



Welcome to the new Liturgical Year, and the great Season of Advent! Each year, I try to remind us all of what this season is really all about. The next four weeks are a wonderful time of

preparation. But, far too often, so many of us believe that it is a "preparation for the coming of the Baby Jesus . . . or a preparation for Christmas." Allow me a resounding "NO!!" Advent is this wonderfully special time of the year that we prepare for the coming of the Christ *in glory!* We don't prepare for the coming of Baby Jesus, *because He already came 2,000 years ago!* Nor, do we spend four weeks preparing for a birthday, which is what Christmas is. This is NOT the Christmas season by any means!! This is Advent! This is that wonderful time of the year when we reflect on our lives, and contemplate the question of Jesus to each of us, "*Are you ready to come home to my Father?*" And, in this season, we remember that the "key figure" of Advent is really John the Baptist . . . the "herald" of the Christ . . . the messenger to announce His coming. John was to prepare the people of God for when the Christ would come into their lives. And, he challenged them to "*Reform your lives! Prepare the Way of the Lord!* So, let us all spend the next four weeks reflecting on that challenge: *Am I prepared for Jesus to come into my life and take me home? How am I prepared? If I were to die today, would I be ready to face God? If not, what am I going to do about it?* This is what Advent is all about . . . preparing for the time when the Christ will come into our lives and take us home. May we all these weeks NOT be a ridiculous rush to prepare for a birthday. May it be a time of prayer and reflection, reconciliation and peace.

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual "*Light Up for Christ*" this weekend, Sunday evening, November 30th, at 7:00 p.m. It has become a wonderful tradition the past several years, where we gather outside first, and join in prayer, welcoming in the Advent Season as we light up the trees on the lawn. There is a nice gathering downstairs immediately following, with some great chili for everyone! Please join us. It should be another great time!

Wally Weise did a phenomenal job introducing our new organ to us last Saturday night! What a powerful instrument we now have again! Our new Grand Organ will truly enhance our liturgies more and more for years and years to come. It is hard to believe that the last time we were able to play the actual pipes was Christmas of 2006. There is still many bugs and fine-tuning to be worked out. And, Mark Fischer and his crew from Fischer Organs are doing just that. When that is finally done, we are going to have a series of concerts over the next year to really celebrate this great gift of Roger & Nancy Williams.

Yes, this is one of the worst economies that we have experienced in our lifetimes, to be sure. May we all keep in mind that there are many families having very difficult times, not with trying to save or preserve their monies. Many families are struggling to survive each day . . . being able to have enough food, and trying to keep heat in their homes. As I had said in my homily last week, the Food Banks in our town are becoming desperate for help . . . including our own. Allow me to suggest that we each cut back on the expense of Christmas gifts for everyone this year . . . I am sure that everyone will understand. (Our children certainly need to learn that they just can't have everything that they want in life. Our children certainly need to give up some things so that others may eat.) Maybe the family

could spend less on each other, and spend more on helping to feed the poor this year. Let us all remember, too, who "the poor" really is in the mind and heart of Our Lord: the poverty-stricken, yes; but, also, the grief-stricken, the outcast, the prisoner, the alone. "*Whatever you did for one of my least sisters or brothers, you did for me . . . Whatever you did NOT do for one of these least ones, you did NOT do for me.*" What about this idea? What if the whole family did not give any gifts to each other this year, but donated all the "gift monies" to a Food Bank, or shelter, or some charity that provides for the needs of families in need? Hmm . . . something to think about. It doesn't matter how many gifts are under the tree . . . if any. Christmas is a celebration of the presence of the Lord within and among us. As long as the family is still together, being "gift" for each other, it is still Christmas!

Take time to enjoy Advent. Pray with the Scriptures, and focus on the words and the mission of the Baptist. Have a great week!
Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

	Nov. 23, 2008	Nov. 25, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$125.00	\$383.00
Human Development	\$120.00	\$87.00
Sacrificial Giving	\$6,488.80	\$6,316.64
Amount Needed	\$7,250.00	
Over/(Short)	(\$761.20)	

(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 668 families of the parish, 292 envelopes (44%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$22.23**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.

Come and join the Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus and their families for the annual "*Light up for Christ*" celebration to be held this evening at 7:00pm in front of Sacred Heart Church at 26th and Liberty.



This is a wonderful way to start the Advent season. So bring your family and friends for a great evening of celebration and hospitality.


There will be Chili, cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate in the auditorium after the outdoor service.




The *Christmas Angels* are at it once again this year. Their focus will be our Sacred Heart children.

After December 1st please take an ornament off the Angel Board and purchase a gift for the person listed on the Ornament. Please return the unwrapped gift with the ORNAMENT GIFT TAG attached to the Rectory by Tuesday, December 16th. You may also include the gift wrap, etc. The parishioners of Sacred Heart Church have always been very generous with this project - let us continue this wonderful tradition of giving. Thank you. "The Christmas Angels."

Pray For Peace

*Mass Intentions
for the Week* 

 *In Our Parish*

Monday, December 1st

8:30 - Vinnie Marchant - Char and Art

Tuesday, December 2nd

8:30 - Ruth Meyer - Family

Wednesday, December 3rd - St. Francis Xavier

8:30 - Communion Service

Thursday, December 4th - St. John of Damascus

8:30 - Fred Welz - Family

Friday, December 5th - First Friday

8:30 - Edward Barnack - Joseph and Margaret Barabas

Saturday, December 6th - St. Nicholas - First Saturday

4:30 - Luigi Ferrante - Family

Sunday, December 7th - The Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

11:30 - Edvige Giammario - Family

Priest Schedule for December 6th and 7th

Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch

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

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

The Altar Bread and Wine are given in memory of †**William H. Williams, Jr.** by Paul and Joyce Williams.

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Mark 1: 1-8

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.



Sunday - "Light Up for Christ" will be at 7:00PM in front of Sacred Heart Church.

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

Monday Night Scripture Group at 7:00PM in the sacristy. **Knights of Columbus Meeting** at 7:30PM in the audi.

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

Friday - Church Cleaning **Team #4** (Barb Selker and Maria Stevens' team) is scheduled for Friday, December 5th

Sunday - **Coffee & Donuts** will be served in the audi following the morning Masses.

BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS AND WINNERS

Congratulations to these most recent **Big Giveaway winners**: 2660 -Paul and Barb Leone, 6919 - Mary Beth Schrenk, 5972 - Louis Tsitso, 5945 - Frank A. Altadonna, 5255 - Corrine Snyder, and 2556 - Paul Clement. There will be no turn-in until further notice.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS - Sacred Heart Youth

Group hopes that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with their families. Last week at youth group we watched a video on the youth minister Nick Vujcic. What makes Nick unique is the fact that he was born without arms and legs. Nick is one of the happiest people that I have seen and he only gives glory to God for all that he has. It is amazing to see such a beautiful person who loves life tell young people from around the world about making the most of every moment. I am sure that Nick had days that he doubted his faith or even his own personal joy but in the end he is a beacon of hope for the world to see. We discussed how Nick makes the most out of everyday and how we need to copy that same mentality when we are fighting with our parents or siblings. We need to make the most of every moment for we don't know when our last day might come as Mark's Gospel portrays. Please keep Nick and his ministry **Life without Limbs** in your prayers. All are welcome to attend youth group every Thursday in the auditorium from 7-8:30pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jesse at catholicconnection@gmail.com or check out our youth group website at mycatholicconnection.com. Peace. Jesse

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!

Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†**Casimir Klemen**