

Lenten program set for Mercy Center

Scheduled for Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Mercy Center, Tuesday, March 21, a Lenten renewal program will feature speakers Sr. Rosemarie Ippolito, S.C.C., and the Rev. Dominick J. Lorenzetti.

The program, "The Cross of Christ-My Cross," is the last in a three-part Lenten series of lectures and prayer experiences for women religious.

Sr. Rosemarie and Fr. Lorenzetti will present a psychology and a spirituality of reconciliation, in light of the daily experience of life within the religious community and the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.

Kunkle UM church holds Lenten Service

The Kunkle United Methodist Church of Dallas will hold a Lenten Service this Thursday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m.

The guest pastor for the service will be the Rev. Margaret Reid, pastor of the Huntsville United Methodist Church.

Rev. Reid is the final speaker in the series which is concerned with the theme, "Lent-A Time for Commitment."

Mary's Dunmore, Fr. Lorenzetti was ordained to the priesthood in 1974. He holds a master's degree in theology from Fordham University.

Currently at St. Nicholas-St. Mary's Wilkes-Barre, Sr. Rosemarie received her master's degree in theology from Villanova. She has spent six years serving as director of religious education.

The program will conclude with the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.

According to Sr. Ann Horgan, RSM, coordinator of programs at Mercy Center, the talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. All sisters are invited to participate in the evening of renewal.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Mercy Center.



COVERED DISH COMMITTEE-Gate of Heaven Altar and Rosary will hold a covered dish supper, April 3. Rev. William Cusick and members of the committee are shown making final plans. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Arthur Segrave-Daly, president of the society; Rev. Cusick, pastor and moderator; Mrs. Robert Scruitsky, chairman; standing, Mrs. Peter Mattioli, Mrs. Ellen Casterline, Mrs. Rose Wolensky, and Mrs. Daniel Schall. (Photo by Alex Rebar)

Society plans supper

The Altar and Rosary Society of Gate of Heaven Church will have the annual covered dish supper, Monday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Reservations will be accepted until March 22. Mrs. Robert O'Konski, reservations chairman has asked that women specify

what dish they will prepare when they call to make reservations.

Mrs. Robert Scruitsky, general chairman, has announced that a musical program is being prepared by the Shalom Singers, youth group of the parish, under the direction of Rev. Stephen McGough, assistant pastor.

Committee members include Mary Beth Schall, Janice Mattioli, Ellen Casterline, Rose Wolensky, Mary Darling and Fran Hale.

Mrs. Arthur Segrave-Daly is president; Rev. William Cusick is pastor and moderator.

Kunkle women meet at UM church

The members of the Kunkle United Methodist Church Women met for a short business meeting in the church annex on Wednesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. with Mrs. Dorothy Dodson presiding.

Each member was requested to bake two pies to serve at the seafood dinner on March 18.

At 8 p.m. Mrs. Beverly Bunney, assisted by her mother, Mrs. Edythe

Bonning, presented a Devotional Easter Program entitled "James, the Son of the Lord." They also showed slides. The public was invited to this meeting and The Rev. Michael Bealla gave communion to those present, after which refreshments were served by the hostesses Mrs. Irene Transue, Mrs. Jean Hilbert, Mrs. Sally Dodson and Mrs. Bonnie Bealla.

Parents of teens semin

A Parents-of-Teens Seminar will be conducted at the Trucksville United Methodist Church, Church Road, Trucksville. Program will be conducted by the staff of Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley and the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches. Discussions will center on topics relating to parent-teen relationships and will be designed to help parents better understand this period in their children's lives.

The Seminar will be held on Monday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. First meeting will be held on Monday, March 27 and others will follow on Monday evenings until May 1.

Program is open to all parents in Wyoming Valley. Those wishing to attend are to make reservations by calling the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, 35 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre.

Rent A Kid

Need windows washed, screens put up for summer, lawns raked? Hire a Kid! The Lehman UMYF group will gladly do chores for a price. Money will be used to help pay the way to Sky Lake summer camp. For further information, call Mrs. Gordon Dawe, 675-3557.

LENTE MEDITATION

Crucifixion -- A violent death

As we draw closer to Holy Week, our attention will become fixed upon the Passion and death of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. I think that we sometimes fail to realize the pain and violence that is involved in death by crucifixion; or perhaps we have gone through so many Good Fridays that we fail to be impressed anymore with what the crucifixion really entailed.

