

Religion

5-E

★ SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 17, 2008

■ Call Donna Abramczyk: 1-734-246-0853

LENTEN PROGRAMS

"What is it we are to believe?" is the theme of a series of Lenten services to be held at **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**, 9601 Pardee, Taylor. The services are set for 1 and 7 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12. For more information, call 1-313-291-4400.

Lent is being observed at the **First United Methodist Church of Lincoln Park** with a program called the "Monk's Board, Transforming the Ordinary into the Extraordinary!"

The programs are held at 5:45 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12, and begin with a "frugal meal" of soup and bread, followed by a series of activities and round-table discussions that explore how Christianity affects participants' thoughts and behaviors.

The church is at 1734 Fort Park St. For more information, call 1-313-928-5250.

A unique Lenten course called "A Complaint-Free World" is being presented by **Unity Chapel of Southgate's** pastor, the Rev. Virgil Brewer, at the church, 14951 North Line.

The program, originated by the Rev. Will Bowen in Kansas City, Mo., is designed to get people to think and speak constructively, instead of always complaining. To do that, participants wear a purple bracelet on one arm. Every time they complain, criticize, gossip or make a negative comment, the bracelet is switched to the other arm.

The bracelets and Bowen's book are available in the Unity Chapel bookstore. For more information, call 1-734-285-7722.

Throughout the Lenten season at **St. Joseph Catholic Church** in Trenton, Stations of the Cross will be held by St. Joseph School students at 2 p.m. Fridays and at 7 p.m. by parish commissions. The church is at 2565 Third St. For more information, call 1-734-676-9082.

Foxes, donkeys, camels, doves, hens and eagles will reveal spiritual truth during the Lenten season at **Rockwood First Congregational Church**. During services of drama, music and message, lessons will be learned from several of God's creatures about who Jesus was and what he came to do for all humanity on the cross at 7 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12.

The services are open to everyone. The church is at 22600 Mather St. For more information or directions to the church, call 1-734-379-3711.

The Rev. Robert Mossett and Sister Loretta Fahey will lead a Lenten retreat this month at **St. Constance Catholic Church**, 21555 Kinyon, Taylor.

The retreat, to be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each day next Sunday through Feb. 27, will focus on Salesian spirituality, which explores time in our lives and is based on the teachings of St. Francis de Sales, a 16th century French bishop. Each presentation will close with the celebration of Mass, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 1-313-291-4050.

Lenten programs sponsored by the Downriver Cluster of United Methodist churches will begin with chalk artist Rodney Snow at 7 p.m. today at **First UMC of Trenton**, 2610 W. Jefferson.

At 4 p.m. March 9, a choir fest featuring several church choirs, will take place at the **First UMC of Flat Rock**, 28400 Evergreen.

At **St. Elizabeth Catholic Church**, 138 Goodell, Wyandotte, Stations of the Cross will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Fridays, followed by Mass at 7 p.m. Worshipers are asked to bring in food to donate to the Samaritan Assistance Center. For more information, call 1-734-284-7727.

Ministers of several Wyandotte churches are exchanging pulpits for a series of Wednesday evening Lenten worship services that will be at 7:30 p.m. and focus on "Journey to the Cross."

This week, the Rev. Arthur Berg, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will be at the **Downriver Corps of the Salvation Army**, 1258 Biddle Ave.

The Rev. Sue Walls, pastor of Glenwood United Methodist Church, will preach Feb. 27 at **First Presbyterian Church of Wyandotte**, 2250 Oak St. The Rev. Dr. Alan Hanson, pastor of First United Methodist Church, will be at the March 5 service at **St. John United Church of Christ**, 2744 Fourth St.

For the first time at **St. Alfred** parish in Taylor, a Lenten mission is being held in Spanish, as well as in English. The bilingual event — "Jesus Asks Us, 'What do you want me to do for you?'" — will continue with the Rev. James Keen, St. Alfred's pastor, on Thursday, and Bishop Daniel Flores on Feb. 28.

The evenings will include Mass, the mission presentation and fellowship. Child-care is available. For more information, call Pastoral Minister Janet Diaz at 1-313-291-6464, ext. 105. The church is at 9500 Banner St.

