

Our Lady of Mercy Church

Forest Hills, New York 11375

Parish Clergy

Rev. Msgr. John A. McGuirl,
Pastor

Rev. John J. Cremins,
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Langelier,
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Edward A. Smolinski,
Parish Deacon

Rectory

70-01 Kessel Street

Forest Hills, NY 11375

Phone: 268-6143

Fax - 544-3764

Secretaries: Mrs. Diane Malm, full-time and Carol Flaherty, part-time

Sacristan & Rectory Assistant:

Miss Sue Karcher

Web Site - www.mercyhills.org

E-Mail - office@mercyhills.org

Parish School

Staffed by Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Lay Faculty.

Mrs. Linda Dougherty, Principal

70-25 Kessel St.

Phone: 793-2086

Secretaries - Mrs. Wanda D'Esposito and Mrs. Patricia Mehlorose

Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,
12:00 noon and 6 PM

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM
& 12 Noon

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Faith Formation and Human Services

Sr. Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM

70-20 Juno Street

Forest Hills, NY 11375

718-261-6285

Secretary: Mrs. Eileen Stuhler



Submit any news and/or photos to:
Mercy_Mirror@yahoo.com
(Electronic submissions greatly preferred!)

Paper submissions may be sent to the Rectory, addressed to:
The Editors, Mercy Mirror.

We welcome your comments!
Contact us at:
Mercy_Mirror@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief
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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matt. 5:16

In This Issue...

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Please pray for those in our armed services.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, especially:

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio

Sgt. Bryan Jiencke, USMC, Patrick Hedderman

S/Sgt. Teague A. Liming, USAF

Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello, SPC Larry Saume

Lt. Julianne LoMacchio Palumbo U.S. Navy

Lt. Gregory M. Morison, U.S. Navy

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Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

From the Editors: Please submit to us the name, rank, and location of any friend or relative currently serving in the Military for whom prayers are desired.



Parish Mission Statement

We, the Catholic faith community of Our Lady of Mercy are a welcoming parish, striving to serve the diverse peoples of Forest Hills. Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we value our celebration of the Eucharist and Sacraments, our proclamation of God's Word and our loving outreach and service to others. Trusting in God's love and mercy, and recognizing our need for grace, we commit ourselves to the spirit of inclusion through community service, faith sharing, education, outreach and spiritual growth. We dedicate ourselves to live as a dynamic, compassionate and open faith community that inspires both present and future generations to claim the mission of Christ as their own and live it with joy and integrity.

Upcoming Events

“Jesus of Nazareth” Film and Discussion.

Sundays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 3:00 p.m. in the Church.

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance..

Saturday, March 13, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight in the Parish Hall.

Parish Soup Supper.

Monday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Movie Night.

Friday, March 19 in the Parish Hall. See Weekly Bulletin for time.

Family Supermarket Sweeps.

Saturday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

First Communion Retreat.

Saturday, March 27, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the School Hall.

Filipino Mass.

Saturday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m., followed by a social in the Parish Hall.

Palm Sunday Vespers with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

March 28, at 4:30 p.m. in the Church.

Teen Mass.

Sunday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. This will be followed by a Teen Club gathering in the Parish Hall.

Reconciliation.

Monday, March 29, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

Penance Service.

Monday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

Holy Thursday, April 1:

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. at **7:00 p.m.**
Night Prayer. at **10:00 p.m.**

Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion:

Morning Prayer at **9:00 a.m.**
Stations of the Cross at **1:00 p.m.**
Solemn Liturgy at **3:00 p.m.** and at **7:30 p.m.**

Holy Saturday, April 3:

No Morning Mass.
Morning Prayer and Blessing of Food at **10:00 a.m.**
Solemn Vigil Mass at **8:00 p.m.**

Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of the Lord.

April 4. No 6:00 p.m. Mass.

This Month’s Divine Mercy Schedule

Date	Time	Activities
03-10-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Cenacle Fellowship: Parish Hall
03-17-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Devotion and Chaplet Praise and Worship: Church Fellowship: Parish Hall
03-24-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Cenacle Fellowship: Parish Hall
03-31-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Devotion and Chaplet Praise and Worship: TBA Fellowship: Parish Hall



From the Pastor's Desk

Monsignor John McGuirl

Dear Parishioners:

Our Editor, Dr. Linda Shookster, has e-mailed me that again I am late with the copy for the March *Mirror*. As a result, I am writing this hastily on Presidents' Day morning. How the Doctor keeps on top of this monthly deadline, I will never know. All of us owe her and her staff a word of thanks. My topic this month was inspired by the readings of this morning's Mass. The first reading was an excerpt from the Letter of St. James (Jas 1:1-11). In it, James commends the perseverance of the early Christian community in the face of persecution and misunderstanding. The Gospel taken from St. Mark (Mk 8:11-13) pictures the Pharisees looking for a sign that would validate Jesus' ministry. Jesus refuses. The sign is His life: the cures He performs and the words of mercy and compassion that He speaks. Mark writes after the Resurrection, so he knew that Jesus was the sign because His ultimate validation was the Resurrection. Jesus is the bridge between God and humanity. He is the fulfillment of God's Promises, and we stand to share in that Promise in as much as we are identified with Jesus through Baptism and our constant self-conversion.

These Biblical themes find an echo in our own Diocese of Brooklyn (and Queens). Our Bishop has initiated a process, "Christ Jesus Our Hope," which will be a self-study of every aspect of Diocesan life. It has three subject areas: the Catholic schools, our parishes, and also Diocesan structures. This process was prompted by diminished Diocesan personnel and financial resources. Constant demographic shifts and the decline of Diocesan investments has had a critical effect.

Our Diocese is the smallest territorial Diocese in the country and yet it contains one of the largest populations. Supposedly, it contains one and a half million Catholics, of whom about a quarter million regularly participate in the weekly Eucharist. Nothing in our Diocese is more than fifteen miles from anything else! Our people do not have to travel very far in order to be outside the Diocese. For example, the residents of Brooklyn (Kings County) who move to Staten Island are no longer in our Diocese. A ride over any of the East River crossings or the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridges lands you in the Archdiocese of New York. From Forest Hills, a journey of a few miles east brings you to the Nassau County line and the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Obviously, such a small territory is particularly susceptible to demographic changes. Areas that once had a heavy Catholic concentration have changed. In some instances, earlier groups of immigrants built their own "national" parishes; now they have moved, leaving a cluster of Catholic churches in a small geographical area. Where only one Church is currently necessary, there may be three.

My father was baptized in 1903 at St. Vincent DePaul Parish on North 6th Street in the Northside of Williamsburg. His childhood was lived on the Northside or in Greenpoint. Originally the area was Irish and German. St Vincent's

Church was the original parish and was founded in the 1860s. As later groups arrived, they built churches to accommodate their own national or cultural needs. In time, there were about five Catholic parishes in the neighborhood. St Vincent's is now closed, but for years it was rented to an Eastern Rite Church. That Church has now departed because they found it impossible to maintain these elderly buildings. Now the Church stands empty. For some residents of the Northside, this must be very painful. To me it is. Not only did my father's parents first settle there (before moving to Forest Hills in 1925), but I lived in the St. Vincent DePaul Rectory when I was Diocesan Vocation Director (1978-1983). Nonetheless, does it make sense to attempt to operate several parishes, some of them with high maintenance ancient buildings, all within a short walk of each other? And, in a time of diminished numbers of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, where will the priestly personnel come from?

The Diocese supports several parishes out of central funds, and those funds will be depleted by July. Many of the funds collected in the Annual Catholic Appeal are dedicated and may only be used for the purposes intended. Examples include the seminary system, care of our retired and elderly clergy, Catholic Charities, and Migrant Services. The Diocese has no funds except the assessments provided by each parish and the investment of some of those funds. Because of the economic situations prevailing in some sectors of our Diocese, those assessments may not be too high.

All of this speaks to a Diocesan financial melt-down, which has occurred very quickly. This can be rather depressing, unless we keep our eye on what it is all about. St James urged perseverance in times of difficulty, and his advice is as timely now as it was at the very beginning. All of our structures, parishes, institutions, schools and programs exist to point toward the hope we have in the Lord Jesus. Presently we may experience our Lent, but always with an eye toward the Resurrection. Jesus is the sign which the Pharisees sought. He is the sign that we seek. In order to make Him known to every generation, the Church has established parishes and schools and various charities. Over the Church's long history, our leaders, the bishops, must seek the most effective means to preach the Gospel. What was effective in one age may not be so in another. This is the situation our Diocese faces. Bishop DiMarzio has entitled this process of Diocesan Strategic Planning as "Christ Jesus Our Hope." He is correct: Jesus is the reason for any of our church structures. They exist not as things unto themselves but as servants of the Gospel!

