

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

JESUS IS CATHOLIC

Most Catholics today feel that there is a lot of controversy in the Church. It is hard for them to imagine a more turbulent era in Church history. And yet almost immediately after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the young Church was faced with disputes so serious that they threatened the meaning of all that Our Lord had come to accomplish. The disputes centered on the nature of the Church and the identity of Jesus Himself. Were the teachings of Jesus intended to be kind of a reformation of the old religion? Was this a movement or a sect within Judaism? Did He mean to patch the torn fabric of the old faith? Was He content with the old, seasoned wine of His ancestors? More fundamentally, just who the heck was this man named Jesus? What exactly does the New Testament mean by calling Him God's Son? Well, Jesus was the Christ, the Savior, the Messiah, the Anointed One. And He answered all of these questions in the Gospel of today's Mass selected from St. Mark.

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

The disciples answered these questions about the identity of Jesus and the nature of His Church for themselves when they gathered for the Council of Jerusalem in about the year 50 A.D. as recorded in the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. They cleared up these particular questions for all time by explaining what happened in this same Gospel and why. Jesus said that He was not trying to repair the defects in the ancient Jewish religion. He insisted that He offered a new wine which could not possibly be stuffed inside of the old wineskins. So what was all that different about the new wine? Well, remember the first miracle at the wedding feast in the town of Cana. The wine was not only better than the old.

There was a lot more of it. That first miracle demonstrated that because of God's abundant grace the Church is to open to everyone, not just those who were physical descendants of Abraham. Jesus is Catholic, that is, universal. And so the Church of Jesus the Christ is Jewish in origin but universal in its membership. It is open to every human being who responds to the grace of faith. Just like Jesus the Church is Catholic.

At the beginning of the Gospel the Pharisees wanted to know why Jesus and His disciples didn't fast like St. John the Baptist and his disciples. Jesus was different than John because He was the Christ. So He put it this way: "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day." Jesus could do all that He claimed because He is the divine Son of God, equal to the Father in all things. He is more than a prophet, greater than any king, holier than any priest. He is the fulfillment of the messianic expectation because He transcends any one race or nation.

He is the bridegroom, the spouse not only of Israel but also of all God's people. The Church of Jesus the Christ is Catholic, universal, never limited to a few privileged characters.

As Catholics we believe that there is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all. We express this by the way in which we pray at Mass as one people, united by the words of the priest who bears the person of the Christ and who offers the Mass in the name of all the members. Whatever controversies there may be in the Church today, there can never be any question about who Jesus is or what the nature of the Church is. No one can ever be excluded from our Church. And no one can deny the role of Jesus as our Catholic, universal Savior.

God Bless Our Parish
FATHER ED GLEESON, PASTOR



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FLOWERS

The two large bouquets adorning the main altar were made available through the kindness of **TOM & GRACE KULAWIAK.**



The collection for St. James on the weekend of **February 19th** was **\$2,603.90**

The number of February 19th Offertory Envelopes handed in the weekend of February 18 and 19 was 142. The amount of money coming out of those envelopes was \$2,233.00 which averages out to \$15.73 per envelope. Our many thanks to the 142 contributing families.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED AND VALUED SUPPORT.

PACZKI DAY HERE AT ST. JAMES

AFTER THE 8:15AM MASS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, ALL ARE INVITED DOWN TO THE RECTORY BASEMENT TO ENJOY SOME FRESH BAKED PACZKI AND SOME COFFEE, TEA OR HOT CHOCOLATE.

TRADITIONAL LENTEN DISCIPLINES

FASTING & ABSTINENCE: Catholics of age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

PRAYER: Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

ALMSGIVING: Moved by the Sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace.

LETTER FROM THE CARDINAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After generations of religious persecution by the atheist rule of Communism, the 27 countries of Central and Eastern Europe are steadfast in their determination to rebuild God's Kingdom.

The theme of this year's Collection to **AID THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE** is—HOPE. This hope has been strengthened by the generosity of Catholics from our Archdiocese as well as others throughout the Universal Church and in particular for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. In solidarity, the Church in Lithuania recently took up a collection to aid the victims of the Katrina and Rita hurricanes.

