



From the Heart

Ex Corde
Del Corazon
From the Heart



HEART OF JESUS, KING AND CENTER OF ALL HEARTS

A quarterly message
from
Sacred Heart Church
to all
of our members

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*From
the Heart*

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Growth & Expansion at Sacred Heart

by FR. PETER KLEIN

Last week, a new version of the Rectory Renovation Committee met for the first time to begin the process of planning for an improved rectory to better serve the growth of Sacred Heart parish. There are members who served on the committee that planned & carried out the second floor renovation. There are also some new members. Mainly, what's new is its purpose: the renovation and expansion of the first floor.

The rectory of Sacred Heart Church was built in 1938. It was a different world then. It was certainly a different Church. It was also a different parish. Just to go back to 1970: We were 467 families then; now, we are 1,205. We were 1,800 members strong then; now, we're 3,559. Those are meaningful numbers — but only numbers. Even more significant than the changes in the parish (like our size) are the changes in the Church. Years ago, the rectory was called "the priests' house." It was a residence, mainly; most of the building was living quarters for up to 3 priests & a live-in housekeeper. There was a small office space in the northeast corner.

Today, the rectory should be called "the parish center." That's a term we use for the hall, but in fact the "parish center" is the rectory because of what happens here, who works here, the people who come & go here, the needs people bring here, the planning that is done here, the support work that is done here — the communicating, the scheduling, the meeting. Today, this "parish center" is the work space of four full-time, hired staff, including a pastor, an administrator, an administrative assistant & a deacon/pastoral associate. This staff serves the needs of two parishes and collaborates with two schools. (We are now clustered with Holy Trinity parish, Litomysl, which has brought more responsibilities to those who serve in the rectory.)

In addition to full-time paid staff, a multitude of volunteers come & go, using the staff & the space & the equipment in this "parish center." Some could serve even better if they had designated space — like our musicians & the money counters & Hispanics ministry & liturgical ministries coordination, to name just a few.

For about 10 years, we've been talking about our needs. Five years ago — in 2002 — we actually worked briefly with an architect. At that time, our needs list was basically 5 items long: 1. More office/meeting space. 2. Better separation between residence & offices. 3. Better accessibility. 4. Better appearance, approachability, image. (Less forbidding, hidden approach. The east door is no longer the most used.) 5. Better landscaping (for functional reasons as well as aesthetic).

There's a lot of good news about this project: #1. This needs to happen not because of neglect or disaster but because of growth. #2. There is probably a pretty broad understanding of the need for this in the parish — not by all, certainly. This is true in part because of the residence renovation project & the open house that helped inform people about the rectory space. #3. Financially, we've been saving undesignated gifts in a fund for this project — now approaching \$100,000. And now, this very year, we were remembered by Art Bartosch in his will when he named us a beneficiary of a portion of his estate — which will amount to approximately \$180,000. We are very grateful.

You will be hearing much more as we go along. I ask for your support.

Have a blessed Christmas everyone!

Tithing and Marriage

by JOE STILES

Can tithing strengthen your marriage? Dr. Janet Smith maintains that it can.

Dr. Smith is a consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family and teaches Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. In a recent address given at the St. Paul Cathedral on John Paul II's Theology of the Body, Dr. Smith cited an interesting study completed several years ago.

Researchers sought to identify common characteristics and behaviors of couples in successful marriages, regardless of their religious affiliation. They found three notable correlations.

First, couples in successful marriages attended church on a regular basis and sought to be faithful to the tenets of their faith. Second, they practiced natural family planning (i.e., they did not use contraceptives). Third, they tithed to their church.

What this tells us, according to Dr. Smith, is that these married couples had their priorities in order. They were seeking a correct relationship with God, with each other as sexual partners, and with money and material goods. In so doing, they

were on the path to holiness.

After all, the path to holiness in marriage—as with any vocation—requires us to curb our selfish tendencies. First, we have to curb our pride—to acknowledge that we are not the center of the universe nor autonomous in our decision-making. Second, we have to curb our lust—to learn to love others as subjects for whom we sacrifice, and not as objects from whom we seek to derive pleasure. Third, we have to curb our greed—to give generously of our time, talent, and treasure, and not to hoard our wealth or to focus on accumulating material possessions.

