

FROM THE DESK OF FR. DAVID:

Since some parishioners have not experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal setting, the following article is in preparation for the Advent Penance Service on Sunday, 16 December 2007

HEALING FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

An Understanding of Reconciliation (Confession)

Since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has been in the process of revising the rites of the various sacraments so that their meaning and power may be allowed to better nourish the faith-life of Catholics. In his pastoral reflections on the sacrament, the theologian Timothy O'Connell, brings out the following points for consideration in our understanding of the sacrament and its celebration. I have summarized his insights from an article that appeared in Chicago Studies.

What makes for a successful celebration of a sacrament? All sacraments are radically communal experiences presuming a gathering and a sense of call and responsibility. Through song and prayer, posture and movement, action and silence, the people orchestrate a communal expression of faith. But for all this "communality", sacraments also include a note of individuality. Think of Sunday morning Eucharist. In the context of the community of believers, each person receives communion for himself or herself. The note of individuality is secondary, taking a few seconds, in comparison to the communal act of the whole Eucharist. This describes the "ideal" Eucharist, though there are other forms possible: Eucharist with a few people vs. the whole community or just a priest and a single participant. Such celebrations though are deficient in comparison with the ideal.

Application

With this as a backdrop let us turn to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). The most familiar form of the sacrament is the penitent and priest. Following O'Connell's thinking the best form of celebrating a sacrament is one, which is rooted in the communal with a note of individuality. Though all the forms are valid and necessary for special circumstances, the first form (penitent and priest) is deficient in the communal aspect. This form is more appropriate for those in mortal sin, which in the teaching of the Council of Trent is the only kind of sin Catholics, are obligated to confess in kind and number. The "one on one" experience with a confessor also allows for counseling and spiritual direction.

What O'Connell proposes is a communal celebration focused on the root causes of sin in our lives with a note of individuality and God as the initiator of grace. Thus for our Advent Penance Service the form that we will use is a communal expression of faith in God's mercy, listening to God's Word and singing God's praise, with a note of individuality, each penitent coming in procession to priests as if for Communion and expressing their sinfulness and trust in God's love. The outline of the rite to be used follows.

Introductory Rite

Liturgy of the Word

Rite of Reconciliation

Litany of Mercy (Examination of Conscience)
Invitation to Reconciliation and Absolution

People will be invited to approach one of the priests and in procession as if going to Communion, stand before him and express that they are a sinner and confess their sins. Absolution will be prayed and the penitent will return to their place until all are absolved and together sing a Song of Thanksgiving

Concluding Rites

I hope that this manner, true to the tradition of the Church, will allow for greater healing in the lives of God's people. I have invited other priests from our area to assist me.

Amsterdam to Iraq:

A Christmas Journey of Hope for our Service men...

Items to be sent to Iraq can be brought this week and left in Saint Stan's Church Hall. See flyers for appropriate items. Thank you.

Help needed to package and prepare for mailing:

St. Stan's Church Hall: Monday, 10 December @ 9am.

SSG Folckemer, Jason E. (son of Janette Folckemer)

D Co 2-22 IN (4th PLT)

1/10 MTN, Fob Warrior

APO AE 09338

H.M.3 Barth, Andrew J. (grandson of Helen Podolec)

3/5 H+S Co.

SSP VIC40380

FPO-AP 96426-0380

Capt Benjamin Bennett (Florence and John Trzaskos)

HHC 2-12-1N

Unit #42507

APO AE 09361-2507

Advent Taize Prayer

Wednesdays, 12 and 19 December 2007 @ 6:30pm
Saint Stanislaus Rectory

Devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday, 9 December 2007 @ 3:00pm

Saint Stanislaus Church

sponsored by Saint Stanislaus Rosary Society

**Advent Communal Penance Service
& Celebration of First Reconciliation**

Sunday, 16 December 2007 @ 4:30pm

Saint John the Baptist Church

This will be preceded at 3:00pm by a rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant.