New home for Holy Incarnation

Year-old Orthodox parish buys building

BY DONNA ABRAMCZYK
THE NEWS-HERALD

Just a year after their first worship service and setting the goal of having their own church "home," members of Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church have purchased their own building.

The fledgling church has been leasing space at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Taylor, and this move to the former Integrity Christian Fellowship building in Lincoln Park represents an important step in the re-establishment of a Western Rite Orthodox parish in metropolitan Detroit, said the Rev. John Fenton, Holy Incarnation's pastor.

Western Rite parishes are Orthodox parishes that use the liturgical traditions of European Christianity, such as the Sunday Masses, which follow the historic Latin or Roman rite, Fenton said.

"All of our services are in English," Fenton said, "but the order of worship, customs and liturgical art follows a pattern familiar to most Christians in Europe and America."

The church is advertised as "the ancient way" in the way of life, prayer and teaching, the priest said, because it adheres to the practices of the early Christian church.

Although the Roman and Eastern churches separated during the Great Schism of 1054, the Roman church maintained its Latin style of worship until the reforms of the 1960s.

"The services look very much like pre-Vatican II American services," he said.

As an Orthodox parish in the Western tradition, Holy Incarnation uses worship that conforms to the pre-schism rite that is approved by the Western Rite Vicariate of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, headquartered in Inglewood, N.J. The church is in the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio.

"That doesn't mean we try to bring back the second century," he said. "It means stability, that the way of life doesn't change."

The Antiochian Orthodox Christians have the largest number of English-speaking people, Fenton said, most of whom are second- and third-generation Americans.

From 1975 to 2001, Incarnation Orthodox Church in Detroit served the liturgical needs of Western Rite Orthodox Christians in the Detroit area, Fenton said, and the hope is that this new church will build on the former parish's legacy to reestablish a Western Rite presence in the area.

The 46-year-old pastor's road to the Orthodoxy began while he was a Lutheran minister serving a parish in Detroit.

"On my mother's side, my Lutheran heritage goes back to the beginning of Lutheranism," Fenton said, "and my



Larry Caruso/Photo Editor

The Rev. John Fenton unlocks the door of the new home for his parish, Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church, in Lincoln Park. The Antiochian Orthodox church has been leasing space in a Taylor church for the past year.

father was Lutheran.

"The discovery that the Lutheran faith wasn't what I'd grown up with, and also, changes in me, led to questions."

The more he studied the history of liturgy, the more he saw the benefit of a stable liturgy that had maintained its integrity through the centuries, he said.

Through prayer and discernment over a few years, he resigned in 2006. He had been a Lutheran minister for 16 years.

"I had been very open with the parish," he said. "Some were surprised, but most saw something coming. Some even followed me into Orthodoxy."

Because of his Lutheran seminary studies and degrees, Fenton was required

to be priests in the Orthodox church; however, single priests can't marry once they are ordained.

Fenton, also a teacher at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic High School in Allen Park, has been married for 25 years to his wife, Julie, and they have six children ranging in age from 2 to 21 years old.

Students call him "Father," just as they do the Rev. Joseph Mallia, Cabrini's pastor, who he counts as a friend. In his world religions classes, Orthodoxy is covered, Fenton said.

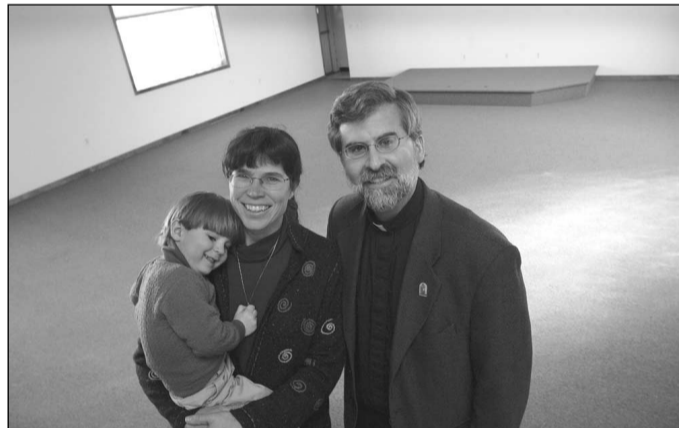
"The kids ask a lot of questions, especially since I have two children who are students at Cabrini," he said.

