



And the dark night began . . .
 “Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the church invites her children throughout the

world to come together in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord: if we honor the memory of His death and Resurrection by hearing His Word and celebrating His mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share His victory over death, and live with Him forever in God!” The Easter fire was then blessed . . . “Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the Light of the World. Make this new fire (+) holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration, and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.” And, so the powerful season of Easter has begun! We have spent the last 6 weeks preparing ourselves through fasting, prayer, and charity. Now, may we rejoice in the glory of Easter! May we *not* celebrate this day and this season as a singular remembrance of a sacred event of 2,000 years ago. But, may we take the Word of God and the Risen presence of Jesus into the core of our existence, and make Easter a complete and total *WAY OF LIFE!!* We are an “Easter” people! If we have done what we have been commanded . . . if we *live* exactly the way that Jesus did; and, if necessary, *suffer and die to this world*, then we will, one day, live forever! May we all live the command of our God, who has given us His only Son . . . and may we all bask and live in the Glory of Easter until we join the Lord Jesus in the Kingdom of His Father!

Thank you so much to Rebecca Flynn, who coordinated so many things for these celebrations of Holy Week. And, we do so appreciate the hard work and creativity of Lewis Kocher and the Music Ministry for truly enhancing the glory of our worship. I am so indebted to Rosemary Shewan and her legion of people who spent many hours cleaning the Church just before Holy Week. Speaking for all of you I thank these people . . . and so many more . . . for all they have done for us.

I wanted to give a special “Thank You” to the four young men of the Cathedral Prep Drum Line who led our Palm Sunday procession. This is the 3rd year that Peter & Joseph Stark joined us. But, this year, we also got help from Sacred Heart School alumnus Andy Billotti, along with Jerry Uht, III. It has been a great joy to have these young men as part of our celebration. And, we certainly appreciate their presence and their gift to us. I got distracted with all of the announcements at the end of Mass and failed to recognize them, and I do apologize for that. I didn’t realize it until everyone was leaving the Church. I learned early Monday morning that Jerry, III’s Dad . . . Jerry Uht, Jr. . . . died of cancer about 17 hours later. Jerry, Jr. and I have been friends since our days at Cathedral Prep, and I was with him Saturday morning before Bernie Loney’s funeral. He was doing better, but he must have taken a bad turn on Palm Sunday. I am so thankful to his son for being with us for our procession, with his Dad being so sick at St. Vincent’s. Please keep the Uht family in your prayers, for they are having a very difficult time.

I am not sure if everyone saw the front page of the “Faith” section of The Erie Times a few Saturdays ago, on the 6th. (Maybe you can still retrieve it off of the Times’ website: www.goerie.com.) Our own Katie Ahrens was the feature story, written by Dana Massing. It was very well done, talking about her ministry to the people of Sacred Heart, as well as how much she enjoys composing Sacred Music. If you remember, Katie,

along with Lewis Kocher, have composed the Responsorial Psalms for Advent & Lent this past year, and they have been wonderful!

It is now Easter. And, the celebration of this great Feast will last for the next 7 weeks, until the Feast of Pentecost on May 11th. Remember, Lent had no meaning unless it was celebrated with our hearts and minds focused on Easter. Many people do many different things to honor Lent . . . they give up something . . . they pray more . . . maybe attend daily Mass, or read the Scriptures daily . . . all kinds of wonderful things. But, Lent gives way to Easter. So, if you were one of those who did all kinds of great things for Lent, *what will you do for Easter?* Will you resume a behavior that you tried to give up? Will you stop attending daily Mass? Will you not read the Scriptures every day? Will you not pray as much . . . all because Lent is over? *What will you now do for Easter?*

This next week is the Octave of Easter, and it is to be celebrated as one, long, Easter Day. Celebrate the Feast!

Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

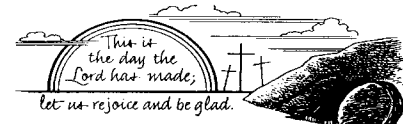
	Mar. 16, 2008	Mar. 17, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$215.00	\$118.00
Easter Flower Offering	\$926.00	\$134.00
Sacrificial Giving	\$8,281.86	\$5,799.00
Amount Needed	\$7,250.00	
Over/(Short)	\$1,031.86	

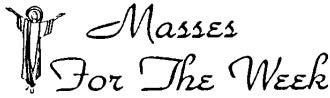
(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 700 families of the parish, 384 envelopes (55%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$21.57**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.

