

From the Pastor's Desk

We are very happy to welcome and honor ALL married couples to our liturgies today. As a parish family, we have set aside this day to mark World Marriage Day, which was February 12.

Last Sunday, Sr. Joanne Gardner did a great job re-capping the keynote speaker at the diocesan Liturgy Day which was held at Saint Charles Parish on February 4. I am grateful to those who took some time that day to represent our parish and experience the various workshops. The time spent will undoubtedly benefit our liturgies.

In my homily last Sunday, I spoke about the "lepers" in our lives based on the first Scripture reading and the Gospel. I mentioned that I was at a Bible Study that read and discussed these readings. The group talked about "who" were the lepers in our lives and how we could reach out to them (and others) in the spirit of last Sunday's Gospel.

Here is a partial list from the group.....

- When you say, "How are you?" make it sound as though you REALLY want to know.
- Seek out and talk with a relative at a family gathering---one you'd rather avoid.
- Remember birthdays with a card, especially for those who need cheering.
- Take a plate of cookies to an unhappy person on your street.
- Pray for those who mistreat you.
- Have lunch with the obnoxious co-worker who never seems to stop talking.
- Forgive someone who is a "leper" in your life.
- Say something complimentary to someone --- especially someone who needs it most.
- Be creative and find a way to "hug" the lepers among us.

BOTTOM DOLLAR !

We have a new neighbor in town. The FOOD LION national food chain has come to town in a big way by investing in three full-service stores. In my work with ACTION, I have been aware of the

city's "food desert" status which is a very sad commentary on our community. Many entities have worked very hard with the city to make these stores a reality. Stop by and welcome them to town.

MARDI GRAS THIS TUESDAY IN THE SOCIAL HALL BEGINNING AT 6:00pm and lasting until 8:00PM. The cost is \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children and/or \$10.00 per family.

Ash Wednesday Liturgies are at 8:30AM and 7:00PM.

Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent 6:30PM.

Potato soup will be available in our social hall at 5:00pm on February 24th.

Following the announcement by President Obama that his administration will implement a policy that accommodates religious liberty, Bishop George V. Murry, S.J., made the following statement:

"With the announcement today from President Obama, it appears that the concerns expressed by Catholics and others of good will about religious liberty have been heard and respected. We must wait, however, and study the final document to ensure that these freedoms are actually intact.

The right of the American people to practice their faith, no matter what that faith may be, must never be destroyed. Our country was built on the rights of religious freedom and the government has made the correct decision to not interfere with those rights.

I pray that our government will always respect the right of individuals to disagree with a policy on religious grounds."

Recently, I spent part of the afternoon visiting some friends who live in the Park Vista "tower" apartments. These are independent-living apartments such as we have all over our valley. And what a view of the city Park Vista provides! The folks I visited live on the eighth floor. WOW! With the apartments so close to downtown and the other downtown residence "addresses" in the Realty Tower, Federal Building, the soon-to open Erie Terminal apartments and the continuing expansion of the "Flats at Wick near Wick Park"

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

downtown living is becoming more and more of a reality. There is a “vibrancy” in the air, the likes of which I have not seen since coming to Saint Pat’s back in April, 1985.

Next Saturday at 11:00AM, we have some of our young folks making their First Reconciliation. Please pray for them and their families:

Ella Catanzarite Deanna Mike
Alaina Francis Kaila Stitzel
Amiliyah Lee

IT’s PARADE TIME !!
The Saint Patrick’s Day parade is scheduled for Sunday, March 11. We have some good ideas for this year’s parish entry. Like to help?? Have some ideas?? Meet Colleen and Peach next Sunday after morning Mass in the daily Mass chapel.

Next Sunday, Gary and Theresa Ferrando and Jeff and Janis Syphard will be hosting a 90-minute listening session for our youth right after evening Mass.

Had the opportunity recently to visit the Paramount Project exhibit at the McDonough Museum on Wick Avenue. The exhibit had a wonderful timeline of the Paramount Theater’s history downtown, several video oral histories of remembrances of the theater and a timeline for the project’s goals for the next five years. The folks who are moving this along want to see two small shops on Federal Street, some office space on the second floor and an outdoor performance area behind the façade. The theater seating area will be demolished for the outdoor venues. Check out some artist renderings at www.paramountproject.org.

This weekend the Diocese of Youngstown is holding the **Church Overseas Combined Collection** for ministries of the Church around the globe. These ministries of **Catholic Relief Services, Holy Father/Peter’s Pence, the Church in Latin America and the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** assist the Church in serving people who are hungry, refugees, victims of natural disasters, and development projects. Please give generously to this collection which combines four collections in one.

Mass Schedule

Sunday, February 19 / 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am Anne Crogan
5:30pm William S. Wibly

Monday, February 20

8:30am Miraculous Medal

Tuesday, February 21 / St. Peter Damian

8:30am Jerry Welsh

Wednesday, February 22

8:30am For the People
7:00pm Special Intention

Thursday, February 23

8:30am Anthony & Mary Morelli

Friday, February 24

8:30am Mary Kay Gribbon

Saturday, February 25

Sunday, February 26 / 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00am Felix Crespo & Hilda DelValle
5:30pm Nicholas & Rose DePaola

NEXT SUNDAY ...

| | <u>10:00am Mass</u> | <u>5:30pm Mass</u> |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Readers: | John Pelles Georgia Turco Mary Lou Eicher | Dan Welsh Michelle Craig Jesse McClain |
| Distributors: Altar | Patti Burke John Turco Gerard Galbriath Rick Zimmer Joanne Zimmer Linda Riley | Cathy McClain Beth Detec Eddie Torres |
| Sacristan: | Carl Pennington | Shelly Semko |
| Servers: | Anthony Carelly Danny McMaster Ariana Mostella | Robbie Kale Patrick Kale Victor DiTommaso Joe Marchionda |
| Greeters: | Bob Droege Sally Yount | Anne Liller Leah Brown |
| Ushers: | Jim Snyder Edgar Mosco David Dilla Tim Cassidy | Bill Petrunak Jack Kelly |

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| Collection – | |
| Regular (89 envelopes) | \$3,948.40 |
| Electronic Giving (8 envelopes) | 395.00 |
| Weekly Budget Amount | 7,375.00 |
| Difference | - 3,031.60 |
| Visitor | 815.00 |
| Novena | 21.00 |
| Children (3 envelopes) | 4.00 |

AT MASS

10:00am 177 5:30pm 76

The Sanctuary Candle burns February 18 thru February 24 for Walter & Anne Scheetz from the Scheetz Family.