



This is Pledge Sunday for the 2009 Catholic Services Appeal!! I know that you have all been waiting with wondrous excitement all year long. . . !

Now, since I had to do that “money homily”, YOU have to make a pledge! I do realize that times are tough for many people; but, there are dozens and dozens of people and families throughout our Diocese that are truly relying on your generosity. And, as for us? We DO need a fire protection system. After that fire in Chicago’s Cathedral, and the amount of damage that was caused a few weeks ago, I am more convinced than ever. We have to do the sidewalks along 26<sup>th</sup> Street one way or another, since we are legally liable if someone should trip and fall. And, it would be nice to be able to replace the bell/carillon system someday soon. Remember . . . we are ALL in this together. And, in the past 7 years, we have done wonderful things to our properties, as well as help out tons of people, simply because of your generous hearts. For those that have not pledged before, I don’t know what else I can do to convince you, except to make you feel guilty . . . WE NEED EVERYONE’S HELP!! Please don’t adopt the attitude that I hear, “I’m not giving to the Bishop! He doesn’t need it!” Uh . . . yes he does! That is how we keep our Adoption Agency open, as well as all the Food Banks, Shelters, and Catholic Charities going! So . . . please . . . everyone . . . **\$40 a month for 10 months**. Or, something . . . ANYTHING . . . from everyone . . . even the kids! Is a cell phone, or an Ipod more important than a Food Bank?

As of this writing, I am not sure how well the Knights of Columbus did on their “Night Out”, as I like to call it, their “Knight Out” this weekend. (If you are reading this Saturday night, put it down, and get to the Auditorium!) These guys put an awful lot of work into this fundraiser, and they are very generous with their proceeds. I can’t thank them enough for all that they have done to make this a success. And, thanks so much to all for helping them out. I am sure that it was a great evening!

The holy season of Lent begins this week, with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 7:00 a.m., 9:30, & 7:00 p.m. Allow me to remind us of the sacredness of this holy season. Let us spend the next 6 weeks “on retreat”, so to speak. Let us make sure that we take the time to prayerfully reflect on the tremendous sacrifice that the Lord Jesus made for us... how He took that cross, and walked to Calvary ... how He allowed Himself to be brutally crucified ... how He did a vicious and painful death, *so that we would be forgiven of our sins, and live forever in the Father’s Kingdom!* That is love! Real love! May we spend the next 6 weeks stepping away from the busyness of our lives, and all that distracts us, and takes us away from the importance of our faith and prayer. Let us all go “on retreat”, and come out at Easter refreshed and renewed, *not* to return to all that we are trying to get away from. But, at Easter, may we return to our lives energized and excited Apostles, much stronger and more prepared to conquer the sin and evil and wrongness that surrounds our lives. But, let’s not make Lent more important than Easter. Lent has no meaning . . . no significance . . . no importance at all, unless we are focused on its conclusion: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Also, allow me to remind us of our Lenten practices. Ash Wednesday is *not* a holy day of obligation. It is a day of fasting and abstaining, along with Good Friday. People between the ages of 21 and 59 are to fast on these two days . . . where there

are to be two small meals, and only one main meal. However, people between the ages of 14 through life are to abstain from eating meat or any meat products. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. But, only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence *and* fasting.

People have been asking about the Fish Dinners, and we were not able to find anyone to take them over. And, if we couldn’t find anyone to do the kind of dinner that we are accustomed to, we decided to pass on doing them this year. It takes a lot of work and a lot of planning. So, we thought we would go out on a high note. Keep in mind that Blessed Sacrament, and several other surrounding parishes will still be doing theirs.

Have a great week, and a very blessed Lenten season!  
Fr. D.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:**

	Feb. 15, 2009	Feb. 16, 2008
Repairs & Improvements	\$188.00	\$150.00
Fr. Engel Fund	\$68.00	\$30.00
Sacrificial Giving	<b>\$5,907.68</b>	\$5,488.71
Amount Needed	<b>\$7,250.00</b>	
Over/(Short)	<b>(\$1,342.32)</b>	

(\*includes loose money). Last week, out of 676 families of the parish, 277 envelopes (41%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$21.33**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2009**

Today is Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Services Appeal. Hopefully everyone has taken time to reflect upon all the information that has been shared the past few weeks. We hope that all parishioners will prayerfully consider the opportunity today to offer a gift to this appeal. We would like everyone to participate and help our parish reach its financial goal of **\$45,166**. It is also important to remember that any amount raised above our goal stays in this parish. Thank you for being a part of the Catholic Services Appeal.



