



**Soup Suppers** for this year of 2009 are scheduled on the following Wednesday evenings after Mass @ I.C. March 4, - Chicken Noodle Soup; March 18, - Chili Soup; March 25, - Turkey Noodle Soup; & April 1, - Veg. Beef.

**March 6th**— World Day of Prayer @ Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, IA 1:30 p.m.

**“Altar Server”** Classes here at I.C. & St. Joseph. Fr. Knipper asks that you encourage your sons & daughters to become an Altar Server. 5th grade and older are eligible. Classes will be held as follows: **8:00—9:00 a.m. here at I.C. & 9:30-10:30 a.m. @ St. Joseph** on the Saturdays of **March 7, March 14, & April 4**. Come to the Sacristy for each class. Installation will be on Holy Thursday evening Mass @ St. Joseph Church, April 9.

**March 8th**—St. Benedict Church hall, Decorah at 4 p.m. Jane Weiler, PhD Jane spent over 3 years teaching at Red Cloud Indian School on Pine Ridge Reservations. She has much information to share.

**April 19th**—The date time and place for Confirmation is as follows: April 19, 2009, 10 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception, Lansing.

The priests of the Decorah Deanery thank the ladies of St. Joseph Parish for the wonderful lunch and ambience at the meeting last week! God bless you for your good work!

Thanks to all who worked and came to enjoy the wonderful breakfast this past Sunday at Immaculate Conception! The bake sale brought in \$286.50 the money jar \$58.00 and the breakfast \$679.50 (supplies need to be paid out of this) Larry Meggars won the money jar-congratulations! This will help toward the purchase of new tables. Many of you are asking what will happen with the old tables. There will be a silent auction of the old tables when we get the new ones. The new ones will be made of fiberglass which is much stronger and lighter than the old ones.

**Question** that came to me: Was it OK for me to miss Mass last Sunday because I was helping with the “Nightcrawlers Forever” or the parish breakfast? **NO**, it was not OK to miss Mass for those reasons!! God comes first!

Loras College has again informed me that they are offering a \$500.00 parish grant for a new student recipient /renewal while enrolled at Loras College. April 1, 2009 is the deadline for the application. If you have any idea that you might be attending Loras call Fr. Knipper by April 1 so that he is able to contact Loras for this grant.

## Calendar of Events:

- Mar. 1—“The Patriarchs” Bible Study in I.C. Rel. Ed Building 2 p.m. Enter through Courtyard
- Mar. 4— Soup Supper Chicken Noodle Soup after Mass @ I.C.
- Mar. 5— All Night Adoration @ I.C. 6 p.m. Confessions 6:30-7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 7— Server Instructions for 5th grade & Older 8-9 a.m. @ I.C. & 9:30-10:30 a.m. @ St. Joseph  
Night with St. Paul @ I.C. after 5:00 p.m. Mass
- Mar. 8— St. Joseph Youth Mass  
Coffee & Rolls after Mass @ St. Joseph  
Bible Study @ I.C. 2:00 p.m. “Egypt & Exodus and Desert Wanderings”
- Mar. 9— Clean I.C. Church after Mass  
I.C. Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Mar.12—I.C. Faith Formation Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Mar.14—Pre Cana @ I.C. Church Hall 9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.  
Server Instructions 8-9 a.m. @ I.C. & 9:30-10:30 a.m. @ St. Joseph
- Mar.15—Bible Study @ I.C. 2:00 p.m. “Conquest & Judges and Royal Kingdom”

Jesus through the Catholic Church asks and demands that we pray & do penance. Lent is a special time to carry this out in our lives. One of the ways that we are commanded to do this is by fasting (giving up) from something like food, pop, alcohol, TV, computer games, cell phone, text messaging etc. There are 16 great reasons to fast: 1) fasting expands compassion; 2) fasting is a way to meet a major challenge; 3) fasting can help you move from a negative to a positive spiritual outlook; 4) fasting is encouraged by the spiritual giants of the faith; 5) fasting benefits others; 6) fasting creates more time for additional disciplines; 7) fasting is good for the soul; 8) fasting is a reminder we do not live by bread alone; 9) fasting is a positive response to materialism; 10) fasting creates more physical and mental energy; 11) fasting helps us appreciate things more; 12) fasting strengthens virtues and weakens vices; 13) fasting is good for self discipline; 14) fasting improves physical health; 15) fasting can enlighten others; 16) fasting is a way to follow the example of Jesus and the Apostles.

Operation Rice Bowl: As in the past there are Rice Bowls available at the entrances to the Church. You are asked to sacrifice the can of pop, gum, a meal, beer etc. and place that money in the Rice Bowl—we will collect them on Palm Sunday. The money goes to Catholic Relief Services who in turn fund programs to help farmers, businesses and small towns in needy areas. Last year 7 million dollars was raised—75% went to other countries and 25% stayed here in the U.S. Use your Rice Bowl by making a sacrifice.

**“Eight Ways I can Make My Parish Better”** All of us have heard people criticize some parish someplace. How often those who criticize say something like, “I wish Father would do this! Why can’t there be an organist at this Mass? Why can’t we have guitars? Why can’t there be a youth group? Why don’t they keep the Church cleaner? Why don’t THEY..?” Note that it is usually someone else who should make the parish a better parish instead of applying it to themselves. The question should be “what can I do for my parish not what can my parish do for me?” The following should help, but it will take a lot of work on your part to make the parish better. 1) Think of yourself as a **part of the parish family**. Be committed to your parish by attending Mass at your parish church at least 90% of the time. Have the same values & beliefs that a real Catholic should have. 2) **Be welcoming**. See others around you as members of your family and if you don’t know them introduce yourself and tell them something about yourself. Sit in a different pew or come in through a different entrance once in a while to find out who those others might be — sitting in the same pew each week will not enable you to know the fullness of the parish family. 3) **Use your gifts and talents for the good of the parish**. Be a religious education teacher, be a Communion minister, lector, server, Rosary leader, parish council member, church cleaner, rel. ed. committee member, play the organ, piano or guitar, be a cantor, take care of flowers, arrange things around the altar, take care of the sanctuary lamp, etc. the list is endless. Don’t say “Let someone else do it!” or “I don’t know how to do it!” Ask Father and he will teach you! 4) **Attend parish events starting with Mass!** Helping at these parish events like Scripture study, fiancé study, parish breakfasts, dinners, rolls and coffee etc. and coming to them and supporting them in that way enables you to meet people in a whole new milieu outside of Church. Lasting friendships often ensue! 5) **Support your parish financially!** Parishes have expenses like electricity, water, fuel, & salaries just like you do. The only way to pay for these things is through your generous spirit financially. The government does not pay for them! Once you recognize that everything you receive is a gift from God than you will begin to realize how much you should give back which in turn enables you to have God present for you through sacrament, priest, education etc. (Continued next week).

*Lenten Rules of Fast and Abstinence: **All Fridays** are days of Abstinence. **Abstinence** means that you eat **NO** meat that day!*



*March 8th—Daylight Savings Time*

**Marriage Thought: If you think, “You are not the person I married”, you are probably right!**

**Stewardship of Treasure Sunday, February 22, 2009**

I.C.	2008	2009
Adults	\$2345.82	\$ 1952.68
Children	\$ 9.27	\$ 15.18
<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Adults	\$ 1066.00	\$ 760.38
Children	\$ 10.00	\$ 4.00