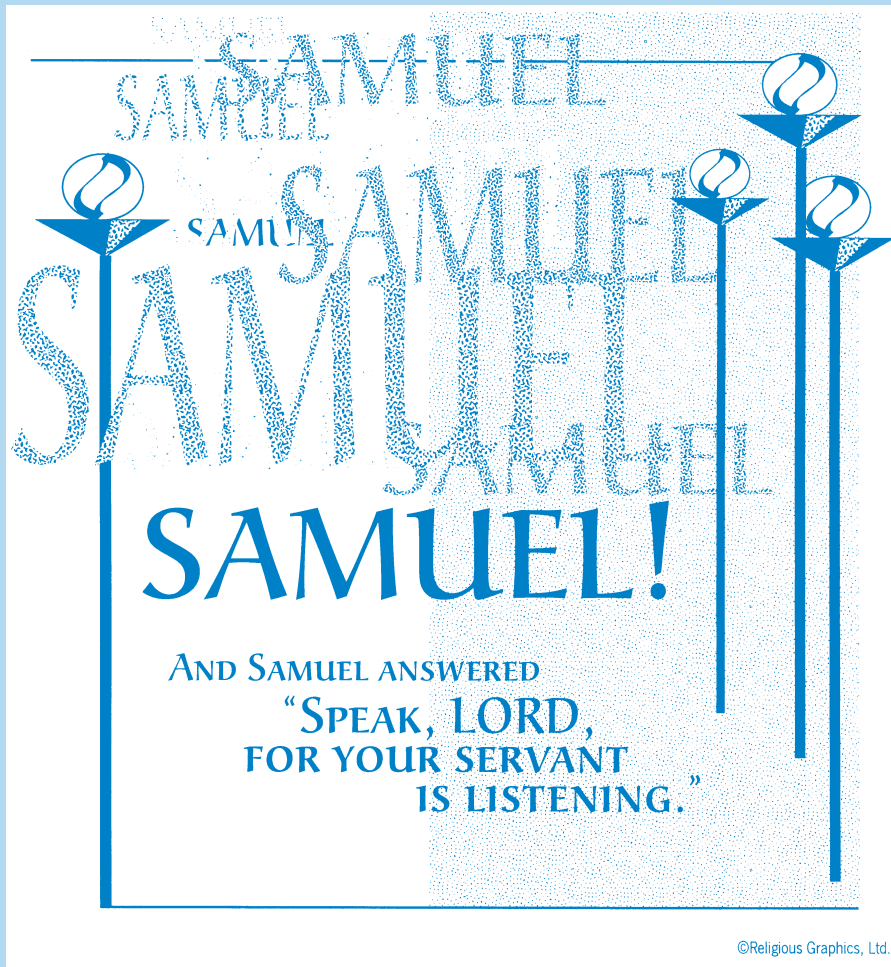


January 18, 2009
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



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OUR LADY OF KNOCK
CHURCH



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In any given week I travel to several parishes for meetings. Although at times the snow seemed unmanageable, Rich Evers, more often than not, was up to the challenge. He did have some help from a neighbor, Tom, as well as Jim Bartosz and Fr. Don who enjoys working the tractor snow plow. Please be careful in the parking lot and around the church entrances, there is only so much we can humanly possibly do.

A recent meeting for pastors and business managers gave information for the next fiscal year budget process. The Archdiocese does recognize the economic challenges facing all of us. Hoping to avoid any downsizing and loss of jobs, they took the challenging step of a wage freeze across the board. This freeze includes priests, sisters, lay employees, school principals and teachers. The only exceptions are minimum wage employees with a mandated increase from \$7.75 an hour to \$8.

Despite the money challenges in your own personal life, I am grateful for your ongoing support of the parish as evidenced by Christmas donations that came in just over our budget. Our struggle continues in the area of the weekly donations that run anywhere between \$800-1000 below budget. Our Finance Committee will be facing some tough decisions as we prepare for next year.

Deacon Tom's article mentions how Fr. Don and I rearrange our schedules to help out our neighbors. We are lucky to have each other. This week I will be away for a few days on retreat and the following week, Fr. Don will get a chance to ski for a few days. Please be patient for any services that require a priest on those occasions.

January presents an opportunity to pay attention to both civic and religious activities. On the civic side, there will be the Inauguration of President Obama and the Martin Luther King holiday. For the Church we see emphasis on both Ecumenical and Pro-Life activities. I hope I find myself open to celebrating ALL these activities instead of just "my favorites." I wish the same for you.

Please pray for me, as I do you.

Fr. Pat



PARISH APPRECIATION PARTY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

This year our Annual Parish Appreciation Party will be a brunch in the parish hall following the **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 10:00AM Mass**. This party is held each year to thank those who volunteer in the parish.