In the weeks ahead, I will try my best to keep you informed about this process. About the time of the publication of this issue of *The Mercy Mirror*, the Bishop will publish a Pastoral Letter outlining this Diocesan Strategic Planning and its purposes. His is not an easy task, and, during this Lent, let us remember him and one another in this time of transformation.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

One Hundred Years of Scouting in America

By Linda Shookster



If you attended the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 7, you would have seen the Cub Scouts and Webelos (acronym for **We'll Be Loyal Scouts**) sitting in the front on the left, with the Scout flag being prominently displayed at the altar. Several of the scouts read the Prayers of the Faithful. This was a special celebration of the Boys Scouts' one hundredth anniversary in America. A coffee hour in the Parish Hall followed the Mass.

The Scout movement was formed after Lord Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941) became a British national hero because of his exploits in the Boer War. Baden-Powell had been brought up as a naturalist during his childhood outside London. While at school, he would avoid his teachers (!) by going off into the nearby woods, out of bounds for the schoolchildren, and perfecting his scouting skills, such as learning how to snare rabbits and cook them over fires and gliding silently through the woods without disturbing animals or leaving footprints.

Baden-Powell later joined the 13th Hussars in India. As lieutenant, he later honed his scouting skills among the Zulu in South Africa. By 1896, he was learning American old west skills and woodcrafting from his friend, the American scout Frederick Russell Burnham. In that year, Baden-Powell began to wear the Stetson hat and kerchief known to scouts. These protected his head and neck from the sun and his face from tree branches.

By 1899, Baden-Powell had risen to the rank of colonel in the British army, leading a dragoon in South Africa during the second Boer War. He saw that the British soldiers under his command lacked initiative, so he began to teach them scouting skills. He taught them tracking, how to observe everything around them, and how to decipher the signs they encountered. He even used gators as plates while eating! His well-honed scouting skills enabled Baden-Powell to defend his 1500 men at Mafeking for 217 days from a siege of 9,000 Boers. He returned home a national hero after this war.

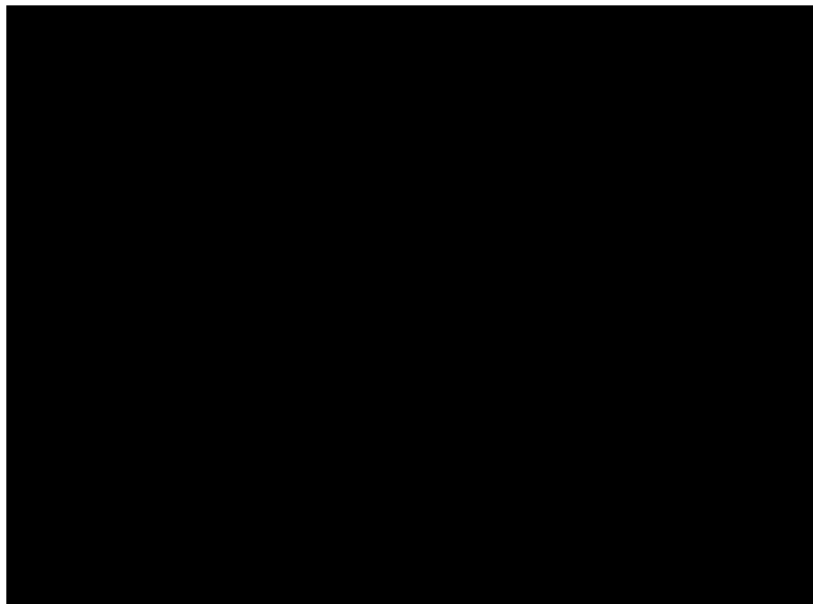


Lord
Robert Baden-Powell.

At Mafeking, a corps of boy messengers, known as Cadets, helped the soldiers with routine duties. They wore uniforms and drilled regularly. The cadets stood guard, carried messages, and assisted in hospitals. Baden-Powell was so impressed by their courage and efficiency that he used them as an example in his best-selling book published in 1908, Scouting for Boys.

He wrote several other books on scouting, after previously testing the application of his ideas by taking boys from Eton and Harrow camping in 1907. After that, troops of scouts spontaneously formed. Scouting had become a national obsession, among both girls and boys.

Baden-Powell's sister Agnes founded the Girl Guide movement in 1910, and Juliet Gordon Low of Savannah, a friend of Baden-Powell, started the Girl Scouts of America in 1912 under his influence.



Webelos bring up the gifts as the community celebrates 100 years of scouting.



Deacon Ed lends a hand to the young Cub Scout reader.

