

# Parish Work Day

## Saturday, March 28, 2009

### 8am - 3pm

Mark you calendars for our next Parish Work Day. Areas to be worked on include:

**Church:** 3-4 volunteers needed - Pew touch-up

**Kenna Hall:** 12-15 volunteers needed:

- Re-organize/paint Sport/Booster cage
- Locker room painted & ceiling repaired
- Ladies restroom ceiling repaired
- Large boxes (2ftx3ft) are also needed.



Thank you to Faye Knaggs who has volunteered to provide lunch for the workers. Volunteers are still needed to provide food and refreshments for the workers for Breakfast.

We need to know that we will have enough volunteers to accomplish our goals.....

Please call the Parish Office 854-1143 ASAP to volunteer.

Would you like to take part in a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where you would have a guided tour and walk in the footprints of Jesus? Where you would celebrate daily Mass at the holy sites with your own Priest and Pilgrimage Spiritual Director, Fr. David Hudgins, Pastor of St. Joseph Adrian, and be with a group of likeminded Catholic friends?

We are Jim and Cheryl Olszewski, parishioners at St Joseph in Adrian, and in 2006 we decided to make this pilgrimage, and for us, it was a life changing event. We are planning a return visit, this time with our two adult daughters, **and** as many Catholic friends and fellow area parishioners as we can convince to share and grow their faith with this life changing experience.

The Pilgrimage is scheduled for January 13 to 22, 2010.

If you have any interest, would like to know more, or request a trip brochure, please contact us. Jim or Cheryl Olszewski: 517 467 4734 or Email @

[olszewski7766@yahoo.com](mailto:olszewski7766@yahoo.com).

## Lenten Resources

Several resources are available to help you in your Lenten journey. Please check the table in the Narthex:

### † Red Envelope Project

Sponsored by the Life Issues Institute

The idea is to send an empty red envelope to President Obama at the White House. On the back of the envelope is this simple message:

This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world.

The red color represents the blood of over 50 million unborn babies who have been sacrificed on the altar of choice. The goal is to have a tidal wave of red envelopes flood the mailroom of the White House.

Please take a red envelope, affix a stamp and an address label (optional) and drop it in the mail.

### † The Nail

A spike is affixed to a prayer card. You are invited to take one to carry through Lent as a reminder of the Love of God who gave His only Son to give us Life.

### † Lenten Almsgiving Tree

The Vicariate Peace and Justice Committee invites you to participate in a Lenten opportunity of almsgiving that serves the homeless of greater Monroe County. This project mirrors Christmas Giving Trees of which most parishes are familiar. It is our hope that through this *In the Spirit Of Giving* project we can continue our outreach to those most in need in our Monroe community. Many of Monroe's homeless are being gifted with housing through Federal and State grants. However, they are in need of basic household furnishings (new or slightly used dishes, furniture, towels, sheets, linens, silverware, pots and pans, small appliances, etc).

Please take one of the ornaments home and decide how best you can provide contributions for the homeless. When you return with the donated item, please write what item is being donated on the ornament and hang the ornament on the tree.

Smaller items may be placed in the box under the table; please contact the parish office to arrange for donations of larger items.

Suggested Items - new or slightly used: dishes, furniture, towels, sheets, linens, silverware, pots and pans, small appliances, etc.

## **Fr. Brian's Blarney**

### **Envelopes**

A parishioner stopped by on Thursday to pick up his box of contribution envelopes after receiving a letter from me. He thanked me for the reminder for which I was grateful. He was surprised when I told them people had called and were upset with me and were angry with Michelle. He responded they should be angry with themselves for forgetting to pick them up. I thanked him for his comments and that he understood the position that I was in. These letters are not meant to antagonize anyone, though sometimes people get very angry.

We all have a responsibility for the financial well-being of this parish and are being asked to stretch even more (see my comments below), but that is not primarily why I sent the letter out. We all have responsibility for the spiritual well-being of the parish and as the spiritual father of the parish, I have the primary responsibility for each of you. So, my primary concern is that you attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days and that is reflected in your depositing the envelope in the basket. These are tallied and are reported to the Archbishop each year to determine our viability as well as the different assessments that are placed upon us, particularly the CSA.

I am also grateful for this parishioner's response yesterday; because I was able to finally formally meet him and come to find out we have the same alma mater, Lawrence Tech. In that short conversation, we learned that much more about each other and it brightened my day after a number of frustrations.

Please stop in and if I am in, please say hello. We will have to do more things so that we can interact and we can get to know each other better.

### **School**

The Chancellor sent me a fax regarding the outcome of Monday's meeting with the Archbishop and the Consulters. Basically, the letter states that the Archbishop is keeping the school open for the 2009-2010 school year. We are to "participate fully in the planning process evaluating the feasibility of establishing a regional school" with Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph parishes. The pastors are to co-operate with each other and the Vicar of the Monroe Vicariate. The school is being designated as a "School in a Critical Situation", which means that we will be working closely with the Department of Education, especially in regards to the school's activities and expenditures and following applicable Archdiocesan Policies. We will also be working with "Dan Oliver, the Archdiocesan Director of Finance, to clarify the purpose and totals of the parish accounts in the Loan Deposit Program", especially the Education Endowment that was established here under Fr. Michael Quaine. It was understood at St. Anthony's that the \$189,000 was reserved in the Diocesan Bank (LDP) such that we would use the interest only and the principal was to be left in tact.

This basically means that the school will be left open to determine if a regional school will be feasible next year. Since we are considered in a Critical Situation, if there is any financial issues this next school year, we will probably have to go before the Consulters again. The Archdiocese will hopefully scrutinize our budget and if the parish finds itself in financial trouble, we will be able to apply for different grants.

I have made phone calls to the Chancellor to clarify this letter and he suggested that I summarize the points listed above. I also called Mr. Dan Oliver to get things rolling and Michael Evoy, of Parish Support Services, to help us again establish a budget for this coming fiscal year. The composition of the staff will depend on enrollment, so I cannot predict the number of teachers for next year until we see who enrolls.

To date we have close to \$30,000 in unpaid tuition. About \$5,000 of this will be covered by scholarship money for hardship and about \$10,000 is delinquent tuition from parents who have not paid or are not caught up from previous years. The remainder I hope will be paid through our electronic payment plan.

### **Stones**

I was able to pass a very large kidney stone on Thursday afternoon. Fr. Charles had called and promised to pray for me, so after hanging up the phone, the stone passed. I called him back to let him know his prayers were powerful. He laughed and said that it seemed that his prayers were not working up until this point.

I am not sure if I am done passing all of the stones. From the x-rays, I thought I had another one this large, so we'll see. I am still very low on energy and will need to get into shape after this big layoff. I lost some weight, but get winded easily. I will need more cardio workouts.

Thanks for all of your prayers and concerns. I really appreciate everyone sharing their concerns, war stories of tonsils and kidney stones, and the advice on diet, etc. it has been a rough couple of months, but I hope that this is the beginning of the end. Thanks again.

May God Be Blessed!!!