

*The Pastor's Column*  
 March 7, 2010

The Seven Capital Sins: Covetousness

Understanding the seven capital sins, which are also called the seven deadly sins, or as Bishop Fulton J. Sheen referred to them, "the seven pallbearers of the soul," will help us see how sin conspires and works in our life to bring us to misery and death and possibly hell. This deeper spiritual understanding can lead to healthy change, repentance, renewed love for God and neighbor, and actually good health.

The Capital Sins are called "capital" because they are the sins that influence all others. In my Lenten sermons and columns I am giving them the focus. My resource is the booklet, *The Seven Capital Sins* (Published by Tan.) It states: *There is a seven-headed monster that each one of us has to fight our whole life through. This monster is SELF-SEEKING or SELF-LOVE. Its seven heads are Pride, Covetousness (avarice), Lust, Anger, Envy, Gluttony and Sloth.*

**Below are some of the quotes that I used in last weekend's sermon on covetousness, also known as avarice.**

Covetousness is an inordinate love of worldly goods. It is a desire to accumulate and possess material things. It induces us to employ all sorts of means, just or unjust, in order to acquire them. Actually, it is a sign of mistrust in God and His Divine Providence.

If we are covetous, we do not love God, our neighbor, or ourselves. We love **money and possessions**. ... We do not love and serve God because no one can at one and the same time love and serve two masters: God and Mammon.

If we do not love God, our neighbor, or self, we have no charity, and without charity how can we enter Heaven? ... *"The desire of money is the root of all evils."* (1 Tm 6:10)

Our inordinate love or covetousness may not be just for money, but for other things: books, art, china, jewelry, cars, houses, real estate – anything. So, whether we are rich or poor, we may be guilty of avarice or covetousness.

Some indicators and symptoms of this vice: Hardness of heart toward the poor or our relatives in need, Reluctance to support the Church and other charitable entities, Stinginess, paying our bills and debts grudgingly.

The malice of the true miser ... he lives a poor and miserable life. He groans over the least misfortune or loss. He has but one thought – **money**. He often dies in squalor and poverty, though possessing a handsome fortune.

Avarice leads to telling lies, cheating, stealing, taking bribes, giving false testimony ...

The remedy for covetousness is fighting it with generosity, liberality, kindness and mercy. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." (Matt. 5:7) and "It is more blessed to give, rather than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Covetousness may have a spiritual counterpart in our exercise of piety, when we seek only spiritual delight in them for ourselves ... rather than for love for God.

**Lenten Confessions are on Tuesday night from 7 PM to 9 PM and every Saturday from 3 PM to 4 PM.**

Msgr. McGrath

*Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*

Msgr. McGrath will serve as chaplain on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this October 17-27. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with Msgr. and fellow parishioners.

At the sites of Jesus' life and ministry we will celebrate Mass each day and will read Scripture together, letting the scenes from the Gospels come alive for us in a deeper way.

We will also have a local guide who will provide local interpretation of the sites, and meet some Christians of the Holy Land to experience their welcome and learn about their efforts to be faithful to the call of Christ.

Kevin Perrotta, a friend of Msgr. McGrath's and author and editor will be the group leader. Msgr. and Kevin have led previous pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

If you are interested, copies of the itinerary are available at the Narthex books shelves near the church entrance.

There are 39 places available, so please contact Anton Salah at Adriatic Travel, (310) 548-1446,

anton@adriatictours.com as soon as possible.

The trip will be spiritually and personally rewarding and much fun.

**Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat**

I am praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to attend the "Christ Renews His Parish Retreat" on the 20th and 21st of March in Monroe.

The retreat team, of which I am a part, has worked very hard the past 6 months putting together a program of spirituality which I know will change your relationship with Jesus and The Holy Spirit and help to bring an even greater renewal to our Parish.