As Dr. Smith said, when we properly order these three relationships—to God, to sex, and to money—we live in conformity with God's will for us, indeed His very design for us. And when we live as God intended us to live—in His image and likeness—our relationship with our spouses is on more solid footing. In other words, our marriages are strengthened. ☪



Get Out of Debt Faster & Become Financially Free

by PHIL LENAHAN, Author of "7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free"

Right now Americans are deeper in debt than ever before in history. The water is rising, and man-eating sharks lurk below the surface, smelling blood in the water.

Have you ever seen a group of sharks in a feeding-frenzy? It's an ugly



sight. I'm going to help you learn how to shark-proof your family's finances and get on rock-solid ground financially.

Let me introduce myself to you. I'm Phil Lenahan, the founder and president of Veritas Financial Ministries – a Catholic organization that focuses 100 percent on helping Catholics like you get out of debt fast without resorting to such things as bankruptcy and debt consolidation. Our Catholic faith offers answers to this area of our lives.

What's the biggest problem most people have with their finances? Credit card bills? Inadequate income? No savings? Too much month left at the end of the money? While people tend to think these are their major problems, they are just the symptoms. The real problem isn't

so much the money (or lack of it) as it is our relationship with God and how we respond to His call for us to be Stewards of Providence. This includes trusting God to provide for our financial needs and doing our part to manage our financial needs.

Remember, not all sharks chomp with massive jaws like the great white shark. Some like to nip at you in such a way that you bleed to death slowly. That's what lenders do when they give you "low, easy payments" that will bleed you for years.

The credit card companies and other lenders hope you'll take as long as possible to pay off your debts. That's

because they're gouging you with interest. The longer you take to pay, the more blood they get to suck out of you. I want to help you keep the credit card sharks and blood-suckers at bay and bring your finances back into balance. No matter how far in debt you are, I'm confident you can get out of debt in about half the time you think it'll take. That'll save you thousands of dollars in interest. And when you're debt free with an emergency fund, you'll be able to laugh at money worries. Your money worries will be a thing of the past.

Join me on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart for my half-day workshop on the 7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free. After the workshop, you'll be able to sign up for one of the small group studies beginning in January. There is no cost to attend this workshop, so make plans now and start getting yourself back on track financially.

For additional information, call Paula Trendera at 451-1588 or Judy Plemel at 451-4619.



Ministries From The Heart by DAN RUITER

With a Song in Their Hearts

It's a big part of what we do each Sunday, but few of us probably put much thought into the music after the hymnal is closed. There is, however, a lot of thought that has to go into the selection of music at Mass.

Enter Ron Schleif. He's the leader of the choir that sings at the 7:30 Sunday Mass. With more than 20 years in that particular choir, he's also among the most...inexperienced in the bunch. You see, Ron's group of roughly a dozen singers can boast of more than 400 years of singing experience, with a good number of them having given their time and talent to God for more than 50 years. "They're just so talented," Ron says. "I've had to tell them to pull out a song they haven't looked at in six weeks, and when they sing it, they don't miss a beat."

Impressive, but it still requires practice. Ron says they practice three times a month for about 90 minutes per session. And before then, Ron and the accompanist must review upcoming liturgical guides six weeks in advance. That helps them choose the appropriate songs that harmonize with the readings and the gospel. On occasion they'll stray a bit from the guide and sing about giving thanks in late November,

or perhaps select a patriotic number around the 4th of July. In spite of all that "experience," Ron says most of his crew won't even consider giving it up. "It wouldn't be going to church without music. I never thought of it as a hardship. If I weren't the leader, I'd be a singer. We do it because we love it." Ron



continued by saying, "I get a lot of satisfaction out of it. It's our way of participating in the liturgy, and most people we work with feel that way."

And according to Ron, it seems that his goal of praising God through music, along with getting the congregation more involved in the Mass, is working. He says he enjoys watching the growing number of people in the pews joining in. And he'd like to see more join the choir – regardless of musical background. Song leaders and choirs from other Masses as well are always looking for new voices and talents. If you're interested, you can call the parish office. ☎



Catechism In Stone

by KYRO R. LANTSBERGER

Christmas Art Year-round

A picture is worth a thousand words, and the elements of sacred art are meant to communicate things deeper than language allows. We take time now to remember that the Nativity of our Lord is the "reason for the season." It is also the subject of one of the stained glass windows which overlook our worship space. The Gospel of Luke provides us with most of the details of Christ's birth which we see represented here from the manger to the shepherds.

