

The Pastor's Corner

**“Without cost you have received;
without cost you are to give” (Mt 10:8)**

Called to Holiness and Mission

Today marks the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome, the Basilica of St. John Lateran. It was built on land owned by the Laterani family and dedicated by Pope Sylvester I on November 9, 324. It is honored as the episcopal seat of the Pope as Bishop of Rome and, as such, the “mother and head of all churches in Rome and the world.” It was the actual residence of the popes from the Fourth Century until their moving to Avignon in 1309. Five ecumenical councils were held on this site.

St. Peter's Cathedral holds a similar position here in the Diocese of Scranton. For the past 140 years it has served and continues to serve as the episcopal seat of the Bishop of Scranton, linking us now through Bishop Martino in an unbroken chain to the Apostles, to their faith, their teaching and the ministry entrusted to them by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When we truly reflect upon this marvelous gift given to us at each Mass celebrated here – “And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one” (Jn 17:22) – our hearts can only be filled with thanksgiving. This is the meaning of Eucharist (eucharistein means “to give thanks”). At each Mass there is this marvelous exchange of gifts: we give ourselves to God Who in turn gives Himself to us in and through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. He is the Bread of Life, the food that transforms us into Himself, making us His Body. The great St. Augustine never tired of teaching and proclaiming this reality.

How generous are we? How much do we give of ourselves to God and the things of God? How

much time do we spend in prayer each week beyond Sunday Mass? What part of our time do we give to charitable and volunteer work each month? How much of our weekly and annual income do we give to our parish, as well as donate to other worthwhile charitable efforts? These are deeply spiritual questions because our response to them unites us evermore closely with Christ's self-giving on the Cross and brings us into ever deeper communion and oneness with Him.

In Sacred Scripture the practice of tithing goes back to the time of Abraham (Gn 14:20) and is promised to God by Jacob (Gn 28:22). **The tithe is a tenth part, or 10% of one's income each year given to the Lord.** In an agricultural society the tithes of the Old Testament were levied only on the produce of the grains, vines, and flocks; the Pharisees extended the obligation even to the smallest herbs (Mt 23:23; Lk 11:42). In the New Testament the payment of tithes is viewed as an act of piety.

The tithing ideal for Christians today does not mean that the church be the sole locus of all one's charitable giving, but rather that one give 5% of one's income to the parish and 5% to other charities of one's choice. Indeed, if we are truly grateful for the gift of faith and all that God has given us, **Catholics should give at least two hours of their wages every week to their parish** (that is, 5% of 40 hours) and donate 10 hours per month of their time to good works volunteering in their parish or community.

Monsignor David Bohr



Next weekend is Commitment Weekend! All parishioners will have an opportunity to make a pledge to the Our Grateful Faith Diocesan Annual Appeal during Mass.

Sample Gift Plans

Total Pledge	5-Monthly Payments	Daily Sacrifice	Daily Cost Comparison
\$1,000	\$200	\$6.67	Deli sandwich
\$500	\$100	\$3.33	Coffee & muffin
\$250	\$50	\$1.67	Cup of coffee
\$100	\$20	\$.67	Roll with butter

Mark Your Calendars

SOLEMN FORTY HOURS DEVOTION

November 30, December 1 & 2, 2008 (Sunday, Monday & Tuesday) St. Peter's Cathedral parish will return to an earlier tradition and celebrate its Annual 40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration beginning on the First Sunday of Advent. During this Pauline Year the theme will be “The Eucharist in the Letters of St. Paul.” Evening Prayer with a homily and benediction will be celebrated each evening at 7 p.m. Homilists will include Msgr. Bohr, Fr. Sahd and Fr. Washington.



THIRTY-SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday is the **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** in Rome. This day celebrates the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, headed by the Pope, who is also Bishop of Rome. In celebrating this special church, we have an opportunity to celebrate Church itself. The reading from Ezekiel offers a vision of a trickle of water seeping from a temple, which quickly becomes a life-giving river. In **John's Gospel** we see Jesus throwing out the money-changers who were defiling the temple: "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

Monday is the **Memorial of Saint Leo the Great**, pope and doctor of the Church. Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours**, bishop. Wednesday is the **Memorial of Saint Josaphat**, bishop and martyr. Thursday is the **Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini**, virgin.

The first readings this week are a mix from **Paul's letters to Titus and Philemon** and from the **Second and Third Letters of John**.

Continuing **Luke's Gospel**, we hear Jesus talk about scandal and about forgiveness. He calls us to "have faith the size of a mustard seed" in order to do extraordinary things in his name. Jesus tells us to be obedient to what God calls us to do and simply say, "we have done what we were obliged to do." We learn a lesson about gratitude when Jesus heals ten lepers and only one, "a foreigner" returns to give thanks. Jesus tells the confrontational Pharisees that the Kingdom of God's coming can't be "seen" and it won't be announced. "For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." "But first [the Son of Man] must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation." All we can do is to be faithful: "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it." Finally, Jesus tells the parable "about the necessity for [his disciples] to pray always without becoming weary." God will give justice to those who call out to him with faith.

Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer

This is a good week to ask Jesus what his messages are for us. What is he warning us about? What is he asking us to change? How is he encouraging us to place our trust in him? The answer will be different for each of us, but we have to pay attention and listen, in order to hear it. All of us need to hear him say, "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it." But each one of us needs to ask "In what ways do I seek to 'preserve my life' and in what ways do I need to 'lose' my life?"

The trouble with this kind of reflection is that we too often let ourselves off the hook by saying, "I just don't have time." And, on some days, our day is really "booked" from morning to night.

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our everyday life and becoming a contemplative in action provides a very real way to stay in focus and to reflect, even when we are very busy. This practice is meant to make use of the "free" time we have in the background of our consciousness each day.

The key to this kind of prayer is to begin each day with a moment of consciousness of what we desire, need, are asking for. Dear Lord, thank you for this day. Let me begin this day thinking of you and your love for me. Let me simply do whatever we ask me to do as your servant today. This only takes 20 seconds. We all have 20 seconds. However, we all find that it isn't easy to do this because our Lord is not very present in our day to day awareness, and we may never have simply talked with the Lord as the first thing we do when we awake. With practice, it works.

As we prepare for Sunday, we can spend a bit more moments each day, simply talking with our Lord at brief in between times during the day. Hopefully, we'll be seeing in all the things around us, that we are being invited by the Lord to accept him, to let him call us and open our hearts to respond generously. To what is he calling us? A great question to ask right up to the time we go into church on Sunday. When there, we can give God thanks and praise for opening our awareness and our readiness for him.



*Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini
(July 15, 1850 – Dec. 22, 1917)
Known as Mother Cabrini. she was
the first American citizen canonized
by the Roman Catholic Church.
Memorial November 13*

Fall Events

Today, Sunday, November 9

Sts. Peter & Paul Festival Noon to 5 p.m.

"Fall Festival And Bazaar" Sunday, November 9, Noon to 5 P.M. in The Church Hall, 1309 W. Locust St., Scranton. Everyone Is Invited! Ethnic Polish Foods.

Pancake Breakfast- 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Council and the Ladies Auxiliary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help #12297, Annual "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, November 9, in All Saints Academy Aud., 1425 Jackson St.; pancakes or scrambled eggs, orange or apple juice, a sweet roll, sausage, tea, and coffee. Tickets \$7 for adults; \$4 for children at the door today!

Scranton Prep Galleria 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scranton Prep will hold its Galleria 2008, a shopping extravaganza featuring a wide variety of gifts from a diverse group of 75 talented artisans and retailers, at its new St. Francis Xavier Center, 1000 Wyoming Ave., Sunday, Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Ekumen Chorale Concert at 3 p.m.

To be performed at Covenant Presbyterian Church, corner of Madison and Olive Streets, Scranton. The Chorale ensemble of 25 voices performs the sacred music of the Eastern European Church; 18th, 19th and 20th centuries featuring D. Bortnyansky, A. Vedel, A. Arkhangelsky, P. Chesnokov, P. Tchaikovsky and S. Rachmaninov. All are welcome.

Tonight at St. Peter's Cathedral

Catholic Choral Society of Scranton presents "Generations Sing VII"

Wyoming Valley West Middle School Spartan Singers,
Scott Coates, Director;

Abington Heights High School Concert Choir,
Susan Kelly, Director;

The University of Scranton Concert Choir,
Cheryl Y. Boga, Director;

Catholic Choral Society of Scranton,
Ann Manganiello, Director;

Sunday, November 9, 2008, 7:30 P.M. Free Admission

The Life of Padre Pio – Sainted Priest

Immaculate Conception Church will host a video presentation on the life of Padre Pio on Thursday, November 13, 6 PM - I.C.C. Church Basement Auditorium.

Craft Show at St. Joseph's Melkite Church

Craft Show St. Joseph Melkite Church 130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave, Scranton., Saturday Nov. 15, 9 a.m. til 3 p.m.

St. Lucy's Holiday Bingo Bash-November 16

Doors open at Noon in the St. Lucy Auditorium for a light brunch of Italian Specialties and refreshments. Early Birds at 1 p.m.; regular bingo 2 to 5 p.m. Turkey's, cash, gift certificates, door prizes will be given away. Tickets \$5 at door. Limit 200 people. Call Karen Kern at: 344-8879 or Sylvia Murphy at: 347-2505.



MASSES OF THE WEEK

Monday, November 10

- 6:30 a.m. Frank DeSanto, Esq (*Chris & Ann DiMattio*)
7:30 to 7:50 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
8 a.m. Ellen Mesko (*James Jordan*)
12:10 Peggy Madigan (*Family*)

Tuesday, November 11

- 6:30 a.m. Margie Dooley Smith (*Hal & Aggie*)
7:30 to 7:50 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
8 a.m. Evelyn Watson (*Mary Ryan*)
12:10 Charles D. Carroll (*Mary Gaughan & Family*)

Wednesday, November 12

- 6:30 a.m. Jean L. Maughan (*Sr. Dolorosa Loughney*)
7:30 to 7:50 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
8 a.m. John Whalen (*Estate*)
12:10 James Hawley (*Donna Davis*)
8 p.m. Holy Hour for Vocations

Thursday, November 13

- 6:30 a.m. Celeste Cecci (*Jennie Corbo*)
7:30 to 7:50 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
8 a.m. Evelyn Watson (*Helen Schroth-O'Malley*)
12:10 Fr. Norman Demeck (*Monica Gavalla*)

Friday, November 14

- 6:30 a.m. Mary L. Dooley Intentions
(*Sr. Dolorosa Loughney*)
7:30 to 7:50 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
8 a.m. Patricia Ryan Adcroft (*James B. Earley*)
8:30 a.m. *Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament*
11:45 a.m. *Benediction*
12:10 Bridget Poch (*Family*)

Saturday, November 15

- 6:30 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Frank McNelis (*The Estate*)
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - *CONFESSIONS* -
12:10 Madelyn Trygar (*Dee Siconolfi & Terry Watkins*)
4 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass