



I had a chance to spend some time with Brandon Kleckner last week. Brandon, a life-long parishioner of Sacred Heart, graduated from Gannon University and St. Mark Seminary in

May. Bishop Trautman assigned him to continue his studies for the priesthood at my alma mater, St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. In fact, we realized over lunch that Brandon is entering St. Vincent's 25 years . . . almost to the day . . . that I attended my first classes, in August of 1983. The academic journey to the priesthood is very intense. Brandon is entering "major seminary", or graduate school . . . along the lines of medical or law school. By the time he is done in 2012, he will have achieved a Masters in Divinity. The academic program will consist of several courses in Scripture . . . Canon Law . . . church history . . . patristics (study of the church "fathers") . . . theological methodology . . . liturgy . . . and, anything else I couldn't think of. Like us, he should also be taking a year of Clinical Pastoral Orientation, which is learning how to minister to the sick in hospitals, hospices, and nursing homes. And, there will probably be some kind of field placement, as well. I spent a year working with Greensburg Catholic Charities, taking on clients for all kinds of counseling needs. In our time, the '80's, we were not required to study Latin. We were required to study Greek, for the New Testament was originally written in Greek. And, when doing research on the Scriptures, you come across a lot of Greek terms, and you really need to know how to work with the language. (I got A's in 2 semesters of Greek, by the way, back in '83-'84!) So, Brandon has embarked on a strong, academic journey. He will always appreciate our prayers and encouragement on this journey to his ordination to the priesthood in 2012. If you want to drop him a note, I am sure that he will truly appreciate it: BRANDON KLECKNER . . . ST. VINCENT SEMINARY . . . 300 FRASER PURCHASE ROAD . . . LATROBE, PA. 15650. He would love to hear from you!

Last Sunday, Msgr. Hagerty & I traveled to Sharpsville for the installation of Fr. Matt Kujawinski as the new Pastor of St. Bartholomew Church. We were joined by several priests down there, which was quite an honor for Fr. Matt, who was most recently the Parochial Vicar at St. Jude's and Our Lady of Peace. But, we realized that Fr. Matt has only been ordained for 5 years! (I was 11 years ordained before I became a Pastor back in '99, at St. Titus in Titusville.) Again and again, we need to realize that the shortage of priests is starting to truly affect personnel issues in the Diocese. If I am not mistaken, there are only about 6 Parochial Vicars (Assistant Pastors) throughout the entire Diocese of Erie. So, please continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. There are so many potential vocations right here at Sacred Heart. And, we need to encourage these young men to truly think about devoting their lives to doing the great work of the Lord, and not be so attracted to a life of worldly treasures.

Thanks so much to Fr. Jerry Simmons & Fr. Benji Alexa for covering for me this weekend, allowing me to attend my friend's wedding in Atlanta. It is so good to have Fr. Benji back "on the job". He has been dealing with serious cancer issues for the past 2 years, and has recuperated very well. Because of his health, he was forced to resign as Pastor of St. John's in Tidioute, and St. Anthony's in Tionesta. Now, he is looking forward to his next assignment! Praise God!

I guess school starts this week! We certainly welcome back the students of Roosevelt Middle School to our building. We had a great year with them and their staff last year. We worked out all the logistical issues over the past year, and we know this one will be just as good. Ms. Fabienne Mir, Roosevelt's Principal, and her assistant, Mr. Chris Popa, have been wonderful to work with, and they have such a great staff. It is also nice to see that building being used to its fullest capacity, too. We also have a few new families to our own Catholic Educational Grant Program, too. We have over 40 families from Sacred Heart that are under contract, taking advantage of this great program. So, we still have many families from our parish that are working hard to offer a Catholic education to their children.

Have a great week! I'll see you all next weekend!
Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

| | Aug. 17, 2008 | Aug. 19, 2007 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Repairs & Improvements | \$141.00 | \$58.00 |
| Catholic Communications | \$180.00 | \$245.00 |
| Sacrificial Giving | \$5,664.60 | \$6,108.92 |
| Amount Needed | \$7,250.00 | |
| Over/(Short) | (\$1,585.40) | |

(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 705 families of the parish, 305 envelopes (44%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$18.58**. In addition **\$1,522.00** was given to the **Priestly Education and Caring collection**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. *Thanks for your sacrifice.*

YOUTH GROUP NEWS - Many great



things are happening here at Sacred Heart! This week at youth group we had a great debate on homosexuality and its misconceptions. Do you know where the church stands on this subject? I challenged my youth to find the facts and not rely on other's opinions. One of my pet peeves about living our faith is, knowing your Faith! It is funny how many times I have had very strong opinions for certain subjects but I have had little ground to stand on when asked the facts. We all need to discover our faith more deeply and benefit from the richness and wisdom that it provides for us! If you are interested in joining Sacred Heart Youth Group, visit our website at mycatholicconnection.com or join us Thursdays from 7-8:30pm outside on Fr. John's well kept lawn! Peace. Jesse

RETREAT - Do you pray? Would it benefit you to learn more about prayer? Join with other parishioners from this area to experience and learn more about the importance of prayer in our lives.



