

PASTOR'S NOTES

Authority is a significant factor in our lives as we accept direction and make decisions. There are those who suppose that "blind" conformity to external authority is a great virtue. But this supposition fails to take into consideration the fact that there must be interaction between external authority and the authority residing in our hearts. In today's Gospel, people recognized the authority of Jesus because his genuineness resounded with a sense in their hearts that he was genuine. Let us not lose sight of the ways in which our personal judgment ratifies the external direction we are to take.

LONGITUDE

... Selected events beyond this week.

2012 Feb 15 Wed:

7:00pm, Finance Meeting at Parish Center in New Berlin.

2012 Feb 16 Thurs:

7:00pm, Pastoral Meeting at Parish Center in New Berlin.

2012 Feb 22 Wed:

Ash Wednesday. Begin Lenten preparation for the celebration of the Easter Triduum. Day of fast (ages 21-59) and abstinence from meat (age 14 and up). Not a holy day of obligation.

5:00pm Eucharist with distribution of ashes at St. Mary.

7:00pm Eucharist with distribution of ashes at Sacred Heart.

COLLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/22/12

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| St. Mary \$1,416 | Budget(\$2,200)-\$784 |
| Sacred Heart \$939 | Budget(\$900)+\$39 |
| Visitation \$249 | Budget(\$500)-\$251 |
| St. Sebastian \$169 | Budget(\$500)-\$331 |

SECOND COLLECTION - Latin America

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| St. Mary's - \$203 | Sacred Heart - \$165 |
| Visitation BVM - \$30 | St. Sebastian - \$66 |

Catholic Times Collection as of January 22, 2012

| | <u>Bill</u> | | <u>Collected</u> | | <u>Balance</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---|------------------|---|----------------|
| St. Mary's | \$1,868 | - | \$531 | = | \$1,337 |
| Sacred Heart | \$1,006 | - | \$359 | = | \$647 |
| Visitation | \$446 | - | \$217 | = | \$229 |
| St. Sebastian | \$435 | - | \$87 | = | \$348 |

Sacred Heart

Storm Window Financial Information

| | |
|---|------------|
| Owe to Visitation BVM: | \$3,776.10 |
| Collected as of 1/22/2012: | \$1,200.00 |
| Paid \$10,906.00 to Visitation BVM on 11/22/2011. | |

St. Mary's

Brick Repair Financial Information

CONGRATULATIONS! Thru generous donations/pledges, the goal has been reached for the outside of the steeple! Now we need to raise money thru pledges/donations to complete Phase I, the inside of the steeple.

Raised to complete outside phase of steeple: \$34,650.00

Need to complete inside phase of steeple: \$12,200.00

Pledges/donations as of 1/22/2012: \$ 980.86

2011 Annual Catholic Services Appeal

"Give Thanks"

The theme for this year's appeal is "Give Thanks." Christ calls us to condier our gifts and to return a portion of them to him through our parish and the larger Church, our diocese. As of 1/25/2012:

2011-2012 Goals:

| | | |
|----------------|----------|------------------|
| St. Mary's: | \$15,542 | Pledged: \$5,770 |
| Sacred Heart: | \$5,085 | Pledged: \$3,210 |
| Visitation: | \$2,709 | Pledged: \$1,825 |
| St. Sebastian: | \$3,339 | Pledged: \$1,465 |

Thursday, February 2, 2012:

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. The Church at Jerusalem observed the feast as early as the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier. The feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth.

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24) in the temple (thus the "presentation" of the child). On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified (thus the "purification").

Inspired the words of the canticle ("a light to the revelation of the Gentiles"), by the 11th century, the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Canticle of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas.

Other Names for the Feast: Candlemas, the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin, the Meeting of the Lord, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.