faith Formation

### Grades K – 6<sup>th</sup>

Our K-6 FF classes meet on the first three Wednesdays of each month at 6:30pm. However, Spring Break and Lent cause a few changes to the spring schedule:

- **February 17: No FF classes – Ash Wednesday**
- February 24: No FF classes (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)
- March 3 & 10: Normal classes @ 6:30
- **March 17: No FF classes – Spring Break**
- March 24 & 31: No FF classes (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays)
- April 7, 14, & 21: Normal classes @ 6:30pm
- April 28: No FF classes (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)
- May 5: Closing Mass @ 6:30

### First Communion

Please pray for the 74 youth who are preparing to celebrate their First Communion this spring! Celebrations will be the weekends of **April 17-18** and **April 24-25**.

### Vacation Bible School - June 14-18

We need many adult volunteers to help make this a success, so if you are willing to lead a small group or help with crafts, snacks, music, or teaching, please contact Diane. Registration for K-5 graders will open soon, so watch the bulletin and/or web page for details and registration forms!

### Are You Online?

If you have an email account, please consider allowing us to send you newsletters/etc. online instead of via the US Postal Service. We can save an amazing amount of money by doing this and can then use that money in much more effective and compassionate ways. Please email the parish office at [recept@stbparish.com](mailto:recept@stbparish.com) to update your email address. *Thank you!!!*

## Accounting Intern

Hello, my name is Alyssa Ganter and I am the Accounting Intern here at St. Bridget. This internship has been a great experience for me, not only in the accounting aspect, but also an insight as to how a small business functions. I am able to see the importance of knowing all the roles within a small office, and also the communication it takes to keep a business functioning. This internship is also very valuable for my college education. It is fun to know that what I am learning in my accounting courses at the University of Wisconsin River Falls is actually something I will use in the "real world." This internship has been an opportunity for me to get an inside look at the finance and accounting field. The variety of projects that I have been working on are things that I am able to take with me to my future career. It has been great experience being able to build my skills for the future while working alongside the staff of St. Bridget's. Respectfully submitted – Alyssa

## Power of Attorney for Healthcare Workshop

**Date:** March 2, 2010  
**Time:** 1:00 –3:00 pm  
**Location:** St. Bridget Parish Hall

During this workshop Attorney Jennifer O'Neill along with Parish Nurse, Dorothy Maule and Pastoral Minister/Chaplain Mary Camber will help participants understand and complete a Power of Attorney for Healthcare document. We will discuss the legal, medical, and ethical concerns related to this document including the Catholic teaching surrounding end of life issues. Each participant will have an opportunity to complete their own document. To sign up for this workshop leave a message with Mary Camber at 425-1879, Ext. 120 or [visitation@stbparish.com](mailto:visitation@stbparish.com) or register in the folder in the Parish Hall. There is an informational sheet in the folder. Please read it prior to the workshop in preparation to complete the document.

**Faith Formation UPDATE for grades 7-12:**

What a GREAT year it has been! Here's what's ahead:

February:

- ~17<sup>th</sup>: **Ash Wednesday, No Classes**  
 ~24<sup>th</sup>: **Gr. 7-8 No Classes, Gr. 9-11 Life Night 6:30pm**

March:

- ~6-7<sup>th</sup> **Gr. 11 Confirmation Retreat in Chetek, WI**  
 ~10<sup>th</sup>: **Classes as scheduled**  
 ~17<sup>th</sup>: **No Faith Formation, Happy spring Break!**  
 ~24<sup>th</sup>: **Gr. 9-11 Life Night 6:30pm Youth Room**  
 ~31<sup>st</sup>: **No Faith Formation**

April:

- ~7<sup>th</sup>: **Classes as scheduled**  
 ~14<sup>th</sup>: **Classes as scheduled**  
 ~21<sup>st</sup>: **Classes as scheduled**  
 ~28<sup>th</sup>: **Gr. 7-8 No Classes, Gr. 9-11 Life Night 6:30pm Youth Room**

May:

- ~5<sup>th</sup>: **Closing Faith Formation Mass for Families 6:30pm in church**  
 ~12<sup>th</sup>: **Confirmation Practice 6:30pm for sponsors & candidates**  
 ~16<sup>th</sup>: **Celebration of Confirmation at 10:30am Mass**

For information on Youth Ministry or Faith Formation at St. Bridget contact Tessa Schuermann at 425-1879 x107 or [youthministry@stbparish.com](mailto:youthministry@stbparish.com).

## Youth Ministry

**Mini M&M's:** The summer Mission Trip group will be handing out Mini M&M capsules Valentine's Day weekend. We thank you for returning your M&M capsules and your generous donations. We are blessed to have such a supportive parish! The bin for returning your capsules will be in the Fellowship Hall until Easter.