Crucifixion was a violent and painful form of death. For Christ it would not only mean physical pain but also the mental anguish of knowing that within a few hours, one of His Apostles betrayed Him; one of His Apostles denied Him three times and a crowd of people released a common criminal, Barabbas, and condemned Him to death. The very things Christ preached about, love, justice and forgiveness, were denied Him at the mock trial. Consequently, Jesus was condemned to death.

Prior to the Crucifixion, it was customary to have the victim scourged or whipped. According to Jewish law a person was scourged or whipped 40 times minus one. A belt-type whip was used. However, the Romans had a more painful scourging since the executioner used a short piece of wood to which was attached several strips of leather. At the end of the leather strips was a piece of bone or small piece of metal which would rip into the flesh of the person being whipped.

Unlike the Jewish law, the Roman law had no set number of stripes to be administered. The idea was to weaken the criminal to the point of death without actually killing him, but sparing him to die on the cross. Roman scourging was called "halfway death." Christ was scourged according to the Roman Law. His flesh would have been ripped by the bones and metal every time the leather whip smashed against His back and rib cage. During the scourging, the condemned person was tied to a post or thick stone column which had two rings attached to it. The prisoners both hands would be tied to the rings on the post.

After Christ's scourging at the pillar, he eventually was made to carry His cross. The Phoenicians were the first to devise crucifixion. They wanted a means of punishing criminals slowly and inexorably. Boiling in oil was too quick of a death. The Romans adopted the cross as a means of deterring crime. They wanted the death to be slow, but not that slow that they would waste too many

hours watching the victims die. So scourging sapped the strength of the criminal and if the person didn't die on the cross within a few hours after being nailed to it, the legs of the criminal would be broken or a spear would be thrust into the body to finally kill him. The soldiers would then be free to go after a few hours.

Another aspect of crucifixion was the humility and nudity involved in such a public death. Christ, also wore the crown made out of a type of firewood that abounds in Jerusalem and was probably used by the soldiers to make fires in the cool of the night. This wood has sharp spikes or thorns. For Christ the ridicule attached to the crowning was perhaps more painful than the physical pain of the crown itself.

Jesus carried His cross from the praetorium until the procession left the town. The distance from the praetorium to golgotha (Skull-Place) where Christ was crucified was about 3000 feet (over a half-mile). The scripture writers tell us that a man by the name of Simon was employed by the soldiers to help Jesus carry the cross, because they wanted to be assured that he would not die on the way.

One can imagine the excruciating pain involved in the driving in of the nails. Christ was nailed to the cross hands and feet. Once the person was nailed to the cross it was put in the upright position and the painful death started. Usually the head of the person would lower, with chin touching chest. Moved by sudden spasms, his head would move from side to side gasping for air. When his body weakened and sagged again from fatigue

its weight hung on the nails would send sharp pain through the arms and into the shoulders. The pain in the wrists (where Christ was probably nailed and not the hands as customarily believed) would become unbearable. Cramps would set into the muscles of the forearms and upper arms. The muscles at the sides of his chest would become paralyzed and the person found that he could draw air into his lungs but was powerless to exhale. The result was a continuous struggle on the part of the hanging victim to push upwards off his nailed feet in order to breathe. But unable to withstand the pain in the feet and weakened in strength the victim would once again sag until he needed air again and the process would be repeated. The victim was actually suffocating.

Through all this agony, Christ would speak from the cross. He would promise Paradise to a thief dying next to Him; He would ask John to care for His mother; but the most astonishing words that come from the cross when we consider the pain and agony and torment that was inflicted upon Christ; the most astonishing words that come from the cross when we consider the violence of crucifixion and the physical and mental pain that Christ underwent; the most astonishing words that come from the cross to all of us who take Christ's death for granted and fail to amend our lives and continue to live in sin; the most astonishing words that come from the cross are "Father Forgive them!"

Rev. Thomas D. Skotek
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Master's group to sing at Harveys Lake

The well-known musical group, "The Master's" will appear at the Emmanuel Assembly of God Church, Harveys Lake, on Sunday, March 19, for the morning worship service beginning at 10:45 a.m. This group is well-known for their Gospel music and each have had the personal experience of Jesus Christ, which they share with others in word and song.