This year's theme will be Valentine's Day and people are asked to wear something red. The party will be catered by Jimboo's.

Reply cards should be turned in to the rectory as soon as possible so that the proper amount of food can be ordered.



RESPECT LIFE BABY SHOWER

Our Annual Respect Life Baby Shower will take place the weekends of January 24/25 and January 31/February 1.

New and good condition used baby clothes, bedding, furniture and maternity clothes are needed. Items may be brought to the church vestibule. For large item pick up, please call Marie at (708) 474-3160 or the rectory. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Human life is precious! It is up to us to help save the lives of babies in danger of suffering abortion. Providing the means for mothers in crisis pregnancies to give life to their babies is one way we can help. Also, please remember to pray for these mothers and their babies.

PARISH LEADERSHIP/ EVANGELIZATION DAY

The Archdiocesan Parish Leadership/Evangelization Day will be held on February 7, 2009 at Maria High School. Brochures and registration information are available at the doors of the Church and at the Rectory. The focus for this year will be *Unity in Diversity: The Church Speaks to the World*.

Call the Rectory, 708-862-3011, for more information.



FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

Our next Focus on the Positive will take place on Thursday, February 12th in the Parish Hall from 7PM-8PM.

Speaker for the evening will be MARY SUE KEGL, Pastoral Associate at St. Alexander Parish in Palos Heights. Mary Sue has a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University and has been involved in parish work for the past 20 years. She will speak on LENTEN RENEWALS.

Refreshments will be served. Join us for another interesting and informative evening. There is no fee. All are welcome. For more information, please call the rectory, (708) 862-3011

FAMILY RESOURCE ROOM UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who brought diapers and clothing for our Advent Sharing project. I hope that besides giving you felt the power of those who were praying for you.

Our Family Room is a very busy place on Mondays and Fridays as we try to meet the needs of the Moms and their children who come to us. We often have requests for cribs, mattresses, strollers, and other furniture items that we are not able to fill. If you have any of these items and would like to donate them we would be very grateful. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



The special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious was greatly appreciated. The Religious Brothers and Sisters who are recipients of this collection are grateful to every faith-filled person who contributed. Be assured that their prayers are always with you.

Gratefully,
Sr. Alban



THE LAMB OF GOD

“Behold the Lamb of God!” We hear this phrase every Sunday at Mass, but there’s a good chance that many Roman Catholics would not know who in the Bible originally spoke this phrase. Some may be surprised that it appears in only one of the four Gospels, and after it is spoken two times, it never appears again. It is John the Baptist who twice utters this phrase in the Gospel of John. In today’s Gospel reading, John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God, and two of John’s own disciples then follow Christ. A little bit later Andrew, who heard John and then followed Jesus, brings his brother Simon to be re-named Cephas, or Peter. A careful look at these Bible verses shows us the mission of everyone baptized into the Body of Christ: We must always proclaim our faith in Christ, so that others will follow him. Even though we do not know how the will of God might work through those we bring to Christ (could Andrew have known the destiny of his brother?), that is not the point. The point is that our ongoing mission as a church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—is to bring others to Christ. We do not seek attention, glory, or followers for ourselves, but only for the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



Music Notes

On this Sunday, the Church begins doing the green thing. We will have six Sundays of Ordinary Time until Lent which begins on February 25th. The Mass setting for the sung parts of the Mass will be the Community Mass by Richard Proulx. Mr. Proulx was a long time music director at our own Holy Name Cathedral. This Mass is familiar to us. We are using this setting now for the sake of variety. We also need to refresh our memory of this music lest we forget how to sing it. The Gloria will also be sung until Lent with the familiar Gather melody number 176.

Fr. Hymnpicker

FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH

Last week as we joined the Church in celebrating the Baptism of the Lord we took a little time at our Gathering to look at the sacrament of Baptism; its symbols and rituals and what they mean for us as the **“Beloved”** Children of God. Along with the great joy of this title also comes the responsibility to live our lives in a way that honors the Father. And we do that by the way we treat and respect each other. During the month of January the students will continue our collection of infant and children’s clothing for the Family Resource Room as we show our support for the most helpless of God’s creations, the unborn.

Our students and catechists have today off.