However, there are some details present in this depiction which sometimes escape our first glance, which take deeper reflection to grasp their full meaning. The lamb at the foot of the manger reminds us that Christ is the Lamb of God. The manger in art has often been represented as the first altar of the Lord. The lamb links together the birth of Christ and the manger with the Passion of the Christ and the sacrifice of the Mass on the altar. St. Joseph, on the far left, is dressed in a purple robe, reminding us of the royal line of David reaching back into the Old Testament. ☎



Sacred Heart's Nativity Window

From the Heart

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*Merry
Christmas!*

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Bits and Bytes of Catholicism

by KYRO R. LANTSBERGER

T Christmas on the Computer

he decorations of the Christmas season are meant to signify different aspects of the birth of Christ. The Advent wreath, the Christmas tree, and the Nativity scene are familiar to us as symbols of Christmas. But what does a single candle in the window of an old Irishman mean? How do Englishmen turn themselves into pretzels over Christmas Crackers? The well-named website, *Fisheaters*, has the answer at <http://www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas2.html>.

“Joy to the World” and “Silent Night” are easily recognized by even the most musically challenged. What about “The Cherry Tree Carol?” Can anybody hum “King Jesus Hath a Garden?” Christmas carols from across the nations and across the centuries can be found at the website of author Dave Armstrong:

<http://socrates58.blogspot.com/2006/12/christmas-carols-and-songs.html>.

Have a Blessed Christmas and fun-filled holiday season!! ☺

Send your newsletter articles & photos to: oneillgraphics@mac.com

Bulletin Announcements: bulletin@sacredheartowatonna.org

All bulletin materials are due by Monday, 12 noon for the upcoming weekend

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m

REGULAR
WEEKLY
EVENTS

december

MONDAY

Bible Timeline - at S.H.
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

MITI pray for Jr. High students
9 - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study 6 - 7 a.m.
Bible Study 9 - 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY

Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m - Midnight
Legion of Mary
8 - 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 - 5 p.m.
MITI pray for St. Mary's
School students 8 - 9 a.m.
Gospel of Matthew
at St. Joe's
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. **and**
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Legion of Mary 2:30 - 4 p.m.

january

MONDAY

Bible Timeline - at S.H.
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

MITI pray for Jr. High students
9 - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study 6 - 7 a.m.
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february

MONDAY

Bible Timeline - at S.H.
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

MITI pray for Jr. High students
9 - 10 a.m.

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FRIDAY

Legion of Mary 2:30 - 4 p.m.

SACRED
HEART
CHURCH
MINISTRIES
&
ACTIVITIES

- 1 7 Steps Workshop
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 3 Respect Life Meeting
12 p.m - 1 p.m.
- 3 Pinochle 1 p.m.
- 3 St. Mary's Guild 1:30 p.m.
- 3 Theology of the Body 7 p.m.
- 3 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 6 St. Blanche Guild 1 p.m.
- 8 SHCCW Christmas
Breakfast
- 11 Finance Council meeting
7 - 9 p.m.
- 15 & 16 Sacred Heart Council of
Catholic Women (SHCCW)
Bake Sale
- 17 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 17 Theology of the Body 7 p.m.
- 18 Parish Council Meets
7 - 9 p.m.
- 19 Catholic Daughters Pot Luck
6 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Mass 5 p.m.
& 10 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m.
- 29 Personal Care Items
Collected after Masses

- 1 Mass 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- 3 St. Blanche Guild 1 p.m.
- 7 Respect Life Meeting
12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m.
- 7 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 7 Pinochle 1 p.m.
- 7 St. Mary's Guild 1:30 p.m.
- 7 Theology of the Body
7 - 9 p.m.
- 8 Finance Council meeting
7 - 9 p.m.
- 12 & 13 Food Share Weekend
- 13 Call to Be Catholic
at St. Joe's 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 14 Guild of St. Theresa Quilting
1 - 5 p.m.
- 15 Parish Council Meet
7 - 9 p.m.
- 21 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 21 Theology of the Body
7 - 9 p.m.

