

CHURCH NOTES

The **Sunday** collection for January 24 was **\$8,248.51**, and weekday was **\$455.91**. **January Parish Tithing** went to **Mary Magdalene House, St. Vincent DePaul, Magis, CISE, Winton Hills Opportunity Connection and the St. Xavier Downtown Dash**. Thank you for your generosity!

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Fr. Murphy, Julia Girty, Jean Fischer, Ed Merkes, Sally Smith, Donna Kay Kinney, Patty Everett, Marian Hardy, Dennis Hutzel, Adam Stropko, Rhua Kepferle, Betsey Wilson, Elizabeth Brown, Marge Willis, Lola Davis, Erma McLaughlin, Diane Gottmer, Alice Schutte, and all of our ill and homebound.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 17th
MASSES: 6, 7, 11 AM, 12 and 5 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

February 8 - 13

MON	6:00	+Favret and Dell Families
	11:30	+Martin Ryan, Jr.
	12:05	+Lester & Mary Elizabeth Wegman
TUES	6:00	Parish Book of Remembrance
	11:30	+Walter Stahl
	12:05	Sp. Int. Cyndi Niehaus
WED	6:00	+Alice Riesenberg
	11:30	+Helen Hesch
	12:05	+Msgr. Joseph Pfeiffer
THURS	6:00	+Patricia R. Goodwin
	11:30	+Gerry Merkes
	12:05	+Margaret A. Lottman
FRI	6:00	+Jack M. Feldmann
	11:30	+O'Connor and Whalen Fam.
	12:05	Sp. Int. Elmer and Phyllis Link
SAT	7:00	+W. J. Williams Family
	11:00	+Kathy Burger (1 st Annv.)

X-CETERA

Congratulations to Olivia Maria, daughter of Michael and Molly (Thomas) Feldhaus who was baptized on January 31st!

Congratulations to Christopher and Christine (Geiger) **White** who were married here last weekend!

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT:

Please fill in your March and April availability on line or use a hard copy located in the sacristy. Thank you.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES...Couples celebrating their Golden Wedding (50th) Anniversaries during 2010 should contact the Parish Office at (513) 721-4045 no later than February 19th. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will be the principal celebrant at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Saturday, May 1st at 2:00 PM. If you are celebrating your 25th, 60th, 70th or 75th Wedding Anniversaries please call the office.

If you or someone you know **attended a Jesuit high school, college or university** anywhere in the world at any time, please let us know. The Jesuits of the Chicago Province are founding a group of local alumni of Jesuit institutions. Please call or e-mail the office your name and those you know who are alumni.

Xpressions Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM. **The Diary of a Country Priest** by Georges Bernanos will be discussed. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

Saint Xavier Health Ministry will provide CPR training on **February 13 at 1:30-3:00 PM** in the undercroft of the church. The cost will be \$20.00 per person. This training is valuable to all--you never know when you may have to use it! Please contact the church office 513 721-4045 to register so that we will have adequate supplies.

Tender Mercies – February 28

Please call the office to donate this month! Thank you.

Lenten Service Saturdays: February 20, 27, March 13, 20 and 27 have been set up to provide assistance in our community. The first service opportunity will be here at St Xavier Church from 9-noon, requiring 4-8 people. This is a wonderful way for us to share our time and talents for others throughout the Lenten season..

Beginning in March we wish to welcome **Fernside**, Supporting Children and Families through Grief. They will be meeting in the undercroft twice a month; first meeting will be March 3. Volunteers are needed to welcome families, pick up and serve dinner, and facilitate support groups (training is required and will begin this month). Anyone interested in these opportunities can contact Mary at Fernside at 513-745-0111.

COMPLETE LENTEN PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES BROCHURES ARE AT THE ENTRANCES OF THE CHURCH

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio

If the many challenges of family caregiving are becoming insurmountable, why not try visiting one of our 25 family support groups throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. Please call the Caregiver CAREline at (513)929-4486 for a support group near you. You need to care for yourself in order for you to care for others!

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back the next month and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the gentleman said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

PASTOR'S PACE

"Natural selection" is the process by which certain traits make it more likely for an organism to survive and successfully become more common over successive generations. It is a key mechanism of evolution. Our readings today speak of how God's nature is to select those in time to accomplish his will in the world. This weekend we remember the natural selection of God of such people who would otherwise not be considered able or worthy to do God's work.

