

Owatonna



Council 945

The Key

to greater Council unity.

MARCH
2010

COLUMBIAN CENTER

820 Elm Avenue South
P.O. Box 623
Owatonna, MN 55060
507.451.6103

KC LOUNGE

Open: Mon-Sat 3:30-12:30
Happy hour Mon-Fri 4 - 6
Free Hors d'oeuvres during
Friday happy hour.
Member discount for Hall
rental.

BAR BINGO

Every Tuesday in the
Lounge at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Officers Meeting - KC Hall,
First Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

General Meeting - KC Hall,
Second Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Degree Meeting - KC Hall,
Fourth Thursday 7:30 p.m.

KC WEBSITE

visit our website
www.kofccouncil945.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 3 - Officers' Meeting
and Gambling Meeting
KC Hall - 7:30 p.m.

March 5 - Benefit Lenten Fish Fry
KC Hall - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Msgr. Henry Speck Assembly

March 8 - Building Meeting
KC Hall - 7:00 p.m.

March 10 - General Meeting
Program - 7:30 p.m.
Meeting - 8:00 p.m.

March 12 - Benefit Lenten Fish Fry
KC Hall - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Compassionate Friends & Birthright

March 14 - Benefit Breakfast
St. Mary's School
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Music Boosters

March 19 - Benefit Lenten Fish Fry
KC Hall - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Steele County Special Deputies

March 20 - Spaghetti Dinner and
Silent Auction to Honor Jerry Kent
St. Mary's School Cafeteria
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

March 25 - Fourth Degree
Business Meeting
KC Hall - 7:30 p.m.

March 26 - Benefit Lenten Fish Fry
KC Hall - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's REP and CYO

COMING EVENTS

OFFICERS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 3
KC Hall
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Music Boosters Benefit Breakfast

Sunday, March 14, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
at St. Mary's School

Music by St. Mary's Band & Vocal Students
from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Now, more sensational breakfast choices!

"KC Omelet breakfasts"

The Twins omelet - ham & cheese
The Viking omelet - ham & cheese,
with sauteed onions, red & green peppers
The Wild omelet - cheese,
with sauteed onions, red & green peppers
Each served with pancakes or French Toast,
milk and coffee

"Country Breakfast"

Pancakes or French toast; ham or sausage, eggs
- scrambled or fried-to-order, milk, and coffee

All with table service - delicious food served hot
from the grill to your table.
\$5.50 - advance, \$6.00 at the door
Everyone is welcome.

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction to Honor Jerry Kent

Saturday, March 20
St. Mary's School Cafeteria
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Jerry was recently diagnosed with pancreatic
cancer and is currently undergoing treatment.
Auction items and baskets can be dropped off at
the K of C Club during club hours
3:30 p.m. - close.

March Madness

Stop at the Club to watch the NCAA hoop action
on our big screen. Chance to win great prizes.

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 10
Program - 7:30 p.m.
Speaker will be Glen Meger. Glen will share some of
his unusual experiences in the funeral business.
General Meeting - 8:00 p.m.



BENEFIT LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Every Friday during Lent
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the KC Hall
Presale tickets - \$8.00 for adults
(available at the KC Lounge)
\$8.50 at the door

Kids under six eat free
Dinner served in the Lounge and in the Hall.
Fried fish or Baked Fish Plate
Whipped potatoes with country gravy,
vegetable, cole slaw, roll, milk, and coffee

Beneficiaries

Feb. 26 Healthy Seniors
March 5 Msgr. Henry Speck Assembly
March 12 Compassionate Friends & Birthright
March 19 Steele County Special Deputies
March 26 St. Mary's REP and CYO
April 2 Izaak Walton League

Spaghetti Supper to benefit the Cub/Boy Scouts of Owatonna

St. Mary's Cafeteria
Tuesday, March 23 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
If you would like to help, contact
Jim Gleason at 451-8473 or 676-0271.

St. Patrick's Day
March 17
Corned Beef and Cabbage Meal
Served in the Lounge
6:00 p.m. (or until we run out)

Fishing Contest Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 27
Social - 5:00 p.m.
Meal - 6:00 p.m.
Call Mark at the K of C Lounge for details.

