



We will have our final 2016 Lenten Fish Fry on March 18th, 2016. We offer all you can eat. The price this year is \$13.50 for adults; \$4 for those under 12; and for those 5 and under Free. We serve dinners from 3:30-6:30 pm. The menu includes fried & baked fish, fried shrimp, fried clams, soup, baked potato, vegetables, beverage, salad & dessert bar. This important fundraiser requires the help of many volunteers. We served 416 adults and 6 children at our Fish Fry on March 4th!



We will be having our final 2016 Annual **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** today, March 13th from 10 am – 1 pm. As usual the breakfasts will feature buckwheat cakes and pancakes, whole hog sausage, pure maple syrup, applesauce, coffee and orange drink. All you can eat!!
Adults : \$7.50; 12 and Under : \$4; and 4 and Under: Free.

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and **help Jesus in disguise.**

I can't believe it's that time of year again to start thinking of the **4th of July Raffle**; it will be here before we know it. I am welcoming the usual gift cards and cash donations. But, I would also like to ask for any prize items perhaps something you have made or something of interest that would make our raffle extra special. I know every one of you might have something in mind or something new that hasn't been done before. I don't need the donations right away but, I would appreciate it if you could call me with what you are going to donate so I can start making the list for the raffle ticket. Please call Terry Metivier at 733-4190 with any donations or any questions. Everyone involved with the raffle including myself are hopeful that all of our parishioners will help make the 4th of July raffle a success.



We are having an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 20th. We will meet in the church basement at 9:15 - 10:15. This event is for all children ages Toddlers - 5th grade. Children should bring their own basket to collect eggs. We will be collecting candy ONLY for the Easter Egg Hunt from now until March 19th. There is a bin in the back of the church for the collection of candy.

Thank you to all who have participated in the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. If you do not have a pledge card, you may send your gift (made payable to the "Annual Catholic Appeal") directly to the parish office, or you may give online at www.dioceseaj.org. To date we have received pledges totaling

\$4,569.84 toward our parish goal of \$15088. Please join in supporting our Parish and our Diocesan ministries with a Lenten gift. Thank you for your generosity!

We extend our sympathy to Audrey & Larry Benning and their family at the death of their son-in-law, Terry Davis. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Notes from Fr. Rich

- **Parish Lenten Penance Service:** Our Lenten Penance service will be on this Wednesday night March 16 at 7 PM. There will be 5 priests to hear Confessions. Please take advantage of this opportunity to prepare your soul for Easter. Also remember I offer Confessions on Friday night from 6-6:45 before the Stations of the Cross at 7.
- **Diocesan Scandal: Part II** - Two points of clarification about some things that are often discussed among Catholics is that 1. If priests could only get married then this problem of sex abuse would disappear. Unfortunately that is not the truth because it has been shown that about 85% of these sex abuse cases, e.g., in the Grand Jury report on our diocese deal with gay priests going after male adolescents - i.e., young men. These immoral priests in light of their active same-sex orientation are not interested in Christian marriage, and of course we don't as a Church recognize so called "gay marriages." These guys should have never been priests in the first place. That is why the seminaries are much more rigorous since the 1980's in screening guys for the priesthood. The breakdown of the other 15% of cases are basically half of abuser priests going after female adolescents, and the other half truly being pedophiles, i.e., going after pre-pubescent children – an unbelievable evil. 2. Sometimes people are worried if they received the sacraments from a priest who later turned out to be a bad priest - are they valid? The answer is YES - the marriages, baptisms and Masses they did counted, even though they may have been living an immoral life at the time. Please pray that a real spiritual renewal occurs in our diocese as a good to come out of this grave evil. May the Lord have mercy on us all.
- **Meeting of Bishop Mark with the priests:** On Wednesday of this past week all the active priests of the diocese had a mandatory meeting with the Bishop concerning the scandal. It was a good meeting to hash things out and find a way to make sure by God's grace that this evil never happens again in our diocese and things are always dealt with in a transparent way. Copies of his letter of last weekend which I and some other pastors did not read at Mass are available on the bulletin table in the back of the Church. The main reason I did not read it was as I mentioned in my bulletin column last weekend that there are many layers to why this happened and I won't discuss it at Mass because I don't want to scandalize the children and adolescents and even some adults with the details of this evil. Our young people should not think that all bishops, priests and religious are hypocrites or immoral. If you want to discuss it with them that is your call as parents, but I don't think Mass is the place for that and other priests feel the same way and we respectfully told the Bishop that at the meeting. Please pray for all of us Church leaders.
- **Fish Fries:** Thanks to all who helped with the fifth fish fry of Lent - both the workers and the patrons. Please continue to come to our Lenten Friday fish fries - the final one is this coming Friday - and encourage others to do so. We also can always use more volunteers to help with set-up, the dinner, and clean-up. Thanks for all the help.

- **Pancake and Sausage breakfast:** Please support the last one this Sunday. Thanks to all parishioners who helped with the breakfasts, both the workers and the patrons.
- **Adult Education** We will not have our adult education class until after Easter - since this Sunday I am visiting the CCD classrooms, and then CCD is off for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Hope to see you after Easter for the class. Have a blessed week. 😊