OPERATION RICE BOWL - Easter Sunday

Alleluia! We celebrate new life in Christ as people around the world celebrate the great feast of Easter. We also celebrate with them their newfound hope because of the assistance they receive through our efforts directed to them by way of *Operation Rice Bowl*. Our **prayers** do make a difference. Our **fasting** has helped us become aware of our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Our **almsgiving** has generated funds for Catholic Relief Services to continue to assist people in the areas of agriculture, water and sanitation, micro finance, healthcare for mothers and children, and education projects. We join with our brothers and sisters around the world in singing “Alleluia!” for the wonders we have wrought through *Operation Rice Bowl*. Thank you for taking part in the Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Services’ *Operation Rice Bowl*.

Money that you have saved throughout the Season of Lent in your **Rice Bowl** may be turned in to the regular collection basket (in an envelope *clearly marked for Operation Rice Bowl*). It would be helpful if you converted the change into bills or write out a check to *Sacred Heart Church*. We will make sure that it is forwarded to Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for participating.





Monday, March 24th - Easter Monday
 8:30 - Bettie Nuber Weber - Mary and Rose Marie Radomski
Tuesday, March 25th - Easter Tuesday
 8:30 - Robert Sigler - Ruth and Bob Wehrer
Wednesday, March 26th - Easter Wednesday
 8:30 - Luigi Ferrante- Family
Thursday, March 27th - Easter Thursday
 8:30 - Winnie Fetzner - Ruth and Bob Wehrer
Friday, March 28th - Easter Friday
 8:30 - Bud Cooney - Rita Zula
Saturday, March 29th - Easter Saturday
 4:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church
Sunday, March 30th - The Second Sunday of Easter
 9:30 - Anna Nies - Marie Bruno
 11:30 - Pasquale "Pat" DiPaolo - Family

Priest Schedule for March 29th and 30th
 Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch
 Sunday, 9:30AM and 11:30AM - Fr. Detisch

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of the Dec'd. Members of the †Eichenlaub and †Nuber Families.

Scripture Readings for Next Week
 Acts 2: 42-27 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31

Sunday - Happy Easter to All!
Monday - Boy Scout Meeting at 6:00PM in the audi.
Monday Night Scripture Group will meet at 7:00PM in the sacristy.
Tuesday - The **Rosary** will be prayed at 2:00PM in church.
Thursday - Choir Rehearsal from 7:30PM until 9:00PM.
Friday - Church Cleaning Team #8 (Mary Ann Kaiser's team) is scheduled for Friday, March 28th.

BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS

Ticket sales for the 2008-9 Big Giveaway year continue to mount; **202 tickets** sold as of the turn-in of March 11th. Sales continue to exceed last year's sales as of a comparable date.
 The next Big Giveaway **turn-in** will be on **Tuesday, March 25th**, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Auditorium. Please call Jim Nuber at 864-9838 if you are unable to make your turn-in during this hour.



WAY TO GO SACRED HEART . . . This year's Lenten Fish Dinners were once again a huge success for the parish. Because of your support, we were able to serve **1,204** dinners to our parish, family and friends, and were able to realize a profit of approximately **\$3,800** for our parish. Somehow, saying THANK YOU to all of the wonderful people who gave of their valuable time and worked so hard to help make these dinners the success that they were just doesn't seem enough. This year, however, will be the last dinner that our present crew will be manning. The many changes in the life styles of our original group of people have made it impossible to continue, We are saddened and extremely sorry that the dinners we have worked so hard to make the **best in town** over the past 16 years may have to come to an end. We have informed Fr. Detisch of the circumstances in hopes that he may be able to find someone else to continue this wonderful tradition at Sacred Heart. If there is anyone among you that is willing to volunteer to continue the dinners, please contact either Fr. Detisch at the Rectory or Nick Sivillo at 835-8231.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL
 Diocesan Goal: \$43,000
 Parish Goal: \$86,000
Pledged to Date: \$72,640.00
 169% of Diocesan Goal
 80% of Parish Goal
214 Families have contributed = 31%

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRANTS - Sign-ups for 15 minute contract signing sessions will occur after all Masses on March 29th and 30th in the Sacristy. And, as part of the Grant, you must purchase/sell 3 Big Giveaway Tickets. Please contact Jim Nuber ASAP to receive your tickets at 864-9838.



BENEFIT FOR BURNS' WEEKEND - A triple-header fundraiser is being planned by *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel* from April 4-6th for the family of an 11-year-old child with an inoperable brain tumor. Events include Bowling, Bingo, and a Banquet for the Burns Family. Flyers are available on the table at the 26th Street entrance of the Church. Please call 451-2400 for additional information or contact Pam Ziroli at 825-1010.

Sacred Heart's **PRAYER LINE** Coordinators are:
Debbie Knecht at 504-0294
 and
Jeannie Van Buskirk at 866-3235
 Any prayer requests should be called in to either Jeannie or Debbie.

Please remember in your prayers our departed:
 †Bernie Loney

The Promise of
EASTER

Christ the Lord is risen today
alleluia