

From The Pastor's Desk

As most of you saw last weekend, we recently had four more stained glass windows installed. They depict the following scenes from the New Testament:

A- Front North West Window - The Cure of Jairus' Daughter: The young girl who was sick and considered dead is restored to life by the healing touch of Jesus.

B- North East Window - The Samaritan Woman at the Well: Jesus 'draws' faith from her as she is drawing water from the well.

C- Front South West Window - The Visitation: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is expecting John the Baptist.

D- South East Window - The Holy Family: This scene depicts the Holy Family at the home in Nazareth.

The large windows on the North and South sides will depict the Twelve Apostles. The four remaining windows in the church, as well as the windows in the Chapel and Meeting Room will depict other New Testament scenes. These include the Wedding Feast at Cana, The Agony in the Garden, Christ in the Temple, the Storm at Sea, Christ with the Children, and the Woman Washing the Feet of Jesus. We hope all will be installed by May.

Starting next weekend, March 1st, we will be distributing **Communion under both species**: the Body and Blood of Christ in the Host and the Chalice. Initially these will take place at the 9am and 10:30am Masses. Once we see how this works, and more Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are trained, we will extend it to all the Sunday Masses. Currently both species are offered at all daily Masses.

While as Catholics we believe that the fullness of Christ is present in either the Host or the Chalice, "the Second Vatican Council called for the restoration of distributing the cup to the laity as a fuller sign of the meaning of the Eucharist and of Christ's total gift of himself to us." This means that we receive the fullness of Christ in either the Host or the Chalice, but the reception of both is a fuller sign of our participation in the gift Jesus first offered us at the Last Supper. It is up to the individual to decide whether he or she wants to receive from both. We also should be aware that an increasing number of people are being diagnosed with Celiac disease and are unable to receive the Host. These individuals will be able to receive just from the Chalice.

Following are common questions often asked in the distribution of the Cup:

Is this a way that colds are spread? All studies show that the chance of spreading germs is extremely small while drinking from the Chalice, but we do recommend that anyone who has a cold or other sickness refrain from receiving the cup. Most germs are spread through the hands.

Are we allowed to give children wine? No, however, we as Catholics believe that the chalice contains only the Blood of Christ after the Consecration. In fact, it is a heresy to consider it 'wine' after this point. Please make every effort to refrain from calling it wine and allowing children to say this.

Do I have to receive from the Chalice? No, this is up to the individual. As I indicated, some individuals will also receive just from the Chalice and not the Host. It is an individual choice.

How do I receive from the Chalice? The priest, Deacon, or Eucharistic Minister will say "the Blood of Christ", you say "Amen", and then carefully take the Chalice in your own hands, consume a small sip, and then hand it back carefully. Never should the Chalice be placed to the lips of someone to receive; instead you take the Chalice into your own hands. Anyone trying to get a child to drink by placing a glass to their mouth knows that spilling becomes too easy this way. The children in our Faith Formation Classes will also receive catechesis on the proper procedure.

As always, the reception of the Eucharist is an important event, in fact the most important event in this life, and should be followed by a time of prayer.

*Faithfully yours in Christ,
Monsignor Desmond*



Remember, if you have not made your pledge to the Cardinal's Appeal, please do so this week. The theme of the Cardinal's Appeal is *Sharing God's Gifts*. Please be as generous as your means allow in your 2009 appeal commitment. Do not forget that you can pledge your gift now and make payments in the coming months. Again, thank you to all who have made their gift.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Lent begins this week! Your children will be receiving rice bowls to support the humanitarian outreach efforts of Catholic Relief Services. Please encourage your children to be as generous as possible with their Lenten sacrifices. Also please join your child for Ash Wednesday services at 3:30 pm or 5:30 pm or for Mass at 7 pm.

Our first Family Catechesis session of the spring takes place on Thursday, February 26th, 6-8:30 pm in the Church Meeting Room. Monday, February 23rd will be the last day to register your family for this session. The topic will be St. Paul, a really neat guy!