Chaplain's Message by Rev. Edward McGrath

Lent, our retreat, is a time to slow down, step back, take stock, repent, do penance, and prepare. Prepare for what? The revelation of God's love in the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, now accessible through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps this lent is accompanied by a job loss. Slowing down, stepping back and taking stock are not really a choice, they are imposed! How do we find God's love in such turmoil? If one were in Haiti, the question is quite desperate.

Our great cultural version of pride and egoism, self sufficiency, has consequences for each person. Particularly, there is the tendency to see oneself as above and against others, especially in anger, fear and resentment. Closed in on oneself, one becomes suspicious and competitive, blaming and defensive - the loss of the Garden of Eden all over again, coupled with the mistaken belief that I can save myself.

So, what can I do? Simply tend to the heart. I bring my state before the Lord with our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent helps me open up more and more to the love of God that comes to us in Christ. I humbly open the mind and heart to someone more and greater. I need God. I need others, which means I need his Church.

Then, with a humble and contrite heart, I can better use the grace of my baptism and confirmation. I am better disposed, then, to live in this difficult world with its contradictions and challenges to faith, life and love believing the truth that Christ has set me free.

Faith, fraternalism and patriotism, the values of the Knights of Columbus, take on a practical importance these days and in these difficult economic times. Whatever the circumstances I find myself in - sufficiency or want, health or illness, doubt or certainty - lent can bring clarity to the mind and peace to the heart when we embrace its discipline with Christ.

Benefits Corner by Jim Motz - Area Field agent

This past year was a momentous one for the Knights of Columbus Insurance program. Let me just highlight a few of the many milestones.

The Order issued more life insurance than ever before in our history: \$7.57 billion. Our total insurance in force reached a new high of \$74 billion. To put this remarkable number in perspective, consider that at the end of 1999, just 10 years ago, we stood at \$38 billion.

Our annuity business saw record growth from 2008 to 2009. The number of annuity plans issued in 2009 more than doubled from those issued in 2008, with over 19,000 new annuities issued to our members and their families.

Our AAA (Extremely Strong) rating from Standard and Poor's was reaffirmed for the 17th consecutive year and our A++ (Superior) rating from A.M. Best was reaffirmed for the 34th consecutive year. Additionally, we were again certified by the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association (IMSA) for our ethical business and marketing practices. At the close of 2009, we were among only three U.S. insurers with all three of these distinctions. In Canada, we were the only insurer with these three.

Our number of associate members becoming insured members also grew, showing more of our brothers availed themselves and their families to our products. When the 2009 totals are included, we can claim that during the past five years, more than 103,000 members of the Knights of Columbus joined the ranks of our insured members by whether purchasing life insurance, long-term care or a retirement product.

What does all of this mean to you? First, it means that you can take great pride in the success your organization is having in fulfilling the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney by caring for the financial security of our members and their families. Second, in case you haven't already, this would be a great time to get on the bandwagon and have a discussion.

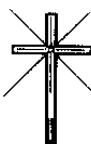
Grand Knight's Message by Bill Lawrence

Greetings Brother Knights

It seems like March is going to be a busy month...a breakfast on the 14th, a couple of spaghetti dinners on the 20th and 23rd, Lenten Fish Dinners each Friday at the Hall, getting ready for the Tootsie Roll Drive, planning for Smokin' in Steele...there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day, but fortunately there are more than 100 member Knights in our Council who are actively involved in Council activities. And, although 100 Knights sounds like a lot (it is!!!) we have more than 500 Knights in our Council who have the potential to be involved, 569 to be exact. So how can you get involved? Well...you can wait to be asked...but you can also give me a call at 451-2075 or contact Mark at the Hall. We will get your name to the chair of the event...and then it is as easy as showing up. Just showing up works pretty good too! Some of the folks I need to thank for February: Wade Schroeder for chairing our first Drug & Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest, a great program for our area Youth. Joe Elbert, Phil and Missy Walter, and Dustin Reese (boy can those folks cook!) for their gumbo and Mark Cunningham for putting on Fat Tuesday, a great Council activity at the Hall. The Breakfast Bunch (Saturday Morning prep, Sunday Morning Cooking and Serving, and Sunday Afternoon Closers). These guys continue the long-standing KC tradition of helping our Community. So, as you are reading this Key, get your calendar and your phone out and call me. There is certainly a project or an activity that we can use your help and I guarantee that you will be glad you did.