Each Sunday evening I meet with 8 men of St. Rose of Lima planning our program and an integral part of the meetings is a prayer for the men of St. John to be inspired by The Holy Spirit to attend.

This is the third retreat I have attended and my second as a member of the formation team.

The program is run entirely by lay members of the Church and is structured around the testimony of how The Holy Spirit has changed and directed their lives.

The St. John's Men's Group is making available the fee of \$150, for those who may not be able to participate because of the cost and so I urge you to consider attending.

Won't you please consider taking advantage of this most wonderful spiritual experience?

Call Don Smith at 655-4787 for a registration application and further information

**2010 Winter/Spring Bible Study Series**

**The Messiah: From King David of Israel to Jesus**

The Story of David in the Books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel  
 in the Hebrew Bible

Wednesday Evenings 7 PM to 8:30 or

Thursday Mornings 9:30 AM to 11:00

Location: Parish Center, (Room 108)

Meeting Dates:

Wed. Group: Mar. 10 Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12 & 26; June 2

Thurs. Group: Mar. 11; Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13 & 27; June 3

All are welcome—Bible beginners to Bible scholars. ●No registration, just come with your Bible.



**Mass Intentions  
for the Week**

<b>VIGIL</b>	Joseph Mason by His Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 7</b>
7:30 AM	Parishioners of St. John
8:30 AM	Nancy Eldredge by Peter Spielman Family
10:00 AM	Colleen Elizabeth Bruton by Sheila & Kevin Molloy
11:30 AM	Rose Tait by The Carella Family
5:00 PM	Mary Cerullo by Anna Fasano & Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>March 8</b>
8:00 AM	Monte J. Thedford by Nick & Anni DeMarco
12:15 PM	Michael Altieri
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>March 9</b>
8:00 AM	Angelina Allegretta by Marilyn Dolcetti
12:15 PM	Isabel Carmona by The Colli Family
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>March 10</b>
8:00 AM	Mary & Frank D'Aquila & Family by Arline D'Aquila
12:15 PM	Al Hanson by Mr. & Mrs. Pace
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>March 11</b>
8:00 AM	Silvio Boccuzzi, Salvatore & Juseppa Boccuzzi by The Boccuzzi Family
12:15 PM	Paul Hughes by Elaine Woolworth
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 12</b>
8:00 AM	Al Hanson by Claire DeLuca
12:15 PM	John Hammel by The Arsenault Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 13</b>
8:30 AM	Harry Hladis by His Brother-in-Law
<b>VIGIL</b>	Michael Fay by Helen and John Jordan
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 14</b>
7:30 AM	Nancy Eldredge by Dan & Marilyn Dolcetti
8:30 AM	Larry Reilly by Virginia & Andy Aoyama
10:00 AM	Paul Andrew Lang, Sr. by The McCabe Family
11:30 AM	Robert Cossette by the Eng Family
5:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John Parish

**Living our Faith Annual Bishop's Appeal**

The Annual Bishop's Appeal supports the Office of Pastoral Services, Parish Life and Ministries programs throughout the Diocese. Damien O'Connor, Director of Adult Formation, oversees the RCIA process and adult catechetical programs.

Damien plays a vital role in working with RCIA Coordinators who need assistance in executing the Diocesan program. He is responsible for ongoing formation of the Coordinators and develops and carries out all aspects of the Adult Confirmation program, including classes, retreats and the ceremony. He also coordinates Diocesan-based catechetical opportunities for adults including on-line and classroom learning. "I am deeply honored to know that I may be of assistance to the Coordinators and Directors of Adult Catechesis. Their unselfish work to evangelize is extremely important and inspiring. The ABA gives tangible assistance to ministries that provide life-changing encounters with Christ," says Darien.

Your gift is so important to the work of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Thank you for your support to the 2010 Annual Bishop's Appeal.

