

From Your Pastor

Support Our 2009 Catholic Appeal



Next weekend, March 7th and 8th, will be **Catholic Appeal Weekend** here at Saint Columbkille's. This Annual Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish. Our participation and support are not only helpful; they are critical. It is for that reason that Cardinal Seán is asking every Catholic household throughout the Archdiocese to participate in this year's 2009 Catholic Appeal. Our Shepherd needs our help. God calls each of us to share our gifts with others for the building up of his kingdom.

As we prepare for the 2009 Catholic Appeal, Cardinal Seán has asked me to express again his heartfelt thanks to all of us from St. Columbkille's who together contributed \$37,099 to the 2008 Catholic Appeal. With the contributions from the 294 other parishes in the Archdiocese the 2008 Catholic Appeal raised \$15,100,000, surpassing its goal of \$15,000,000. What a great blessing this has been for the vital work of our Archdiocese.

The contributions we make every year to the Catholic Appeal help all of us in so many ways. They help to hand on our faith to young Catholics and to Converts by providing assistance to our Catholic schools, to religious education programs, to campus ministry, to youth ministry and to programs that support persons who want to enter into full communion in the Catholic Church. Our contributions also assist a number of programs for the priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese; these include clergy support and ongoing formation for priests, the Clergy Personnel Office and direct assistance to priests in graduate studies and to seminarians. Contributions to the Appeal also give Cardinal Seán and our regional bishops the

resources they need to serve and guide our local Church in Boston.

Next weekend, Catholic Appeal Weekend, we will be showing a video message from Cardinal Seán and asking every Catholic household to make a pledge. This year, our participation target is to have 252 households participating. Our financial goal is to raise \$35,500. If we exceed our financial goal, we will receive 25 percent of all funds raised above goal for use here at our parish. Please know that your participation counts and that every gift matters. Even a small gift is a very great help. I encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass this weekend so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate this year. Those of us who gave to the Appeal last year will also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Seán about the Appeal.

In his letter to us this year, Cardinal Seán speaks about the importance of this year's Appeal: "These difficult economic times serve to remind us of how essential the work of the Church is to our lives and those of our neighbors, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. During the Lenten season we are challenged to respond to our ongoing need for conversion and our mission to provide for the needs of so many people who rely on the Church for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being...Please consider sharing your material blessings through a gift to the Catholic Appeal."

May God reward each of us who are able to give. Our annual generosity to the Church of Boston through the Catholic Appeal is both a great responsibility and a wonderful blessing to the Body of Christ in our local Church. Let us together pray for and act towards its success this year.



God bless each of you.

Msgo. Fay

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Prayers are requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

A Third Mass During Lent has been added to the daily Mass schedule at 5:30 pm from Monday through Friday. We encourage you attend daily Mass during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday during Lent in the lower church at 5:00 pm before the 5:30 Mass.

First Friday and the Eucharist: In order to strengthen the Eucharistic character of First Friday, the First Friday schedule is as follows: Mass at 7:00 and 9:00 AM and 5:30 and 7:00 PM (Latin). Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 9:30 AM until 12:00 Noon, for an increase of Vocations to the priesthood and Consecrated Life. Exposition will conclude with Benediction at 12:00 Noon. Sign-up sheets for adoration are available at the doors of the church.



The **ARISE Together in Christ** process began this past week. Please know that you are able to join a group at any time during the Season, which runs through Lent. As always, we ask you to pray regularly the *ARISE* Prayer (from the holy card or the back flap of the bulletin) for the success of this process in the parish. Thank you very much.

Pure In Heart † 'Pure In Heart' is a group of young adults, ages 18-35, dedicated to promoting a responsible attitude to sex, and sexuality among young people. Its primary objective is to educate, inspire and empower young people to enjoy a healthy lifestyle by living the virtue of chastity and abstaining from early sexual activity. Come learn more about 'Pure In Heart' – Sunday, March 15, 2009 @ 2:30pm in the lower church. Listen to young adults and special guests from Ireland where it all began! Followed by a Youth Mass at 5:00pm in the upper church.

Review Training will be held for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday, March 21. Lectors at 10:00 am and Ministers at 11:00. Please mark your calendars.

Lenten Palm Crosses Next Week: The needy children of Uganda will be the beneficiaries of this Lenten collection this year. The suggested donation for the Palm Crosses is \$1.00, please take one.

The Monday Night Prayer Group will meet this week at 7:15 pm in the lower church.

Attention: Volunteers are needed from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as a companion to a disabled adult in Jamaica Plain. No experience necessary, and it could be fun! Accessible by MBTA. For more information call the rectory office during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

February Donations were made towards the candles in loving memory of Rose A. Dawson, Rose A. Flynn & Margaret Versiackas by The Dawson Family and towards the wine in loving memory of Giovanni Cedrone by his Family.