Winter begins heralding the Christmas feast

Saturday, 22 December 2007

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22/23 December 2007

The Mass Schedule is the same as on any Sunday. Both the Sunday and the Solemnity of Christmas are holy days for Catholics to be marked by the celebration of the Eucharist.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, 24 December 2007

Mass at the Vigil

5:30pm Saint John the Baptist

preceded by caroling and pageant beginning at 5pm

Mass at Night

10:30pm Saint Stanislaus

preceded by caroling beginning 10pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, 25 December 2007

Mass at Dawn

8:30am Saint Stanislaus

Mass during the Day

10:30am Saint Casimir

READERS take note: prepare the appropriate readings for each of the four Masses of Christmas, that is, at the Vigil, at Night, at Dawn and during the Day.

Marana tha! Come Lord Jesus!

The longing cry and ancient hymn of the early Church, **Marana tha! Come Lord Jesus!**, is found in the final phrases of the Book of Revelation. It sums up the Church's yearning for her Lord to bring to completion what was announced and begun at the incarnation; that the Kingdom of God come in its fullness.

With the approaching feast of Christmas, the Church looks back remembering when God entered human history and time historically. At the same time she continues to move into the future with the expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises and the coming of her Lord in glory. Though this is especially reflected in the liturgies of the Church just prior to and folding over into Advent's beginning; it is also found in every Eucharistic Liturgy throughout the year. In one sense the church finds herself in a perpetual Advent crying out for the coming of her God.

Below are examples from the Church's liturgy that express our waiting for the completion of God's kingdom and the Second Coming of the Son, Jesus.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people.

Penitential Rite C2

Kyrie eleison, translated 'Lord, have mercy' is not a cry so much for mercy as an acclamation, originally shouted at the Roman Byzantine Emperor as victor. Here Jesus is victor over death and comes to embrace and save his people. Penitential Rite C

He (Jesus) will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. Creed

Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised will be ours when Christ Our Lord will come again in his glory. Advent Preface I

Christ has filled us with joy...so that when he comes he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. Advent Preface II

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Memorial Acclamation A

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory. Memorial Acclamation B

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory. Memorial Acclamation C

Father, calling to mind the death your Son endured...and ready to greet him when he come again. Eucharistic Prayer III

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. We recall Christ's death...and looking forward to his coming in glory. Eucharistic Prayer IV

Jesus now lives with you in glory...one day he will come in glory and in his kingdom there will be no more suffer... Eucharistic Prayer for Children III

We celebrate [Christ's] death and resurrection and look for the coming of that day when he will return to give us the fullness of joy. Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us. Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

Our Father...thy kingdom come; the Lord's Prayer

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Embolism following the Lord's Prayer



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWS

Weekly Parish Stewardship Report

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008: \$216,390.00
The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$4,161.35**
prior to fundraising efforts.

Collection: 12/02/07: \$2,137.00

Weekly: \$1,578.00 Monthly: \$92.00 Fuel: \$20.00
Diocesan: \$260.00 Misc.: \$400.00 Candles: \$28.00
Flowers: \$15.00 Christmas: \$10.00
Imm. Concept.: \$10.00

FYI...

- The names of Albert Zierak and Lori Crosby were submitted by the Council as new Trustees of Saint John's Parish. They have accepted the position and their names have been in turn submitted to Bishop Hubbard for appointment. The corporation for each parish consists of the Bishop as president, the pastor as secretary-treasurer and two lay trustees. I am grateful for them stepping forward to serve at this time.
- Three pews have been removed by the side entrance in front of the Sacred Heart altar to allow for a more ease of movement into the church.

FAITH FORMATION: Religion classes this Sunday at 9:15 am. **There will be no Faith Formation classes December 16 thru December 30.** December 16 at 3:00 pm will be the Pageant Rehearsal followed by the Communal Penance Service and First Reconciliation at 4:30. All students and their families are asked to attend. Faith Formation classes will resume on January 6, 2008.