**PARISH NURSES – BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK**

The Parish Nurses will be having a blood pressure screening on Sunday, March 14th downstairs in the conservatory from 11:00 am until after the 11:30 Mass. Everyone is welcome to come, have your pressure checked and discuss any health concerns with the nurses.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>SUNDAY, March 7</b>	5:00 PM Mass and Youth Group meeting
<b>MONDAY, March 8</b>	6:00-9:00 PM CRHP – Pierre Room 7:00-9:00 PM Confession - Church
<b>TUESDAY, March 9</b>	10:00 AM Sewing Group – Room 108 10:30 – 12:30 PM Craft Group – Conservatory 7:00 – 9:00 PM Confession – Church confessional 7:30 PM Prayer Group – Blanchard Center
<b>WEDNESDAY, March 10</b>	6:45 PM <b>Catholicism 201/Dinner-DVD-Discussion</b> - Pierre Rm. 7:00 PM Bible Study – Room 108
<b>THURSDAY, March 11</b>	9:30 AM Bible Study – Conservatory 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Joyful Praise Choir
<b>FRIDAY, March 12</b>	9:00 AM Soup Ministry - Ktchen 5:30 PM AA Meeting – Room 108 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

**Readings for the Week of March 7, 2010**

Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**YOUTH GROUP**

**POOL TABLE DONATIONS and more:**

St. John's Youth Ministry is looking for gently used pool tables, air hockey tables, foosball tables, ping-pong tables, and video game systems for an upcoming game room for kids. We are also looking for standing basketball nets for outside use. If you, or anyone you know can help in donating these to us, please contact Bryan Mercier: 203-662-1217 or at [SjChurchYG@yahoo.com](mailto:SjChurchYG@yahoo.com). We thank you in advance.

**TEEN MUSICIANS**

Do you sing? Play an instrument? St. John's teen choir is looking for singers and other teens who can play instruments for the 5pm Mass. If you, or anyone else you know is interested in joining us, please contact, Bryan Mercier: 203-662-1217 or at [SJChurchYG@yahoo.com](mailto:SJChurchYG@yahoo.com). Thank you.  
Bryan Mercier 203-662-1217 [sjchurchyg@yahoo.com](mailto:sjchurchyg@yahoo.com)

**CRAFT GROUP**

The first sign of spring – our Craft Group has returned! Their first meeting will be on Tues, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM-12:30PM in the Conservatory. If you like to do crafts or would like to learn, please join them this Tuesday.

**NEW LIGHTHOUSE CD'S**

See our selection of new CD's in the narthex.  
The Passion of Christ Applied to Your Life  
The True Meaning of Easter  
How to Apply Our Faith to Our Families  
Pursuing Holiness: Lessons from St. Francis de Sales  
The Sacrament of Penance

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*"St. Patrick's  
Celebration"*

*Saturday, March*

*13<sup>th</sup>*

*5:30 pm - 9:30*

*pm*

*St. John's Parish*

*Center*

*Limited Seating - Advance*

*Reservations Required!*

*Appetizers*

*Corned Beef with*

*Traditional Vegetables*

*Irish Soda Bread*

*Dessert - Irish Coffee -*

*Beer & Wine*

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call Susan Byrne at 203- 662-9334 or [susanbyrne@optonline.net](mailto:susanbyrne@optonline.net)

To attend, please complete and return to the office of St. John Church (1986 Post Road Darien, CT 06820)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Adults only, please** Please make checks payable to St. John's Church



**Irish Music and Sing-a-Long by**

**'Ask Your Father' Trio**

**Entertainment by**

**Pender-Keady Dancers**

**Door Prize - Yankee Tickets!**

**\$25 per Adult - RSVP by March 1**

**The Convent of St. Birgitta at Vikingsborg**

**4 Runkenhage Road**

**Darien, CT 06820 (203) 655.1068**

**[Convent@birgittnes-us.com](mailto:Convent@birgittnes-us.com)**

**[convents@optonline.net](mailto:convents@optonline.net)**

Nestled within the hidden inlets of Long Island Sound, the Vikingsborg Guest House offers an ideal setting for meditative pleasure. Members of all faiths are welcome for private retreats, rest, or study. Programs for contemplation can be accommodated upon request.

