

## **OUR LENTEN JOURNEY | The Scrutinies**

We are now three weeks into the Lenten season, a time for spiritual growth and renewal for all of us.

This weekend is a special time for Laurence, Sydney and Frank - three adults who have been preparing with our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ([RCIA](#)) team since last fall to enter in full communion with the Catholic church at Easter Vigil. Earlier this month, they wrote their names in the Book of the Elect at the [Rite of Election](#) with Bishop Burbidge as presider.

This Sunday they continue on their journey as we as a parish celebrate the Scrutinies, a rite of self-searching and repentance. The Scrutinies take place at Mass on the three middle Sundays of Lent. For the Scrutinies, our Scripture readings will come from Cycle A rather than the usual readings for this year.

One of the most powerful moments of the Scrutinies is how they begin. After the homily, the Elect are invited to come forward with their sponsors and to kneel. Then, the whole assembly is invited to pray for them in silence, asking God to protect them and heal them in the weeks ahead. The period of silent prayer is followed by intercessions that we pray aloud together for the Elect.

This is a beautiful way for the church community to provide support for those seeking Baptism or full communion with the Catholic church - and to deepen our own commitment to our Catholic faith. At Easter Vigil, two of the Elect will receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion; the third will receive First Communion and Confirmation.

## **OUR LENTEN JOURNEY | Stations of the Cross, Soup & Spirituality**

Dozens of our parishioners and guests have made the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings and our Wednesday evening Scriptures and Soup program part of their Lenten journey. All are welcome to join them for the remaining weeks of Lent.

Scripture reading and discussion | Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Benediction | Fridays, 7 PM

### **Stations and Fish Dinner**

Next Friday, March 4, offers the opportunity for households to walk and pray the Stations together - and to pick up a great KC's Fried Fish Dinner.

Area KCs will be serving from 5-7:30 PM. Cost: \$8 per plate, eat in or carry out. Proceeds support seminarians in the diocese.

Those stopping by for a meal are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross at 7 PM, followed by Exposition and Benediction. Households with children are especially welcome, to provide the youth an opportunity to experience this powerful devotion and time to reflect on Jesus Christ's final days on Earth as a man. Deacon Phil said he would spend a few moments explaining the

stations to children and teens before beginning.

## **Soup and Spirituality**

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM. Bring canned or frozen veggies to contribute to the communal pot of soup. While the soup simmers, join the group for reading, reflection and discussion of the coming weekend's scripture readings.

## **Reconciliation**

Churches in the area are hosting reconciliation services, each with a number of priests available. [View a video about reconciliation and check the diocesan schedule](#) of reconciliation service times and location that fits your schedule.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Teen Gardening Day** | March 6, after Mass. Holy Cross teens are invited to help with garden preparation and planting the first round of cold crops. Bring grubby clothes to change into, grab a snack at the First Sunday reception, then head out to the garden to help for an hour or so. Plans are to have the first Sunday [after Mass] be a gardening help day for parish youth throughout the year. If it rains, we will plant starter plants in pots indoors. Younger children who want to help are welcome.

**Sprouted Potatoes in your kitchen?** Bring them to the kitchen and put them on the counter in the 'sprouted potato' container. They will be planted in the parish garden in March.

**Durham Crop Hunger Walk** | March 20, 9:30 AM - 12 PM. Join the Holy Cross Crop Walk team this year, and help to end hunger one step at a time. Haven't done this before? Need an update? [View details](#) and talk with Deborah Hilliard and Joyce Ellis, Holy Cross coordinators. Great family event. Not interested in walking? Then consider making a donation by sponsoring a Holy Cross walker. Watch for details coming soon.

**Save the Date for VBS at Holy Cross** | June 13-16. The theme this year is Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. Invite friends, family to attend with your children.

**BAA** | The Bishop's Annual Appeal is a way that all parishioners in the Diocese can help support the work of more than 30 ministries in the coming year. Lost your BAA pledge form? [Consider making your pledge online.](#)

## **IN THE AREA**

**Breakfast of Champions** | March 4, 7 PM | A presentation by the Cardinal Gibbons High School's Mixed, Women's and Men's Chorale Ensembles. Admission is free.

**National Week of Prayer for the Healing of HIV/AIDS** | begins Sunday, March 6. The week begins with a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church and ends on Thursday, March 10, with a service at Emmanuel AME Zion Church. Donations of nonperishable foods and household product will be accepted at Antioch Baptist Church, on March 12 until 9 AM. Call 919-402-1881 to have donations picked up.

**Padre Pio Mass** | March 19, 9 AM, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Raleigh. Sponsored

by the Padre Pio Prayer Group. Rosary and prayers will follow Mass. This Mass is celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes on the third Saturday of each month. [Details](#)

**Durham Senior Games and Silver Arts** | Begins April 18; registration deadline, March 25, 5 PM. For all adults age 50+. Details at Durham Parks and Recreation or contact Dreda Guion at Holy Cross. View a [YouTube video](#) about this annual event.

**Women's Cursillo Weekend** | March 31-April 3, Short Journey Center, Smithfield. [Details and registration info](#) Questions? Ask Deacon Phil or Anna Rzewnicki

**Project Rachel Weekend Retreat** | April 29-May 1, for men and women suffering from an abortion. Location: Avila Retreat Center. Registration deadline is April 15. Details: send a message to [Project Rachel](#).

**Black History Month** wraps up this weekend, but increasing awareness of black history can be an ongoing activity. The parish bulletin this weekend has names of people included in the Black History Month exhibit that has been on display in the church gathering space. Families are encouraged to look up those individuals to learn more about them. Visit the [parish website for links](#) to additional Black History Month stories produced by the area news media.

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