

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we are on the threshold of the holy season of Lent. We call it a holy season, because we look to it as a time of repentance and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We are planning several programs during Lent, and I ask each of you to take home one of the purple leaflets at the doors of the Church. These will outline the special happenings here at St. Christopher's.

Lent is a season which has three hallmarks: **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**. I want to say just a little bit about each of these three practices.

If we have been remiss in our daily prayers, Lent is the time to "clean up our act." We should always pray at the beginning and the end of each day. We should also thank the Lord prior to meals with Grace before meals. This is a great way to engage the whole family – especially by taking turns with your children to say Grace. Lent is also a good time to dust off the family Bible (we all have them, don't we?) and read some of God's word during this time. The rosary is a very powerful and easy prayer to say. If it is a while since you said a rosary, find time to do that. (I say mine on the stationary bicycle with the help of a DVD I got from EWTN.) We have the stations of the cross every Friday evening at 7 p.m. These are great meditations on the road Jesus took for each of us. Finally, and most important, there is the celebration of the Mass. This Lent we are trying hard to emphasize the benefit of attending daily Mass in Lent. To help make that happen, **we are adding an evening Mass at 6:30 p.m.** on the weekdays of Lent. (On three days this Mass will be at 7 p.m. – they are Ash Wednesday and the two weekdays of our parish mission: Monday, March 26th and Tuesday, March 27th) When I was a youth, daily Mass in Lent was a very big practice. I remember going to the 7 a.m. Mass each morning in my home parish. To this day, I believe it helped me in my own faith and in my vocation. So whether you come in the morning at 6:30 or 8:30 or whether you come in the evening at 6:30, make a resolution to attend Mass daily in Lent or at least be determined to go several times each week.

Fasting is also an important part of this season. Adults are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All those over 14 are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on the Fridays of Lent. It is also a time to "give up something" that you like. Please consider this part of the lenten observance. It will help you get closer to the Lord.

Finally, there is the spirit of almsgiving or charitable giving. On Ash Wednesday, we will have our annual collection for the Blessed Margaret of Castello Home for Crisis Pregnancies. An envelope is provided in your packet for your convenience. If you prefer to donate by check, you can make the check payable directly to the home. Also during this season we are beginning the annual Catholic Charities Appeal. The poor, sick, and needy are depending on your generosity. Envelopes will be mailed to your homes for this very worthy cause. This year's theme is "**Because I am Catholic...**" That means that we help the poor and needy not just because it's the right thing to do but also because it is part of our faith.

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. They are the tried and tested ways of deepening our faith. Please use them to the best of your advantage during this season, and, once again, take one of the purple leaflets before you leave today.

Until next week, I leave you

In the peace of Christ,

Father Joe

PRIEST CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 25, 2012

5:00 pm Vigil - Fr. Tom

Sunday, February 26, 2012

7:30 am - Msgr. Boland

9:00 am - Fr. Tom

10:30 am - Msgr. Garvin

12:00 pm - Fr. Mario

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Weekend of Feb. 11 & 12, 2012: \$17,533

Weekend of Feb. 12 & 13, 2011: \$20,136

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
IS FOR
SPONSOR A NEEDY STUDENT**

BLOCK COLLECTION

Presently we are at 82% of our goal.

PARISH GOAL: \$130,000.00

RECEIVED TO DATE: \$107,327.00

NEEDED TO REACH OUR GOAL: \$ 22,673.00

Please place your Block Collection offering in the regular Sunday collection basket or mail it / drop it off at the parish office as soon as your means allow.

FAST & ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are:

1. **Fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.**
2. Eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, **are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday**, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 22nd

Blessed Ashes will be distributed at the following

Masses:

6:30, 8:30, 12 Noon and 7:00 pm

Please note that **within Mass**, ashes are distributed **after the gospel and homily** – not after the Mass is over.

**COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY IS FOR
BLESSED MARGARET CASTELLO HOME
FOR CRISIS PREGNANCIES**

AN ENVELOPE HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THIS
COLLECTION IN YOUR ENVELOPE PACKET.

SPECIAL NOTICE

**During Lent an evening Mass at 6:30 pm has
been added during the week (Monday to Friday).**

Mass Intentions For The Week

Saturday, February 18, 2012

5:00 pm - Emma Ploss & Lincoln Underwood

Sunday, February 19, 2012

7:30 am - Joseph Selmer - 1st Anniversary
9:00 am - Richard G. Guenzel
10:30 am - Pat Gallo
12 Noon - Arthur Murphy

Monday, February 20, 2012

6:30 am - Bernice Weaver
8:30 am - John Severino, Sr (Birthday Memorial)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

6:30 am - Thanksgiving Sheila & Clive Condell
8:30 am - Special Intention

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 am - Thanksgiving - Bob Goldman
& Kathy Lesueur
8:30 am - Arthur & Gertrude Toner
12 Noon -Special Intention
7:00 pm - Special Intention

