

Saint Nicholas Parish Newsletter

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2010

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES serves the poor, those limited in power, voice, and access for generations. The need has never been greater and your generosity is critically important. God will always love the poor and this second collection gives each of us an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with Him to bring hope and His love to all His children. **Please respond generously to the second collection this weekend, March 13-14.**

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY The St. Nicholas Brownies, Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts are celebrating "**Girl Scout Sunday**" today, **Sunday, March 14** at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy. Congratulations to all our Girl Scouts and their leaders. Thank you for all you do for our parish and the community. The Girl Scouts will be the Altar Servers, Lectors and Greeters for the Mass. A reception will be held in the Community Room following the Mass.

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE *Since Friday, March 19, 2010 is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, abstinence from meat is not required* (canon 1251). Normally all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS are celebrated on Fridays at **1:30 p.m.** (with the school students). Traditional Stations of the Cross are celebrated at **5:15 p.m.** Stations of the Cross in Spanish are celebrated at **6:00 p.m.** On **Friday, March 26**, the Second Grade of St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School will present a Living Stations of the Cross at **1:15 & 6:00 p.m.** The Spanish language Stations will be at **7 p.m.** that day.



LENTEN ROAD TO RESURRECTION The W-B Deanery's *Lenten Journey* will continue on **Wednesdays, March 17 and 24** at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate this journey with members of our neighboring parishes.



✠ **March 17** at St. Therese, Old River Rd., W-B. The celebrant homilist will be Msgr. Francis Callahan.

✠ **March 24** at St. Mary I.C., S. Washington St., W-B.

DAILY EUCHARIST Our weekday Masses *during Lent* are celebrated at **6:30 & 8:00 a.m. (Mon.-Fri.)**.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES During Lent, the downtown churches sponsor a Wednesday Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 35 S. Franklin Street. Organ recitals at 11:30 a.m., precede the Community Worship Service at 12:00, followed by Soup/Sandwich Lunch (donation for lunch is \$4). This week's speaker is Msgr. Joseph Rauscher. The *St. Nicholas Altar & Rosary Society* will prepare the lunch. *Donations benefit the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic.*

OPERATION RICE BOWL The story of the Prodigal Son helps us refocus on the meaning of Lent. This is a time to change our ways, to turn back to God our Father, and to appreciate and share the gifts we have received. As we continue with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, we remember that we are called to be stewards of what God has given us, and we connect our prayers and fasting with our giving.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION MEETING A preparatory session for parents of those to be baptized at St. Nicholas will be held **today, Sunday, March 14** at 12:00 noon in the Rectory.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR "JOURNEY OF HOPE" The parish Social Concerns Committee's Weekly Lenten Information Series, on **Thursday March 18 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Community Room will feature *Father Neil Connolly, of the Archdiocese of New York.* Fr. Connolly is Pastor of St. Mary's Parish (Grand St.) on Manhattan's Lower Eastside. He is a native New Yorker, ordained for service in the Archdiocese of New York. He served for over twenty years as the Cardinal Archbishop's Vicar in the South Bronx. Fr. Connolly has served as Pastor in two New York City parishes that experienced the influx of large numbers of non-English speaking parishioners. He will be sharing with us his thoughts on the theme of "*Human Dignity*".

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES are held from 10:15 to 11:35 a.m. Students from Pre-School to 8th Grade will gather in the School Gym. High School students will meet in the Church Community Room.

