



It's almost Thanksgiving! Can you believe it? Last year, I mowed the lawn the day after Thanksgiving, and I am still hoping to do it sometime. As I write this, there are several inches of

snow on the ground, but I am still bound and determined to get one more "mow" in before December! Anyway . . . this has been a difficult year, to be sure. The economy is way out of whack . . . it was a long and brutal election season . . . we went through another year of war . . . all kinds of things. But, if we are reading this, we are all still here!! We had been given another year of life on God's earth. And, even with all the turmoil and stress that has happened, there was still so many wonderful things that each of us has experienced. We all had many times to enjoy our relationships, to laugh, to celebrate, and, certainly, many reasons to praise our God. Let these thoughts and memories be part of our Thanksgiving celebration this year. Let us take the wonderful joys that God gave us since last November, and bring them to that table on Thursday. And, also, maybe there is still room at the Thanksgiving table . . . a place for someone that may be eating alone . . . or, someone who lost a loved one since last year . . . or, someone that is strained from the family, that once had a place at that table. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time for forgiveness, renewed relationships, and even new life. Let us be reminded of the joy and purpose of this celebration by the words of the Closing Prayer for Mass on Thanksgiving Day, "*Lord God, in this celebration, we have seen the depths of your love for every woman and man, and been reminded of our negligence towards others. Help us to reach out in love to all your people, so that we may share with them, the goods of time and eternity.*"

I know I speak for the people of Sacred Heart Church as I say that one of the greatest things that we are all thankful for is the generosity of Roger and Nancy Williams. This weekend, we have the dedication of our new Grand Organ. Roger and Nancy have given such a phenomenal gift in memory of their parents, *William & Anna Williams* and *Carlo & Elizabeth Galardo*. The organ has been in need of major renovations for close to 20 years, and we have never been in a position to be able to do it. It was supposed to have been part of the overall Church renovation of 1999, but it was cost prohibitive, and the idea had to be tabled for a future time. I can remember back in the early '90's that there was horrific water damage done to the east chamber, because of torrential rains and inadequate drainage from the bell tower, and water was seeping into the organ chamber. I remember Fr. Findlay battling with the insurance company for close to two years over that, only to get enough for some minor repairs. Now, to look at it, and to hear it is just astounding. Thank you so very much to Roger and Nancy. We all will offer a prayer of Thanksgiving to you for what you have done for us. And, we will certainly remember your parents in our prayers, as well.

Even though the Ecclesia Center's residential program closed in early 2007, the Ecclesia Ministry still offers resources for spiritual direction and renewal. Fr. Jerry Simmons, who resides here, and Sr. Marilyn Zimmerman still offer individual spiritual direction and individual counseling to anyone who has a need. Their offices now are next door, at Blessed Sacrament Church. There are some brochures in the magazine rack in the back of church if anyone wants some information. Or, feel free to call Fr. Jerry through the Sacred Heart voicemail system.

Due to a major head cold, and probably being a little foggy

from all the cold remedies, I forgot to congratulate James Horomanski of the Strong Vincent Football Team for winning the District 10 AAA Championship by beating my beloved Cathedral Prep Ramblers. James is very proud of his Colonels, and as well he should be. Now, I have to buy him dinner . . . at the restaurant of his choice . . . in a 100-mile radius of Sacred Heart.

Please join us for our Mass of Thanksgiving this Wednesday night at 7:00. And, we will gather again for Mass on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00. We all have much to be thankful for, especially the chance to hear God's Word and to receive the very presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Join us!

Have a very blessed Thanksgiving!

Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

	Nov. 16, 2008	Nov. 18, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$60.00	\$178.00
Human Development	\$1,177.31	\$965.01
Sacrificial Giving	\$6,198.44	\$6,477.30
Amount Needed	\$7,250.00	
Over/(Short)	\$1,051.56	

(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 668 families of the parish, 285 envelopes (43%) were used, with an average Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$21.75**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.



COME AND GIVE THANKS - Our parish

family and friends give praise to God in our annual Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday evening, November 26th at 7:00PM. You are invited to bring canned goods and other staple food items to offer for the less fortunate of the community. The offering of your Thanksgiving envelopes will also be used for the Food Pantry.

Hospitality will follow in the audi for all who would like to stay and socialize. Please come and join together in giving thanks to God, the giver of all good gifts.

TO ALL THE LADIES OF SACRED HEART PARISH

It's time to "haul out the holly", because the Altar Society's annual Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 10th at the Erie Maennerchor Club. Punch will be served at 6:00PM and a sit down dinner at 7:00PM.



The menu includes: swiss steak, stuffed pork chop with country dressing, stuffed chicken breast with country dressing, roasted red skin potato wedges, green beans with almonds, garden salad, rolls, butter and a hot beverage. Christmas "elves" will be bringing the yummy holiday dessert.