Monday is also the last day to bring in supplies for the annual St. Vincent de Paul collection. If you have not already done so, please send in with your child one of the supplies listed in this month's Parent Newsletter.

FAMILY CATECHESIS VOLUNTEERS

Adult volunteers are needed to help with skits, crafts and games for our three Family Catechesis Sessions scheduled for Thursday, February 26th, Sunday, March 15th and Saturday, April 25th. Please call Mary Biasotti, Director of Faith Formation, for details as to how you can help, 227-1710.

TOUR IRELAND

Tour Ireland with Monsignor Charlie Coen from August 9th through August 18th. If you've ever wanted to see Northern Ireland, this is the time and this is the tour. Sign up now to see these exciting sites in Northern Ireland: Giant's Causeway, Derry, Belfast, Beleek, Mountains of Mourne, Glens of Antrim, Armagh, and Downpatrick. We will then travel south to Dublin, Knock, Westport and Donegal. Call 845-758-1232 for a brochure.

TRI PARISH TEEN GROUP

There will be a general meeting tonight, February 22nd, after the 5:30pm Mass. Several of our teens will do a presentation on the topic: *Saints vs. Idols*. All High School teenagers are invited to join us and share their input on this interesting topic. We look forward to seeing you, and feel free invite a friend.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
NEXT WEEKEND**

The Teen Group will host a Pancake Breakfast after the 9am and 10:30am Masses next Sunday. The proceeds from this breakfast will help to fund the activities and service projects of the Teen Group. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 (\$20 maximum per family). Please consider supporting our teens while enjoying some delicious food.

**BLESSED KATERI PRAYER
NETWORK**

If you have intentions or requests that you would like our Prayer Network to pray for, please call Nancy Vaughn at 226-4053, or Betty Paraggio at 223-5674.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEB. 25th
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WILL TAKE
PLACE THIS WEDNESDAY DURING THE
9AM AND 7:00PM MASSES
AND THE 3:30PM AND 5:30PM SERVICES

R.C.I.A.

Our next R.C.I.A. session is on Thursday, February 22nd; we will be discussing the first 3 Commandments and Baptismal vows. These instructional sessions are open to all from 7 to 9pm in the St. Paul Conference Room.

CHOWDER FRIDAYS FOR LENT

Homemade Manhattan and New England clam chowder will be sold by St. Mary's Columbiettes for the benefit of local parishes. Orders must be placed by Wednesday for pick-up on Friday. The price of \$6.50 per quart includes bread or crackers. Pick up will be at the Fishkill Knights of Columbus hall on Route 82 between 2:30pm and 6:30pm on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent. Placing an order is easy; just call Fran at 440-7033 or Lori at 897-5833.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

Girl Scouts are invited to attend and participate in a special Mass on Sunday, March 8th at 10:30am. We will gather in the church meeting room at 10:15 in full uniform. If interested please RSVP to Donna Lankard at 226-3606 or email lankard@optonline.net. Girls may attend with their troop or independently.

**ENRICH YOUR LENTEN SEASON
AT WEEKDAY MASSES IN OUR AREA**

Weekday Masses at Blessed Kateri are held Monday through Saturday at 9:00am. St. Columba Parish offers Masses each weekday at 7am and 12:00pm, with an 8am Mass on Saturday mornings. Weekday Masses at St. Denis are at 9:00am each weekday, including Saturday. Especially during Lent, make an effort to participate in the Eucharist.

**RULES OF FASTING AND
ABSTINENCE**

During the penitential season of Lent, it is important to know the traditional rules of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting means eating only one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken. Snacking is not allowed. **The two major days for fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** Everyone who can limit themselves to one full meal should do so, but the obligation rests on those between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence means that you do not eat meat. Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent are days when we do not eat meat. This obligation begins at age 14 and has no upper limit.