Thursday, February 23, 2012

6:30 am - Marjan Shafieyan Intentions
8:30 am - Paul & Petronella Aleksinas
6:30 pm - John & Suzanne Saunder, Sr

Friday, February 24, 2012

6:30 am - Michael Stack
8:30 am - Anthony & Shirley DelQuadro
6:30 pm - Malvina & Sigmund Jaworski

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:00 am - Mary Druding
5:00 pm - Vito Guarrera

Sunday, February 26, 2012

7:30 am - Fred Sylvester - 7th Anniversary
9:00 am - Virginia Dippolito
10:30 am -Thomas Cobey, III
12 Noon - Michael J. McGillian

**ADORATION CHAPEL WILL CLOSE AT 6:30 PM on the
weekdays of LENT. All are encouraged to honor Our
Lord's presence by attending the 6:30 pm Mass during
Lent.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This lenten devotion will be celebrated on
the **Fridays of Lent at 7:00 pm.**



OPERATION RICE BOWL

This is a great way to combine fasting and
concern for the poor. The entire amount collected is used
to feed the poor – in our world and also in our archdiocese.
The collection receptacle in the shrine areas is the place to
put your donations for this wonderful program.

Please Pray For Our Deceased

Betty D. Foster
Vincent M. Regan
John Marchiano
Vincent Regan
Gertrude Flanagan

Please Pray For Our Sick

Williams Ahlers, Baby Jessica Aponik, James H. Atkinson, Mary
Kay Banks, Robert Banks, Olga Belokoputer, Joseph Bieker,
Brian Blady, Jeannie Bowker, Agnes Breslin, Susan Brown,
Helene Callahan, Connie Capunitan, Brian Casey, Anne Cervino,
Joseph Christian, Raymond Clothier, Thomas Collins, Jason
Condit, Peggy Conley, Thomas Connaire, Regina Connelly,
Florence Conroy, Lucy Coppolino, Marie D'Angelo, Kim
Dankanich, Louis Desiato, Eric Dial, Thomas Donnelly, Sally
Doyle, Taylor Dworznicki, Stephanie Egan, Anne Ervin, Nancy
Finn, Dennis Flounders, David Frattara, Nora Forgione, Don
Haber Sr., Lorraine Green, Ronald Gutschall, Antonia Hans,
Barbara Hartley, Nicole Hayes, Joanne Henes, Joseph
Hinnegan, Jane Horton, Jason Howard, Joanne Hutchins, John
Geoghegan, Celia Johnson, Michael Johnson, Margaret Kerr,
Gerald Lanoza, Bob Lawrence, Joseph Lorenti, Trey Love,
Charles Ludovico, Guido Mackia, Paul Martin Sr, Marie
MacDonald, Jim MacDonald, Kayla Jane McBride, Michael
McCann, James McDermott, James McGinley, Catherine
McLaughlin, Joseph McShea, Dorothy Mitchell, Betty Monahan,
Joseph Mora, Ruth Morantz, Mona Mynar, Baby Leo Neisson,
Kathy Noe, Kay Norris, Maryann O'Donnell, Tommy Overlander,
Craig Peters, Rosalie Poggio, Joseph Quinn, Marie Raab, Sister
Mary Rene IHM, Eric Rivera, Barbara Rogers, Anthony Salvino,
Michele Schoettle, Gerry Schorn, George Senzil, Baby Liam
Twig, Frank Ulinski, Gia Vega, Rita Weiss, Dorothy Weischedel,
Lisa West, Ronin Xavier, Doris Young, Frank Zolkalski, Elaine
Zoltowski

H.O.P.E.

Helping Other People in an Emergency

When family, friends or neighbors are unavailable
and you have need for local transportation to get to
doctor appointments, shopping, hospital visits or
church, call our H.O.P.E. coordinator. Please leave
your name and phone number and the coordinator
will call you back.

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL:

215-651-2107

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

Theme for 2012

"Because I Am Catholic"



Each registered household **will be receiving a direct mailing from the Catholic Charities Appeal Office.**

You may contribute to the Catholic Charities Appeal in many ways:

Pledge Gift

A gift to the Catholic Charities Appeal may be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly and semi-annually. If possible, please include your first month's payment when you mail your gift card envelope.

Example:

Suggested ten monthly total pledge payments of:

\$1,000	\$100 per month
\$750	\$75 per month
\$500	\$50 per month
\$250	\$25 per month
\$150	\$15 per month

Note: The Catholic Charities Office will mail out your monthly statements.

Checks should be made payable to "Catholic Charities Appeal."

One-Time Gift

You may also consider making your gift all at once.

Credit Card Gifts

You can use your MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards to make your Appeal gift. A credit card gift can be made by mail, online or with your pledge card and can be paid in installments.

Matching Gifts

Would you like to double your gift? Numerous companies match Catholic Charities Appeal gifts designated to Catholic Social Service and Education. Please contact your employers to verify and receive more information on their Match Gift Program.

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

This can be arranged through your bank.