HOLY NAME MEETING The parish men's society will meet today, **Sunday, March 14** at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

EASTER FOR THE HOMEBOUND The sign-up list for volunteers to help with our parish outreach to those who can no longer join us in church is posted on the Bulletin Board. Each year parishioners visit our homebound and nursing home residents bringing them Easter Flowers and cards prepared by children from our School. **The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board at the side entrance of the Church.** We post only the names of parishioners who will be receiving Easter plants. Further information will be given to you when you pick up your plant. The flowers may be picked up in the Community Room after the Palm Sunday weekend Masses. Please consider giving some of your time to bring the joy of Easter to one of our homebound members. **If you noticed that we missed any names, kindly let us know.**

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR THE NEEDY AND FLOWERS FOR EASTER We are again accepting donations for your loved ones as Memorial Donations for the needy or for flowers in Church during the Easter Season. Donations may be made by placing \$15.00 in an envelope marked with the name of the person in whose memory it is donated and put the envelope in the collection basket or call the rectory by **Monday, March 29.**

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on **Monday, March 22** at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. If you crochet or knit or would like to learn, you are welcome. Also, we gratefully accept donated yarns or monetary contributions. Call Pat at 823-2812 for info.

PRO-LIFE GROUP Our next meeting will take place **Wednesday, March 24** at 6:00 p.m. We will meet at the Wyoming Chapter of PA for Human Life Offices on Hanover Street, with Betty Caffrey.

Eucharistic Celebrations

MONDAY MARCH 15	6:30 Gerald Moran <i>Req. by Mrs. Marion McGavin</i> 8:00 William C. Luksic, Birthday <i>Req. by Family</i>
TUESDAY MARCH 16	6:30 Harry Lloyd <i>Req. by Ted Zelinski</i> 8:00 Eugene Lavelle <i>Req. by Bob Reilly</i>
WEDNESDAY MARCH 17	6:30 Patrick Moore <i>Req. by Sister, Elsa Moore</i> 8:00 Rita Nagorski Family
THURSDAY MARCH 18	6:30 Msgr. Charles J. Goeckel 8:00 School Mass: James J. Shea <i>Req. by Elizabeth O'Brien & Pat Deken</i>
FRIDAY MARCH 19	6:30 Alfred Chissler, Jr., 7 th Day <i>Req. by Family</i> 8:00 Elizabeth Frank <i>Req. by Husband, Carl</i>
SATURDAY MARCH 20	5:00 Anna Drumsta, Anniversary <i>Req. by Robert</i>
SUNDAY MARCH 21	7:30 Helen F. Knorr, Anniversary <i>Req. by Margaret & Vito Pasone</i> 9:00 Carol White Dove Sliker <i>Req. by White Eagle & Family</i> 10:30 For the Living & Deceased of the Parish 12:00 Spanish Language Mass



MEMORIAL OFFERINGS Several of our parishioners have mentioned that they have seen "Memorial Offerings" listed in other church bulletins and have asked if we could do something similar. Our parish is offering an opportunity for you to specify a memorial gift in memory of and/or in honor of a family member or friend. These gift offerings include the Sanctuary candle in the church, chapel or convent chapel for \$10, and a donation toward the altar bread and wine used for Holy Mass at \$25 per weekend. The intentions for these offerings will be published in the weekly bulletin. Thank You.

Sanctuary Candle

March 13-19

CHURCH

In memory of Sister Celeste - Req. by Frank & Chris

CHAPEL

In memory of Elizabeth Scheuerman - Req. by Frank & Chris

CONVENT CHAPEL

In memory of Sister Celeste - Req. by Frank & Chris



Bread and Wine

March 13-14

In memory of Elizabeth Scheuerman

Req. by Frank & Chris



ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY NOTES The parish Cemetery Committee will meet **Tuesday, March 16** at 3:30 p.m. Any volunteers interested in doing some preliminary work before our cleanup day, scheduled for Saturday, April 24, should give Fr. Steve a call at the rectory. Parishioners who have put off **purchasing a cemetery plot, or group of plots** are encouraged to make their purchase **before** Memorial Day, 2010. After that date, prices for graves & openings will be raised to match that of the Diocesan Cemeteries. Our prices currently are the lowest of any cemetery in the area.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS for our young members, ages 3-6 & 7-12, are available near the exits.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST SERVED BY THE HOLY NAME