PIEROGI WORKERS: Pierogi making continues on Monday at 8:00 am. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!! "The more, the merrier!"



SAINT CASIMIR NEWS

Weekly Parish Stewardship Report

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008: \$188,494.02
The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$3,624.89**
prior to fundraising efforts.

11/15/07 Collection: \$1,839.00

Weekly: \$1,296.00 Monthly: \$28.00 Ascension: \$3.00
All Saints: \$2.00 All Souls: \$7.00
Fuel/ Insurance: \$215.00 Dues: \$230.00.00
Votive Candles: \$23.00 Catholic Campaign: \$15.00

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for contributing your 2007 envelopes for posting is December 30th. Donations received after that date will be posted to the year 2008.

Next Sunday is our annual collection for Christmas Flowers: Because of your ongoing support and contributions our Church always looks beautiful in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ.

500 CLUB WINNER

November 21-Frances Luzinas #840
November 28-Jennifer Allen #759

FOOTBALL POOL-WINNER

Week # 12 Gary McNeil
Week # 13 Elaine Pallotta

Thank you to Bob and Pat VanWert for their donation to St. Casimir's Church.

THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 100 will hold their Christmas Party TODAY at Parillo's Restaurant at 1:00 pm.

THE ST. CASIMIR'S LADIES AUXILIARY ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE is taking place **today** in the Social Center, before and after the 10:30 Mass. Please support our ladies with this delicious fundraiser.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the annual Fall **Brooks Chicken Barbecue**. (over 530 dinners were served) We are most grateful to the following volunteers for donating their time and talents to make this annual event such a success:
Inside workers: Diane Pagano, Elaine Pallotta, Jean Christman, Tony Novak, Ruth Ralys, Donna Gavilcukas, Christine Andrzejczyk, Joan Teabout, Polly and Eddie Ziausys, Ann Czerw and Helen Kiuber. **Drive Thru:** John Bablin, Jim Pabis and Karl Andrzejczyk. **Deliveries:** Peter Mikolaitis and Jim Gavrilcukas. A special thank you to co-chairpersons Karl and Christine Andrzejczyk. A profit of \$1,064.44 was realized from this fundraiser.

THANK YOU to all St. Casimir's Faith Formation students, their families, catechists, parishioners and all who participated in our annual Care and Share Thanksgiving project of providing a turkey and all the trimmings to serve local families. **Special thanks** to Catholic Family Services for providing the families, to St. Casimir's Parish, Hannaford Market, Price Chopper and to the Kisielis Family for the donations of the turkeys. **Thank you** to Mrs., Gavry and the 2008 St. Casimir's Confirmation Class for their help in preparing the baskets of food and to Gerry Drenzek for delivering the baskets in time for Thanksgiving. May God bless all for their participation on this year's Thanksgiving project. Also please see the "thank you" message received from Catholic Charities posted on the bulletin board.

ST. CASIMIR'S FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

has again offered to support Community Maternity Services. Gift tags with the name, gender and age of the clients are available next to the Christmas tree in the Social Center. There is also a list of popular gift items. There are several tags remaining and we invite you to take a name tag and provide a NEW gift. It has also been requested that these gifts be put in a gift BAG rather than a box for convenience purposes. Monetary gifts are also appreciated. The presents should be brought to the rectory or social center no later than December 16th. We thank you all for your support in making the holidays happy for those less fortunate

We will be working on the schedule for the **Coffee Hour**, January through June 2008. Please call the office to let us know if your team is willing to continue for the new year. Also we invite others to consider forming additional teams.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, St. Casimir's will be having a special Christmas Season Holiday Brunch. Which will begin shortly after the 10:30 am. Mass. There is no charge for this event which is open to everyone in the community and affords great opportunity to relax and enjoy some special time with family and friends. If you would like to help by volunteering or donating food items, please contact the rectory at 842-5481.

ATTENTION SENIORS!! You are invited to join the Horace J. Inman Senior Center. Please see the Bulletin Board for more information or call Jeanette at 842-3815.