A Catholic in Islam

By Peggy Offenberger

As Americans, we are accustomed to finding a Catholic Church around the corner or at least within walking distance in most of the world. I'm spending part of this winter in Doha, Qatar this year, and I'm learning that this is not the case in many countries in the Arab world. As democracy develops and modern constitutions are written, religious tolerance is on the rise. Such is the case in Qatar. Islam is the state religion. However, the new constitution adopted April 2003 provides for religious tolerance. This is in recognition of the enormous ex-patriot worker population. Today several Christian and Jewish houses of worship are permitted.

The first and only Catholic Church in the country, Our Lady of the Rosary, opened its doors on St. Patrick's Day 2008. Eight Capuchin Fathers from several Asian countries staff the parish. There is a cadre of lay ministers to help. The Pastor, Father Peter, is from the Philippines. The Mass schedule is complicated. Mass is read in English, Konkani, Tagalog, Arabic, Malayalam, French, Spanish, and Italian. You can catch a Mass every day of the week and at almost any time of the day that is convenient for you. Masses begin at 6:45 in the morning and continue until 8:45 at night. Be careful of the time, for you may be listening to a very strange language. It is estimated that, of the one and a half million population in Qatar, one hundred thousand are Catholics. Most of these Catholics are ex-patriot workers from India, the Philippines, Lebanon, Pakistan, and various Asian countries.

There are some restrictions on the religious freedom. For example, it is not permitted to place a cross on the outside of the building, as that would be offensive to the Muslims. When facing the front of the Church you would never guess it is a Church. Our Lady of the Rosary is located on the edge of the city of Doha, on the edge of the desert. The idea behind the church's design seems to be maximum invisibility. You may have a Bible for your private use, but you are not allowed to import Bibles or other religious literature. It is considered a crime, punishable by a two year jail sentence, to proselytize. Sorry, Sister Ann Barbara: no RCIA!

While Muslims accept the prophets of the Old and New Testament, Jesus, Moses, Jacob, and Adam, they do not accept the Bible as the word of God. They believe the Bible has been corrupted as it came down through the ages. They accept Jesus as a great prophet but do not accept the Divinity of Jesus. Mohamed, on the other hand, is the last great messenger of God (Allah) to the people of the world. They believe the Qu'ran was dictated to Mohamed by the Angel Gabriel and came directly from Allah. We share many beliefs with Muslims. They honor all people as equal; all people are entitled to just treatment; prayer and good works will help them get to heaven.

Muslims are called to prayer five times a day. The call is delivered by public address system. It can be heard in every corner of the city. I find myself silently offering an Ave or an Our Father.

My first experience into Islam has been a pleasant one. The people are extremely kind, helpful, and courteous. They are devout Muslims striving to live good lives. Perhaps their deep faith in Islam as the only true religion is an honest but misguided reason for intolerance of other faiths. The people of Qatar are not what many Americans think of when we hear the word "Muslim." There are no terrorists in Qatar. These are people of faith and family.



The Church's interior.



Exterior of Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

Around the Parish

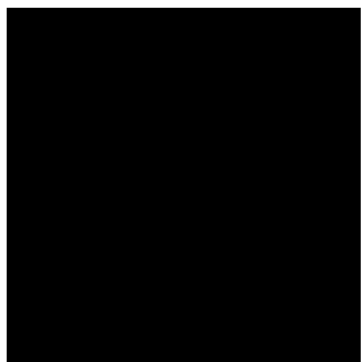
Catholic Education: It Counts!

By Linda Shookster

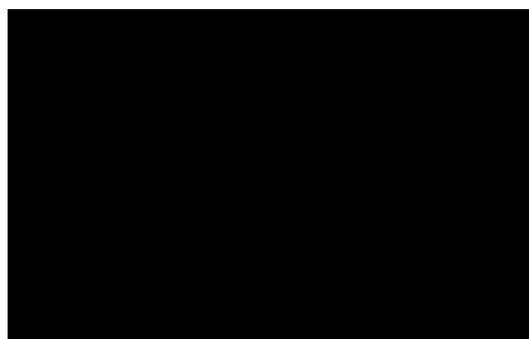
Catholic Schools Week began with the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 31. All the readings, prayers, and music were done by students from OLM school. At the beginning of the Mass, Michael Rossi eloquently discussed the importance of a Catholic school education in this era of secular media dominance. Bridget Golden read the first

reading, then Amanda Milevoi read the second. The Prayers of the Faithful were read by Elena Rossi and Dominique DeGennaro. Our mellifluous Cantrix at the Mass, unseen from the choirloft, was Anneliese Treitmeier-McCarthy, who serves as Cantrix for most of the Teen Masses.