Our Spring "All You Can Eat" Breakfast will be held **next Sunday, March 21**. The breakfast is sponsored by the St. Nicholas Holy Name Society and will be served in the school cafeteria from 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Donation: Adults - \$5, Children 6 to 12 - \$3, Children 5 & under - free. **Tickets will be available at the door. Please join us!**



THE EASTER EGG HUNT will take place on **Saturday, April 3** immediately after the blessing of the baskets. If anyone wishes to donate a small basket of candy or a stuffed animal for a prize, please bring it to the rectory before Good Friday. If you have any questions or would like to help, please call the Clarke's at 825-0886. **Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards.** U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., USS Scranton Base will present a \$50 gift certificate, compliments of Robert M. Mahon, P.E., to Toys R Us to one lucky boy/girl at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. For Base info, call Dennis Opiela at 824-2256.



THE SPIRIT OF SAINT NICHOLAS

The long and vibrant history of St. Nicholas Parish dates back to December 1855. From the beginning, the parishioners dedicated themselves and sacrificed to provide church, school, convent and rectory buildings and to develop opportunities and groups to meet the needs of the parishioners. A number of projects have been identified which need attention in order to continue the great traditions and *The Spirit of Saint Nicholas* parish. **A Capital Campaign, THE SPIRIT OF SAINT NICHOLAS**, has been designated as a way for us to prepare for the future of our parish. A Committee has been meeting to formulate plans for the funding and completion of these projects.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP The weekend collection for March 6-7 was \$10,003.05. Thank you very much for your generosity.

SUNDAY MARCH 14
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Eucharistic Liturgies: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 (Eng.), 12:00 (Spanish)
 RCIA Catechesis 10:00 Rectory
 CCD Religious Education Classes 10:15-11:35 School
 Girl Scout Sunday Celebration 10:30 Liturgy Church
 Baptismal Preparation Session 12:00 Rectory
 Boy Scout Troop 43 Meeting 6:00 Community Room
 Pack 43 Committee Meeting 7:00 Rectory
 Holy Name Meeting 7:00 Cafeteria

MONDAY MARCH 15
 St. Nicholas Federal Credit Union 6:00-8:30 School
 School Eighth Grade Parent Meeting 6:30 Cafeteria

TUESDAY MARCH 16
 Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Chapel
 Miraculous Medal Novena 4:30 Chapel
 Free Health Clinic 4:30-7:00 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 Bingo 5:45 Cafeteria
 Girl Scouts Troop #2831 5:45-7:45 Community Room

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17
 Cub Scouts Fundraiser Pick-Up 6:00-7:00 Community Room
 Lenten "Road to Resurrection Mass" 7:00 St. Therese, W-B

THURSDAY MARCH 18
 Adult Education: A Journey of Hope 6:00 Community Room
 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Loft

FRIDAY MARCH 19
 Stations of the Cross 1:30, 5:15(English) - 6:00(Spanish)
 Church
 Cub Scout Pack 43 Den Meeting 6:30 Cafeteria

SATURDAY MARCH 20
 Al-Anon Meeting 9:00 Community Room
 Confessions 4:00-4:45 Church
Vigil Mass for Sunday 5:00 Church

SUNDAY MARCH 21
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Eucharistic Liturgies: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 (Eng.), 12:00 (Spanish)
 Spring Sunday Breakfast 8:15-1:30 Cafeteria
 RCIA Catechesis 10:00 Rectory
 CCD Religious Education Classes 10:15-11:35 School
 Catholic Choral Society Lenten Concert 6:00 Church
 Boy Scout Troop 43 Meeting 6:30 Cafeteria



CATHOLIC CHORAL SOCIETY LENTEN CONCERT The Catholic Choral Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will present its Lenten Concert at St. Nicholas Church **next Sunday, March 21** at 6:00 p.m. The Catholic Choral Society is under the direction of Miss Ann Manganiello and with accompanist Jean Shields. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken.