**“Why Catholic?” Sessions begin this week and it not too late to sign up!**

Instead of “giving up” something this Lent, let God give you something! God is constantly reaching out to us with love and forgiveness. Allow God to touch you this Lent by giving God some of your time.



This season we will be using **Book Three - - Life in Christ: Walking With God**. The first six sessions of this book centers on the Beautitudes and our freedom and responsibility, conscience, virtues, moral law and grace.

You need not have participated in last years sessions to be part of this season. All the sessions stand independently. So even if you can’t make all six sessions, you can still participate in the experience. Join us as we gather to grow in our faith!

For more information or to sign up for a small group, please call Rebecca Flynn at the rectory at 456-6256, ext. 110.



**Masses For The Week**



**THE WEEK  
AHEAD**

**Monday, February 23rd - St. Polycarp**

8:30 - Carmen Squeglia - Elaine Lamm

**Tuesday, February 24th**

8:30 - Communion Service

**Wednesday, February 25th - Ash Wednesday**

7:00 - Antoinette Grossi - Angelo and Judy Arduini

9:30 - Loretta Alberstadt - Family

7PM - Ed and Fay Orchek - Family

**Thursday, February 26th**

8:30 - Elaine Senger - Ron, R.J, Lynn and Becca Jones

**Friday, February 27th**

8:30 - Joni Jones - Family

12:15 - Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Church

**Saturday, February 28th**

4:30 - Thomas Cappello - Children

**Sunday, March 1st - The First Sunday of Lent**

9:30 - Julia and Eli Berarducci - Kathleen and Kent Sivillo

11:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

**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.

**Friday** - **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed in church at 12:15PM.

**Saturday** - Church Cleaning **Team #6** (Mary Lou and Vince Eppolito's team) is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th.

**BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS AND WINNERS**

Congratulations to these most recent **Big Giveaway winners:** 3155 - Paula Hayes, 4113 - Ellen Schauerman, 4919 - Mary Beth Schrenk, 9711 - Crystal Hart, 8473 - Marge Alberstadt, 3051 - Tom Skarupski, 9047 - Mary Ann Curtze, and 3828 - Terry Humes.

**Our need for additional Sellers is critical.** Anyone willing to sell Big Giveaway tickets, please contact Jim Nuber at 864-9838. He will be glad to provide you with tickets as well as instructions as to how to proceed once tickets are in your hands. Many of you may have friends or associates at work who do some gambling. It should not take much to convince them that \$60 is a small price to pay for a chance to win each and every day of the year for one full year.

Should you be interested in obtaining a ticket, call Norm Zambrzycki at 835-5096 or Jim Nuber at 864-9838. They will get in touch with a Seller who will be more than happy to contact you to sell you a ticket.

Our first turn-in for the new Big Giveaway year will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 7:00 to 8:00PM, in the Auditorium.

**Priest Schedule for February 28th and March 1st**

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

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

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Ruth Bengel** by the Family.

The Altar Bread and Wine are given in memory of †**Casimir Klemen** by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Viglione.

**Scripture Readings for Next Week**

Genesis 9: 8-15 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 12-15

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS** -

In today's Gospel, Our Lord was moved when he saw the faith of the paralytic man. Many times I have spoke of mercy to our youth. Jesus had mercy on this man by first healing his soul, then his body. Mercy is granted when we show great faith and are in need of forgiveness. To better understand this Gospel, we need to view ourselves as the paralytic man. What sin is not allowing us to get up and walk in our faith? Remember that our Lord was moved when He saw the faith of the paralytic man, for this He showed mercy! There is mercy for us! Catholic Connection Youth Ministries is hosting a Mardi Gras party at St. George's parish on February 24th from 7:00 to 9:00PM. All youth are welcome to attend but must get in touch with Jesse for a permission form. There will be music, games, food, and all kinds of Mardi Gras festivities, so don't forget your Mardi Gras mask! You can always e-mail me at catholicconnection@gmail.com. Peace. Jesse



**If you will be attending the 7:00AM Mass on Ash Wednesday, please be advised that you can only park along the east side of the parking lot next to the hedges and in the street. The parking places next to the school and to the south of the school (where the convent used to be) all belong to the Roosevelt faculty and staff during the school days. You can also park in a row behind the cars next to the hedges.**

Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†**Alphonse Bachmaier**, and

†**William Carr**, brother of Lester Carr.



**LAST BOY SCOUT SOUP SALE** - The Boy Scouts of Troop 15 will be selling soups on **Sunday, March 1st** at *Coffee and Donuts* in the audi. Please help the Boy Scouts raise money for their summer camp trip!



**ENTER INTO THE SEASON OF LENT**