Everyone in the parish (*parishioners do not have to belong to a small group to attend*) is invited to a *Why Catholic?* retreat: **"Sitting by the Well: Meeting Jesus in Prayer"**. This retreat will be held on Wednesday, **September 24, 2008 from 7:00 - 9:00pm at St. Mark Catholic Center**. No registration is necessary.



Masses For The Week



**THE WEEK
AHEAD**

Monday, August 25th - St. Louis of France and St. Joseph Calasanz
8:30 - Communion Service

Tuesday, August 26th
8:30 - Mark Marchant - Char and Art

Wednesday, August 27th - St. Monica
8:30 - In Celebration of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Ruth and Jim Swoger

Thursday, August 28th - St. Augustine
8:30 - Jo Nawrocki - Elaine Lamm

Friday, August 29th - Martyrdom of John the Baptist
8:30 - Julia Berarducci - Family

Saturday, August 30th
2:00 - Wedding of Valerie Ann Sohrweid and James Fleming
4:30 - Joseph Krzeszewski - Tom Yeager

Sunday, August 31st - The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 - John Martini - Wife, Children and Grandchildren
11:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

Priest Schedule for August 30th and 31st

Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch

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

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Mark Marchant** by Char and Art.

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Jeremiah 20: 7-9 Romans 12: 1-2 Matthew 16: 21-27

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 #10** (Kim and Jim Malone's team) is scheduled for Friday, August 29th.

Saturday - Angelus Choir Rehearsal from 5:30PM until 7:00PM.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Classes begin on **Sunday, September 21st** at 10:45AM, following the 9:30 Mass, until 1:15PM. There will be registration and a meeting for the parents. The children will also meet with their teachers.



A **Parent Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, September 25th** at 6:00PM in the Sacristy. This meeting is for **ALL** parents whose children will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion next year.

PARENTS - If your children are attending other Catholic schools, they will receive their instruction at the school they are attending; but will receive the sacrament at Sacred Heart Church.

CONFIRMATION NEWS



Confirmation will be celebrated at Sacred Heart on **Sunday, September 7th** at 2:00PM. There will be a **Confirmation Practice** on Thursday, September 3rd at **7:00PM** at Sacred Heart Church.

There will be a **Parent Meeting** on **Thursday, September 18th** at 6:00PM in the Sacristy for high school students who **will be confirmed next year.**

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH will be having their **Parish Day** on **Sunday, September 14th** beginning 11:00AM until 6:00PM. There will be Children and Adult Games, a Bake Sale, and a Theme Basket Raffle.



A **Spaghetti Dinner** will be served from Noon until 5:00PM. Adults are \$6.00, children 6 thru 12 are \$3.00, and under six are free.

Five Prizes of \$2,500 Vouchers for the following local businesses - Country Fair, The Travel Company, Deniziak Siding and Windows; Mele Plumbing, Presque Isle Hot Tubs, Giant Eagle, Janco Construction, Inc. and Kunco Landscape Design and Maintenance! Tickets are \$5.00 each!

Come join the fun at Blessed Sacrament!



Once again, this year, as we have in the past three years, *The Big Giveaway Program* has an extra fundraiser to support Parish Day. This year's special prize is a **SONY 50 inch Flat Screen H. D. T. V.** *The tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, and 7 for \$10.00.*

Anyone interested in selling tickets or buying tickets, please call one of the following people: Norm at 835-5096, Jim at 864-9838, Ken at 864-9149 or stop at the Rectory Office Monday thru Friday from 9:00 till Noon or 1:00 till 5:00.

As always, your help is very much appreciated!!!



The Sacred Heart Food Pantry Needs You! The Food Pantry Committee is asking for food donations. The shelves are bare and in need of restocking. Items that would help us greatly included canned goods, pasta noodles, sauce, powdered milk, honey, cheese, cereal, coffee, flour and sugar. As always, money donations can be put in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" and dropped in the collection basket or through the Rectory mail slot. *Thank you for remembering the Food Pantry.*

CLASS REUNION - Looking for Sacred Heart School classmates from the Class of 1979. We are planning a 30 year reunion on Saturday, November 29, 2008 at the Knights of St. John. Please contact Denise Altadonna at 814-873-4194 or qweendee11@yahoo.com. More details later.