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you are sick, homebound, or in the hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or would like a pastoral visit, please contact Deacon John by leaving a detailed message at 223-8410 or calling the rectory at 227-1710. If you prefer, you may e-mail Deacon John at JBarone49@gmail.com

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

St. Columba Church will hold a Lenten Parish Mission on March 2nd through March 4th at 7pm each evening. Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB, will explore a topic each night, and the evening will conclude with Benediction.

OLL 50th ANNIVERSARY GALA

In celebration of 50 years of quality education, Lourdes is hosting a gala on Saturday, May 9th. The evening will commence with an Anniversary Mass at the school and then move to the Grandview in Poughkeepsie for a night of dinner and dancing. Seats are limited, so reserve soon by calling Christine Kolosky at 463-0400 ext. 1005.

ACTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS

The teen years are filled with change and challenge for both teens and parents. Become a 'pro' at the most important job of your life by taking this cutting-edge discussion and video program, **Active Parenting of Teens**. The introductory/first session is free and will be held at St. Mary's Parenting Office in Fishkill on Monday, March 16th. You can choose the 12pm-2pm session or the 7pm to 9pm session.

FREE TAX AIDE/PREPARATION

AARP provides free tax aid and free tax preparation on Monday afternoons at the St.Denis Rectory Meeting Room. There are no age or income restrictions. Call 211 to make an appointment.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

This week the items needed by the SVDP food pantry are: dish detergent, laundry detergent and macaroni and cheese. Please leave your items in the church narthex (vestibule). For those in need of assistance, the SVDP hotline number is 227-7863.

PARISH INCOME REPORT

Last Week's Collection: \$10,471
Last Year's Collection: \$9,118

PETITION OF THE WEEK

Let us pray that we all use this Lenten Season to draw closer to Christ in our prayer and good works.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	February 23
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Tuesday	February 24
9:00am	Intentions of the Knights of Columbus by the Link Family
Wednesday	February 25
9:00am	For All Parishioners
3:30pm	Ash Wednesday
5:30pm	Ash Wednesday
7:00pm	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	February 26
9:00am	Special Intention by Catherine Gorr
Friday	February 27
9:00am	Luz Rojas by her daughter Mercedes and family
Saturday	February 28
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Sunday	March 1
5:00pm Sat.	Fran Bodnar by Peter Bodnar
9:00am	Maria Markevicz by the Hanson Family
10:30am	Thomas Lowery by Lillianne Lowery
12:15pm	Saverio, Rosina, and Joseph Tenuta by Antonia Tenuta
5:30pm	For All Parishioners

Please pray for those who are ill

Jackie and Joe DePalma--Marion Carney--Billy Jacobs
Marie Gauci--Johnny Romano--Amanda Jones
Fred Matthews--Victor Thomas--Wendy Sullivan
Raymond Trangalli--Caitlin Ann Martin--Rick Cole
Maria Sorrentino--Susan Lancella--Concetta Liccione
Mary Griego--Bob Wilson--Joseph Liccione
William Grafer--Deneé DeVizio--Mark Kearney
Richard DeLeo Sr.--Frank Fetzer--Marie Fetzer
Joseph Rogers—Steve Majusiak

Liturgical Ministers for March 1st 2009

	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:00pm Sat Msgr. O'Connor	Noe Ilano	Carol Reilly , Geraldine Natale Andrea Ceonzo	Katherine, Hannah and Richard Coffin
9:00am Msgr. O'Connor	John McCormack	Cathy Varano, Patricia Lyons Betty Perrino, Dave & Anne Anderson	Adam Varano, Tianna Arnold Samantha Campos
10:30am Msgr. O'Connor	Joe Mackey	Patricia Mackey, Carolyn Criscione, Keith McCartney, Geraldine Natale, Suzanne Power	Hunter Criscione, Lauren Kirchner Carolyn Newhard
12:15pm Msgr. O'Connor	Norm Dauerer	Anne Diggins, Rosemary Archer Margaret DeSa	Angela Alessandro Amanda and Emily Silva
5:30pm Sun Msgr. O'Connor	Bernie Zerfas	Margaret and Stephen Ren	Claire and Elizabeth Baxter