The group consisting of Mark and Dusie Dreistadt,

Tom and Bonnie Hess, and Anne Emma have traveled many miles throughout the Northeast, appearing at churches, banquets, concerts, revivals, and camp meetings sharing the love of Christ with others.

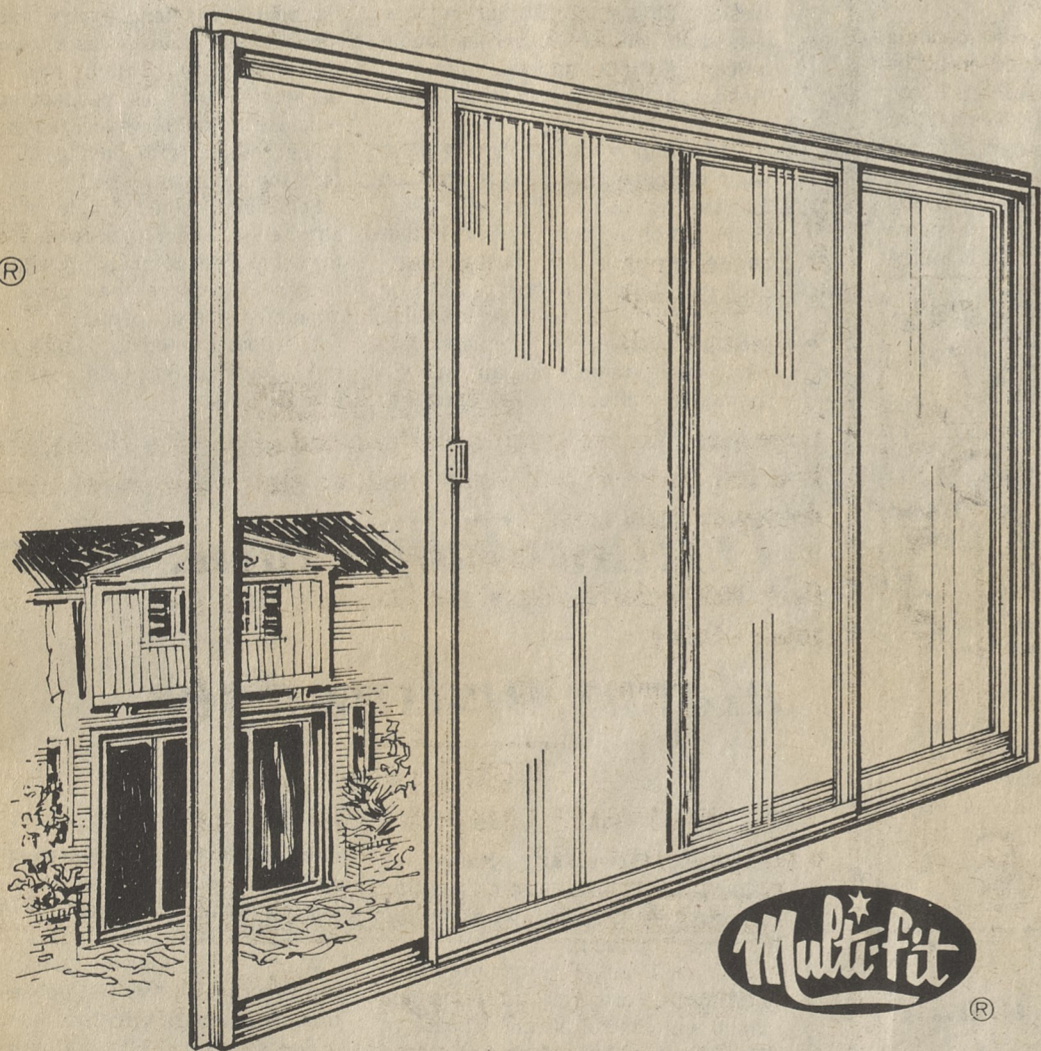
The "Masters" will be appearing only in one service, so plan to attend. For further information, contact the church office at 639-5858.

Seafood dinner at Kunkle

Because of the inclement weather, the seafood dinner sponsored by the Kunkle United Methodist Church Women on March 18 will be held in the Kunkle

Fire Hall instead of the Kunkle Community Hall. The dinners will be served from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner may be purchased from any of the members.

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