All women who attend the party are invited to bring a female guest. Tickets are **\$15** and will be sold after Mass in the sacristy on **November 29th and 30th ONLY**. Kindly have the correct dollar amount or check made out to "Sacred Heart Altar Society".

A lottery tree will be raffled off, along with several gift certificates to some of your favorite places to shop. So ladies, drive, get a ride, hop on the trolley, flag down a cab, whatever...just get into the holiday spirit and come join our festive Christmas party. We'd love to have you!



Masses For The Week

Monday, November 24th - St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

8:30 - Joseph D. Cifoelli - Family

Tuesday, November 25th - St. Catherine of Alexandria

8:30 - Elmer Spadacene - Wife and Children

Wednesday, November 26th

8:30 - Madeline Schoell - Family

Thursday, November 27th - Thanksgiving Day

9:00 - Bob Sigler - Family

Friday, November 28th

8:30 - Richard Hart - Mr. and Mrs. John Goanella

Saturday, November 29th

4:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, November 30th - The First Sunday of Advent

9:30 - Elizabeth Feikls - Family

11:30 - Rudy Colonna and Thomas and Julie Vlahos - Joni

Priest Schedule for November 29th and 30th

Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch

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

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Margaret Sharp** by the Family.

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2b-7 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 33-37

DECOLORES - This month's palanca party will be Sunday, November 16th at 2:00PM in the audi. That's right this Sunday...Sacred Heart Cursillistas are also partially responsible for this month's closing luncheon on Sunday, November 23rd. If you could please send food to the closing, it would be appreciated; and if you can't get it out there, please notify me at 464-5448. Anyone seeing Kathy Iaruzo? Please let her know about the palanca party. As you can tell I have been extremely busy and I am looking for help for next year. I will be asking Kathy, but if there is anyone you can think of to help, please feel free to mention it. Thank you to all who are keeping up with the times and appearing for the palanca parties. All your help is truly appreciated. God Bless. Linda McCamman.



The **Sisters of St. Joseph** will be having their **20th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** at the Marketplace Grill on **Thursday, November 27th**. They serve nearly 1300 guests on Thanksgiving Day. The meal is free and open to anyone from the Erie area that is lonely, in need or homebound. You can help by donating purchased or homemade pies for the dinner. They will need at least 200 pies and will be accepting pies at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, 5031 West Ridge Rd. Pies may be dropped off from 8:00AM until 8:00PM on **Wednesday, November 26th**. For more information, call 836-4100.

Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†**Agatha Hofmann**, mother of Kathy Baer and

†**Florence Rogala**, sister of Theresa Simonelli.



THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Monday Night Scripture Group at 7:00PM in the sacristy.

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

Wednesday - **Thanksgiving Liturgy** at 7:00PM followed by *Cider and Donuts* in the audi.

Saturday - Church Cleaning **Team #3** (Annette and Mike Ahrens' team) is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th.

ALTAR BREAD AND WINE

SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE



From the beginning of our Church, bread and wine have been brought forward by the people for the celebration of the Eucharist. Many even brought bread and wine from home. It was customary to think of every gift to the Church and the poor as a gift to God and to designate it as an offering. As an observant Jew, Jesus used bread and wine to commemorate the Passover meal with His disciples. Thus, the most sacred food for the Jewish Passover Meal has become the very essence of our Eucharistic meal.

A parishioner saw this at other Churches and thought it would be a good idea to start here at Sacred Heart and Pastoral Council agreed. Starting with the beginning of Advent, we will be accepting sponsorships/offerings for the altar bread and wine used at the weekend Mass. It is the same idea as someone sponsoring the Sanctuary Candle. Every weekend and Holy Days would be available. You could use the offering as a memorial or remembrance or special intention, just like a Mass or the Sanctuary Candle. If you are interested in sponsoring the Altar Bread and Wine, stop by the Parish Office or put an envelope marked "Altar Bread and Wine" in the collection basket. Please remember to put the person who it is in memory or honor of and who it is from so we can publish the names in the bulletin. The cost is \$25 and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS — In Matthew's Gospel, we find Christ challenging us to serve one another. The greatest love is the love we show to a stranger or enemy for it is easy to show love to the ones we already love. This past week at the Senior



High Youth Rally we based the theme of the retreat on the phrase; I send you as servants! Fr. Steve and our team of youth helped lead around 250 youth from around the whole diocese! We were able to present our 24 hour lock-in retreat to the whole diocese and show them why our youth group rocks here at Sacred Heart! Youth ministry is composed of three main components; social, spirituality, and service! Service is putting our faith into practice. Hopefully when we are all present before our Lord we are able to say that we gave Him food, drink, welcome, warmth, and our unconditional love! If you are interested in joining the youth group or getting involved with any of our activities, please join us Thursdays from 7-8:30pm in the auditorium! Please feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns at catholicconnection@gmail.com or check out our youth group website at mycatholicconnection.com. Peace. Jesse

A Parish family is in need of bunk beds. Please call Judy at the rectory office at 456-6256, ext 100 for more information.