



Congratulations to all of our First Communicants! What a wonderful day in the lives of our children and their families . . . to, now, be able to receive the very presence of Jesus Christ in the

Body and Blood! This great celebration reminds us of those beautiful words of Jesus from His “Bread of Life Discourse” in the Gospel of John: *“The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal, and I will raise them up on the last day! For, my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. The one who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the Father who has life sent me, and I have life because of the Father, the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”* (John 6: 54-57) As Jesus was teaching His disciples, He was foreshadowing the great event of the Last Supper, and the time that He would leave the world and go to the Father. He ordained the first priests, the Apostles, to go forth and celebrate His actual presence, so that all who would believe could receive that presence. This great gift is now given to these children. It is our prayer that their parents and families will *always* allow their children to receive His presence each and every Sunday, when we all gather to hear God’s Word and receive the Eucharist. Why would they *not* want that? Why would parents *not* want their children to receive Christ each week? Nothing . . . nothing on earth . . . nothing in the family schedule . . . nothing(!) is more important in our lives than to be nourished by the very presence of Christ! It is so important for all of us . . . especially, parents . . . to remember these words of Jesus: *“Let me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat my flesh and drink my blood, YOU HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU!”* That is a very stern warning for those who do not receive the Eucharist: new and eternal life will *not* be given. This isn’t some man-made, “Church teaching”. This comes from the Voice of the Christ! My prayer is that parents will take this to heart, and allow the Word and the Eucharist to become the very center of their children’s lives.

As long as we are talking about the celebration of the Eucharist, please allow me to remind us of some of the Church’s teachings about receiving Christ in the Body and Blood. First, it is important to remember that, since it IS the actual presence of Jesus, which has always been taught since the Last Supper, *only those who are in a state of Grace can receive*. If people have not gone to confession and received absolution for a long time they should not receive. (That is why we have confession on 51 Saturdays . . . so people can be in a state of Grace for Sunday Eucharist!) If people are not in a Sacramental marriage, they are not able to receive, for their marriage state is not recognized as a sacrament. If couples are living together . . . specifically, living in the same bed, and are not married . . . they should not receive communion, for they are living in a serious state of sin, as defined by Christ (Mark 7: 21-23). Those who are not of the Catholic faith should not receive, until they have a belief in “actual presence”. Nor, should any Catholic receive in a non-Catholic church, since we are not of their belief in “symbolic representation”. We have always believed in actual presence, for Jesus said, *“This IS my body. This IS my blood”* during the Last Supper. He never said, “Let this symbolize or represent”, which is why we have always believed in actual presence. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I would be more than happy to answer them.

Recently, we did a complete renovation of the “Music Room”, or, as it used to be called originally, “The Altar Boy Sacristy” . . . the room behind the choir, to the right of the Reservation Chapel. When we closed the school, and leased it out to Roosevelt, we lost a lot of parish-meeting space. Now, we can have multiple meetings on the same night, and a better place for parish meetings, than the sacristy. Pastoral Council has decided to rename the new meeting room “The Findlay Conference Room”, to honor the 13-year ministry of Fr. David Findlay as Pastor. It is hard to believe that we are coming up on the first anniversary of his death at the end of May. This will be a great way to always honor him, and think about all that he did for Sacred Heart.

Thanks to Fr. Simmons and Msgr. Bogniak for helping me out with Masses this weekend, allowing me to celebrate in the 150th anniversary of my classmate’s parish in Jersey. Have a great week!

Fr. D.

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:

	Apr. 26, 2009	Apr. 27, 2008
Repairs & Improvements	\$135.00	\$109.00
International Needs	\$760.75	\$1,087.67
Sacrificial Giving	\$5,219.82	\$5,974.10
Amount Needed	\$7,250.00	
Over/(Short)	(\$2,030.18)	

(*includes loose money). Last week, out of 680 families of the parish, 290 envelopes (43%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$18.00**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. *Thanks for your sacrifice.*