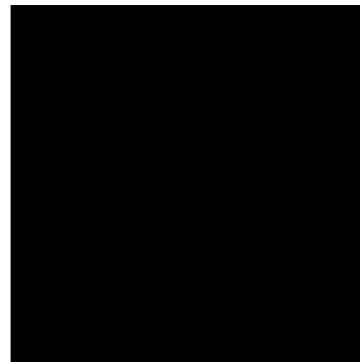
Afterwards, donuts and coffee were served in the Parish Hall, where the Scholastic Book Fair was being held.



Michael Rossi stresses the importance of a Catholic education.



Anneliese Treitmeier-McCarthy as Cantrix.



Dominique DeGennaro leads the congregation in prayer.

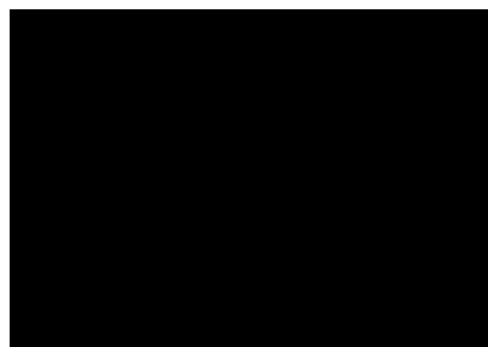
“Planetary Forces” Places at the First Lego League Qualifying Match

By John Lewandowski

On Saturday, January 23, in the airplane hangar of Aviation High School, three cub scouts from Pack 349 participated in their first Lego competition. The task for the competition was to identify a problem in the community, research the topic, and to build and program a robot. Their team, called Planetary Forces, recognized the problem of traffic congestion, and through research, proposed the development of bike

paths to reduce pollution and to encourage a healthier community.

They won the "Judges' Award" for all around excellence in each category of the competition, thus qualifying them to compete in the New York City finals, along with the two other Forest Hills Lego League teams who won for research and second place overall champions. We wish them luck at their next competition in March.



Planetary Forces, left to right: Ethan Tsou, John Lewandowski, Ethan Ngai.

What Goes Around Comes Around

By Robert W. Meditz

Plant a seed, nourish it, and it will flourish to the benefit of others. The same holds true for kindness. Your contribution to the Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast and the Girl Scouts Cookie Sale not only benefited them, it also led to the benefit of countless others.

Prior to the earthquake in Haiti, the Cub Scouts tithed the gross Pancake Breakfast proceeds to St. John's Bread and Life Soup Kitchen, which serves the needy in Queens and Brooklyn. After the devastating earthquake there was a nearly unanimous vote by the Girl Scouts to donate all their profits from the Cookie Sale to the victims in Haiti.

In addition, the Cub Scout parents donated \$750 and the Girl Scout parents donated over \$950 to the relief efforts in Haiti. Compassion is contagious!!! Your generosity was multiplied many times over, much as the parable of the bread and fish! The Christ in you performed miracles!

Around the Parish

Scouts Ski Trip: Exploring Water!

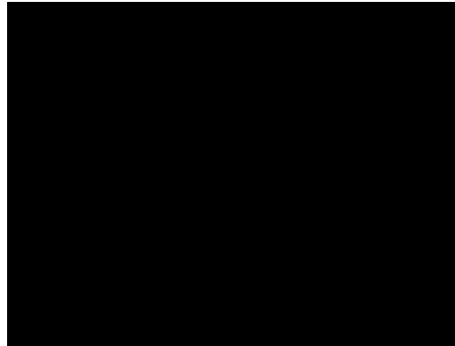
By Robert W. Meditz

Most people might consider the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts Second Annual Ski trip to Belleayre Mountain Ski Center on January 22-24 merely a fun recreational pursuit. However, that was only a cover to disguise its true purpose as a means to teach the Scouts science and physics.

The Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts recently explored the nature of water in all its myriad physical states, along with several laws of physics. Their prime interest was to examine the physical properties of water as a solid, specifically as snow. The main experiment was to experience the effect of skis and boards gliding over snow, with as little contact to well-covered posteriors as possible. Their hypotheses proved correct, that the higher one launches off the mountain the faster one goes, that a straight-line trajectory yields the fastest speeds, while turning slows the speed significantly. The drag created by full body contact with the snow will result in a complete stop along with some injured pride.

