



Parish Calendar

- January 11** Knights of Columbus meeting 7:00 pm
- January 12** Altar Society meeting 7:00 pm
- January 12** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 13** St. Vincent de Paul meeting 6:00 pm
- January 14** Strategic Planning meeting 7:00 pm
- January 16** Stewardship Committee 9:30 am
- January 16** Full of Grace meeting 9:30 am
- January 17** Coffee & Rolls after all morning Masses
- January 17** New Parishioner Welcome after 9:30 am Mass
- January 19** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 21** Parish Council meeting 7:00 pm
- January 24** Godteens Holy Hour & Pizza party 6:00 pm
- January 26** RCIA 7:00 pm
- January 27** St. Vincent de Paul meeting 6:00 pm
- January 30** Church Cleaning 7:00 am
Gabriel Lalemant Group (Irene Rezac)
- January 31** LOTW Rekindle the Flame Retreat 1:30 pm

School Calendar

- January 13** Confirmation meeting 6:30 pm
- January 15** Dismissal at 1:30 pm
- January 31** Catholic Schools Week Begins

CCD Calendar

- January 13** Class
- January 20** CCD Rosary at 6:10 pm, Class will follow
- January 27** Class

Baby Shower: On the first Epiphany, the three Magi celebrated our Savior's birth with generous gifts to the Christ child. You are invited to join with our parish in bearing gifts for the babies of mothers in need. Please bring your unwrapped gifts and place them in the baby crib in the Narthex through **January 12th**. Suggested items: bottles, bibs, clothing, receiving blankets, crib sheets, diapers, hooded bath towels, socks and formula. Gifts will all go to Pregnancy-Help Centers & Catholic Social Services. Sponsored by the North American Martyrs Altar Society and the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities. Thank you for your generosity!



Thank you for adding to the beauty of our sanctuary through the Christmas season by the gift of poinsettias in memory of your loved ones. Poinsettias may be taken home beginning Sunday afternoon, January 10th. **Your help is need to 'un-decorate' the church on Sunday, January 10th after the 11:00 am Mass.**



Budget Report to Date: Fiscal Year Jul 1, 2009 - Jun 30, 2010

Received to date: July 1-Dec. 27.....	\$ 433,828
Needed to date for annual budget	\$ 423,800
Annual budget <u>coverage</u> to date.....	\$ 10,028

Building Fund Campaign December Report

(To finance our new Church and Parish Hall)

BOS Envelopes and plate.....	\$ 13,571
BOS E-Tithe.....	\$ 10,226
Plate.....	\$ 139
Recycling.....	\$ 22
Total.....	\$ 23,958
Amount Applied to Debt.....	\$ 24,000
Debt as of Dec. 31, 2009.....	\$ 495,320
Donations from Martyrs SCRIP Program for:	
Youth Ministry.....	\$ 15,000
Monstrance.....	\$ 3,205
Parish Sign.....	<u>\$ 5,240</u>
Total.....	\$ 23,445
NAM Christmas Wish List.....	\$ 5,430

The **Knights of Columbus Annual Free Throw Contest** will be held **Saturday, January 16th** from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. The gym will open at 10:30 am. Registration forms will be available at the school office. Eligible contestants are boys and girls ages 9-14. Call Steve at 475-5622 with questions.

LOTW Rekindle the Flame Retreat will be held on **January 31st** from 1:30—5:30 pm at Martyrs. This half day mini retreat is for anyone who has previously made a SINE or Light of the World Retreat. If you haven't made one of these retreats, please watch the bulletin for more information on the upcoming LOTW Retreats to be held on Sunday afternoons during Lent. Questions, please call Angel at 450-7122.



KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW 2010 is **Wednesday, February 10th**. There is a morning or afternoon session for parents and prospective Kindergarten students. Register now by calling the school office (476-7373) or send an e-mail to carol-ruskamp@cdolinc.net. Please submit parent's names, child's name and date of birth, and daytime phone number. A letter will be sent at the end of January with additional information to those registered for the preview.

Annual Walk for Life, sponsored by Nebraska Right to Life, will be held on **Saturday, January 30th** at 10:00 am on the west steps of the State Capitol in Lincoln. Keynote speaker is Jane Hampton Cook. Visit www.janecook.com for more information.

You are also invited to attend the 9:00 am Mass at St. Mary's Church (across from the capitol) on Saturday before the Walk. The Most Rev. George Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha will be the celebrant.



Dear Parishioners,

Included in this month's mailing please find your 2009 Stewardship of Treasure Report reflecting all of your gifts given last year for the Sunday collection, Building Campaign and other special collections. Please retain this ivory colored end-of-the-year report for your tax records, financial planning and when requesting enrollment of children in our school. A record of your gifts to the Charity and Stewardship Appeal (DDP) will be sent from the Catholic Chancery and a record of paid pledges to the Tradition of Faith Campaign will come directly from Pius X High School.

Generous holiday giving has helped us reach our budget goals with an overage of \$24,819 six months into the current fiscal year! This is good news for our Stewardship Challenge, which seeks to avoid raising tuition by increasing annual Sunday giving to the parish by \$30,000 this fiscal year. If we meet this challenge we will receive a matching gift from a benefactor. This requires that we have an average Sunday collection each week of \$16,300 during the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Therefore, your regular support of the Sunday collection in 2010 is greatly needed and much appreciated!

One of my favorite Christmas songs is Bing Crosby singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." We certainly had a white Christmas in Nebraska. In spite of the snow, we had good crowds at Mass on Christmas Eve and hundreds of brave souls attending on Christmas Day. I have talked to several people who were unable to safely get out and had to miss their first Christmas Mass in their life. The Lord looks into our hearts and knows when we must make such prudent decisions as not venturing out into snowy conditions. I hope you all enjoyed some extra time at home with family, by the fireplace or with a good book.

A parishioner mentioned that at work he was asked if "Catholics are recruiting new members?" The person had seen several television commercials from the *Catholics Come Home Campaign* and wondered what is going on. I was pleased that the parishioner responded with a smile "Yes, we are always recruiting for Christ." I am proud to say that our parish Light of the World group is organizing an outreach to "stay at home Catholics" and others in our parish boundaries. This will take place on Jan 24, 2010 starting at 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall with prayer, organization and information (chili for when you are finished). If you are interested in helping with this outreach, please contact the Parish Office or a LOTW Board member. The more volunteers we get the more homes we can reach to promote the LOTW Retreat and active participation in our Church.

During 2009, our parish grew to 1333 registered families. The following sacraments were administered: 104 infant Baptisms, 104 First Holy Communions, 96 children Confirmed, 19 adult Baptisms/professions of Faith (converts) and 32 Marriages. We give thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed upon North American Martyrs in 2009. We are very grateful for the generosity of Stewardship of Time, Talents and Treasures. May the Good Lord continue to watch over and bless you and your family in the New Year!

Sincerely in Christ, *Father Brian Connor*



WELCOME to our new Parishioners who registered in the month of December: **Jenny Mlnarik, Kenneth & Teresa Richter, Amber Groteluschen, Timothy & Angela Lindeen, Samuel & Connie Greger, Betty Lominyo, Margret Ladu, Jeff Larson, Jamie Spence, Jacob Euteneuer, Dustin Romshek and Marco & Monica Garcia.** New parishioner welcome is **January 17th** after the **9:30 am** Mass. Please come to the Family Room where you will be welcomed and given information about Martyrs parish. *Welcome to our parish!*

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan

Balancing Tithing, Saving, and Debt Reduction in a Down Economy

An economic downturn can upend the best of economic plans, but even during tough times, the principles you should use to set priorities for giving, saving, and debt reduction remain the same. What are those principles?

Recognize that all we have ultimately comes from the Lord and belongs to him (Dt. 10:14).

Be generous with the Lord as a way of thanking Him for the many gifts He has given you. The world says pay yourself first, but the Scriptural principle is to pay God first (Pr. 3:9).

Have a plan and work the plan (Lk. 14:28-30).

In addition to paying the Lord from our first fruits, it's a good idea – even during tough times – to give to a level that makes you stretch a bit. It's called *sacrificial* giving, and the Lord honors such gifts, no matter the amount, because they are given out of love.

Before deciding how much to give, save, and apply toward debt repayment, make sure you place all of these, along with the rest of your expenses into an annual spending plan. Without an effective plan, you'll find yourself playing a shell game with your money, feeling as though you are making progress one moment, only to be caught off-guard by unexpected bills at another moment.

A well designed plan helps you see the big picture, allows you to make appropriate allocations between giving, saving and debt reduction, and provides a realistic understanding of the resources available for other spending categories. God love you!