



Welcome to Lent! These are wonderful weeks of prayer and retreat. Or, at least, they should be! I think that it is so important for us to take this time each year, if not part of each day *all*

*year*, and truly reflect on that great sacrifice of Our Lord on the cross. If you have not yet watched Mel Gibson's Passion of the Christ, which came out about 4-5 years ago, you really should, sometime during this season. It is very powerful. It is also very painful and difficult to watch . . . and, it should *not* be viewed by children. But, I believe that each and every Christian person should watch it at some point in their lives, for it is very vivid and accurate; and gives great insight into what Jesus really endured for us. Every year, we celebrate this season. But, it is vital that we truly understand the ugliness of the crucifixion in order to comprehend the depth of love of the sacrifice. If we can, we can surely refocus our lives, and give the Lord what is truly due to him from us: time . . . prayer . . . love. May we spend these next six weeks "on retreat", understanding and reflecting on the deep love of the Crucified Lord.

Thank you, Sacred Heart!! I continue to be astounded by your kindness and generosity, especially, during these difficult times. Last Sunday was "Pledge Sunday" for the 2009 Catholic Services Appeal. Our diocesan goal is \$45,166; monies that will truly help Bishop Trautman offer all the services and ministries of our diocese . . . especially, Catholic Charities and the Food Banks, and other ministries to the needy. And, our Parish Goal is \$90,000, twice the diocesan goal, which will allow us to put in a fire protection system, new front sidewalks, and, hopefully, a new carillon/bell system. I was absolutely astounded last Sunday afternoon, when I learned that – on the first day of the Appeal – we have already **\$67,205 in pledges!!!!** That is about \$20,000 over last year on the first day!!! And, that only came from 154 pledges! And, so many of these are new pledges from people who were not able to before . . . and we had all kinds of amounts, meaning people were offering what they could, and that's just fine! All I ask is that everyone offer something . . . anything! And, for the first time since I've been Pastor, we had a few pledges from kids in school!! Let's keep it going, people! I am sure that everyone that pledged so far did it out of deep generosity, and concern for the people of God, and the needs of our parish . . . and, also to get me to shut up! Great! Now, let's get the rest of the parish to keep up the momentum!

We did get one pledge for \$100, but it was not signed. If you think that was yours, please let us know. And, we have another one from "Marta", but there was no other information about how to reach her. So, Marta . . . please give us a call about that, too!

I wasn't going to mention it, but I feel I need to. This was on one envelope, "*We will give when Father stops talking politics in Church.*" I was dumbfounded, and very hurt by this. I went through all my homilies for the past 52 Sundays, and I have them all, if anyone wants to check. (I keep them deliberately, in case anyone misquotes what I say.) I spoke about one African-American minister (not Jeremiah Wright) who had attacked then-Senator Obama from his pulpit, and how he was leading his people wrongly, back in March . . . I talked about the Pope's visit to America once in April . . . I explained the church's neutral status in the political arena in late August, between the political conventions; explaining the Church's stance on issues of life . . . and, made a joke about the Governor of Illinois not joining us for Christmas. Is this offensive? I can't

imagine. I did challenge our new President about his signature on legislation that now allows for overseas abortions to be paid for by our tax dollars. My guess is that's what is upsetting to this person. *I will never apologize for defending the sanctity of human life! Never!* I'll offer a resignation before I ever give an apology for that. And, whether this person is offended by that, then, so be it! These issues ARE to be discussed and challenged in church, regardless of who the President or Governor is, for innocent and unborn human life is at stake! I just find it deplorable that someone, one of our own, would withhold monies for Catholic Charities and our Food Banks because of a statement I made challenging something our new President did on his 4<sup>th</sup> day in office. I don't want to know who wrote that. I would suggest you find another parish, for this is not something that we accept at Sacred Heart . . . withholding charitable monies because you are upset about my defense of innocent and unborn human life. (Did you know that I was the only Pastor in Erie to put on our sign, "*God Bless President Obama and Vice President Biden*" for almost a month?) My apologies, everyone. I generally couldn't care less about unsigned letters, and never did. But, this was an untruth about my preaching, which I take very seriously . . . almost as much as my defense of the innocent.

On a much better note, we have a parishioner, Jim Canfield, who wants to help elderly or needy people with their home repairs. If there are some things that need fixing, and you just don't have the funds to do it, please give Jim a call (860-4009). He will come to your house and do an assessment, and see if it is something that can be taken care of.

Have a great week!  
Fr. D.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:**

	<b>Feb. 22, 2009</b>	Feb. 24, 2008
Repairs & Improvements	\$188.00	\$136.01
Fr. Engel Fund	\$ .00	\$ .00
Sacrificial Giving	<b>\$5,961.75</b>	\$8,057.01
Amount Needed	<b>\$7,250.00</b>	
Over/(Short)	<b>(\$1,288.25)</b>	

(\*includes loose money). Last week, out of 676 families of the parish, envelopes (43%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$20.92**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. Thanks for your sacrifice.