Vivat Jesus

Aid & Assistance by Greg Nelson



Please remember in your prayers and thoughts all of our sick or injured members of the Knights of Columbus and their families. Let's also offer up prayers for all deceased members and their families.

Let us be united in prayer for those facing ongoing challenges...

Jack Dillemath, Lois Doyle, Mary Floersch, Gene Gallea, Marge Gruzebeck, Rose Hoffman, Erlis Kelzenberg, Jerry Kent, Renee Kern, Marlys Knight, Marlyn Kuck, Mary Ann Lammers, Bev Macht, Mary Meixner, Bob McDermott, Suzanne Miedema, Father Ed Mountain, Dorothy Mulert, Terry Nelson, Terry O'Brien, Karen Pirkl, Sylvia Prokopec, Sharon Rohwer, John Schmidt, Howard Snyder, Jeanine Snyder, Becky Walsh, Gary Wandrey, Jerry Weber, Rownell Weber, Phyllis Wheeler, Irene Wierzbinski, and Jim Wierzbinski.

INMEMORY

Please remember in your prayers the following individuals and their families:

David Rysavy, brother-in-law of Brother Knight Gary Wandrey, passed away on January 21.

Mary Ruiter, mother of Brother Knight Dan Ruiter, passed away on February 10.

If anyone knows of a Brother Knight who is sick or injured, please call Greg Nelson at 455-3976.

Membership by LaVerne Klecker

Congratulations to our eight new member, they are David Lax, Timothy Flattery, Daniel Wolfe, Brandon Pofahl, Tony Nguyen, Gerald Lynch, Justin Kuhlman, and Ben Lampiainen. We will have more information on our eight new members in the April Key. Thank you to the Brother Knights who helped with the Major Degree, Chuck Walerius, George Zwack, and Pete Schneider.

We are still working on our goal to achieve Star Council. We need your help in continuing to sign up new members to achieve our goal of Star Council. Contact me if you need any help signing up a new member at 451-4102 or 456-6738.

Area Students Involved in Drug and Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest

One of the new programs that the Council offered this year for our youth was a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Poster contest that was held at St. Mary's and St. Isidore's Catholic Schools. Fifty nine students competed, broken into two age categories: ages 8 to 11 and ages 12 to 14. Each of the age categories was further divided into either drug awareness or alcohol awareness. Each student was allowed to pick one of the two awareness categories and there was good participation in each of the four groups. Each of the winning students will receive a \$50.00 savings bond from the Knights of Columbus local Council 945 and be forwarded on to compete further at a state level.

Winners for the age 8 - 11 age group were **Rebecca Olson** (Drug Awareness) and **Kenny Johnson** (Alcohol Awareness).

Winners for the 12 - 14 age group were **Mark Hanson** (Drug Awareness) and **Luke Berkley** (Alcohol Awareness).

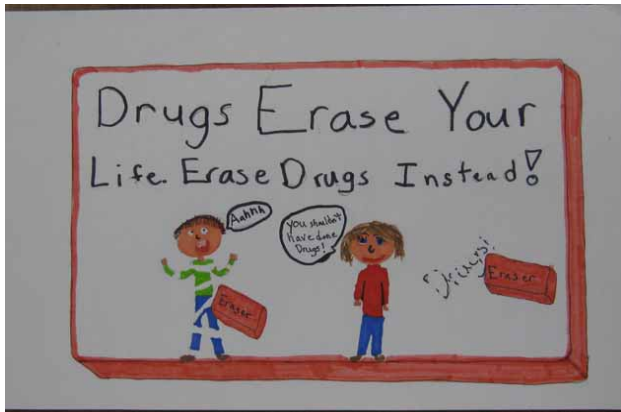
Posters were judged on creativity and originality of the poster slogan, the overall eye appeal, and the clarity of the message of each of the entries. Judging the contest were **Mary Hawkins**, principal of St. Mary's / St. Isidore's schools, **Wade Schroeder**, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Poster Chair, **Bill Lawrence**, Grand Knight Council 945, and **Sergeants Jason Petterson** and **Jeffrey Mundale** of the Owatonna Police Department.

Chair Wade Schroeder was impressed by the creativity and the talent shown in the entries. Schroeder shared, "each of the kids did a great job and because of the many great posters the students put together, picking just one for each group proved to be a challenge."