Peace,
Cathy

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

18th – No classes

22nd – People of the Eucharist

BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION

To support the pro-life work done by the Women’s Center of Greater Chicagoland empty baby bottles are still available today by all the doors of the church. We ask that as you pray for respect for all life from conception to natural death you put whatever money you are able in the bottle and return it to church or the rectory by January 25th. Thank you for your generosity.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
Monday:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Orthodox Theophany (Epiphany)
Tuesday:	St. Fabian; St. Sebastian; Inauguration Day
Wednesday:	St. Agnes
Thursday:	St. Vincent; Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person
Saturday:	St. Francis de Sales

SHEDSOMELIGHT

Christ Our Savior Catholic School

East Campus fifth graders, Briana Exorphe, Edward Florek, Amber Williams, Matthew Shapiro and Jordan Soja took part, last year, in Mrs. Cibak’s Language Arts class poetry activity. In using language for self-expression, they wrote their own original poems. These poems were then submitted to the 2008 edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*. Their poems were selected for publication. This school year they received their copies of the poetry book to share with family and friends. They can say proudly that they are published poets.

Last spring semester junior high students participated in a contest entitled *Essays About Lincoln*. This contest was sponsored by an organization called The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The competition was a great success with 1,830 essays received from students across the state. The judging process took five months. As a result, the essays were divided into four categories: participant, semi-finalist, finalist and winner. We would like to congratulate East Campus 8th graders Antonia Roberts and Justin Graham and 7th grader Gabriella Pierre-Louis who were recently recognized as finalists.

Congratulations to Letitia Evans (Grade 8 West Campus) who will be attending the 2009 Junior Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference from Saturday, January 17 through Wednesday, January 21. Letitia will witness first hand history in the making.

With God’s Blessings,

Ms. Cindy Rogers, Principal
Mrs. Karen Brodzik, Assistant Principal



MARKET DAY

Our next Market Day pick up will be Wednesday, February 4th in the parish hall. Order forms are available to the doors and can be returned to the box in the vestibule or to the rectory.



ON VISA GIFT CARDS, AND NOTHING ELSE
 Copyright 2009 by John B. Reynolds (john@jrwrites.com)

Today's column began, in retrospect, in November of 2006 when my wife and I celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Relatives and friends were quite generous in commemorating the affair, with several giving us gift cards or restaurant certificates. Some of these were lost when my wallet was stolen about six months later, but I've already cried over that spilt milk. Fortunately, I kept some of the other cards and certificates in my nightstand, including two \$50 Visa gift cards, both, per the cards themselves, "Good Thru 05/09." I figured I'd use them for my Christmas shopping about a month ago, but while standing at the Target counter with my purchases already in the bag, I came to learn that there was no value on either of the two cards. Huh?

On the phone with the very polite Customer Service Representative at the other end of the 800 number, I said there must be a mistake, stressing my *Good Thru 05/09* angle and asking, "Isn't it 2008?" Sarcasm floundered. She said that I'd violated the cards' terms and conditions, or something like that. *What terms & conditions?* She said the terms & conditions that came with the cards. *I got the cards as a gift; I don't recall any terms & conditions.* She said they're referenced on the back. *Can the print get any smaller?* She said that whoever gave us the cards should have told us about the terms & conditions. I asked her to put herself in my shoes: it's December 2008; the cards say that they're "GOOD THRU 05/09." *How could there possibly be no money left on them?* I don't think she wanted to put herself in my shoes. Can you blame her?

The Target clerk thought it was a shame. Or a sham... I asked the CSR, "Is this how you guys make your money?" or words to that effect. She said she'd put \$20 on each card. I told her thanks, but knew it wasn't over. After Christmas I called to complain again. Getting nowhere this time with Very Polite CSR No. 2, I asked to speak to his boss. The boss wasn't available. I was about to give the CSR my number so the boss could get back to me when I received a call on my cell that I had to take so I hung up, and basically gave up. They'd beaten me down. They'd won. I figured I'd just take my \$40 and go.

But not quite, because when I used one of the cards on January 3rd, there was only \$14.55 remaining. Those terms & conditions? Per allaccessgift.com, there's a monthly "administrative fee" of \$4.95 beginning on the 13th month after the issue date (CSR No. 1 put \$20 back on each card before Christmas; the \$4.95 fee was extracted from each card on 1/1/2009) and there's a "balance inquiry fee" of \$0.50 (yes, I'd asked CSR No.1 or 2 about my balance over the course of those conversations). I laughed in spite of myself. Again per the website: "Fees will apply unless prohibited by law." It's like they already know that what they're doing is kind of shady. I'm sure there's a Scriptural tie-in with all of this--there always is, you know--but I just don't have time to think about that right now. I have to go buy something before I loose another \$4.95

Special Note to our Good Friend John: Everyone needs to vent sometime. The People of Our Lady of Knock have shoulders strong enough to carry any burden—so go ahead and "lay it on us!" Hopefully by the time we see you at Focus on the Positive on March 12th, you won't even remember the Visa Card Saga.

Bulletin Editor



Here I am, LORD,
I come to do your will.



Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY (2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

8:00 AM—Intentions of All Parishioners of
Our Lady of Knock Parish (Fr. Fenske)
10:00 AM—Virginia Bush
(Bob & Vicki Graham) (Fr. Lyons)

MONDAY (WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Mass—Andrea Haracz
(Harriet Brodzik)
8:30 AM Service—Purgatorial Society of
Our Lady of Knock Parish

TUESDAY (WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Service—Intentions of All Parishioners of
Our Lady of Knock Parish
8:30 AM Mass—Ray Griggs
(Ed & Carmella Ryan)

WEDNESDAY - NO LITURGIES

THURSDAY (WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Service—Purgatorial Society of
Our Lady of Knock Parish
8:30 AM Mass— Thomas Ryan
(Sr. Alban)

FRIDAY (WEEKDAY)

7:00 AM Mass—Stoney Monestere
(Sr. Alban)
8:30 AM Service-All Parishioners of
Our Lady of Knock Parish

SATURDAY (VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

5:30 PM—Amy Sosnowski
(Family) (Fr. Fenske)

SUNDAY (3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

8:00 AM—George Krcmaric
(Wife) (Fr. Lyons)
10:00AM—William Slattery
(Deacon Ed & Carmella Ryan) (Fr. Fenske)



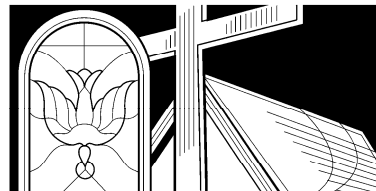
DUSTBUSTERS

Group #2, JO KENNEDY, Captain, please be at the church on Friday, January 23rd at 9AM



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the souls of Rev. Martin J Neary (our founding pastor), Rev. John Ahern, Rev. Thomas Kelly, Rev. James O'Donnell, Rev. Edward Barron, Rev. Michael McPartlan, GARY MUETHING, and all of our beloved dead of past years.



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Our Lady of Knock Parish Stewardship Report

SUNDAY COLLECTION January 11, 2009

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$7000	\$6246	-\$754

Fiscal-Year-To-Date

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$196,000	\$168,966	-\$27,034

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES	NUMBER	TOTAL
	25	\$42.00

No. Of Envelopes Used:	231
Average Donation Per Envelope	\$26.16



A MESSAGE FROM DEACON TOM

If you're reading this article, then more than likely you heard me preach this weekend. I had the opportunity to preach at all of our Masses. St. Victor's needed some assistance this weekend, so Father Pat, Father Don and I made ourselves available. This is just one of the ways that we can show true discipleship. There was a need, and through cooperation and a giving of self that need was fulfilled.

Of course I am not complaining that I had to preach at all the Masses. It gave me an opportunity to reach a larger number of parishioners. It also gave me a chance to preach at the 5:30 PM Mass which I seldom get the opportunity to do.

However, when the proposal to preach at all the Masses this weekend was first suggested to me, I immediately began to think of all the reasons why it wouldn't work. And then I realized that those reasons were self centered and I was not making myself available to what was needed.

Sometimes our own preoccupations, no matter how legitimate, cause us to center our attention excessively on ourselves. We need to look at the things in our own lives that keep us from responding to those who need our presence. We need to stop allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by our own preoccupations that make us unavailable to others.

Would St. Victor's have survived without my help? Of course they would. But then this article would have never been written.

Please keep us in your prayers
Your brother in Christ
Deacon Tom

OUR LADY OF KNOCK PARISH

501—163rd Street, Calumet City, Illinois 60409

Rectory Office: (708) 862-3011

Visit our website at: ourladyofknock.org

Pastor: Rev. Patrick M. Lyons
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Fenske
Deacon Couples: Edward & Carmella Ryan
 Tom & Cathy Knetl
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Alban Hermes, O.P.
 868-1723
DRE: Mrs. Catherine Knetl
 868-1711
Bulletin Editor: Cheryl Marz-Perl
 862-3011
Bookkeeper: Kathy Becker
 862-3011
Secretary: Pat Turner
Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Weekday Services: (M, T, TH, F) 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM
Holy Day Vigil: 6:00 PM
Holy Day: 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30-5:15 PM

Baptisms: Second & Fourth Sundays of the month at 1:00 PM. Preparation Class (required if 1st Child), 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:30 PM.
Marriages: Call Rectory for arrangements at least 4 months prior to planned date.
Change of Address or New Registration: Call Rectory during business hours Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Christ Our Savior Catholic School:

Executive Pastor: Rev. Patrick M. Lyons
Principal: Miss Cindy Rogers
 East Campus 708-862-4143
 West Campus 708-333-8173

www.christoursaviorcatholicschool.org