**Youth Plant Sale:** For the past several years Cedar Hills Greenhouse has made it possible for our youth to hold a plant sale in May. This year we will be selling plants from Cedar Hills a different way. More information will be coming soon and will be listed in the bulletin and announced at mass!

**Middle School GUYS'**

**Lock-In:** If you're a guy in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade get signed up for the Lock-In! Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:15pm to Monday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am. Dinner, snacks and breakfast will be included. During the night there will be dodgeball, Wii tournaments, movies, games, and man food. There is no cost, just contact Tessa by phone or e-mail in the church office to get signed up. And bring your sleeping bag and pillow!

**Seniors Mark Your Calendars:**

Graduation Mass on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am mass and Baccalaureate at RF High School Auditorium on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

## ~Lifeline

Take a gymnasium, pack it with 1,000 energetic Catholic teenagers, an awesome worship band, and place the Eucharist at the center of it all...what

do you get? Lifeline! If you haven't been to a Lifeline yet this year, don't wait any longer! Join us March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup> or May 1<sup>st</sup> for a Catholic Youth Mass, Speaker, and

Sonar Band at the NET Center. Flyers and permission forms are in the wooden kiosk at church. Carpool from St. Bridget's at 4:40pm and return around 10:30pm. Call

Tessa with questions or to sign up! For grades 7-12.



## School News

### **Enrollment and Registration —**

Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year has begun!

Registration forms are currently being accepted for students in prekindergarten and kindergarten and will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> for first through grade eight. Call now to find out how you can become part of the St. Bridget Parish School family and give your child the experience of an amazing Catholic education that will

prepare your child for life. Please contact Sue Steckbauer at 425-1872 or [principal@stbparish.com](mailto:principal@stbparish.com) for more information or for a school tour.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Join us for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 2:30pm.

Experience this meaningful Catholic tradition through the eyes of a child. Everyone is welcome!

**Spanish Update:** The students in preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are enjoying the new Spanish

program at St. B's. The 4 and 5 year olds (PreK) have class for 30 minutes per week, kindergarten through third grade has 60 minutes of instruction per week, and fourth and fifth grade meet for 90 minutes per week! It's amazing how quickly they can learn a foreign language and how much they love the songs and activities. Me encanta el aprendizaje en la Escuela Santa Brígida! (That means "I love learning at St. Bridget School!")

## Advancement/Planned Giving

By making a planned gift, you can make a significant difference at St. Bridget Church and School. These gifts can help us address some of the community's most pressing issues, support the River Falls Catholic Community and educate tomorrow's leaders—and gain financial and tax benefits for you and your family.

There are several types of gifts that first pay income to you and your family and

then help St. Bridget Church and School. Planned Giving can include gifts of cash or securities from regular income, life insurance, retirement accounts (IRA, 401 k, 403 b), real estate, personal property (art, collectibles, equipment), or business assets (closely-held stock, partnership interest). The Advancement Office can put you in touch with financial professionals from our parish to guide you with the Planned

Giving process.

For those parishioners who have already included St. Bridget Church and School in their estate planning, please consider becoming a member of **The Shepherd Society**. Please visit our new website, under the Giving tab, to complete the confidential membership form. Questions, please contact the Advancement Office at 715-425-1879 ext. 109.



### **Catholic Schools Week – Dividends for Life**

was a tremendous success! We are so grateful to all those who attended, volunteered and supported our special week. Mass with Bishop Christensen was definitely a highlight of the week. He reminded us that we are all given unique gifts and asked the students to go home and thank their parents for making sacrifices for the invaluable gift of Catholic education. Please remember that our school and this parish community is strengthened by the support that comes from you.

**Gala 2010—Viva Las Vegas!** Tickets have been sold out for weeks, but we can still use volunteers to help! This is an amazing event that provides so many opportunities for our school. Contact Karen Swenson [dkswenson1@comcast.net](mailto:dkswenson1@comcast.net) or the school office, 425-1872.

## Senior Gatherings

### **FEBRUARY Luncheon & Program: Fitness For Seniors**

**Speaker:** Sue Wallin  
Sue is the coordinator at the YMCA for fitness programs for active older adults and teaches fitness classes for strength training, cardio, and Silver Sneakers. In this workshop she will discuss the

components of fitness and will demonstrate exercises for flexibility, balance, strength, conditioning and cardio. Everyone will get a chance to participate in these exercises (as you are able), so please wear comfortable clothing and shoes that you can move in.