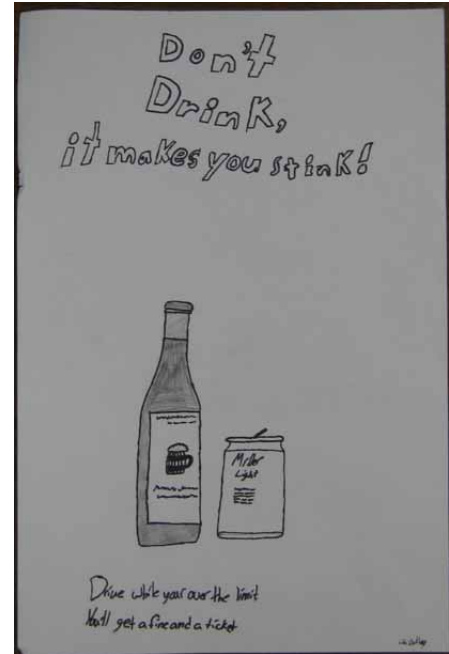
Each of the students who participated received a certificate of appreciation for their participation.



Mary Hawkins, St. Mary's & St. Isidore's School Principal, Wade Schroeder, Drug & Alcohol Poster Contest Chair, and Sergeants Jeffrey Mundale and Jason Petterson of the Owatonna Police Department review posters for on creativity and originality of the poster slogan, the overall eye appeal, and the clarity of the message of each of the entries.



Rebecca Olson: WINNER age 8-11 Drug Awareness



Luke Berkley: WINNER age 12-14 Alcohol Awareness



Kenny Johnson: WINNER age 8-11 Alcohol awareness



Mark Hanson WINNER age 12-14 Drug Awareness

District Free Throw Contest Held in Owatonna

The St. Mary's School gymnasium was the site of the District # 32 free throw contest held on January 18. The District contest is made up of shooters from Blooming Prairie, Medford, Owatonna, and Waseca. All of these contestants were winners at their local Council contest held earlier in January.

Contestants attempted 25 free throws and the shooters making the most baskets were the winners in their gender/age group.

Here are the winners and the council they represent:

Boys Age 10	Oakley Baker, Owatonna	21 baskets
Girls Age 10	Madelyn Kuck, Owatonna	17 baskets
Boys Age 11	Nathan Deason, Owatonna	17 + 3+ 5 baskets (tie breaker)
Girls Age 11	Caitlin Anderson, Owatonna	14 baskets
Boys Age 12	Trevor Tracy, Owatonna	20 baskets
No Girls Age 12 contestants		
Boys Age 13	Cole Butler, Owatonna	19 baskets
Girls Age 13	Katie Tlusty, Waseca	18 baskets
Boys Age 14	Kade Cronin, Medford	21 baskets
Girls Age 14	Emily Emanuelson, Owatonna	15 baskets

These winners will advance to the Region 3 Championship which will be held at Rochester Lourdes High School on March 14.

Event organizer, Dustin Reese, offers his congratulations to the winners and thanks to these workers for their help with this event:

Tim Rice, Tony Blakstad, Steve Dornquast, Casey Connor, Gary Nelson, Andy Oberstien

William Warner Scholarships Available

Application forms are now available at Steele County High School Career Centers.

Criteria for the William Warner Scholarship administered by the Knights of Columbus:

- * Applicants must be planning to attend a Catholic School.
- * Applicants must be a member of the Catholic Church.
- * Applicant must be average or above in academic achievement.
- * Applicant must not have previously been awarded a Knights of Columbus/William Warner Scholarship.
- * Applicant should be an active participant in school, church, and community activities.
- * Sons or daughters of Knights of Columbus or deceased Knights shall receive preference.
- * Applicant must not be currently attending or have previously attended college or vocational school.
- * Applicant must be a member of the current senior class or a graduate of a Steele County High School.
- * Applications must be submitted by **APRIL 1** to:
Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 945, Owatonna, MN 55060
- * There must be some degree of financial need.
- * Applicant must be accepted by a college or vocational school.



KC's donate \$4,000.00 to St. Mary's for Wolf Ridge Trip.