SAINT STANISLAUS NEWS

WEEKLY PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budgeted Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008: **\$400,627.04**
The weekly collection needed to meet our expenses: **\$7,704.37**
prior to fundraising efforts.

12/02/07 Collection: \$5,533.00

Weekly: \$4,421.00.00 Monthly: \$1,002.00

Capital Improvement: \$110.00

Thrift Store: \$98.00

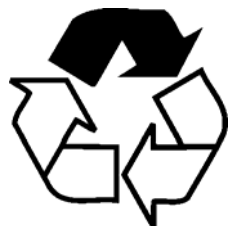
Empties 4 Cash: \$35.25

THANK YOU to all who donated food and/or money to our Annual Thanksgiving Day Food Pantry collection. Through your efforts and generosity, our local Food Pantry received 61 bags of food and \$279.00 in cash!

LADIES' ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING - Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. in the church hall. Donations of bingo prizes (unwrapped) and raffle items for the Society's annual Christmas party (1/12) should be brought to this meeting.

CHOIR REHEARSALS for Christmas Masses will be held on December 9th and 16th immediately following the morning Mass. New voices are always welcome!!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING beginning at 1:00 pm Wednesday, 19 December 2007; All are welcome to come and assist.



RECYCLE

U.S. GREEN FIBER

of Haganan

has dropped off a recycling bin for our use in our latest fundraising efforts!

A pick-up is scheduled every two weeks and we receive a check of at least \$25.00 for each pick-up. **This bin is not to be used for garbage items!!**

The only items to be deposited in this bin are telephone books, newspapers, office paper, paperback books and magazines, paper bags, craft paper, cereal & kleenex boxes, soda & beer boxes, shredded paper, and broken down cardboard. No glass, plastics, styrofoam, metal, trash, aluminum, string or plastic grocery bags. Please do not put recyclable items in plastic bags. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda at the rectory at 842-2771. Thank you!

NEW CATHEDRAL DOCUMENTARY TO AIR ON CHANNEL 17

A new documentary entitled "Hearth of Devotion for the People" about the history and planned renovation of Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will air on Thursday December 13th at 8:30 pm on WMHT Channel 17. DVD copies of this production can be ordered by contacting the Diocesan Stewardship Office at (518) 453 - 6657.

BENEFIT FOR STACY PRIAMO

Tuesday, December 11th
4:00 - 7:00pm

Parillo's Armory Grill

Chicken Parmigiana Dinner (*take-out containers available*) \$12.00

7:00 - 10:00pm

Live Music with Joe Altieri & Friends \$5.00 cover charge



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Alois Sumigray, req. John Soltys

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Martha Czosnykowski, req. Arvilla Graham & Dorothy Dwyer

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Eleanor Niemczyk, req. Marlene & Joanne Skowronek

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Stanley (Steve) Rimkunas, req. Stanley and Evelyn Rimkunas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Julius Wojcikiewicz (20th Ann.), req. Sister, Daughter & Granddaughter

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 (St. John's)

Violet Malicki, req. Edmund & Joan Wnek

Charles Lis, req. PAV Auxiliary

Betty Dybas, req. Lottie Rogers

Jean Wancewicz, req. Mary Ann & Murph Romeyn

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16-8:30 @ St. Stan's/10:30 @ St. Casimir

8:30am **Maryann & Ignatius Wachnicki and Stasia Wszolek**, req. Helen

Rev. Chester J. Klementowicz (Ann.), req. Family

Harold Sherman, req. Wife Danielle

Isabel Krupa (30th Ann.), req. Family

10:30am **For Parishioners**

SANCTUARY LAMP -December 2-8, 2007: In memory of:

Joseph & Mark J. Dylong from Wife/Mother and Jim & Delores

Stanley(Steve) Rimkunas from Stanley & Evelyn Rimkunas

Mary Sweet (1st Ann.) from Arlene & Walt Jasper

Mary & Jack Sweet from Helen Dombroski