Comfortable single and double rooms with private and semi-private baths are available, most with breathtaking views of

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Long Island Sound. Full board, half board or bed and breakfast arrangements are offered.

The facilities including a conference room, wifi, library, recreation rooms with a television and a grand piano are open to the public year round.



### MASSES

During Lent we will have a 12:15 PM daily Mass as well as our regular 8:00 AM Mass Monday through Friday and our 8:30 AM Saturday Mass. Please try to join us.

### CONFESSION

Experience the blessing of this healing sacrament each Tuesday from 7:00 – 9:00 PM heard in our Confessional, which is in the Narthex close to the sacristy.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please pray The Stations of the Cross with us each Friday of Lent at 7:30 PM in the church.

### CATHOLICISM 201

Hear clear explanations of what the Catholic Church *really* teaches in a video followed by small group discussion led by members of the RCIA Team, this Wed. at 6:45PM in the Pierre Room. There are 4 sessions left and you can come to 1 or all 4. This week's talk is uniquely Catholic and vital for all to be able to explain: Jesus' gift of His Real Presence in the Eucharist. "Soup & Salad" are served at 6:45PM and the video starts at 7:15. See the parish web site, [www.stjohndarien.com](http://www.stjohndarien.com) and click on the violet text for more information, or phone Pete Wray at 203-972-0209

### FAST AND ABSTINENCE

*Last week we made a mistake when we wrote Wednesday is a day of abstinence from meat. Only Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.*

- Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to **abstain** from meat on Ash Wednesday and each Friday of Lent.
- Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, in addition to abstaining from meat, should **fast**, that is, eat only one full meal on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 9) and Good Friday (March 25). Smaller quantities of food may be taken at two other meals, but no food should be consumed at other times during those two days. The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Catholicism 201 – Dinner-DVD- Discussion  
Pierre Rm.

13 St. Patrick Parish Party - Dinner & live Irish music

20-21 Christ Renews His Parish - Men

May

1 Homefront Project

## Church Staff

### PARISH OFFICES

Pastor: Msgr. Frank C. McGrath ext 24  
[fmcgrathstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:fmcgrathstjohn@optonline.net)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Frank Gomez ext 23  
[frfrankstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:frfrankstjohn@optonline.net)

Deacon Wayne E. Malloy

Deacon Bill Rowe (Deacon Emeritus)

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Michelle Leville ext 11  
[stjohn2@optonline.net](mailto:stjohn2@optonline.net)

Secretary: Mrs. B Connolly ext 10  
[stjohnb@optonline.net](mailto:stjohnb@optonline.net)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Richard Slagle  
203.966.8928

### PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

203.656.0231  
Mr. Doug McKay

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

655.8020  
Director: Mr. John Cunningham  
[religiousedsi@optonline.net](mailto:religiousedsi@optonline.net)

### PRE SCHOOL

656.0548  
Director: Mrs. Lisa Ioli  
[predarienstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:predarienstjohn@optonline.net)

### MUSIC MINISTRY

655.0777  
Choirmaster: Mr. W. Ogden Booker

### JOYFUL PRAISE CHOIR

Director: Mr. Frank Porretta

### YOUTH MINISTRY

662.1217  
Director: Mr. Bryan Mercier  
[sjchurchyg@yahoo.com](mailto:sjchurchyg@yahoo.com)

### PARISH CENTER

Manager & Sexton: Mr. Kevin Donnelly

### PARISH WEB SITE

[www.stjohndarien.com](http://www.stjohndarien.com)

Please visit our parish website. We have information on many opportunities for spiritual growth and community involvement, to give and receive assistance, enjoy crafts and take pleasure in companionship with luncheons, teas, trips.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Saturdays or anytime by appointment

### ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Every First Friday after the 8:00 AM Mass until 12 Noon  
(Except July and August)

### MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Every Monday after the 8:00 AM Mass

### ROSARY

Immediately following the daily 8 AM Mass

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples should contact a parish priest at least six months prior to the desired wedding date.