May Our Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones as we live with renewed sense of interdependence with one another as a parish, Archdiocese and Universal Church. Your generous support of this collection will strengthen the vitality and growth of our Catholic family in the East.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

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This Wednesday, March 1st is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. Ashes will be distributed during Mass that day at both the 8:15am Mass and 7:00pm Mass. Remember this is a day of both fast and abstinence.



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REMINDER:

This Saturday, March 3rd at 3:00pm there is the Religious Education Lenten Prayer Service. All Religious Education students are asked to



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PO Box 109098 • Chicago, Illinois 60690-9098
1-312-655-7959 • www.annualcatholicappeal.com

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

January 31, 2006

Saint James Parish
10600 So Archer Ave
Lemont, IL 60439-9344
tel: 708/439-9344

Dear Friend,

Saint Paul, in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that God has anointed us and "he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts."

I am asking you to open your heart to the 2006 Annual Catholic Appeal with the theme "The Spirit in our hearts." I am confident in turning to you for support because I believe God has anointed you. God has put his seal upon you. God has given his Spirit to your heart.

If we open our hearts enough for the Spirit to reside within, we can find in our hearts many Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, piety and fear of the Lord.

These are the very qualities that form the foundation of the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Appeal helps awaken the Spirit in the hearts of people who recognize their own needs and those of others – whether spiritual or temporal. This campaign helps provide religious education, excellent liturgy and the availability of the sacraments for all Catholics of our local Church.

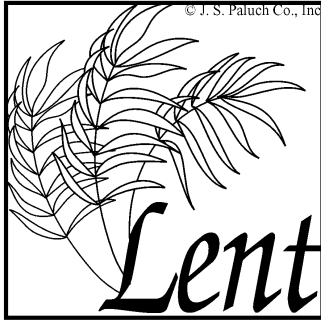
It helps fund Catholic schools, and provides services for parishes that they cannot provide alone. It spreads the Spirit to people who are deaf or developmentally disabled, and, through Catholic Relief Services, to people around the planet who still do not know Christ in their hearts.

When you spread the Spirit by supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal, I am sure your heart, filled with the Spirit, will be a blessing to the Church. Your support is a gift to the Church and to the people who are in need. Please let me know how I can help you in any way. Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal.















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Sincerely,
Francis Cardinal George
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago



March 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1   MASSES ARE 8:15 AM 7:00PM	2	3   SACRED HEART NO- VENA 6:45PM MASS & STA- TIONS 7:00PM	4 RE STUDENTS LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE AND CONFESSIONS 3:00PM
5 RE CLASS HOLY NAME SOCIETY MASS 10:00AM BAPTISM	6	7	8 PURGATORIAL SOCIETY MASS 7:00PM	9	10  MASS & STA- TIONS 7:00PM	11
12 RE CLASS 8TH GRADE DAY OF REC- OLLECTION  7:00PM	13  7:00PM	14  7:00PM	15 PRAYERFUL WISHES MASS 7:00PM HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING 7:45PM	16	17  MASS & STA- TIONS 7:00PM	18 FIRST CONFESSIONS 3:00PM
19 <u>NO RE CLASS</u> 	20	21	22	23	24  MASS & STA- TIONS 7:00PM	25  ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS 10:00AM A & R FOOD DRIVE
26 <u>NO RE CLASS</u> ALTAR & ROSARY FOOD DRIVE AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES	27	28	29	30  ADORATION 9AM TO 9PM	31  MASS & STATIONS 7:00PM	

**LENTEN, HOLYWEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE
OF DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES**



Wednesday, March 1
ASH WEDNESDAY
Masses with Blessing and
Distribution of Ashes
8:15am, 7:00pm

Friday, March 3
Sacred Heart Novena 6:45pm
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Saturday, March 4
RE Lenten Prayer Service 3:00pm

Sunday, March 5
First Sunday of Lent

Friday, March 10
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Sunday, March 12
Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 12 at 7:00pm
Monday, March 13 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00pm
LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Friday, March 17
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Saturday, March 18
First Confessions for
Second Graders
3:00pm

Sunday, March 19
Third Sunday of Lent

Friday, March 24
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Saturday, March 25
**MASS FOR THE
ANNOINTING OF THE SICK**
10:00 am