Grand Knight Bill Lawrence is shown here donating a check for \$4,000.00 to St. Mary's School from the Knights of Columbus Council 945 to help defray the costs of the 8th grade students traveling to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, Minnesota. Accepting the check is Mary Hawkins, principal of St. Mary's, and 8th graders Colin Titus and Callie Rezac who will be traveling to Wolf Ridge in April.

2009-10 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain: Rev. Ed McGrath
GRAND KNIGHT: Bill Lawrence - 451-2075
Deputy Grand Knight: Steve Dornquist
Chancellor: Randy Balausk
Advocate: Wade Schroeder
Warden: Dustin Reese
Inside Guard: Pete Schneider
Outside Guard: Tom Burke
Financial Secretary: John Ahlberg
Treasurer: Tom Eichten
Recorder: Scot Berkley
Trustee (3 year): PGK Brian Fisher
Trustee (2 year): PGK Al Nelson
Trustee (1 year): PGK Joe Elbert

DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN

Program Director: Steve Dornquist
Adv/Publicity Director: Open
Church Director: Pete Schneider
Community Director: Jim Gleason
Council Activity Director: PGK Kevin Raney
Family Director: Open
Health Director: Dr. Mark Nelson
Recruit Director: PGK Mark Cunningham
Youth Director: Will Pieper
Membership Director: PGK LaVerne Klecker
Aid & Assistance: Greg Nelson
Lecturer: Mark Cunningham
Historian: Open
Retention Chairman: PGK LaVerne Klecker
KC Chorus Director: Stephen Nelson
Building Comm Chairman: Tom Elbert
Gambling Manager: Open
District Deputy: PGK Tim Rice
KC Hall Manager: PGK Mark Cunningham
Benefits Advisor: Aaron Jelinek

Knight of the Month



John Ahlberg

Council 945's Knight of the Month for January is John Ahlberg. The announcement was made at the regular February Council meeting by Grand Knight Bill Lawrence. In making the announcement, Bill said, "we are very fortunate to have someone with John's experience and background in the position of Financial Secretary. He does an exceptional job in this very important position."

A native of Marengo, Iowa, John joined the Knights of Columbus in 1992 in Urbandale, Iowa. When asked about his favorite KC projects, he mentioned three; participating in exemplifications, working at the fair stand, and taking part in the Respect Life Rosary March. As mentioned earlier, he serves Council 945 as Financial Secretary, a position he assumed in March of 2009.

Ahlberg is an Iowa Hawkeye, having graduated from the University of Iowa at Iowa City where he majored in accounting. He is employed by Agristrand Biocomposites as the Chief Financial Officer.

John and his wife of 19 years, Angie, are members of Sacred Heart Church where they both play an active role in parish life. They both serve on the stewardship committee and the mentor couple program, a preparation program for people contemplating marriage. In addition, John is a Eucharistic Minister. The Ahlbergs have four children; Will is 18, Emma, 16, Mary, 13, and Olivia who is 9.

Besides his KC activities, John enjoys following his children in their various activities. He is also likes the outdoors, especially hunting and hiking.

Congratulations to our January Knight of the Month, John Ahlberg!

KC Benefit Breakfast Team does double duty

The KC benefit breakfast team served up two excellent breakfast fundraiser events this month. St. Mary's School held an open house on January 31, which included a special KC sponsored breakfast for their open house guests. They were treated to the debut of the new KC omelet breakfast.

The response to the omelet breakfast was so favorable the decision was made to add omelets to our regular benefit breakfast menu. When asked about the new addition to the breakfast menu, Frank Conley made this lengthy comment, "Our Council is blessed with many very talented, creative, and energetic members. These guys are incredible. We have more talent and experience with our breakfast team than most restaurants. To prove this point, they designed and added our new omelet breakfast in manner which allows every meal to be cooked-to-order and served hot to the table in less time that before. The new 'Omelet Breakfast' includes three omelets: The Twins omelet with ham and cheese; The Viking omelet with ham and cheese, sauteed onions, red and green peppers; The Wild omelet with cheese, sauteed onions, red and green peppers. Each of these are served with the choice of pancakes or French toast. These omelets, with or without salsa, are delicious. We still have our original 'Country Breakfast' which includes: Pancakes or French toast; ham or sausage; eggs scrambled or fried-to-order; coffee and milk. You'll wonder if our cashier, Bill Foreman, made a mistake when he only charged \$6.00 for such great breakfast selections. This is clearly the best breakfast value in town."