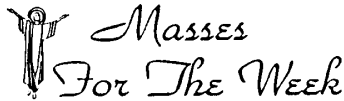
COLLECTION FOR RETIRED PRIESTS



This weekend, all parishes and missions in the Diocese of Erie are holding a special collection to support the needs of our retired Diocesan priests. This special collection on Good Shepherd Sunday will assist those dedicated priests who are elderly, seriously ill or incapacitated, and in need of supplementary assistance for expenses such as non-insured medical costs, nursing home and long-term care assistance. As the number of retired priests increases in the upcoming years the Priest Retirement Plan will need to be adequately funded to meet the future needs. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of priests who have served faithfully and will serve as a “thank you” for their many years of faithful service. Help provide them the same love and generosity they provided for us for generations. If you were unable to contribute today, you may drop your gift in the collection next week or drop through the mail slot in the rectory door. Thank you for your generosity.

Mother’s Day carnations provided by *People for Life* will be available after Mass next weekend. Celebrate Mother’s Day and bring a colorful carnation home for that special mom in your life. The donation of one dollar per carnation will support local pro-life educational efforts.





Monday, May 4th

8:30 - Marjorie Schuster - Nelda and Dick Hart

Tuesday, May 5th

8:30 - Domenico and Maria Abate - Family

Wednesday, May 6th

8:30 - Jackie Komar Hedges - Jane Komar (Grandmother)

Thursday, May 7th

8:30 - Francesco Scavella - Family

Friday, May 8th

8:30 - Elaine Senger - George and Karen Lombardo

Saturday, May 9th

4:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, May 10th - The Fifth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

9:30 - Carmen and Catherine Pirrello - Family

11:30 - Carmela Bertoncini - Family

Priest Schedule for May 9th and 10th

Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch

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

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

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Acts 9: 26-31 1 John 3: 18-24 John 15: 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. We are now 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 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.

Pray For Peace

Sunday - First Eucharist will be celebrated at the 11:30 Mass.

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

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

Thursday - The **Golden Hearts** of Sacred Heart Parish will meet on Thursday, May 7th at 12:30 in the audi.

Youth Group at 7:00PM until 9:00PM in the audi.

Friday - Church Cleaning Team #7 (Millie Grutkowski and Francine Reynolds' team) is scheduled for Friday, May 8th.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS - Jesus said to them,

"I am the Good Shepherd ... I know mine and mine know me." I love this gospel reading because Jesus tells us the story of Christianity using a shepherd and his sheep. Jesus always applied God's love to the people's everyday life and He did it with such simplicity. After explaining that He is the Good Shepherd, He explains that His sheep know Him and He knows them. As true disciples of Jesus, we must follow our Good Shepherd; sometimes unknowingly and blinded but always with an open heart! If you would like more information about youth group or our upcoming lock-in, please e-mail me at catholicconnection@gmail.com. Peace, Jesse

To the Women of Sacred Heart Parish

The Sacred Heart Altar Society, as we know it today, has been serving the parish for more than 82 years. There were other women's groups before this, but in 1926 the "Sacred Heart Altar Society" was officially set into motion, and we haven't given up yet.



May is the month we officially welcome new members, and on Wednesday, May 13th, at 6:00PM, the evening will begin with Mass celebrated by The Very Reverend John J. Detisch, V. F. During this Mass members who have gone to their eternal reward are remembered by a candle-lighting ceremony.

A light sit-down supper will be served and new members will be inducted. Present-day members are waiting to welcome you into our circle of friendship.

We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM for about two hours to pray the rosary, discuss old business and plan fundraisers like the spaghetti dinner and the rummage sale. We have a picnic in August, help with the roast beef dinner in October and have a Christmas Party. There are no meetings during July, August and December.

Every once in a while we enjoy some lively entertainment or a fascinating speaker. The meeting comes to a close with a light snack, friendly chitchat and laughter.

The Ladies of the Altar Society extend a warm and friendly invitation to all women of the parish at least 18 years old to consider joining our productive group. It's a wonderful way to serve God and have fun at the same time

The board will meet at 5:15PM.

PS - The dates for the rummage sale have been set: **June 11th, 12th and 13th**. Circle these dates on your calendar and remember us when you do your spring cleaning. **Please, no furniture or large appliances.**

The Food Pantry is counting on your donation of canned fruit this month. Thank You!