**GOLDEN HEARTS NEWS** - The Golden

Hearts invite all seniors 55 years and older to their March 5th meeting in the audi. Lunch will be at 12:30PM. Lunch is \$2. Our guest speaker for our meeting will be Fr. John Detisch who will update us on "what is going on at Sacred Heart and what is planned for the future". So come one and all! You do not have to be a member. We would love to have you join us!

Please remember in your prayers our departed: †**Anna Mabie**; and †**Dayle Viglione**, sister-in-law of Dolores Brunk and Mary Klemen.



††† Masses  
For The Week

Lenten Schedule

**Monday, March 2nd**

8:30 - Tina Trigilio - Lenora and Robert Miniger

**Tuesday, March 3rd - St. Katharine Drexel**

8:30 - Russell Mogel - The Plonski Family

**Wednesday, March 4th**

8:30 - Linda Carter - The Knouse Family

**Thursday, March 5th**

8:30 - John Eichenlaub - Family

**Friday, March 6th - First Friday**

8:30 - Eileen Work - Lois and Jack Baker

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

**Saturday, March 7th - St. Perpetua & St. Felicity - First Saturday**

4:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

**Sunday, March 8th - The Second Sunday of Lent**

9:30 - Carmen and Catherine Pirrello - Family

11:30 - Theresa Siatkowski - Ruth and Rick Lowers

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

**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.

**Thursday** - The Golden Hearts will meet at 12:30PM in the audi. Lunch is \$2.00.

A **Baptismal Preparation Session** for parents anticipating the birth or baptism of their child will be offered at 7:00PM in the sacristy. Parents are expected to attend this session before the child is baptized. Sponsors are also invited to attend. Please call the Rectory at 456-6256, ext. 100, and let us know if you will be present.

**Friday** - Church Cleaning Team #7 (Millie Grutkowski and Francine Reynolds' team) is scheduled for Friday, March 6th.

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

**Sunday** - Spaghetti Dinner serving from Noon until 6:00PM.

**Priest Schedule for March 7th and 8th**

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

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

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †Mel and Eleanor Kofod by the Family.

The Altar Bread and Wine are given in memory of †Casimir Klemen by Mary.

**Scripture Readings for Next Week**

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8: 31b-34 Mark 9: 2-10

**LAST BOY SCOUT SOUP SALE** - The Boy Scouts of

<p><b>CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL</b>                  Diocesan Goal: \$45,166                  Parish Goal: \$90,000  <b>Pledged to Date: \$67,205</b>                  149% of Diocesan Goal                  75% of Parish Goal  <b>154 contributors = 22% of Parish</b></p>
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Troop 15 will be selling soups today, **Sunday, March 1st**, at *Coffee and Donuts* in the audi. Please help the Boy Scouts raise money for their summer camp trip!



**MOTHER TO MOTHER** volunteers are needed to empower single mothers with parenting skills, life skills and emotional support. Volunteer training is available at your convenience. If you have 1-2 hours per week to enter a one-on-one, supportive relationship with a single mom, please call Laurel Stidham at Family Services at 866-4584.



**BIG GIVEAWAY NEWS**

One month from today, the new Big Giveaway Program begins (April 1st). So far, no one has come forward to volunteer to sell tickets. We have lost several Sellers this past year, mostly as a result of their having died. These were not young people! We need fresh blood to sell these tickets. If you are a school family who needs service hours, this is one way to get a couple. You have to buy or sell three tickets as part of your Tuition Assistance Contract. All you need do is sell two additional tickets. The advantages to this are several: (1) You more than meet your assistance contract. (2) You can record the time toward service hours for the time it took to sell the additional two tickets. (3) As a Seller, you are invited to the Sellers Appreciation Dinner held in January (it's free). I'm sure many of you know, work with, have family, who are willing to spend \$60 for a chance to win each and every day for a year. We have several ticket holders who have won at least twice during the year. A buyer need not pay the entire \$60 up front: two payments of \$30 each or 3 payments of \$20 each eases the sticker shock of \$60.

**Please** call Jim Nuber at 864-9838 or Norm Zambryzcki at 835-5096. Both will be happy to supply you with tickets and explain the simple process of returning stubs and money.

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

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS - Attention all 8th graders!**



On Monday, March 2nd Catholic Connection Youth Ministries will be attending the Jason Evert talk "Romance without regret". This event is free to all of our 8th grade youth thanks to the diocese! Jason is a great speaker and many of my youth have enjoyed his DVD that we have showed at all three youth groups. Please mark this date on your calendars, it starts at 7:00PM and will be held at the Cathedral Center. We will be meeting at 6:30PM in front of the Cathedral Center (11th and Sassafras); don't miss this opportunity to see Jason! Please feel free to e-mail me at catholicconnection@gmail.com if you need a permission slip for this event!