

BULLETIN -- FEBRUARY 28

Lenten penance services. We are happy to provide, for your convenience, the schedule for Lenten confession opportunities in the area. We shall keep you updated with any additional choices as we learn of them.

Fri.-Sat., March 4-5	Noon-Noon	St. Andrew's 24 hrs. of confessions
Sun., March 6	11 a.m.	SS. Peter & Paul
Thurs., March 10	6-8 p.m.	St. Robert's, Ada
Sat., March 12	9:25-10:40 a.m.	
	1-3 p.m.	West Catholic H.S. at Kephra Retreat
Sun., March 13	3 p.m.	Our Lady of Consolation, Rockford
Wed., March 16	2-3 p.m.	West Catholic H.S. cafeteria
Thurs., March 17	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	St. Andrew's (for CCHS and others)

In addition, we have our regular confession schedule on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Saturday afternoons from 3-4 p.m., and 2 hours each day during the MTW of Holy Week.

A retreat day will be available at Sacred Heart of Jesus on Saturday, March 5, beginning with 8 a.m. Mass and lasting till 3 p.m. Fr. Giuseppe Cardamone of the Missionary Servants will offer reflections on *The Beauty of God: Purity and Mercy*. A light breakfast and soup & salad lunch are included, all for \$10. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 1, by calling the parish office at **459-8362**.

Reporting sexual abuse of minors. [The following notice is required to be published four times a year in both English and Spanish in compliance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.] To inform the Diocese of Grand Rapids of the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, or other Church personnel and/or to speak with the Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call **243-0491**. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding complaints of sexual abuse will be returned in a timely manner. The Diocese is committed to protect children, young people, and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes, and ministries. As an alternative, a report may be made to the Family Independence Agency for the applicable county.

Denunciando abuso sexual de menores. Para informar a la Diócesis de Grand Rapids sobre el abuso sexual cometido contra un menor por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, o personal de la Iglesia o para contactar al coordinador de la asistencia para víctimas (Victim Assistance Coordinator), por favor llame al **243-0491**. A quien llame se le solicitará que provea su nombre y número telefónico. Todas las llamadas en referencia a una queja sobre abuso sexual serán atendidas con prontitud. La diócesis está comprometida a proteger a la niñez y a la juventud así como a otras personas vulnerables en nuestras escuelas, parroquias, y ministerios. Como una alternativa la denuncia puede ser hecha a la Department of Human Services del condado correspondiente.

Now a state rep wants us all to pay for a particular feminine hygiene product and make it available for free in all public schools and public places. She says that no man

would understand. I do understand. I do understand the embarrassment of being caught without something you need *when* you need it. I more than once saw panic in my mom's eyes when we were out in public and she needed her inhaler and suddenly realized she'd left it home or brought the wrong one. What I *don't* understand is just how we're going to accomplish taking care of every possible instance where someone might not have what they need when they need it. Will we have boxes of these items stacked up in every public restroom? Remember, we now have to cater to a society whose members are free to decide from one moment to the next which (if any) gender they want to be, and so which restroom they have a right to use. What if a young lady who has a legitimate and understandable need for an item goes to the unisex restroom, only to discover that the whole supply has been taken by young men who were just feeling feminine that day? See, when the availability of public funds trumps personal responsibility and common sense, there is no end to what we must all be expected to provide. Don't have a quarter? See the school nurse. I can see providing for emergency needs free at a dispensary. But the same people who use rest stop and parish dumpsters to get rid of all their household trash and used mattresses will quickly wipe out the supply of free anything faster than you can say, "Aakkk, no toilet paper!!!" And they'll probably be selling them out of their school lockers to needy classmates -- for **50 cents** !!

Sounds like a West Sider! The reporter asked a familiar question of the 101-year-old lady at her much publicized birthday celebration:

"Can you give us some health tips to reach the age of 101?"

"For better digestion, I drink beer. For a better appetite, I drink white wine. If my blood pressure is too low, I drink red wine. If my blood pressure is too high, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink schnapps."

"Gosh, when do you drink water?"

"I've never been that sick."

Confessional etiquette. We've been noticing that our penitents, eager as they are to confess and receive the grace of absolution, seem to be moving closer and closer to the confessional while waiting their turn. We shall be getting some signage up; but may we ask, please, that while you are waiting to go into the confessional, you wait no closer than the ends of the pews along the center aisle, rather than in the side aisle. My preference has always been to have the confessionals closer to the sanctuary, since there is less space for people to gather, and a better view of when someone is coming out and the priest is available. But we are constrained by architecture, so we ask your patience with this little adjustment. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: "Be fools for Christ. Have the courage to suffer the contempt of the 'sophisticated' world" (Justice Antonin Scalia, March 3, 2012, address to the Living the Catholic Faith Conference in Denver, CO).