The various degrees of moisture content in snow were also studied. The greater the moisture content the easier it is to

mold snow into spheres that will hold together. These spheres will maintain their shape so that they can be thrown. However, they will break apart when they make contact with another child. A chain reaction then develops with snowballs flying everywhere. Should any of these “inadvertently” strike an adult, Newton’s third law of physics comes into play: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.



The Scouts are about to study the moisture content of the snow!

Next, the Scouts studied the buoyancy of water in its liquid state, along with Pascal’s law. Treading water or swimming in a pool will keep one afloat. Cannonballing into the water will allow one to sink to the bottom briefly. Time spent underneath the water is limited by oxygen supply, which is dependent upon lung capacity and energy expenditure.

Finally, they studied water vapor.

Specifically, they learned that water evaporates from a hot tub and turns into visible water vapor when exposed to the cold winter air. However, this water vapor somewhat limited the astronomy lesson by obscuring the Scouts’ view of the red planet, Mars, and the constellations Orion, Big Dipper, and Little Dipper. This was balanced by an additional advantage of the hot tub: the exhausted Scouts learned that the warm water helped soothe the aching muscles of a day spent at the slopes.

Speed, Looks, and Creativity: Cub Scouts Have it All

By Robert W. Meditz

Living life in the fast lane, strutting their stuff, or taking things to new levels, the Cub Scouts are there. More specifically, their Pinewood Derby cars were there at the track and judging circle on January 12. This annual event has the boys design, build, and paint their own cars with parental input. The excitement mounts as successive heats are run on the track until the three finalists zoom to glory. The competition for looks and creativity are held in utmost secrecy, behind closed doors with anonymous judges. The culmination of the evening is the announcement of the winners:

Speed:

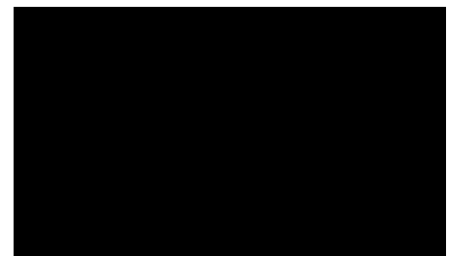
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| 1st Place | John Lewandowsky |
| 2nd Place | John-Dean Galinski |
| 3rd Place | Gabriel Treitmeier-McCarthy |

Best Looking:

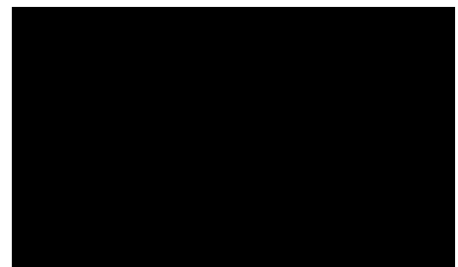
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| 1st Place | Gabriel Yengle |
| 2nd Place | Joshua Pagan |
| 3rd Place | Mark Sulewski |

Most Original

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1st Place | Takuta Suga |
| 2nd Place | Kevin Walter |
| 3rd Place | Michael O’Sullivan |



Pinewood Derby Winners.



The excitement is contagious!

From the Archives

The Mysteries of the Rosary in Our Church

By Dennis Griffin



Scourging at the pillar.

There is probably no better way to honor our Church's patroness, Our Lady of Mercy, than to proclaim and pray the Mysteries of the Rosary. Looking about the church, it is evident that the architects and builders were very

aware of this fact. This month, let's take a look about and notice the stained-glass windows along both side aisles.

Just as the twelve apostles appear on the stained-glass windows on the top portion of the walls, the scenes of the Mysteries of the Rosary appear further down along the aisles. You're invited to take a look at each window. Each one calls to mind the five Joyful, the five Sorrowful, and the five Glorious Mysteries of the life of Christ and His Blessed Mother. Starting from the front left side as you face the altar and going towards the back, there are the five Joyful Mysteries. First is the Annunciation, then the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

Toward the back left side, by the entrance to the elevator, are the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar and the Crowning of Thorns. Going around the back to the right side of the church and going forward are Jesus Carrying His Cross and the Crucifixion, the last two Sorrowful Mysteries. Further up towards the front appear the Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven, the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and finally, the Crowning of our Blessed Mother in Heaven.

Thus, each of these windows shows quite graphically each scene from the traditional three Mysteries of the Rosary. There is one more window at the very front right side which depicts the original patroness of our parish, St. Therese of Lisieux, who was canonized in 1925.



The Resurrection of Jesus.