CAN YOU HELP? RIDE NEEDED to 10:30 Mass on Sundays. A parishioner who lives near the Ice-A-Rama near Coal St. is seeking a ride to Mass. If anyone can volunteer, please contact the pastor.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS are held at St. Patrick's Church hall, Parrish St., W-B **every Friday** of Lent.

MASS/HEALING SERVICE at St. Anthony Padua Church, Exeter on **Sunday, March 14** at 7:00 p.m. Alan Ames from Australia will share his conversion story and how he received the special gift of healing from God.

THE ANNUAL NOVENA in-honor of St. Joseph **continues until March 19**. Masses will be held daily at 10:30 am & 7 pm in the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary Chapel, Rte. 315 Laflin. For more info, contact 654-7542.

A LENTEN FISH DINNER will be held on **March 19** from 3:30-7:00 p.m. at Little Flower Manor & St. Therese Residence, 200 S. Meade St., W-B. Price: \$8.00. For more info, or for tickets, stop by Little Flower Manor or call 823-6131. Also on sale, New England clam chowder for \$1.50.

SUPPORT GROUP Divorced, widowed or separated individuals trying to cope with sorrow, doubt, anxiety or loneliness, can come to **The Beginning Experience monthly session** on **Friday, March 19** from 7-9 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Center, Scranton. For info call 489-7769.

A HAM BINGO will be held at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 416 E. South St., W-B on **Sunday, March 21** at 1 p.m. Admission is \$1. Public is invited.

4-YEAR FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS King's College Scholarships Open to students of Hispanic heritage whose parents did not attend college. Applicants must have a 3.2 high school GPA or higher, & demonstrate financial need. Applicants must be residents of Lackawanna or Luzerne County. Contact the McGowan Hispanic Outreach Program at King's College at 208-5900, Ext. 5466. **The deadline has been extended to March 26.**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
TUESDAY ~ 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 20-21	
5:00	Michael Angeli, Alexis & Olivia Davison
7:30	Christina & Francesca Kalie
9:00	Grace Federo, Elisabeth & Robert Shovlin
10:30	Meghan McGraw, Tim & Vicky Lettier

FINANCES FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 6-7		
Adult Offering		\$6,583.50
Children's Offering		97.25
Loose Offering		1,292.82
Total		\$7,973.57
Dues		3,285.91
St. Vincent de Paul		3.00
Holydays (1) & Heat (47)		48.00
Care of Priests		1,268.50
Total Offering	THANK YOU!	\$12,578.98

LIFELINE Mother Teresa said that Christ comes to us in the distressing disguise of the poor. She also said that it is a terrible poverty that a child must die so that people might live as they wish. Taken together, I believe that the poorest of the poor are those whose poverty lies in the loss of a child. We should consider them the face of Christ in our lives and help them with a kind word, a listening ear, a healing embrace. Only love can overcome the tragedy of abortion, and that love must begin with each of us. *Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus, Address at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Project Rachel*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Do those around us know *we are light in the Lord?* Do we live as *children of light?* Often those who most need to experience our light...the demanding child, the distant teenager, the elderly parent, the impatient co-worker... Take concrete steps to bring light to the world's darkness, such as racism, sexism, ageism, or any other social sin.

YOUR CREDIT UNION NEWS It's daylight saving time and it's also time for you to get to the Credit Union to buy your tickets for the annual Dinner Meeting on Saturday, April 10, starts at 6:30 (after 5 p.m. Mass). Be there or...?? Just \$15 for a family style dinner (guests \$25). "A Touch of Class" Restaurant offers a variety of 6 beers on tap. Seating is limited - first floor venue - dress is casual. Call St. Nicholas-St. Boniface FCU at 825-2640, cell #709-9729 or fax 970-2895.