Subscriptions to The Pilot – Postcards are available at the doors of the church for you to subscribe to ***The Pilot***. Read the nation's oldest and most respected Catholic weekly newspaper for only \$35.00 a year.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Feb. 21 – Feb. 22): \$4,154

Peter's Pence (Feb. 21 – Feb. 22): \$1,833

St. Vincent de Paul (Feb. 21 - Feb. 22): \$80.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

MARCH 1, 2009

**From a Homily by St. John Chrysostom,
Bishop, (d. 407)**

Prayer Is the Light of the Soul

The highest good is prayer and conversation with God, because it means that we are in God's company and in union with him. When light enters our bodily eyes our eyesight is sharpened; when a soul is intent on God, God's inextinguishable light shines into it and makes it bright and clear. I am talking, of course, of prayer that comes from the heart and not from routine: not the prayer that is assigned to particular days or particular moments in time, but the prayer that happens continuously by day and by night.

Indeed the soul should not only turn to God at times of explicit prayer. Whatever we are engaged in, whether it is care for the poor, or some other duty, or some act of generosity, we should remember God and long for God. The love of God will be as salt is to food, making our actions into a perfect dish to set before the Lord of all things. Then it is right that we should receive the fruits of our labors, overflowing onto us through all eternity, if we have been offering them to him throughout our lives.

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge of God, a mediator between God and men. Prayer lifts the soul into the heavens where it hugs God in an indescribable embrace. The soul seeks the milk of God like a baby crying for the breast. It fulfils its own vows and receives in exchange gifts better than anything that can be seen or imagined.

Prayer is a go-between linking us to God. It gives joy to the soul and calms its emotions. I warn you, though: do not imagine that prayer is simply words. Prayer is the desire for God, an indescribable devotion, not given by man but brought about by God's grace. As St Paul says: *For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf in a way that could never be put into words.*

If God gives to someone the gift of such prayer, it is a gift of imperishable riches, a heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. Whoever tastes that food catches fire and his soul burns for ever with desire for the Lord.

To begin on this path, start by adorning your house with modesty and humility. Make it shine brightly with the light of justice. Decorate it with the gold leaf of good works, with the jewels of faithfulness and greatness of heart. Finally, to make the house perfect, raise a gable above it all, a gable of prayer. Thus you will have prepared a pure and sparkling house for the Lord. Receive the Lord into this royal and splendid dwelling — in other words: receive, by his grace, his image into the temple of your soul.

MARCH 1, 2009

The ARISE Prayer

Gracious God and Father,
we enter into your presence
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.

You know the cares and sufferings
we carry in our hearts.

You call us to holiness
and we trust you to lead us together
on our journey to be a renewed Church,
for with you all things are possible.

Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.

Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.
May your Holy Spirit empower us
to live as a community of love,
freed to share in your work
of recreating our world and restoring justice.

We believe you are doing something new,
calling us to arise together in Christ
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

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UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sundays March 15 & 29

Family Masses at 9:30 am

Saturday, March 21 – 10:00 am

Review Training for Lectors

Saturday, March 21 – 11:00 am

Review Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion

Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 pm

Mass of Healing

Saturday, March 28 – 10:00 am

First Penance

Sunday, May 3 – 11:15 am

First Communion

Saturday, May 9 – 10:00 am

Confirmation celebrated by Cardinal Seán

MARCH 1, 2009

**First Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2009
Masses for the Week**

Sunday, March 1 – 1st Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Bridget & Joseph O’Keeffe, Mem.
7:30 am Winifred & Patrick Rogan, Mem.
9:30 am Antonio & Angela Randolfi, Mem.
11:15 am Ann E. Dargin, Mem.
12:45 pm *Missa pro Populo*
5:00 pm Helen McLaughlin, 3rd Ann.
Mon. 7:00 am Elizabeth Vienneau, 5th Ann.
Tue. 5:30 pm Thomasina Leone, 47th Ann.
Wed. 5:30 pm Domenico, Lucia & Maria Cirigliano, M
Thu. 7:00 am Helen E. Freeley, Mem.
5:30 pm Patrick O’Brien, 6th Ann.
Fri. 7:00 am Albert, Elizabeth & Kevin Legros, Mem
5:30 pm Christine Coen, Mem.
Sat. 7:00 am Bernadette Canney, Mem.

Sunday, March 8 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Leonard Bouchie, 14th Ann.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
9:30 am Donato, Carolina &
Maria Salvucci, Mem.
11:15 am Angela DiRenzo, Mem.
12:45 pm Segundo Andreu, Mem.
5:00 pm Joseph Moscone, Month’s Mind

