



Welcome to the holiest week of the year! These next seven days are so much more important than Christmas, summertime, or any other celebration throughout the whole year. This is Holy

Week. We spend these days trying to focus completely on those final days in the life of Our Lord. May each of us do everything we can to keep these days sacred . . . "Holy". Each day, this week, there should truly be time of prayer with the family. It would be wonderful if each and every day, maybe before dinner or bedtime, the family gathers together to read a passage from Scripture about the final days of the Lord. Sunday would be a great time to focus on His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, we could reflect on those precious moments of his final teachings in the Temple area. Certainly on Holy Thursday, the family could reflect on passages on the Last Supper. Certainly, on Good Friday, it would bring such sacredness to the day if the family reflected on the Passion. Holy Saturday could be a time of private prayer, and maybe a conversation with each other on what the Apostles must have been dealing with while hiding in the locked room the day after Jesus died. This entire week could truly be different if we celebrate its holiness. I would certainly encourage every family to come together for all of the celebrations. Remember, Lent ends at the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. When that Mass begins, then so does "The Triduum": Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday . . . days that are NOT part of Lent. The whole week ends with the great and glorious celebration of the Easter Vigil, the most sacred Mass of the year! Yes, it goes on for about 2 hours. But, it is so beautiful!

The Easter Candle this year was donated again by some very loyal parishioners in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We truly thank them for their generosity. May each of us say a prayer to the Blessed Mother for the intentions of these good people and their family.

You will see, along with the bulletin, post cards that we are to use, sending our thoughts to Senator Specter, Senator Casey, and Congresswoman Dahlkemper. The American Bishops are asking the Catholic people of our country to take a stance against FOCA . . . the "Freedom of Choice Act" that is now pending in Congress. Rather than having me explain, allow me to give you the details of it through the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment: *"As introduced in the 110th Congress, the "Freedom of Choice Act"(FOCA) (S. 1173, H.R. 1964) declares that it is the policy of the United States that every woman has the "fundamental right" to terminate a pregnancy. The act prohibits government at every level (federal, state, and local) from "interfering" with a woman's right to choose, and from "discriminating" against the exercise of this right. FOCA is a radical bill. For the first time, the right to abortion would become an entitlement the government must condone and support. FOCA would have an unprecedented impact on society's ability to limit or regulate abortion and would overturn a broad range of existing laws. FOCA was first introduced in 1989. Abortion groups feared that the Supreme Court was retreating from its 1973 Roe v. Wade abortion decision and began the drive to establish an even more expansive right to abortion on statutory grounds. FOCA embodies the public policy goals of pro-abortion groups. These groups will promote the bill's passage directly, and advance its agenda by working to*

reverse pro-life laws one at a time. Federal elected officials should be urged to oppose FOCA or any similar bill, and to retain laws against the funding and promotion of abortion." Both Senator Casey and Congresswoman Dahlkemper are staunch Pro-life members of Congress. I am not so sure about Senator Specter. But, all three of them have a voice and a vote on this serious issue. And, all three need to hear our voices. This is a frightening piece of legislation. We now have the most abortion-friendly Congress and Administration in U.S. history, and it would be very easy to pass. What gives me great hope, though, is what Kathy Dahlkemper told me at the Prep Legacy gala last Saturday: she said that there are a pretty hefty number of pro-life Democrats in Congress now, who hold the majority. So, we need to make our voices and opinions heard. Please . . . please fill out these cards, and then mail them in this week, the holiest week of the year . . . the week that we prepare for the great gift and celebration of New Life!

Please join us for the Reconciliation Service tonight at 7:00. We will have 6 priests joining us for confessions, and we will be here as long as it takes. I do so hope that the families of our Religious Education children will come. Another unfortunate reality to being the only priest assigned to Sacred Heart is that I cannot ever have a Reconciliation Service for our Religious Education students . . . since I am presiding at the 11:30 Mass while they are in class. So, besides having confessions 51 Saturdays a year, we have these evening Penance Services 4 times a year, offering 55 opportunities to come to confession at Sacred Heart. Parents have the primary responsibility of bringing their children to the Sacrament. I do so hope more would accept that responsibility, since I hear very few children's confessions. And, that is of great concern to me.

Have a very blessed Holy Week. The Easter Vigil is going to be beautiful!

Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

	Mar. 29, 2009	Mar. 30, 2008
Repairs & Improvements	\$41.00	\$108.00
Easter Flowers	\$1,918.00	\$35.00
Sacrificial Giving	\$5,742.00	\$6,073.12
Amount Needed	\$7,250.00	
Over/(Short)	(\$1,507.10)	

(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 680 families of the parish, 303 envelopes (45%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$18.95**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. *Thanks for your sacrifice.*

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE - Our Parish Penance Service will be this evening, Sunday, April 5th, at 7:00PM in church. We will have priests available for confession until all are heard. All are welcome.