The second benefit breakfast event was held for the Owatonna Area Exchange Club on Sunday, February 14, at St. Mary's School. The Exchange Club members always do well with advance ticket sales and a hard-working dining room staff. Successful advance ticket sales helped the breakfast raise \$1,726.50 for the Exchange Club. Vickie Skala from the Exchange Club commented, "This fundraiser is very important to us. We appreciate being on the schedule."

Thanks to our excellent Knights of Columbus Breakfast Team. The Sunday team included: *Keven Boettcher, Tom Burke & son Tyler, Brian Carlson, Frank Conley, Steve Dornquist, Bill Foreman, Steve Fisher, Roger Green, Ron Heim, Dennis Kelm, Jim Kaplan, LaVerne Klecker, Doug Kloos, Todd Koan, Terry Kuck, Bill Lawrence, Larry Mullert, Al Nelson, Dave Pfeifer, Wade Schroeder, LaVern Soukup, Eric Tucker, Eric Wandersee, Rick Wittrock, and Dave Wunderlich.*

The Saturday prep team included: *Gerry Barry, Frank Conley, Bob Grebe, John Henry, Al Jirele, Tom Kingsley, LaVerne Klecker, Al Nelson, John Oberstien, Lyle Snider, Earl Wheeler, Jim Wiggins, and Ron Wolf.*

Special thanks to our breakfast closers: *Frank Conley, LaVerne Klecker, Al Nelson, Dave Pfeifer, Chuck Walerius, John Wheeler, and Dave Wunderlich.* And welcome to our newest closer: *Dick Thamert.* We have many workers, so if we missed anyone, please accept our apologies.

Mark your calendar for March 14 and try the great new breakfast menu at the benefit breakfast for St. Mary's Music Boosters. This breakfast will also feature music by the children in St. Mary's music program. Your support is very important and is appreciated.

A heckler asked Bishop Fulton Sheen a question about someone who had died. The Bishop replied, "I will ask him when I get to heaven." The heckler replied, "What if he isn't in Heaven?" The Bishop replied, "Well then you ask him."

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council No. 945
P.O. Box 945
Owatonna, MN 55060

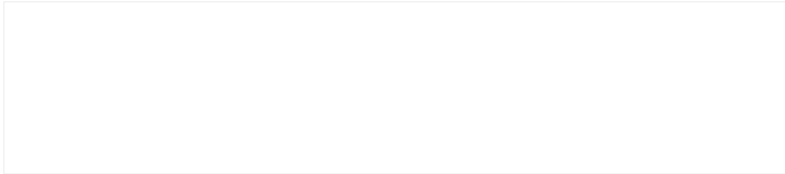
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Benefit Breakfast
St. Mary's Music Boosters
March 14 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. St. Mary's School

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction to Honor Jerry Kent
Saturday, March 20 - 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's School Cafeteria

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Owatonna, MN
Permit No. 202



MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm	3 Officers' Mtg and Gambling Mtg. - 7:30 pm	4	5 Benefit Lenten Fish Dinners Msgr. Henry Speck Assembly 5:00 - 7:00 pm	6
7	8 Bldg Mtg - 7:00 pm	9 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm	10 General Meeting Program - 7:30 pm Meeting - 8:00 pm	11	12 Benefit Lenten Fish Dinners Compassionate Friends & Birthright 5:00 - 7:00 pm	13
14 Benefit Breakfast St. Mary's School 8:00 am-12:30 pm St. Mary's Music Boosters	15	16 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage KC Lounge 6:00 pm	18	19 Benefit Lenten Fish Dinners Steele County Special Deputies 5:00 - 7:00 pm	20 Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction to Honor Jerry Kent St. Mary's School Cafeteria 4:30 - 7:30 pm
21	22	23 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm Spaghetti Supper Cub/Boy Scouts St. Mary's Cafeteria 5:00 - 7:00 pm	24	25 Fourth Degree Business Meeting KC Hall - 7:30 pm	26 Benefit Lenten Fish Dinners St. Mary's REP and CYO 5:00 - 7:00 pm	27 Fishing Contest Awards Banquet KC Hall Social - 5:00 pm Meal - 6:00 pm
28	29	30 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm	31			