**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2010  
**Time:** 11:00-1:00 p.m.

### **MARCH Luncheon & Program: Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation Service**

**Speakers:** Brian Baschnagel/Fr. Harris  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2010 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday of the month

**Time:** 11:00-1:00 pm

### **APRIL Luncheon Program: From Soul to Toe: SPIRITUALITY OF AGING & Footcare**

**Speakers:** Doris Murphy, MA & Virginia Magner, RN  
**Date:** Thursday, April 15, 2010  
**Time:** 11:00-1:00 pm

### **The Ice Man, Survival at the Family Table, and Faith: Telling Your Story** by Mary Camber

We had a small (due to the weather) but fun and rewarding Senior Gathering in January. Chaplain Laura Rose Paradis guided us in remembering and telling our stories. She stressed there is no right or wrong way to tell your story. Laura Rose suggested beginning by telling about a specific event or sorting through your photographs and telling the story depicted in the picture. You can write it down, talk about it, or have someone audio or video record you telling your story. Laura Rose prompted those of us at the gathering to reflect on the kitchen in the house where we grew up. She suggested that we think not just about what it looked like, but how did it smell, what did it sound like, what happened in the kitchen, etc?

Parishioner, Jo May recalled the following during the workshop, "I think back to the wonderful ice box in our kitchen. It was built into the wall with several wooden doors. One of the sections of the icebox held a huge block of ice that the "Ice Man" brought into the house and put into the icebox." Jo remembers that "when the Ice Man left we followed him to his truck and he always gave us a chunk of ice to suck on." She also recalled the seating plan at their kitchen table in her family of ten children. "As Dad was the head of the family, he always sat at one end of the table and Mom at the other end with five of us on either side." They had a rotating system of seating amongst the children at the table so that no one was the last to be served every time and left with the possibility of little or no food left. "Dad was served first and then the person to his right next. That way we were sure to be 1<sup>st</sup> for week, then 2<sup>nd</sup> the next, and so on."

My mother and my uncle, Fr. Eugene, have often told the family stories of their parents and the hardships they faced including a loss of an infant, a house fire, and poverty. Their stories almost always end with what my grandmother and grandfather attributed their survival to, "If it wasn't for our faith, we would have never made it." This simple statement repeated many times over the years has become a family gift. It reminds me that this gift of faith that I possess is valuable and something to be protected and treasured. It also encourages me to know that whatever challenges I face that faith is the key to "unlocking" the challenges and opening the door to solutions to the problem.

As parishioners of St. Bridget Church, we have become accustomed to hearing stories every Sunday during Fr. Jerry's weekly homilies. These stories are insightful and valuable, and remind of us of our common humanity and frailty. Your own personal and family stories are also precious. By telling your own stories, you validate your life and give it meaning, and remind yourself of where you came from and where you are going. Whether you share your faith journey, descriptions of your life growing up, or pass down family traditions, you are leaving your family a priceless legacy of your life experiences, your values and beliefs, and wisdom.

## Administrator's Report

Several parishioners have inquired at the parish office about who our current staff members are. Here is a listing of who's who in the church and school offices, how many hours per week each person works and what their job titles are. I hope that this information helps everyone understand the ministries which our staff members support and the many ways that they strive to serve you.

**Fr. Harris:** Pastor, full time (or more!) serves both the church and school

**Deacon Larry Hennemann:** part time-12 hours per week, primarily church focus

**Mary Camber,** pastoral visitor, part time 10 hours per week, church outreach focus.

**Ric Johnson,** business administrator, full time, serves both the church and school

**Sue Steckbauer,** principal, full time, serves primarily the school

**Terry Mithun,** accountant, full time, serves both the church and school

**Jodie Rubenzer,** secretary/receptionist, part time 20 hours per week at the church office and part time music teacher at school

**Pat Lubich,** financial assistant, part time – 12 to 20 hours per week, serves church and school

**Anne Schmidt:** director of advancement and communications, part-time 30 hours per week for both church and school

**Diane Wengelski** – coordinator of religious formation Pre K – grade 6, part time 28 hours per week also our main computer problem solver

**Tessa Schuermann,** Youth minister grades 7-12 and confirmation, full time

**Lisa Bents,** religious formation assistant, part time 10 hours per week for church and K-1 paraprofessional at school

**Brenda Derks:** computer assistant and receptionist, part time 15 hours per week, church focus.

**Julie Green,** librarian and secretarial help, part time 10 hours per week, church focus

**Norma Radtke,** school administrative assistant, full time

**Tom Bowman,** maintenance, full time both church and school

**Mike Flanscha,** maintenance, full time both school and church

**Helen Richie,** janitor, part time, 12 hours per week, church only.

**Kris Grove,** school cook, part time 15 hours per week, oversees our 3 parish licensed kitchens

With 4,475 parish members in approximately 1700 families, we face an increasingly complex workplace; most of our staff members are cross trained to do multiple jobs. St. Bridget's is one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Superior, but we are also one of the most distant from the Chancery offices in Superior. We depend greatly upon technology to assist our work and maintain diocesan communications.