Services will continue to be held at the current location, 23045 Wick Road, Taylor, until the new church at 1385 Goddard, Lincoln Park, can be renovated, perhaps by Easter, which Orthodox Christians will celebrate this year on April 27, following the Julian calendar.

Currently Sunday lauds are at 11 a.m., followed by Mass at 11:30. Saturdays; vespers are at 6 p.m., and Thursday Masses are at 7 p.m.

"We invite people, especially those who don't go to church any more, to come worship with us," Fenton said. "We already have a life chaotic; one place we can have calm is inside the church. I learned that in the inner city."

More information about Holy Incarnation is available by calling Fenton at 1-313-282-6153 or e-mailing him at frfenton@holyncarnation.org, or visiting www.holyncarnation.org on the Web.



With his wife, Julie, and youngest son, 2-year-old James, the Rev. John Fenton surveys the new worship space of Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church. Members hope to have the church ready for Easter worship.

only to take some continuing education courses prior to his ordination last year.

Almost immediately, he was assigned to start a mission church Downriver.

Unlike their Roman Catholic counterparts, men who already are married can

UNDER DOWNRIVER SPIRES

Growing up

"God's Plan for Growing Up" program for mothers and their daughters 13 to 17 years old will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 29 in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School auditorium, 2609 Tenth St., Wyandotte. The session for fathers, or another adult, and their sons will be held March 7.

The program is based on the context of the late Pope John Paul II's teaching on the "Theology of the Body" and includes such topics as how the body prepares for motherhood or fatherhood, the reproductive system, the virtue of chastity and sacredness of human life, all provided in an atmosphere of love and open discussion.

The cost is \$15 for each family. For more information, call Debbie Bloomfield, 1-734-283-9753.

Concert

The trio Glory Bound will perform at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Heritage Park Baptist Church, 12550 Pardee, Taylor. The trio, composed of John and Kelli Tokarczyk and Mary Romero, will be joined by various other

local talents at the concert. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call 1-734-287-8630.

Christian Women

Dori McPherson, a teacher at Schoolcraft College, will talk about "Gone With the Wind,"

based on Proverbs 22:6 and I Samuel 16:7, at the Feb. 26 meeting of the Downriver Christian Women's Fellowship at the Westfield Activities Center, 2700 Westfield Road, Trenton. Alice Ferguson, the group's vice president, will be the soloist.

A potluck lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m., followed by the program, which will conclude by 2 p.m. Those who attend are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table settings. Free-will donations will be accepted. For more information, call 1-734-676-5493.

Acts to play at Christian music fest

Sixteen Christian bands and singers will share their talents at "Winter Exalt," a two-day musical extravaganza set for Saturday and next Sunday at Bethel Assembly of God, 2984 Fort St., Lincoln Park.

In addition, a special worship service will be held at 11 a.m. next Sunday.

Two stages will be set up in the hall and sanctuary for the musicians, who will play from 2:30 to 9 p.m. each day. Musical styles will include gospel, rock 'n' roll, folk, country, alternative and praise.

Saturday's lineup will begin with Dan Scott, followed by Crimson Grace,

Outta the Belly, Mission Grace, Paul McKenzie, Sounds of Imani, the Immortals and Kindred Nation.

Performing next Sunday will be Not Our Own, Binding Faith, Avery Shelton, Ron Chambers, William Reynolds, Midst of Lions, The In Ones and Tim Murphy.

The event is free, and food will be available to purchase at a modest price. Freewill offerings and donated canned goods will be given to the Blessed Hope Mission in Lincoln Park.

All the musical artists are donating their time, and the sound system is

donated by Mike Carey Music.

Sponsored by FaithFest, the summer musical event, Winter Exalt is being organized by Celebration Ministries and a committee of volunteers from area churches.

For more details on the schedule and performers, visit the FaithFest Web site, www.faithfest.net.



Kindred Nation