The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

Let Us Proclaim the Mysteries of Faith

By Msgr. Langelier

As we journey through this most important season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, I thought it helpful for us to briefly and meditatively dwell upon three important truths of our holy Catholic faith: the most holy Trinity, the Divinity of Jesus, and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The most holy Trinity: How often we begin our prayers and actions “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is clearly stated that “the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is a mystery that can be known only because it has been revealed to us in the Person and the Words of Jesus Christ. It is a mystery that reveals to us the very heart of God, the inner life of the God of creation and love.”

Lest we get caught up in the riddle of one God in three Persons, yet three Persons in one God, it is necessary and very helpful to reflect often on the words of Jesus Christ. He speaks often that He is the Son sent by His Father to bring about our salvation and the ability to share in the very life of God for all eternity. Jesus also speaks often (especially in the Last Supper Discourses in St. John’s Gospel) of the Spirit that He (Jesus) will send to his disciples (us Christians). “I will send the Spirit to you, and when He comes, He will guide you to all truth.” (John 16:12)

And so, as these many Trinitarian references were so very much a part of Jesus’ awareness, His teachings, and His prayers, so should they be very much a part of our own spirituality and prayer, not just in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, but every day in our own daily prayers and religious reflections.

The divinity of Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God revealed to us in human terms. To see Jesus is to see God adapted to our own human way of understanding. “I and the Father are one,” Jesus taught. It is not just that Jesus is holy and God-like, but that He indeed is equal to the heavenly Father Himself.

Jesus’ many miracles in His public ministry gave witness to His revelation and claim. He said to His disciples (and to his adversaries) “...even if you don’t believe because of my teaching word, look to the works (miracles) that I perform.”

Obviously, since God is so central to our Catholic Faith, so must the Divine Jesus be central to our spirituality and prayer life in Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and beyond. One special way to deepen our faith in this God-Man, Jesus, is to

reflect often on Jesus as he reveals His Divine self so beautifully in the Gospel of St. John. He speaks especially at the Last Supper of His love for, and identity with, the Heavenly Father, and also His love of us as his disciples and friends. “...As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you....remain in my love!” (John 15:9)

The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: The sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is not simply a sign or a symbol of Jesus, “the Bread of Life,” but rather, as the Church has always taught, the Eucharist is truly the very Body and Blood, the very Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through a miracle of space and time the real living Jesus becomes present to us at the liturgical consecration prayer of the Holy Mass. “This is my body, this is my blood.” The living Jesus becomes present to us in the totality of His divinity and the totality of His humanity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly teaches... “In the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood, together with the soul and divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the whole Christ, is truly contained.” This Eucharistic presence certainly invites our adoration and worship of the Lord Jesus in our tabernacles and in our monstrances. Eucharistic adoration has long been the practice of the Catholic Church.

However, while Eucharistic adoration is commendable and a recommended practice for Catholics, it is not the main reason why the Sacrament was instituted. The Eucharist has been given to us primarily as spiritual food for our spiritual health and ultimate salvation. “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, you cannot have life in you.” (John 6:53)

Jesus said “I am the Bread of Life, whoever comes to me will never hunger (spiritually) and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (John 6:35) Unlike natural food which the body assimilates, this spiritual food assimilates us into the very body of the Lord Jesus! “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (John 6:56)

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are special opportunities to renew our devotion to the real presence of Him who wants us to unite ourselves to Him on our way to eternal life with Him in the Kingdom. Hopefully, we can all reverently approach and receive the marvelous Sacrament, not just occasionally, to fulfill our “Easter Duty” once a year, but as our absolutely necessary spiritual food for our journey to the Kingdom.

So, yes, let us proclaim these mysteries of faith, but more importantly, live them as well.



*Old Testament Trinity
icon by Andrey Rublev,
c. 1400*

Save the Date!

As part of the Diocese long-term planning initiatives. Our Lady of Mercy Parish will be holding an important parish assembly on Sunday April 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome.

