

A reflection from the Pastor

Peace. Happy new year 2009.

I hope these days of holiday have been a time of rest and reflection for you and your families. The beginning of a new year is a great time to begin new attitudes and new ways of responding to God's grace and mercy. It is a time of reparation and a time for looking forward to what he has in store for us.

As pastor, my chief responsibility is to care for your souls. This takes place in three ways: (1) teaching, (2) sanctifying, through the Eucharist and other Sacraments and (3) governing – being a good steward of God's gifts in maintaining the Church for the bishop and the Church. In each of these ways, the parish and the pastor in the name of the bishop, ensure that the faith is proclaimed and lived.

In this new year, my prayer is that the parish family continue to respond in the way:

(1) you continue to teach the faith within your homes. This is of utmost importance. We must share the faith with our families. By attending classes offered by the parish, whether adult education or youth education, we help to build the faith. Also, provide information for your children to read and learn the faith. If they can have video games they can have religious videos.

(2) Attendance at Mass with your family/children EACH Sunday is imperative for continued growth in holiness. Approaching the sacraments sincerely and reverently is also imperative. This year I will be printing in the bulletin once a month the law of the church in relation to the sacramental life of the Church. This will include the funeral rites.

(3) Helping to govern the church is essential. This means a life of service which does not count the cost or tally up how much one has already done. Remember, there is no maximum amount of service for the Lord. This may require a new attitude during this year, but it takes everyone to help make a parish a parish family.

For those of you reading from your homes, due to age or illness, please continue to pray for the Church and hold the faith dear to your heart. We are one in prayer with you.

And so my prayer is that the parish continue to grow in faith, hope, and love during this year. It will take a lot of prayer, work, and sacrifice; but relying on the Lord we can do it. In the days to come there will be opportunities to reflect on God's generosity, and our response in faith.

May you and your families have a blessed week. +

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Priest Intentions

January 6 – January 11

Tuesday, 6th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>David Escalante Sr. + by Richard and Rosie Reyes</i>
Wednesday, 7th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Joe Manuel Estrada II + by Mary Lou Gomez</i>
Thursday, 8th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Leonila Pena + by Ramona Torres</i>
Friday, 9th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Guadalupe Gonzalez + by Richard & Frances Mendez</i>
Saturday, 10th	5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary – <i>leader: Lupe Olguin</i> 6:00 (vigil) Mass – <i>Mildred Hroch + by John Hroch</i>
Sunday, 11th	8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i> Baptism of the Lord 10:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Maria Ortiz + by Maria Gonzalez</i>

Readings – Sunday January 11th

First Reading – Isaiah 55: 1-11

Second Reading – 1 John 5: 1-9

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday January 10th, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Jeanette West, Lisa Canales
Cup Ministers	Paulette Brandl, Jeanne Lange
Gift bearers	Tommy and Jeanette West
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	I. Martin, A. Chamberlain, P. Canales, C. Sutton

Sunday January 11th, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Bacilio Gonzalez
Cup Ministers	Lupe and Frances Rivera
Gift bearers	Fidel and Pat Galicia
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	M. Estrada, A. Posada, H. Cardona, T. Cabral

Sunday January 11th, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Lupe Olguin
Cup Ministers	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante
Gift bearers	Albert and Lucia Rodriguez and family
Altar Servers	J. Adkins, A. Adkins, K. Williams
Ushers	L. Rivera Jr., D. Hybner, A. Rodriguez, A. Reyes

Christmas Flower Memorials

Robert Roy Canchola Jr., Chastity Canchola by parents.

Painted Church Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage was excellent. The day was so nice and sunny and cool, Monday Dec. 29. The twenty-two who went enjoyed the day of prayer and travel to see the painted churches and other attractions in the diocese: St. Mary's - Praha, St. Mary's - High Hill, St. Michael's - Weimar, Sts. Cyril and Methodius - Dubina, (a fixed piano bridge!), St. John the Baptist - Ammannsville, St. Rose of Lima - Schulenburg. We celebrated Mass at High Hill and had lunch Frank's in Schulenburg. Of course we stopped for kolaches before returning to Bloomington. Many thanks to all who made it an enjoyable trip.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday

Regular Classes

Grades K-6 6-7 p.m.

Grades 7-12 7:15-8:15 p.m.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

How many days make up the Christmas season?
c. eighteen

The celebration of the Christmas season continues until the Baptism of the Lord, January 11.

This week's question:

At the first Epiphany:

- a. all nations realized Jesus as Lord
- b. the magi brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh
- c. the star guided the magi to Jesus' manger
- d. all of the above

(Answer coming next week)

January Calendar

6	R.C.I.A. Meeting	7	Heritage
13	R.C.I.A. Meeting	7	Conf. Room
20	R.C.I.A. Meeting	7	Heritage
31	Pre-Baptism Instruction	10	Heritage

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1545.31

Christmas: 924.25

Financial Statement – November

Beginning Balance	(10/01/2008)	\$27,719.51
Income		
Building Fund		859.16
Sunday Collections		8981.60
Holy Days		105.00
Candles		258.86
Flowers		326.00
Designated Funds		346.43
Turkey Dinner		124.00
Religious Education		60.00
Requests & Memorials		100.00
Interest Income		2.36
Total Income		\$11,163.41
Expenses		
Salaries		750.00
Pension		97.00
Gas & Electric		1600.43
Garbage		77.37
Water		67.63
Health Insurance		524.00
Satellite TV		71.21
Telephone		124.38
Rectory Expense		206.96
Miscellaneous Expenses		783.40
Hall Cleaning		94.58
Subscriptions		110.00
Auto		402.00
Turkey Dinner		180.00
Collections to Diocese		285.55
Bishop's Capital Campaign		1361.92
Needy		26.04
DSA		1000.00
Total Expenses		\$7,762.47
Bank Balance	(11/30/2008)	\$31,122.81
Money Market CD		\$20,000.00