- 3 Respect Life Meeting
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
- 4 Pinochle 1 p.m.
- 4 St. Mary's Guild 1:30 p.m.
- 4 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 4 Theology of the Body
7 - 9 p.m.
- 7 St. Blanche Guild 1 p.m.
- 9 Soup Supper after 5 p.m.
Mass
- 11 St. Theresa Guild Potluck and
Quilting
- 11 Call to Be Catholic
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- 12 Finance Council meeting
7 - 9 p.m.
- 16 Soup Supper after 5 p.m.
Mass
- 18 Theology of the Body
7 - 9 p.m.
- 18 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.
- 23 Soup Supper 6 p.m.
- 25 Gospa 7 - 9 p.m.

MITI: Moms In Touch International • DOC: Disciples of Christ • SHCCW: Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women

**ST.
MARY'S
AND
R.E.P.**

december

- 2 REP Retreat for Grades 9-10 at SH from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 4 St. Mary's K-5 Christmas Concert
- 5 REP Grade 3 Reconciliation at S.H. 3:30 p.m. - 6:35 p.m.
- 5 REP Operation Christmas Child – bus leaves at 3 p.m. from St. Mary's
- 8 REP DOC for Junior High 3 - 9 p.m. at St. Joe's.
- 9 KC Breakfast for KC Charitable Activities
- 11 St. Mary's 6th-8th Grade Christmas Concert
- 12 REP Reconciliation Workshop between 3 - 7 p.m. at SHPC
REP DOC for Junior High at St. Mary's from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 19 REP Grade 1 - 6 Christmas Sampler
REP Retreat Team at 8:15 at St. Mary's
- 21-31 No School at St. Mary's (Christmas Break)
- 31 Bingo at Infinia at 6:45 p.m.


january

- 1 No School at St. Mary's
- 1 No Rep for grades 7 & 8
- 2 School resumes for St. Mary's
- 2 REP First Eucharistic Parent Meeting in Joseph Hall at S.J. at 6:30 p.m.
- 2 REP Totally Yours for High School youth at 8:15p.m. at St. Mary's
- 5 & 6 Camp Omega retreat for grades 9 & 10. Bus leaves St. Mary's at 9 a.m. returns on Sunday around 5 p.m.
- 7 St. Mary's Home and School meets at 7 p.m.
- 9 REP First Reconciliation at S.H. at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Totally Yours for High School youth at 8:15 p.m.
- 9 DOC for Junior High at 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 12 First Reconciliation at Sacred Heart at 9 a.m.
- 16 Retreat team at 8:15 p.m. at St. Mary's
- 18 No School at St. Mary's
- 19 DOC for Junior High from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m at S.H.
- 21 No School at St. Mary's
- 23 DOC for Junior High from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 23 Retreat team at 8:15 p.m.
- 27 Catholic School Week at St. Mary's
- 28 Bingo at Infinia at 6:45 p.m.
- 30 Faith Welcome Visits for grade 10 at S.J. and Sacred Heart between 6:30 p.m. & 8 p.m
Retreat team at 8:15 p.m.

february

- 5 Grade 5 – St. Mary's Reconciliation
- 6 REP: no class for grades 1 through 6; grades 9 & 10 will attend Mass as a class for Ash Wednesday
- 6 REP Totally Yours at 8:15 p.m at St. Mary's
- 10 KC breakfast for Exchange Club
- 11 St. Mary's Home and School meets 7 p.m.
- 12 REP Butter Braid Fundraiser begins for grades 7 & 8
- 13 REP Butter Braid Fundraiser begins for grades 6, 9-12
- 9 DOC for Junior High 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the gym
- 9 Totally Yours for High School youth at 8:15 p.m.
- 18 No School – St. Mary's
- 20 Fr. McGrath speaking to grade 9 students REP
Retreat Team at 8:15 p.m.
- 22 No School St. Mary's
- 23 DOC for Junior High from 5 - 8 p.m.
- 25 St. Mary's Tri-County Tourney
- 25 Bingo at Infinia at 6:45 p.m.
- 27 Butter Braid orders due in the REP office by 8 p.m.
- 27 Totally Yours for High School youth at 8:15 p.m.

MITI: Moms In Touch International • DOC: Disciples of Christ • SHCCW: Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women

Remember to buy \$crip to support
St. Mary's School  REP/CYO Program
Sacred Heart Church