In all three readings we hear how God uses sinful people to expand his mission and desire for the world. Isaiah, caught up in the rapture of seeing God in glory, cannot help but remember and recognize his sinfulness and unworthiness. Likewise, in the Gospel, Simon recognizes while being in the presence of Jesus that he, too, is a sinful person.

Both Isaiah and Simon Peter display the very human reaction to being in the presence and greatness of God: both want to retreat from the experience out of guilt and shame. Most of us are intimidated by the awesomeness of God and are somewhat, if not totally, uncomfortable with it. We know we are unworthy solely because of our limitations, our faults and failings, our own sins. Yet God does not fixate on this part of our lives and instead uses our humanness as a means to accomplish his will; this should help us to understand that being human does not necessarily equate with something bad and that God saves us by calling us into his presence with the hope of being redeemed and to use our past failings as a testament to God's love and God's desire; this is an evolution of sorts.

God is not uncomfortable with sin. We realize that we are living proof of this, because sin has no control over God and cannot obfuscate God's power of love for each of us. The Bible is filled with examples of God intervening in the lives of people when they are at their worst moments. God pulls us from our darkness and impulsive nature to turn away in order to remind us that these moments of being saved serve as testaments to who God is and what God does.

We are reminded by today's readings that God will always meet us where we are and from where we are God calls us to show his mercy; God enters our chaos and restores peace and gives the courage to reveal his glory; God uses our sins to build us up by showing us how destructive they can be to us and others; God looks beyond what is blocked by our sinfulness to see us as we really are with the invitation to look beyond our sins or sinful way of looking at the world to see the presence of God in and around us.

Only by remembering this are we able to evolve as Christians and thereby give God glory.

Let us remember each other in prayer this week!
+Eric J. Knapp, S.J.

FAITH FORMATION

February Apostleship of Prayer

General: That scholars and intellectuals, by sincere search for the truth, may come to know the one true God.

Mission: That the Church, aware of its missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim his gospel to all peoples.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

The Gospel of Luke: The Gospel of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesdays, **February 9 and 16**, 7-8:30 PM in the Undercroft. Our presenter is Fr. Tim Schehr, professor of biblical studies at the Athenaeum. Bring your Bible and a friend.

Fat Tuesday Celebration & Palm Burning

Before we celebrate our Lenten fast let's break out our pots and pans! We are going to have a "Fat Tuesday" pot-luck dinner and palm burning service. **Tuesday, February 16th**. The dinner will begin at 6:00pm followed by a Prayer Service at 7:00pm. All families, friends, teens and young adults of St. X parish are invited to come. You are asked to bring your favorite dish to share and your palms from last Lent. People whose last name begins with **A-I please bring casseroles. J-R please bring salads. S-Z please bring disserts.** Please mark your calendars and plan to come and celebrate with our parish a wonderful way to prepare for Lent. Beverages will be provided.

Baptism Prep Class will be held Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in the undercroft. Please call the office to register.

Praying with Ignatius: A Lenten Journey: Feb. 24, March 3, 10 and 17; 6 to 8:30 PM (Dinner Included!)

The Jesuit Spiritual Center will again offer a Lenten retreat entitled "Praying with Ignatius." Praying with Ignatius will offer an introduction to the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius and will seek to deepen the prayer habits and spiritual lives of attendees. Each evening will include a specific topic as well as prayer, scripture reading and small-group sharing. For information, or to register, call (513) 248-3500, ext. 10 or visit the Center's website: www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com.

St. Xavier 2010 Parish Lenten Mission: "God's Way of Compassion and Forgiveness", March 2nd-4th

Would you like to live with more compassion and forgiveness? Are you looking to renew your relationship with Jesus Christ? Our Mission preacher is **Fr. Kevin Flaherty, S.J.**, a Cincinnati native, who has been a missionary to Peru for over 30 years, and is a well-regarded preacher and presenter. The mission will be preached in two formats: Evenings at 7:00pm in Xavier Church; and a shorter (1/2 hour) presentation at 12Noon in the undercroft. The Wednesday 7:00pm mission will include a Reconciliation Service.