Sunday, March 26
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Thursday, March 30
DAY OF ADORATION
9:00am to 9:00pm

Friday, March 31
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Sunday, April 2
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Friday, April 7
Sacred Heart Novena 6:45pm
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm



Saturday, Sunday,
April 8 & 9
Passion Sunday
(PALM SUNDAY)
Masses with the
Blessing and
Distribution of Palms
5:30pm, 8:30, 10:00,
11:30am

Monday, April 10
Confessions 7:00 to 8:00pm

Wednesday, April 12
Confessions 6:00 to 7:00pm
Mass 7:00pm
Confessions 7:45 to 8:30pm

Thursday, April 13
HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of the Last
Supper
7:00pm



Adoration of the
Blessed
Sacrament
8:30pm to 12:00 Midnight
Bus Leaves to Visit Churches
8:30pm

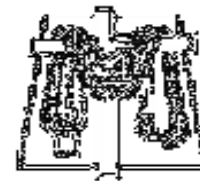
Friday, April
14
GOOD FRIDAY
Outdoor

Stations of the Cross
3:00pm

Divine Mercy Novena 6:30pm
Good Friday Liturgical Service
7:00pm



Saturday, April 15
EASTER VIGIL
Blessing of Food Bas-
kets
1:00pm
Divine Mercy Novena
6:30pm
Mass of the Easter Vigil 7:00pm



Sunday, April 16
EASTER SUNDAY
Masses with the Sprinkling of
the Holy Waters
8:30, 10:00, 11:30am
Divine Mercy Novena 7:00pm

Monday, April 17 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30pm
Thursday, April 20 at 7:00pm
Friday, April 21 at 7:00pm
Saturday, April 22 at 5:00pm
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA



Divine Mercy
Sunday
Sunday, April 23
**DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY**
Adoration 1:00 to
3:00pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Benediction 3:30pm

Eighth Ordinary Sunday

VOTIVE CANDLES

Votive offering for the week
of February 26th

In memory of Darren Chud
Tony & Denise Aragon in
honor of St. Joseph

Deacon John Wilkinson as well as Eucharistic ministers are available to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick and/or unable to attend Mass. Please call the rectory at 630-257-700 to make arrangements.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

March 1	8:15am	7:00pm
Altar Servers		S. Dillenburg J. Dillenburg JH. Dillenburg
Lector	J. Jagger	D. Lasica

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 3	7:00PM
Altar Servers	P. Lawler D. Lawler Z. Reitz
Lector	D. Lasica



Monday 8:15 AM	February 27 Weekday †Rose Stanek
Tuesday 8:15 AM	February 28 Weekday †Martin F. & Caroline Fleckenstein
Wednesday 8:15AM 7:00PM	March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY †Dennis Kawa int. of Christine Guzior
Thursday 8:15AM	March 2 Lenten Weekday †Dale & Jilda Fleckensein
Friday 6:45PM 7:00PM	March 3 Lenten Weekday SACRED HEART NOVENA †Mary Graf
Saturday	March 4 <i>Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent</i> 3:00PM RE LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE 4:30 to 5:15PM Confessions 5:30PM †Leon John Pieprzyca
Sunday	March 5 <i>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</i> 8:30AM Living & Deceased Parishioners 10:00AM †Genevieve Kosin 11:30AM †Dr. William Graber

March 4 & 5	5:30 PM	8:30AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
Celebrant	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson
Altar Servers	K. Janociak T.J. Nicholson K. Nicholson	J. Zubek M. Zubek Z. Reitz	B. Ahearn P. Lawler D. Lawler	T. Arra E. Czyzewicz A. Gorniak
Lector	J. Jagger	C. Zarzycki	R. Lawler	D. Lasica
LEM	L. Backofen	Deacon John	Deacon John	D. Lasica
Ushers	C. Hughes P. Walsh E. Liczwek N. Nowaczyk	J. Starha T. Lang F. Pearman H. Grutza	M. Lavery J. Newcomer J. Pajkos D. Butalla	B. Czaja R. Poynter J. Neadly M. Fleckenstein