FOOD BANK Thank you for keeping the food supply coming. We need jelly, tuna, mac & cheese and pasta in a can. Thank you for all you do for others.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY A. C. TRIP on **Sunday, April 25** to Bally's Casino. Cost is \$30 per person - rebate TBA. Leave St. Nick's parking lot at 7 a.m. - leave Bally's at 6 p.m. All seats reserved. For reservations call Bud Holmgren at 826-1705.

NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA every Tuesday evening at 5:30 from **March 16-June 8, 2010** at St. Joseph/St. Mary Maternity, 40 Park Ave., W-B.

FISH DINNER will be held at St. Stanislaus Church Hall, 666 N. Main St., W-B on **March 26** from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$8. Advance tickets only, call Joyce at 823-4988.

ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH in Laflin is having a Lenten Potato Pancake Sale from 4-7 p.m. on **March 26**. Take-outs are available. For more info, contact 655-8956.

HAM & CABBAGE DINNER at St. Patrick's, Parrish St., W-B on **Sunday, March 14** from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 adults, \$4.50 children age 12 & under.

AN EASTER ORGAN RECITAL will take place on **Sunday, April 11** at 1:30 p.m. in Saint Mary's of the I. C., S. Washington St., W-B. Director of Music & organist Mark Ignatovich, will be performing Easter organ music based on chants, chorales and hymn tunes commonly sung during the season of Easter through Pentecost. There is no charge and all are welcome. For info call 823-4168 x130.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL! REMEMBER to lock your car doors & do not leave any valuables in your cars.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the W-B Free Medical Clinic. The Clinic is open on Tuesdays from 4:30-7:00 p.m. and every other Wednesday (began December 30) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This means we need additional volunteers to staff the Clinic. Needed are Wednesday evening volunteers - Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Pharmacist or Social Worker and volunteer receptionist(s). If interested or would like more info, call Lois Myers at 825-8721.

NEED EXTRA MONEY? The U.S. Census is hiring hundreds of employees in your area. Most jobs are where you live and pay \$11-\$14 an hour plus mileage - great for extra money. Hours are flexible and full-time or part-time. Call our Scranton office at 903-6000 or 1-866-861-2010 to schedule yourself for a simple test of basic skills. Visit the website at <http://2010.census.gov> for complete info.

FURRY TAILS READING PARTNERS Do you know a child who is experiencing problems reading? Furry Tails Reading Partners pairs children with therapy dog teams to encourage children to improve their reading skills. The program runs all year and is free to children needing help. For info call Helene Skopek at 814-6078.

FREE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES Available For Children Birth Through Two

Are you concerned about your child's ability to move, see or hear? To talk or express needs? To relate to others? To think and learn? If you answered "YES" to any of the above, call now for a free screening and/or evaluation. Your child, ages birth through two, may be eligible for free early intervention services. No income guidelines. No insurance necessary. All information is confidential. Phone 826-3030 or 1-800-816-1880.

PROBLEMS WITH DRUGS? For help call the Drug & Alcohol Counseling Center at 1-866-REFINE-U.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 1). Days, evenings & overnight coverage needed for **Catherine McCauley Center, Plymouth** - call Sr. Marie Larkin at 779-2801. 2). **W-B Free Clinic** on Tuesdays & Wednesdays - call Pat Williams or Lois Meyers at 825-8721 or 793-4361. 3). **Ruth's Place** - call Julie Benjamin or Betty Magnum at 822-6817.

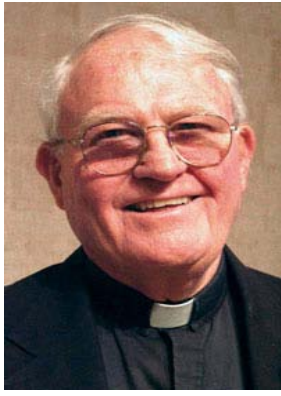
TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES For questions/information on the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Program call 288-8420 or 800-679-4135 or Hearing Impaired 825-1860. The program is funded, made available & regulated through the PA Dept. of Transportation.

