



I am writing this at the beginning of the week. So, as of this writing, I am not sure how the American visit of Pope Benedict has gone. I am very excited about it, and am looking forward to

spending as much time as I can watching the historic visits. I was watching so much of the pre-visit reports and interviews with all kinds of Catholic hierarchy. They are all anticipating Pope Benedict to truly speak as a Shepherd, in the hopes of inspiring the American people to become deeper and more committed to their faith. It was especially inspiring and hopeful to hear how the Holy Father called upon the prayers of the world, in order that his visit to America would truly be successful! President Bush has never gone *out* to the airport to personally greet a dignitary before; especially, to Andrews Air Force Base. The actions of our President are truly showing how important this visit is, and how inspiring and influential Pope Benedict has been in the short time as Vicar of Christ. I know that Bishop Trautman will attend the special prayer service with all the Bishops, and many of our priests are attending the Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. I am really looking forward to his speech to the United Nations. I would love to be able to just sit in front of that TV for 5 straight days and watch everything! But . . . there is work to do . . . and, I would probably put on 50 pounds. So, I will do what I can!

There is one survey that I just find so disheartening. Apparently, there is one that is being highly publicized . . . the one that states that about 65% of Catholic people feel that they can still be "good Catholics", but not need to attend Mass. This makes absolutely no sense to me at all! None! The sacrifice of the Mass is the celebration of the Word of God, AND the actual presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Without this great celebration, *there is no Catholic faith!!!!* To BE Catholic means to make a commitment to the Word of God and the Eucharist as the center and focus of one's life! That's been the teaching of the Church for 2,000 years! How in the name of all that is holy can someone claim to be a "good Catholic", but dismiss the Word and the Eucharist? In their minds, what does it mean to be a "good Catholic"? Just being a "nice person" is certainly not enough to gain eternal salvation. We all know "nice people" who lead very sinful lives. And, the name "Catholic" is not a title. *It is a way of life!* It is a commitment to words of Jesus, "*Not on bread alone are we to live, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4) . . . and . . . "*Let me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you! He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood real drink.*" (John 6:53-55) . . . and, most importantly, "*This is my body to be given for you. Do this as a remembrance of me. . . This cup is the new covenant of my blood, which will be shed for you.*" (Luke 22:19-20). To be perfectly blunt, you cannot be a "good Catholic" if you deny the power and importance of the Word and the Eucharist!! Period.

Thank you to Msgr. Malene for taking the 4:30 Mass for me this weekend. I am accompanying Bishop Trautman, and serving as his Master of Ceremonies at St. Patrick Church in Franklin for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It has been a while since I have done that, so I hope that I don't totally foul it up altogether!

Have a great week!  
Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

	April 13, 2008	April 15, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$103.00	\$127.00
Sister Parish - Haiti	\$76.00	\$45.00
Sacrificial Giving	<b>\$5,857.50</b>	\$6,074.83
Amount Needed	<b>\$7,250.00</b>	
Over/(Short)	<b>(\$1,392.50)</b>	

(\*includes loose money). Last week, out of 701 families of the parish, 293 envelopes (42%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$19.99**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.



**SPECIAL OFFERING**

Next weekend our parish will take up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. This Collection makes possible the American Catholic Church's global mission to combat poverty, provide relief and development, assist refugees and immigrants, and advocate for justice and peace in situations of conflict and neglect of basic human rights.

**"Through the eyes of faith, the starving child, the believer in jail, and the woman without clean water or health care are not issues, but "Jesus in disguise."**

*Please help by giving to the Catholic Relief Services Collection.*

**Why Catholic? Adult Faith Formation Workshop on Prayer**

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd from 7:00-9:00PM at our Lady of Peace Church. This event is open to all parishioners regardless of whether or not you were part of a "Why Catholic?" group this past Lent.



Come and learn more about prayer, and experience praying alone and with others. Everyone of us can grow in our relationship with God by deepening our understanding of communicating with Him.

If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Flynn at the rectory at 456-6256, x110. No registration is necessary.

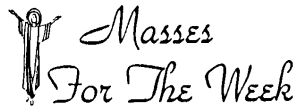
**ERIE'S ITALIAN AMERICANS: 1860 - 1950'S**

A Book in Progress . . . . Preserve Erie's Italian Heritage and history. The book will be a "slice of life", in word and image, from the old Italian neighborhoods.

We need 500+ photographs of Erie's Italian immigrants, their families, and neighborhoods. Pictures of church events, processions and activities are welcome. Work, play, families, individuals, food, festas, weddings, communion portraits, and neighborhood points of interest are all important.

All photographs will be scanned and returned. Original photos are best for scanning. Reproductions are OK, but must be professionally made (no home computer prints or Kodak Picture Maker - the publisher cannot use them).