For those of you who have given in the past, thank you for your generosity and we ask you to consider giving again in 2012. For those of you who may have never contributed, we ask you to do so this year. Gifts are tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts. **For more information, call 215-587-5650 or E-mail cca@adphilia.org**

Adult Faith Formation and Fellowship

- *Have you, or someone you know, been drifting away from the Church?*
- *Are you looking for a sense of community and fellowship with other Catholics?*
- *Do you want to deepen your knowledge of the faith?*

Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent as we read through Matthew Kelly's book, **Rediscover Catholicism**. In it, Kelly offers clear and concise insight into the teachings of our Church and practical steps on how to continue to grow in faith and knowledge.

Meetings will be held in the Parish Meeting Room following the 6:30pm Mass. Light refreshments will be provided, followed by an opportunity for small group discussion. After some refreshment and initial small group discussions, a larger group sharing, and prayer will conclude the evening. Consider adding these 40 minutes to your faith journey this Lent.

If you are interested please contact Jim Malinowski at the Parish Office, 215-673-5177, ex. 28 to reserve your copy of the book.

**Thursdays in Lent, beginning
February 23rd from 7:00 - 7:40pm -
Parish Meeting Room.**

BAPTISM CLASS

First-time parents (and parents who have not previously attended a class) must attend a Pre-Jordan class before scheduling the Christening. We suggest that you attend before the birth of your baby. The next class will be on **Wednesday, February 29, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room**. Please call the Parish Office to register in advance.

Congratulations Newly Baptized

Fiona Jane Wright



**SAINT VINCENT DePAUL
CLOTHING DRIVE**

SATURDAY, FEB. 25th

ST CHRISTOPHER'S

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

School Parking Lot

**An Irish Celebration
at St. Christopher Parish
Saturday, March 3rd**



**Trainer Hall
7:00 p.m. 'Till Midnight
Featuring Music By:
The Bogside Rogues**

Performances By: Rince Ri School of Irish Dance

Cost:

\$45.00 per person \$75.00 per couple

INCLUDES:

**DJ, Irish Dinner, Irish Beer, Wine & Set-Ups
Tickets Call: 215-917-2809**

**Benefitting the St. Christopher's
Home and School Association**

THIS WEEK AT ST. CHRISTOPHER

AR - Adoration Room	PO - Parish Office
C - Church	S - School
HFH - Holy Family Hall	SGC - School Gift Center
LB - Library	TH - Trainer Hall
PMR - Parish Meeting Room	

Sunday, February 19, 2012

**Gift Card / Scrip Sale - SGC - 8:30 - 11:30 am
Little Church School - LB - 10:30 am**

Monday, February 20, 2012

**NO SCHOOL
NO Gift Card/Scrip Sale
NO SCOUTS
Senior Citizens Meeting - HFH - 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
PREP Classes - S - 6:45 - 8:00 pm**

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

**Gift Card / Scrip Sale - SGC - 9:00 - 10:00 am
Charismatic Prayer Group - AR - 7:00 pm
RCIA - PO - 7:15 - 8:45 pm**

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

**Gift Card / Scrip Sale - SGC - 9:00-10:00 am
Cheerleading - TH - 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Choir - C - 7:30 pm**

Thursday, February 23, 2012

**Irish Dance - HFH - 3:15 - 4:15 pm
Gift Card /Scrip Sale - SGC - 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

Friday, February 24, 2012

**Gift Card / Scrip Sale - SGC - 9:00 - 10:00 am
Cub Scouts - HFH - 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Stations of the Cross - C - 7:00 pm**



**SCHOOL NEWS
PLAN TO REGISTER NOW FOR THE
2012 -2013 SCHOOL YEAR!**

IF YOU ARE NOT A ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL FAMILY, would you consider registering your child(ren) if you knew that St. Christopher School:

- ☛ Provides daily instruction in our Catholic Faith as well as prayer experiences and opportunities to practice our faith
- ☛ Has state-of-the-art technology – individual laptop/netbooks for each student in grades 5-8, laptop carts, projectors and SMARTBoards, computers in each classroom as well as a fully equipped computer lab
- ☛ Follows a rigorous academic curriculum and is in the process of implementing the Common Core Standards in ELA and Math
- ☛ Has scholarship money available for qualified families (Children's Fund Scholarship, BRIDGE, EITC)
- ☛ Is able to provide differentiated instruction for students with learning disabilities and special needs through Title I and CORA Services
- ☛ Offers a number of extra-curricular activities to our students

**PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL
FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO SCHEDULE A SCHOOL TOUR**

**C.Y.O REGISTRATION FOR
SOFTBALL - BASEBALL - TRACK
Sunday, February 26th
after 10:30 Mass in Trainer Hall**

**St. Christopher's
Sponsor A Needy Student Fund**

In Memory of: William D. Fox, Sr.

From: Ellenjane & Howard Powell
Natalie Lucca
Kathleen Becker
Mrs. Anne Kalanty & Family
Anita Sherlock
John Cottrell