ANY SENIOR CITIZEN Seniors who are homebound and living on their own may want to take advantage of a program called **RUOK**. **Helpline** will contact you once a week to check on you. For more information, call Sr. Nancy at 823-7736.

SUPPORT GROUP Divorced, widowed or separated individuals trying to cope with sorrow, doubt, anxiety or loneliness, can come to **The Beginning Experience monthly session on the third Friday of each month** from 7-9 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Center, Scranton. For info call 489-7769.

A MONTHLY HOLY HOUR (for priestly & religious vocations) is held **every first Thursday** at 7:00 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary Chapel, Route 315, Laflin.

TRAVELING? Mass times & locations when traveling - call 1-410-676-6000 or Internet at www.Masstimes.org.



**GUEST SPEAKER
JOURNEY OF HOPE
LENTEN SERIES
MARCH 18, 2010**

FATHER NEIL A. CONNOLLY

**ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ROOM
6:00-7:30 P.M.**

The guest speaker on March 18th for our Lenten Series “A Journey of Hope” will be Father Neil Connolly. The theme for that evening is “Human Dignity”. Father Connolly is Pastor of St. Mary’s Parish (Grand Street) on Manhattan’s Lower Eastside. He is a native New Yorker, ordained for service in the Archdiocese of New York. He served for over twenty years as the Cardinal Archbishop’s Vicar in the South Bronx. A founding member of the national Catholic Committee for Urban Ministry (CCUM), Father Connolly has studied language and culture in the countries of origin of his parishioners. These areas include Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil and various countries in Africa. Father Connolly has served as Pastor in two New York City parishes that experienced the influx of large numbers of non-English speaking parishioners. In sharing with us his thoughts on the theme of “Human Dignity”, Father Connolly will give us valuable insights to help us understand the challenges we will face as we welcome new parishioners whose language and culture is different from our own but with whom we share a common faith in Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother.

Your Assistance will be much appreciated: **“THE SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY, who have served at St. Nicholas for 137 years,** are an international Congregation with a **Chilean Province.** In Concepcion, the epicenter of the earthquake, we have 3 convents and schools and in Santiago we have 2 convents and schools. The Sisters all survived. We have two Chilean Sisters with us in Mendham, one novice, Sister Maria Erin, who has been with us for her 2nd year novitiate and 1 junior professed, Sister Angela, who has been with us for a few weeks studying English. Both Sisters are from Concepcion and thank God we have found that their families survived. The convent where Sr. Angela is stationed had the second floor completely destroyed and everything was lost. The two Sisters are scheduled to return to Chile on April 6. If any parishioner would want to donate towards food, water, clothing, rebuilding, etc., we would be most grateful. Checks can be made out to the Sisters of Christian Charity and dropped off at school, rectory, collection basket, or mailed to Sisters of Christian Charity, 350 Bernardsville Road, Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, NJ 07945. Please mention that it is for intended for Chile. Thank you in advance for your wonderful generosity.”

Gratefully, The Sisters of Christian Charity

SCHEDULING OF MASS INTENTIONS

Beginning with the 2011 year, we will no longer automatically carry over Mass intention requests from year to year. If you would like to arrange for a mass, please call the rectory office at 823-7736. Requests may now be made for the year 2011. If the day you request is available, we would be most happy to schedule that date. In fairness to all, we need to implement this change because many have not ever had the opportunity to make such requests as “Anniversary” or “Birthday” for a loved one. We encourage you to please look at the inside page of this week’s bulletin concerning other opportunities to remember a loved one.

The Church’s Code of Canon Law calls for the fulfillment of Mass intentions for the deceased within a reasonable time. With the large number of requests we have in our parish, it is not possible for us to do this at Saint Nicholas. We have had a policy of limiting the number of Masses requested each year by or for specific individuals/families, and yet we still cannot satisfy all the requests. Many people wish to have their Masses celebrated at a specific time - this further limits our ability to fulfill all the requests as desired. Many times people who wish to request a Mass are not able to attend the Mass. It would help us if you give us permission to send your Mass requests to our former assistants.