The 2009 parish planning process identified several areas of future parish staffing needs, and the current parish pastoral and finance councils are carefully evaluating these suggestions. The overall parish goal continues to be one of being good stewards of the gifts given to us. Future staffing needs being studied include: a music and liturgy coordinator, volunteer coordination, school Spanish language program expansion, a 3 year old pre-school program and responding to the rapid growth of school enrollment. It is a busy time.

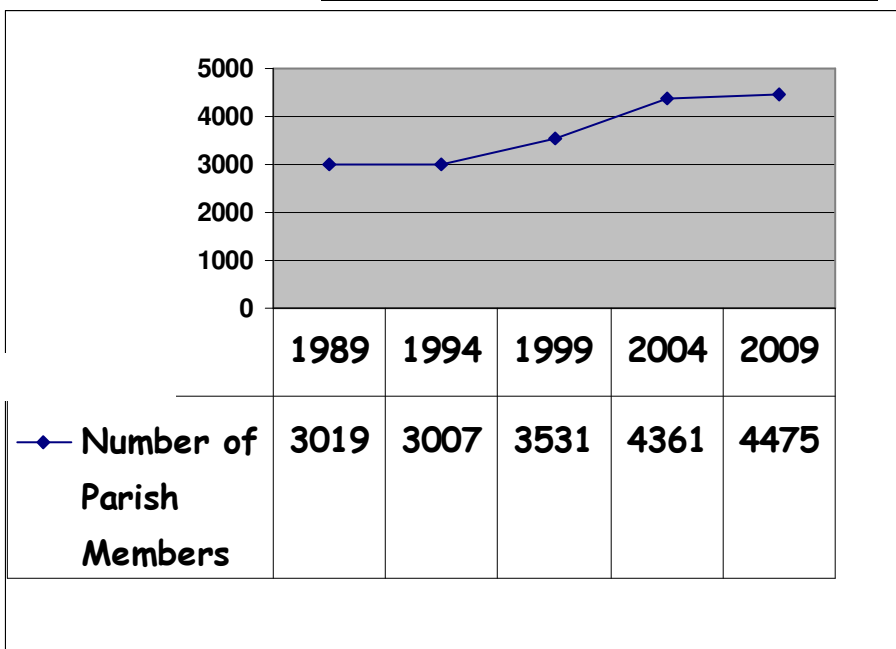
We continue to work in the parish office with temporary staffing arrangements – meaning that it is not "business as usual". With one staff member on a long term medical leave of absence and two more dividing their job duties between the church and school, we have depended greatly on volunteer help to assist within the office. Betty Merriman, Betty Murphy and Pat Smith have been wonderful volunteers at the front office helping fill temporary needs.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the wonderful work that Anne Schmidt and Brenda Derks have done these past three months on building and launching our new parish web site. Long hours, special needs and unique communications challenges only briefly touch on the many obstacles which they overcame to create and begin an exciting new electronic "face" for our parish. Please check out the web site and thank Anne and Brenda when you see them. This was a VERY big job which they accomplished with grace and determination. Respectfully submitted, Ric Johnson, Parish Business Administrator

## Statistical Fun Facts by Patricia Lubich



	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009
<b>Number of Baptisms</b>	69	65	75	85	85
<b>Number of Marriages</b>	26	26	30	23	26
<b>Number of Funerals</b>	25	23	25	37	22



## Capital Campaign Update

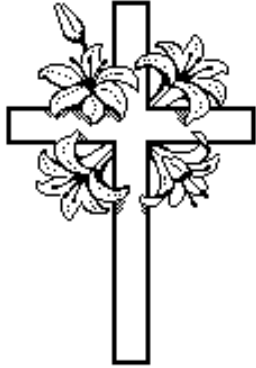
We are now over half way through our capital campaign which began in June, 2008 to retire the debt on our church addition. To date, 656 members of our parish have contributed over \$877,026.00 to the campaign. To those who have contributed, we extend a grateful

THANK YOU. We also recognize that others in our parish have faced difficult financial times in past years and may have been unable to contribute but have helped in other ways including prayer or "in-kind" support. For this, we are also most grateful. For those who contribute

financially, we hope that you continue to help us reach our goal of \$2.3 million. For those who have not yet done so, if circumstances change we hope you consider supporting the campaign.

~ The Capital Campaign Committee

## Lent/Easter Schedule



### *Ash Wednesday, February 17*

9:00am 5:00pm and 7:00pm

### *Stations of the Cross*

Fridays, 6:30pm February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 26

### *Holy Thursday, April 1*

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

### *Good Friday, April 2*

12 Noon Service

Evening Prayer 7:00pm

### *Holy Saturday, April 3*

Easter Vigil Mass 7:30pm

### *Easter Sunday, April 4*

Masses: 7:00am , 8:30am & 10:30am

### **ST. BRIDGET CHURCH**

211 EAST DIVISION  
STREET PO BOX 86  
RIVER FALLS, WI 54022  
Address Service  
Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 62  
River Falls, WI