

Cor ad cor loquitur...

(A heart-to-heart dialogue...)

My dear parish family,

With so much snow blanketing our area these last few weeks, I want to take this moment to thank the Finck family for always plowing our parking lot so promptly and efficiently. For many years now, they have been donating this service to the parish, which has saved us thousands of dollars. I also want to thank our Facilities Manager, Joe Saccoccio, who was out clearing our sidewalks and pathways at all hours of the day and night.

I apologize to all of you who attended Mass last Saturday night in our very cold church. Due to a nearby power outage, caused by the massive snowstorm, our heating system shut down. The mechanics have since replaced the two pump motors and relay switches that were "fried" in the process.

To those of you who attended the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday morning, I also apologize that I could not get the PowerPoint presentation to run smoothly. Thankfully, I was able to get it to work for the next two Masses. We just posted this slideshow to the front page of our web site.

Last weekend, Anthony Germinario and Sean Jansson, served Mass together for the first time. As you have seen lately, our corps of Altar Servers has increased. I am very grateful for the service they have provided. Look at their smiling faces...



According to the most recent publication of the Vatican Yearbook, the number of Catholics increased to 1.166 billion Catholics in 2008, up 19 million from the end of 2007. The number of priests stood at 409,166, an increase of 1,142 from the end of 2007. The number of seminarians around the world rose from 115,919 at the end of 2007 to 117,024 at the end of 2008, an increase of more than 1 percent. As far as the number of Catholics in the US, the Catholic News Agency web site reported that membership grew about 1.5 percent in 2008 to 68.1 million.

Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Father Stephen

Mass intentions for this week

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH

5:00 Stephen Roeser

SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH

8:00 Anna Mallia

10:00 **Deceased Members of
Our Parish**

12:00 Fr. Michael Saltarelli

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH

8:30 Norm Murtagh

TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH

8:30 Norman Murtagh

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH

8:30 Norman Murtagh

THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH

8:30 Carmine Polito

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH

8:30 Peter Johnson

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH

5:00 Kathleen Beckett

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

8:00 **Deceased Members of
Our Parish**

10:00 Deceased Members of the
Shanahan & O'Connell
Families

12:00 Mary & Frances Mahoney

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12;

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21;

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

PETER'S PENCE

Collections for Peter's Pence will be taken next weekend
March 13-14.

WHY IS THIS SCHOOL SPECIAL?

At Holy Family Catholic Academy, we believe there's no one in the world quite like your child! A bright smile, a tender heart, an inquisitive mind — all combined in the most remarkable person you've ever known. At HFCA, we recognize that each child is a precious gift from God. Attention to learning styles is the difference and real achievement is the result! Consider and visit us during our open house on the first Thursday of every month 9-11:30 am or call for a private tour. To learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.hfcanorwood.com. Help support our school by joining us for a fun filled evening at Duke's Ocean Grill, **March 13** for Casino night. Call 201-768-1605 for more information.



HEALING MISSION

Paul Rymniak will be at Church of St. Mary in Closter to conduct a healing mission, which includes the rosary and the stations of the cross. If you are in need of healing, be it mental, emotional, physical or spiritual, consider coming to this healing mission Mon-Wed, **March 8-10** at 7pm. Confession will be available.

WIN A CAR

Project Graduation, is raffling off a 2010 Nissan Altima! \$20.00 per ticket. Proceeds offset the cost of keeping these young adults safe and alcohol free after graduation. Your support is greatly appreciated! For tickets, contact Lorraine Kipel @ 201-244-0776

ELECTRONIC GIVING INFORMATION SESSION

If you are considering electronic giving but feel you don't know enough about it, we will be conducting "information sessions" following each of the Masses on the weekend of **March 13th and 14th**. Members of the parish who are currently participating in this time saving program will be able to tell you more about it.



BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 28TH

My name is Thomas Lamorte. My grandmother and I will be sponsoring a blood drive for my Confirmation project. The Community Blood Services blood mobile will be at Sacred Heart Church on **Sunday, March 28** from 9am to 1:30pm. Sign-ups will be held at the church after all Masses on the weekend of March 14. Anyone may also come without an appointment on the day of the blood drive. Our goal is to have 20 people donate blood. Come give the precious gift of life through blood donation. The life you save could be your own!

SACRED HEART'S MEDICAL MISSIONARY

Lisa Pflug, a parishioner and nurse will be going with 21 medical personnel to Benha, Egypt from March 19 to April 1. They will perform 60-70 surgeries. They will be commuting daily from Tanta. The group asks for our prayers and support.

A CALL TO PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday, **March 10** 7:30pm
St. Peter the Apostle Church, River Edge
Refreshments will be served.



Get your tickets now!

Filling up quickly...



St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Friday night, March 19th at White Beeches Country Club
Three Course Dinner, Open Bar, Live Music \$60 per person
Contact: Dennis McGinley at 201-244-1622; dmcginley@knight.com or Maggie Verdon at 201-439-1432; vmaggiejoe@aol.com.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MEN!

Fueled by Faith, United in Christ – You're invited to a Catholic Men's Conference on **Saturday, March 13th**, at Seton Hall University in South Orange. Men from Sacred Heart found last year's event to be a prayerful, spirit-filled, life-changing day! We encourage parishioners to mention this to someone they know. It is also an extraordinary way for fathers, uncles and grandfathers to share their faith with a son, grandson or nephew who is 18 years or older. The day begins at 8AM, ending around 4PM. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Meyers along with local bishops and priests con-celebrating, making for a powerful spiritual experience. A dynamic line up of speakers is scheduled including former Jet player Joe Klecko and MLB coach Rich Donnelly. Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR will lead the public adoration. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults (Groups of 5 or more are \$20), \$15 for students and senior citizens. Price includes breakfast and lunch. Priests and religious are free. For registration please visit www.rcan.org/menscommission or **contact David Gillies @ 201-385-2427** or call the Parish Center. For those who don't wish to drive, transportation will be coordinated.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PASTA DINNER NIGHT

Friday, **March 26**, from 6-8 PM at St. Anthony's in Northvale. The menu features a variety of fresh cooked pastas, homemade sauces, fresh Italian Breads, Beer, Wine, Coffee and desserts. All proceeds from this event benefit our local parishes, school, and local families in our own communities. The cost for the dinner will be \$12.50 for adults and \$5.00 for kids under 12. Reservations are strongly encouraged and be made at kofc9021@gmail.com or you can also call the event coordinator for tickets, Jim Flynn at 201-664-3364 (flynnjmf@gmail.com). Knights of Columbus, Immaculate Conception Council 9021, is a men's Catholic Service organization serving our local parishes. Catholic men interested in joining the K of C can inquire via our membership director at 201-297-7198.

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Mary, are bound by a common purpose: to strengthen the relationship between our parishes; to proclaim the Word of God; to build community; and to serve one another and the greater community. We shall share resources and conduct joint activities when possible. We will build a greater sense of unity, building upon our mutual rich diversity. We shall use each other's strengths for common growth. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by the Eucharist, we will go forth into our local communities as living witnesses of Christ's presences and stewards of His ongoing mission in the world.