† † † Masses For The Week

Monday, April 6th

8:30 - Leonard Przybyszewski - Family

Tuesday, April 7th

8:30 - Alice Cost - Mary Jane MacKrell

Wednesday, April 8th

8:30 - Charles Betcher - Gary Smith

Thursday, April 9th - Holy Thursday

7PM - Liturgy of the Lord's Supper with all-night Adoration

Friday, April 10th - Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

8:30 - Morning Prayer

2:00 - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7PM - Tenebrae

**Saturday, April 11th - Easter Vigil**

8:30 - Morning Prayer

8:00 - For the Living and Deceased Members of
Sacred Heart Parish**Sunday, April 12th - Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord**

9:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish

11:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish

Priest Schedule for April 11th and 12th**Saturday, 8:00PM** - Fr. Detisch**Sunday, 9:30AM and 11:30AM** - Fr. Detisch

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Cas Klemen** by Mary and Family.

The Bread and Wine are given in memory of †**Pasquale "Pat" DiPaolo** by the Family

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-9

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS** - Attention all

youth! We will be taking a few weeks off from youth group. The weeks of April 6th through April 19th we will not be meeting due to Holy Week and a retreat that I am helping with. Our

next youth meeting will be: **Thursday, April 23rd from 7:00PM until 9:00PM.**

Here are the up and coming youth ministry events.

Saturday, April 18th (8-10) SNAC @ Saint Joes.

Saturday, April 18th (Permission form needed) Middle-school youth rally! Cost for the trip is \$35 a person. We will be leaving from the Sacred Heart parking lot at 7:30AM and arriving back in Erie around 8:00PM.

Saturday, May 2nd (11:30AM-1:00AM) (Permission slip needed) Franciscan University of Steubenville and Grove City Outlets. We will be taking 2 buses once again from the Sacred Heart Parking Lot and it will cost everyone \$20 to attend the event. It is a first come first serve event.

Friday and Saturday, May 22nd and May 23rd (7-9PM) (Permission slip needed) Saint Andrew's Lock in. Join us for this over-night retreat! Participants need to bring a bag or two of canned goods for the food pantry and they need a sponsorship form for the retreat.

HOLY WEEK

Sunday - Parish Penance Service at 7:00PM in church.

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, April 10th.

BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS AND WINNERS

Well, the Special Award night party is now history, and so is the 2008-9 Big Giveaway year.

Winners on the Special Award night were:

\$50 winners - 1038 - Aristeia Colonna, 1197 - Judy Lyons, 1573 - Marlene Squeglia, 1954 - Robert Adamczyk, 1782 - Betty Ann Rush, 1234 - Tom Wojnakowski, Jr., 1187 - Joseph G. Sral, and 0768 - Christine Dimperio.

\$100 winners - 0431 - Margaret Frank, S. S. J., 0976 - Marc A. Moore, and 1200 - Helen Lewchuk.

Congratulations to all these winners. Special congratulations to the runner-up winner (the second from the last number drawn): Joe Colonna who received \$250.

And everyone was pleased to learn that Lisa Zamierowski was the Special Award winner of the \$6,000. As most everyone knows, Lisa and her sister, Lynn, co-chair the Spaghetti Dinner each year. Hearty congratulations to her.

With the passing of the 36th Big Giveaway year, it is only right that thanks are in order to all those who make the Big Giveaway the success that it is. How can we not acknowledge the wonderful people who work in the kitchen at all three parties each year? You're wonderful!! And how about all the volunteers who run the various money games during the course of the parties. They are faithful, year after year, workers. Many thanks to you. And the faithful people who work on the stage, party after party, year after year. What would we do without you? Finally, the Committee, all of whom are eligible for retirement, but refuse to take it (thank heaven). Maybe it's because the pension is lousy! You know you are the nucleus of the Big Giveaway.

Next week, we will give an update on the number of tickets sold.

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

Congratulations to the children who received **First Reconciliation** this past Saturday. May they always know of God's great love for them. Matthew Ahrens, James J. Colvin, Gabriella Comi, Joseph T. Drexler, Anthony Grack, William W. Horomanski, Mikayla Elizabeth Hricz, Griffin Anthony Johnson, Zachary Bryan-James Kehl, Nichole Lamp, Troy Lata, Natalya Rose Myers, Christopher Mooneyhan, Lauren Mooneyhan, Daniel Noggle, Gino M. Romeo, Gianna Talerico, Thomas James Twohig II, and Savannah Wilson.