TERMINATION OF FLU SEASON DIRECTIVES Cardinal Justin Rigali has informed Bishop-Elect Joseph C. Bambera that effective this weekend, the exchange of the sign of peace and the distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful will be reintroduced in the manner indicated by established liturgical norms. According to Cardinal Rigali, *“The information available from the Center for Disease Control confirms that the 2009 H1N1 Flu has significantly dissipated throughout the country and especially in our region. Individuals must still be encouraged to use good sense if they are ill and have flu-like symptoms when they are in group settings.”*

SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION Pre-registration for the 2010-2011 school year at **St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School** is held on school days between 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or at other times by appointment. St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School **will offer a Pre-School Program** for 4 year olds next school year. Please call the school office (823-8089) for information and pre-registration. *St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School: Where Good Beginnings Last a Lifetime!*

MARRIAGE PREPARATION & PLANNING Prior to setting a date for the wedding, couples are asked to contact the church. Couples planning to marry are asked to attend one of the Marriage Preparation Programs (Pre-Cana) at least six to nine months before the intended date. *For information and an up-to-date schedule, go to: www.dioceseofscranton.org/marriagepreparation.*

2010 ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR Our Annual Summer Bazaar will be held **July 15, 16, and 17, 2010**. Please put the dates on your calendar and plan to help. We look forward to new members of the parish joining in this effort. The Planning Committee has met to begin preparing for this important project.

MOVING? If you have plans to move to a new address, please inform the rectory so that we can keep our computer files updated. Thank you!

SPONSORS FOR THE SACRAMENTS One of the very important traditions and practices of the Catholic faith is the role of Godparents at Baptism and Sponsors for Confirmation. It is an honor to be asked to accept this role to be a very special example for the child or young person. To serve as a sponsor it is required that a person be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and if married, be married according to the regulations for marriage as provided by the Roman Catholic Church. Also, the sponsor is to be a weekly participant in the Sunday Eucharist and actively strive to live out their own baptismal commitment to Christ. (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 874). Each sponsor is required to obtain a "sponsor letter" from their parish indicating that they fulfill these requirements.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS Please remember our RCIA Candidates for Full Reception into the Catholic Community in your prayers during these final weeks of their preparation for the Easter Vigil.

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY Please remember those serving in war-torn areas of our world, and who are separated from their families especially: Major Brian Halchak and Vince McCloskey who are serving in Iraq and M. Sgt. Michael Sanders serving in Kuwait. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact the Rectory Office.

SPIRITUAL READING Check out our library which is located in the Community Room. Borrow a book! If you have any religious books you would like to donate, please put them on the bottom shelves.

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED Each week, in the Prayer of the Faithful, we pray for those of our parish, their relatives and friends who have died in the previous week. We check the newspapers, but it would help us avoid missing anyone if you would call the rectory and give us the name.

REMEMBERING OUR PARISH We are most grateful to the families of our parish who have designated St. Nicholas as a recipient of Memorial Donations for their deceased loved ones and to those who remembered the parish in their wills. These gifts are an important part of insuring the future of St. Nicholas Parish. Thank You!

NOTICE REGARDING SEXUAL ABUSE OF PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE BY ORDAINED OR LAY PERSONNEL OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Such an act should be reported to the Diocese by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator (570-344-5216) or the Chancellor (570-207-2216) or the Vicar for Priests (570-207-2269). Upon receiving a report of this kind, the Diocese of Scranton is committed to assisting victims or survivors of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being.

THE LENTEN CARBON FAST PAPERS are at the side entrances of the Church. If you are looking for ways to save money, especially with your electric bills, take a copy home & use it for an easy Lenten practice.

TURN AWAY FROM SIN & BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL