

**Ongoing Group Meetings**

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Tuesdays, 7:00-10:00pm  
Sanctuary

**Stations Of The Cross**

Lenten Fridays, 7:00pm  
[Hispanic at 5:00pm]  
Sanctuary

**Adult Choir Practice**

Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Choir Room

**Youth Choir Practice**

Thursdays at 6:00pm  
Choir Room

**Hispanic Prayer Group**

Wednesdays at 6:00pm  
Parish Hall

**Women's Bible Study**

Wednesdays 9:30am  
Adult Evang. Meeting Rm.

**Dates To Remember**

**Men's Club Breakfast**

Sunday, February 17  
7:30-10:30am  
Parish Hall

**Lenten Communal Penance**

Wednesday, March 12  
7:00pm, Sanctuary

Dear Friends,

I am overjoyed to see the response to the "Welcoming at New Levels" capital campaign for the elevator addition to our facility. We have had 123 families pledge a total of \$139,171 towards this campaign so far. That is an average of \$1,131.47 per pledge. I am humbled by the generosity of those who have made pledges and I am grateful that the response has been so good. We still have a little over \$60,000 to meet our goal in pledges. I am confident that we will achieve our goal because I know people care deeply about our parish and about the needs of those with physical disabilities.

It is exciting to see the structure coming together. Very soon the outside shell will be completed and by the end of February, or the beginning of March, the elevator itself should be installed. Within the next couple of months everyone will have safe and convenient access to our parish hall. Very soon it will no longer be necessary for us to carry people with physical handicaps downstairs on a wheelchair. Those who must use walkers, crutches or canes will no longer have to be afraid to come to parish functions in our parish hall.

There are many other exciting things happening in our parish as well. This newsletter will highlight many of the events that are coming up in the near future. One of the most exciting events will be the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 22, when we will welcome several new members into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. The RCIA process has been going very well. One of the reasons it is so successful is that there are several parishioners who are attending the classes simply because they want to learn more about their faith. Any parishioner is welcome to come to any of the classes held on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Some of the parishioners attending the classes have stepped up to be advocates, or sponsors for those who are coming into the Church. During this Lenten season we will become better acquainted with the RCIA members. Please keep them in your prayers; they are taking a profound step which includes a conversion process that is deeply spiritual and that can be very challenging. All of the RCIA members need our support and prayers.

Speaking of the Lenten season, this is an important time for us to work on our relationship with God as individuals and as a community who believes in the Paschal Mystery. Let us dedicate these forty days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving to being filled with joy in love of Christ who brings us new and eternal life.

Finally, I ask that you read through the entire Newsletter. Our parish is a vital part of lives as Catholics and Christians, and in order for our parish to be effective we need good communication. I want to thank Diane Drake for her willingness to put the newsletter together. She always does a very professional job, one that I have been proud of since she took it on.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel

**Lenten Communal Penance Service**



The Communal Penance Service for Lent is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00pm here at St. Catherine of Genoa Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful and spiritual way to prepare for Easter. We will have priests from other parishes participating in this service so if you want to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a visiting priest, this is your opportunity to do so.

## Welcoming at New Levels

### Welcoming At New Levels

The capital campaign for the elevator addition to our facility is well underway. To date we have received pledges of \$139,171 towards our goal of \$200,000, with 123 families making pledges.

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge or payment towards the campaign. If you have not yet made a pledge and need a pledge card, you can find one at the entrances to the church. For those of you who will be making monthly payments, please use the Welcoming at New Levels envelopes in the offertory envelope packets that are mailed to your homes. There are Welcoming at New Levels envelopes in the back lobby of the church if you need more. If you do not remember what your monthly payment amount is, please call the parish office. In April we will send out the first quarterly statements indicating progress towards the pledge goals. Thank you very much for your participation in the capital campaign for the new elevator in our church. Very soon we will be able to Welcome at New Levels and include everyone in our parish functions.



### Defining The R.C.I.A. Process In Our Parish

What is the R.C.I.A.? It's a common question. The acronym stands for Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults. Back in 1972 the Church began to use this special process to help people discerning the call to full communion with the Catholic Church. Specifically, it is designed to help adults who are not baptized. However, because of the fact that there have been so many adults who were baptized into another Christian denomination, who would also like to come into the Catholic Church, we use the R.C.I.A. process for them as well.

Each year at the Easter Vigil, the Mass in which we anticipate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, those who go through the R.C.I.A. process receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. There are usually three distinct groups of people who use this process.

#### ► Catechumens

A catechumen is a person who is preparing for baptism. To become a catechumen a special prayer which includes anointing with the Oil of the Catechumens is used. We have one catechumen in the R.C.I.A. process this year, her name is Roxanne Wendt. She will receive all three Sacraments of Initiation. There are special rites used throughout the liturgical year to prepare catechumens for reception into the Church in a period known as the Catechumenate. After Catechumens are received into the Church they are known as Neophytes, they are new Christians still in need of further formation in their faith.

#### ► Candidates for full Communion in the Catholic Church

Candidates are people who have been baptized into another Christian denomination: Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc. Those who are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" can only be baptized one time. For this reason, candidates for full communion into the Catholic Church receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. This year we have one candidate for full communion into the Catholic Church, her name is Lisa Golembiewski.

#### ► Confirmation Candidates

Often there are adults who were not confirmed when they were growing up, who decide later in their lives that they would, indeed, like to be confirmed in their faith. They were baptized Roman Catholic, they may have received their First Holy Communion. We invite these people to go through the R.C.I.A. process in order to be educated about our faith. At the Easter Vigil, they publicly profess their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Kevin Ross and Jennifer Wolny are Confirmation candidates.

Our Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday Night, March 22, 2008. This is the most beautiful and meaningful Mass of the entire year because we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus which is made manifest in those who receive the glorious light of new life in the Sacraments of Initiation. The Easter Vigil is an event we do not want to miss.

### Tuning Up

The choir is busy getting ready for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter celebrations. We'll be introducing a couple of new songs this Lenten Season, "Mercy, O God" and "Come to the Water," both found in the Gather hymnal. Check them out - they're both very beautiful songs that fit well within our Lenten theme of reconciliation and renewal.

We're looking for instrumentalists for the Easter Vigil service. If you play an instrument, please consider joining us for this wonderful Mass. High school students are more than welcome - we'd love to have anyone from our parish with a talent to share join us in celebration!

As always, we are looking for choir members and cantors for all three masses. I so often hear, "I'm not good enough for that" ... NONSENSE! God gave you a voice and He wants you to use it! If you love to sing, no matter how you think your voice sounds, please contact me about getting involved in music ministry. I make myself available almost any time to work with new cantors and we will work together until you are comfortable. If it's just too much pressure singing with the choirs or cantors, we urge you to take part in the Mass by singing from your seats in the congregation. Remember, (s)he who sings prays twice, and God never gets tired of prayers and praise, so make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Speaking of joyful noises, our Youth Choir is up and going again. We are a small but enthusiastic and talented group, and we're hoping to grow and grow and grow! Right now, we're preparing for the 10:30am Easter Sunday Mass. If your child would be interested in joining a great group of kids and having a lot of fun, please contact me. All children ages 5 to 17 are welcome!

Adult Choir practices Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.  
Youth Choir practices Thursday evenings at 6:00pm.

If you have any questions or wish to join our music ministry, please call me at 815-751-1498.

God Bless and we hope to "hear" you soon!  
-Laura Schaefer, Music Director-

### From The Desk Of The Religious Education Coordinator

As we prepare for Easter this year, my prayer is that you and your children will take this opportunity to make this Lent a spiritual journey together. May you spend more quality time together; may you study the Gospels together; and may you deepen your prayer life individually and together as a family.

Our Religious Education students will participate in the CRS Rice Bowl campaign again this year. Through this campaign, the students will have the opportunity to collect spare change during the Lenten season to make a difference in the lives of those who suffer from severe poverty and desolation. On March 16, our "Lenten Day of Sharing," our Religious Education students and teachers will meet together in prayer and community. We will have activities for each age group to illuminate Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection as we celebrate the meaning of Easter together.

Any students in third grade and older who have not made their Sacrament of First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion can participate in our "Sacraments Out of Sequence" classes this Lent. Sessions for students (and their parents) start Saturday, February 16, so please see Alaisa Emmens as soon as possible to register your child.

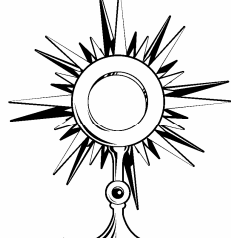
Adult women of our parish are invited to a Lenten Bible Study on Jesus' Passion, entitled "The Seven Last Words of Christ." This study will be held Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30am throughout Lent in the Adult Evangelization Room. Please see Alaisa Emmens if you would like to register.

Our Youth Groups (students in grades 4 and above) will meet on Wednesday, February 27, from 6:30-8:00pm for fun and fellowship. On Friday, March 14, we encourage our Youth Group members to gather at 6:30pm, to attend the Stations of the Cross with Father Seigel in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm, followed by our meeting.

St. Catherine of Genoa Parish is filled with so many wonderful opportunities this time of year. Come! *Bring your children!* Be an intimate part of this parish community!

May God's peace and love be with you this Lent and always!  
-Alaisa Kingston Emmens, CRE-

## Eucharistic



### Adoration

On Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, we celebrate the beautiful devotion of Eucharistic Adoration in the church. Adoration is a personal, reflective and quiet time of prayer and contemplation before the Body of Christ. Exposition is at 7:00pm and benediction is at 10:00pm. The church is open the entire three hours so you can come for any part of the evening. The only requirement is that there must be at least two people in the church during the entire three hour period. The season of Lent is a wonderful time to participate in Adoration.

## Adoration



### Men's Club Benefit Breakfast

The Men's Club is holding a benefit breakfast on Sunday, February 17, from 7:30am to 10:30am in the parish hall. Enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and some new and exciting offerings. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, spend some time with fellow parishioners and help a worthwhile cause.

### Stations of the Cross

Join us for Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm every Friday during Lent at St. Catherine of Genoa Parish. There will be Hispanic Stations of the Cross at 5:00pm every Friday during Lent, also here at St. Catherine of Genoa Parish. Attending Stations of the Cross during the Lenten Season is a beautiful way to prayerfully reflect on Jesus Christ's passion and death. By focusing on the Paschal Mystery, we become more aware of the life-giving grace God offers us, especially when we experience suffering in our own lives. The Stations of the Cross offer great hope.



St. Catherine of Genoa  
340 Stott Street  
Genoa, IL 60135

Phone: (815) 784-2355  
Fax: (815) 784-2045

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