



Can we start over? This is really the only thing that I can think to say after reading every one of the parish surveys. There were some great suggestions...and some glaring mistakes, made mostly by me. Everything that I have done, and do, has been magnified and dissected and analyzed. And it should be - I wanted peoples' honest opinions, and that is what I got; but I am almost overwhelmed by it all. So I cannot make excuses for my past, and I cannot just say, "deal with it;" the only thing, as I have said, that I can say right now is: "Can we all just start over?" Let's begin again.

First, I want to say that I heard everyone loud and clear - both the good and the bad. Most people love our parish, and that is seen over and over again with the surveys. I am humbled that the Lord has used you and I together to do His will. There are many, many great things happening here at St. Joseph Church-Bread of Life Community, and I am so grateful to God and to you for that.

Most of the areas that we need to grow in are my leadership qualities. I am well aware that the things that are not going so well in our parish are either because of me and my sinfulness, or my character faults. I am willing and wanting to change the ways that I deal with you- that is why I had the survey done - don't you get it? I WANT to see the problems and try to come up with solutions. WE will deal with EVERY SINGLE issue and give some answer and direction to it.

Now I know that I cannot make everyone happy, and that is not my attention. As I said last week in my homily, I need to listen to Jesus, not peoples' opinions, not to the flesh, or to the world - only Jesus. But I do not do this alone—I do it WITH YOU! That is why we did the surveys. So please, those of you who hate me and have dismissed me for various reasons - again mostly MY FAULT - can we start again? Can we together know that God is calling us all to let go of the past and press toward the future?

I am going to try to change my behavior - my looks, my moods, my outbursts - but I cannot do this alone. I need you and your prayers and mostly God's grace. I have read in the surveys that I am a hypocrite and that I really don't care about you or the parish, and this kills me. In the first part, you are very right - I AM A HYPOCRITE! - but let me cry out with all my heart that I care more than you can ever know for you and this parish! There has never been a day that I have been your pastor where I have not prayed for you and tried to put your needs first. I have failed at times, but I have tried and will continue to try.

I have changed the way I evangelize, making sure that I am here on Sundays - since January 1, 2009, I have only missed SIX SUNDAYS!

Even this weekend, after driving to Columbus, Ohio, I will drive back here Saturday night so that I can be here for Mass and a Baptism, and then get back into the car and drive to Cleveland so I can fly to Sacramento, California, for a Parish Mission. And I WILL be back, God willing, for all the Masses next weekend.

I have put you first in my heart, (next to God) financially, and with my time and prayer. Let me assure you that I don't go away to give talks to "get away from the Parish," or to "stroke my ego," or as one person said - to "sign books!" Sometimes it is hard to keep going, but this is what Jesus has asked me to do. Thousands of people have come to repentance and acceptance of Jesus in their lives. Is this not the goal of our parish to bring EVERYONE to a living, loving relationship with Jesus Christ??? Jesus did not just command us to "Come follow Me," but to "Go and make disciples of all nations." I need to obey Him, and I need your support and encouragement.

Please, can we all just start over? I do love you, so imperfectly I know, but I do. God Bless+++

In His love,

Fr. Larry

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**OUR HOMEBOUND AND SICK PARISHIONERS:**

If you are ill or homebound and would like to have an Extraordinary Minister bring you Communion once a week, please call Nancy in the parish office. Also, if you know of any parishioner who is in the hospital, please call the office and let us know, so that we can make a visit. Many times we are not aware of our parishioners in the hospital unless you call us and tell us.

**THE FOLLOWING HOURS ARE OPEN IN THE ADORATION CHAPEL:**

Sunday 2 AM, 3 AM, 11 AM, 4 PM and 5 PM; Tuesday 1 AM; Thursday 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 8 AM, 7 PM, and 11 PM; Friday 2 AM, 7 AM, 12 Noon, 2 PM, 6 PM; Saturday 3 AM, 5 AM, 10 AM; 5 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM and 11 PM. We are also still in need of a Division Coordinator for the hours from 6 PM to 11 PM; and Hour Coordinators for 1 AM & 2 PM. Call Sherry at 864-0283 or Ruthann at 868-0308.

**FATHER POULSON'S FATHER PASSED AWAY THIS PAST WEEK.**

You can send condolences to him at St. Michael Church, P.O. Box 27, Fryburg, PA, 16326.

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:** The dates for our Lenten Soup Suppers are Tuesdays, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Gathering time is 5:00 PM; soup and bread will be served at 5:30 PM. Come for some great food and even better Fellowship!!! We need several soups— about 10 to 12 pots – for each day, as well as bread or dinner rolls and butter. We also need people who can help with set-up, clean-up, and serving. Teens are most welcome to help out for service hours! If you can donate a pot of soup or some bread and butter, or are willing to help otherwise, call Bridgette Wagner at 882-4510 as soon as possible. Let her know what kind of soup or bread you will bring, on which day(s), and if you can be there to help.

**25 DAYS FOR 25 YEARS:** Bishop Trautman will celebrate 25 years as a bishop and 20 years as our bishop in 2010. To mark both events, he plans to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at the cathedral with hundreds of faithful from around the diocese on Tuesday, April 13. As a gift from the people of the Erie Diocese, anyone who would like to participate is invited to offer 25 days of prayer and sacrifice – **starting no later than our parish feast day, March 19<sup>th</sup>** – for intentions that are near and dear to Bishop Trautman's heart. And just a reminder that Bishop Trautman will be HERE for Confirmation on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to receive your prayer support!!!! For more information, there is a flyer on the table in the back of the church.

**THIRTY-ONE CLUB:** The following parishioners will be offering Mass for vocations during this week: March 7<sup>th</sup> – Dale Jennings; March 8<sup>th</sup> – Dan Schaaf; March 9<sup>th</sup> – Dawn Schaaf and Dolores Smith; March 10<sup>th</sup> – Lillian Tonelli; March 11<sup>th</sup> – Mary & Maria Neville; March 12<sup>th</sup> – Sally Carrig; March 13<sup>th</sup> – Timothy Berrier.

**M A L L C H A P E L L E N T E N S C H E D U L E:**

Please spread the word that confessions will be heard once again during Lent at the Millcreek Mall. The schedule will remain the same throughout Lent. The sacrament of reconciliation will take place on Wednesdays from 2 PM to 4 PM and on Saturdays (including Holy Saturday) from 11 AM to 1 PM. On Good Friday, confessions will be heard from 7 PM to 8PM.

**Masses For the Week**

- Saturday (3/6)** *Anticipated Mass for Sunday*  
5:15 PM + Ray Schroeck (Ed & Nancy Rogers)
- Sunday (3/7)** *Third Sunday in Lent*  
8:30 AM + Carol LaRue (Laura Silvaggi)  
11:00 AM + The Living & Deceased of the Parish
- Monday (3/8)** *St. John of God, religious*  
7:00 AM + Vincent Orelski (Margaret Campbell)  
11:30 AM + Sr. Kathleen Blair (Harry & Dolores Jagodzinski)
- Tuesday (3/9)** *Saint Frances of Rome, religious*  
7:00 AM + Edmund, Hugh, & Sr. Constance Marie Knoll (Family)  
11:30 AM + Deceased of Gerry Baker Family (Gerry Baker)
- Wednesday (3/10)** *Lenten Weekday*  
7:00 AM + Alice Knoll—Anniv. (Family)  
11:30 AM + Jack Russell (Pat, Statia & Robbie Brown)
- Thursday (3/11)** *Lenten Weekday*  
7:00 AM + Marian Ulrich (Marilyn Lazenby & Mary Lou Bush)  
11:30 AM + Burt Zurn (The Nicholson Family)
- Friday (3/12)** *Lenten Weekday*  
7:00 AM + Aaron Knoll (Bob & Mary)  
11:30 AM + Margaret Pieri (Beth Servidio)
- Saturday (3/13)** *Anticipated Mass for Sunday*  
5:15 PM + The Living & Deceased of the Parish
- Sunday (3/14)** *Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
8:30 AM + George Froberg (The Stellas)  
11:00 AM + Hank Compennolle—Anniv. (The McGovern Family)

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**Week February 28, 2010**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$4995.73</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 596.00</b>
<b>On-line Giving</b>	<b>\$1152.00</b>
<b>Weekly Expenses</b>	<b>\$8542.00</b>

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**Weekend March 13th & 14th**

- Saturday, March 13th** 5:15 PM Fr. Larry
- Sunday, March 14th** 8:30 AM Fr. Wright  
11:00AM Fr. Larry

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*If you have a special prayer intention for the month of March, please call Madeline Schodt at 454-3094 or Chris Smith at 459-2236.*