You may also contribute family stories, family histories, or anecdotes of Erie's Little Italy in the early years. For further information, contact Norma Webb at 866-5724.



**Monday, April 21st - St. Anselm**

8:30 - Marian Costa - Margaret Driscoll

**Tuesday, April 22nd**

8:30 - John and Mary Custer - Family

**Wednesday, April 23rd - St. George and St. Adalbert**

8:30 - Mary and Cyril Duska - Robert and Helen Hilbert

**Thursday, April 24th - St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen**

8:30 - Katherine Grode - Ed and Rita Amicucci

**Friday, April 25th - St. Mark**

8:30 - Catherine Caldwell - Family

**Saturday, April 26th**

4:30 - Bob and Ann Ohmer - Family

**Sunday, April 27th - The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

11:30 - Pasquale "Pat" DiPaolo - Family

**Priest Schedule for April 26th and 27th**

**Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch**

**Sunday, 9:30AM and 11:30AM - Fr. Detisch**

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Rudy Colonna**, and †**Thomas** and †**Julia Vlahos** by Joni.

**Scripture Readings for Next Week**

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3: 15-18 John 14: 15-21

<p align="center"><b>CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL</b></p> <p align="center">Diocesan Goal: \$43,000</p> <p align="center">Parish Goal: \$86,000</p> <p align="center"><b>Pledged to Date: \$91,598.00</b></p> <p align="center">213% of Diocesan Goal</p> <p align="center">107% of Parish Goal</p> <p align="center"><b>293 contributors = 42% of the Parish</b></p>
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**Attention All of You Serious Gardeners** - Although it is a month away, our date to accomplish the Church's Annual Spring Yard Clean Up is scheduled for **Saturday, May 17th** beginning at 8:30AM. So mark your calendars so you do not miss it. As per usual we will be weeding, raking, edging and much more to make the yard a place of beauty. As we get closer to the date more on the event will be published in the bulletin.

The McDowell Center for Performing Arts will present the musical comedy **Guys and Dolls** on April 24-25-26, 2008 at 7:30PM and April 27, 2008 at 2:00PM in the MIHS Little Theatre (3320 Caughey Road). All seats are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door prior to each performance. This is one of the funniest shows ever written for the American Musical Stage. Directed by Michael Malthaner with choreography by Jean Malthaner, **Guys and Dolls** has a cast of 46 accompanied by a full orchestra.

**Pray For Peace**

**Monday - Boy Scout Meeting** at 6:00PM in the audi.

**Tuesday** - The **Rosary** will be prayed at 2:00PM in church.

**Thursday** - **Choir Rehearsal** from 7:30PM until 9:00PM.

**Friday** - Church Cleaning **Team #2** (Marilyn Sharp's team) is scheduled for Friday, April 25th.

**Saturday** - **Angelus Choir Rehearsal** from 5:30PM until 6:45PM.

**BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS**

1,194 tickets have been recorded as sold as of the turn-in of Tuesday, April 8th. The disappointing news is that it is 14 fewer tickets than were sold as of this same date one year ago. Several of the **Sellers** have yet to make returns on their tickets. Hopefully, when these returns do come in, the number of sold tickets will increase dramatically. Wishful thinking, maybe!!!

The next **Big Giveaway turn-in** will be on **Tuesday, April 22nd**, from 7:00 to 8:00PM, in the Auditorium.

**To the women of Sacred Heart Parish**

The Sacred Heart Altar Society, as we know it today, has been serving the parish for more than 81 years. There were other women's groups before this, but in 1926 the "Sacred Heart Altar Society" was officially set into motion, and we haven't given up yet!



May is the month we officially welcome new members, and on Wednesday, May 14th, at 6:00 o'clock, the evening will begin with Mass celebrated by The Very Reverend Father John Detisch. During this Mass members who have gone to their eternal reward are remembered by a candle-lighting ceremony

A light sit-down supper will be served and new members will be inducted. Present-day members are waiting to welcome you into our circle of friendship.

We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm for about 2 hours to pray the rosary, discuss old business and plan fundraisers like the spaghetti dinner and the rummage sale. We have a picnic in August, help with the roast beef dinner in October and have a Christmas Party. There are no meetings during July, August and December.

Every once in a while we enjoy some lively entertainment or a fascinating speaker. The meeting comes to a close with a light snack, friendly chitchat and laughter.

The Ladies of the Altar Society extend a warm and friendly invitation to all women of the parish at least 18 years old to consider joining our productive group. It's a wonderful way to serve God and have fun at the same time.

*The board will meet at 5:15.*

PS - The dates for the rummage sale have been set: **June 19, 20, 21**. Circle these dates on your calendar and remember us when you do your spring cleaning.

**(Please, no furniture or large appliances.)**

Please remember in your prayers our departed:  
 †**Michael Lego, Jr.**, brother of Alex Lego;  
 and †**Thomas Van Volkenburg.**