KIDZ KORNER



People from the New Testament

N F S W X H O E Q R B R D R S I P M A S Z Y N B X M S C Q Q
 G T K Q M S A R U K L R A K J K Y C R H J R Q J O S E P H O
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 K V D M P U M K J R O Z M G M W E P F P J Y Q S Y A X B I X
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 R E E R L U X P V B A U G Z J L A H W B V Y E G C E Y K V G
 R B H D E M Q P S Z C B O A A C R R A T N P G V K S D N G S
 T R Y Y T A K H D G Z C C Z A G Y P T P H I L I P U I G I Z
 O L M E M X Z W Y B Q E A C O B T K G H V F C L Z S A L M R
 M R L C P T L Q E Z T R B X E I L Z L N O T E K L Q A Q A X
 C S A X K U V A Z S U D R E S O A A D J W L H U Z S V V R S
 U C A I R H T U N S Y A L T D Q G H V J S N O O D C W Z K Q
 N U K P B Q Y U U D Y X E K L E M Z J F R P E M M V L B N I
 U W D M A T T H E W R D M Q Y E E D K N I D Z N E A Z E R W
 R D C J Q R V V B N G E E C S A S U E A D D A H T W S A M G
 S B M F R D Z K Y E J I W L T O X Z S C C A P X R Y M W R V
 R Y U M G X M K A Q U I L A L B O U H T L P D M S K W I A W

Andrew	John	Mary	Simon
Aquila	John the Baptist	Matthew	Stephen
Barnabas	Joseph	Matthias	Tabitha
Barsabas	Judas	Paul	Thaddaeus
Bartholomew	Lazarus	Peter	Thomas
Cornelius	Luke	Philip	Timothy
Elizabeth	Lydia	Priscilla	Zacchaeus
James	Mark	Silas	Zebedee
Jesus	Martha		

MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30pm RCIA – CMR	2 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 3:00pm Altar Server Training – C 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Awakening Faith Program – Session 2 – RMR	3 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 2:15pm CCD – C 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C	4 1:30pm Stations of the Cross (School) – C 4:00pm Confirmation Class (CCD) – RMR	5 9:00am Stations of the Cross – C 2:30pm Daisy Scouts – LCH 6:00pm Garden's Group AA Anniversary Party – LCH	6 11:00am First Penance Service – C 6:00pm Line Dancing – LCH
7 Second Collection – Catholic Relief 12:00pm RCIA First Scrutiny 3:00pm "Jesus of Nazareth" Film & Discussion – C	8 7:30pm RCIA – CMR	9 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 3:00pm Altar Server Training – C 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Awakening Faith Program – Session 3 – RMR	10 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 2:15pm CCD – C 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C	11 4:00pm Confirmation Class (CCD) – RMR	12 9:00am Stations of the Cross – C 1:30pm Stations of the Cross (School) – C	13 7:30pm St. Patrick's Dinner Dance – LCH
14 8:00am to 12:30pm – St. Vincent dePaul Clothing Truck – Kessel Street 10:00am RCIA Second Scrutiny 3:00pm "Jesus of Nazareth" Film & Discussion – C	15 6:30pm Parish Soup Supper – LCH	16 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 3:00pm Altar Server Training – C 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Awakening Faith Program – Session 4 – RMR	17 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 2:15pm CCD – C 7:30pm Divine Mercy – LCH	18 4:00pm Confirmation Class (CCD) – RMR 7:30pm Baptism Meeting - RMR	19 9:00am Stations of the Cross – C 1:45pm Stations of the Cross (School) – C 5:00pm Movie Night – LCH	20 1:00pm Baptisms – C 7:00pm Family Supermarket Sweeps - LCH
21 Second Collection – Easter Flowers 3:00pm "Jesus of Nazareth" Film & Discussion – C 6:00pm RCIA Third Scrutiny	22 7:30pm RCIA – CMR	23 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Awakening Faith Program – Session 5 – RMR	24 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 2:15pm CCD – C 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C	25 11:00am Bereavement – RMR 4:00pm Confirmation Class (CCD) – RMR 7:30pm Bereavement – RMR	26 9:00am Stations of the Cross – C 1:30pm Stations of the Cross (School) – C 2:30pm Daisy Scouts – LCH	27 2:30pm First Communion Retreat – S 6:30pm Filipino Mass & Social – C & LCH
28 Second Collection – Parish Easter 3:00pm "Jesus of Nazareth" Film & Discussion – C 4:30pm Vespers & Benediction – C 6:00pm Teen Mass – C 7:00pm Teen Club Meeting – LCH	29 Reconciliation Monday 12:30pm to 7:00pm – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – C 3:00pm to 9:00pm – Confessions – C 7:30pm Penance Service – C RCIA after Penance Service – CMR	30 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 2:30pm School Garden Club – S 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Awakening Faith Program – Session 6 – RMR	31 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH No CCD 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C Easter Recess begins at Dismissal			

C = Church CMR = Convent Meeting Room LCH = Lower Church Hall RMR = Rectory Meeting Room S = School

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JAMES P. HARDING

Attorney At Law

Harding & Moore

**80-59 Lefferts Blvd.
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