### COMMUNION CALLS

If you know of anyone who is homebound, in a nursing home or hospital, and would like communion from a priest, deacon or eucharistic minister brought to them or have a visit, please call the parish secretary. Oftentimes this is the only way we know of the need.

### *Are you or a friend:*

### *Catholic but not confirmed? Christian but not Catholic?*

- *Unbaptized but interested in learning about the Catholic faith?*

There are several paths to becoming a fully initiated Catholic and you can find out which one best suits your situation by contacting either of our priests (655-1145) or Pete Wray (972-0209) to learn more about your options through our programs.

### BAPTISM WORKSHOP

Prior to the Baptism of a first child both parents must attend a Baptism Workshop. Our next class is March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 PM. Please call the office for more information, 203.655.1145.

### WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

The priests of St. John Church look forward to meeting our new parishioners. Please introduce yourselves after Mass or call for an appointment. Registration cards are available at the rear of the Church or in the office during the week.

### THE CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE

We look forward to your insights and energy. Please contact Msgr. McGrath at 655.1145 or Jessica Couri at 656.3696 ([jacpacouri@yahoo.com](mailto:jacpacouri@yahoo.com)) or Celebrate Life Committee ([celebratelife@live.com](mailto:celebratelife@live.com)) for more information.

### VIRTUS TRAINING

If you are involved in any volunteer work in the parish you must attend a Virtus Training Class. For those who have not attended a class, there is a class at St. Roch Parish, Greenwich on March 12, 2010 at 8:30 AM.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

meets every other week to make comfort shawls for those in need of prayer. If you would like to make or receive or send a shawl (or prayer square for our troops), please call Anne van Geldern at 585.2302 or [anne.vangeldern@gmail.com](mailto:anne.vangeldern@gmail.com). See the Parish website for info and pictures. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 18 at 9:30 AM or 7:00 PM

### MOM'S SUPPORTING MOM'S

is an informal support group for moms with children of any age, facilitated by Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW. The group meets twice a month in the Pierre Room from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. The next meetings will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. The subject will be **Building Blocks of Self Worth**

### HEALING THE PASSAGES OF LIFE

We do not need to be trapped by patterns of behavior learned in childhood not be on guilt trips if we've hurt someone else. By bringing Jesus' love into memories, hurts can be transformed into gifts. The group will meet on Wed, March 31<sup>st</sup> 9:15-11 AM in Room 108.



Please consider remembering St. John Church in your Will.

FEBRUARY 27/28 OFFERTORY

Weekly Offertory 2010	\$ 11,592
February Credit Cards 2010	3,095
Weekly Offertory 2009	\$ 10,600
February Credit Cards 2009	3,415

The second collection next week is for Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your continued generosity.

We are receiving many requests for Electronic Banking and Credit Cards donations. If you would like to make your weekly or monthly offertory donation by credit card or online banking, please call the parish. We also welcome stock donations. Please contact the parish office for information.

**LifeNotes**

**together to defend and celebrate life**

We are delighted that over 100 families are already participating in Celebrate Life's Spiritual Adoption program! If you have not received an email, or a letter by US Mail with the progress of the 1st month, please let us know at [celebratelife@live.com](mailto:celebratelife@live.com) or by calling (203) 656-3696. If you meant to sign up - please let us know!

**Spiritual Adoption - Baby's Progress at Month 2**

***I'm Dancing!*** The developing baby is now called a 'fetus,' a Latin word meaning 'little one.' She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs, and by 8 weeks all of her body systems are present. Brain waves can also now be recorded. During this second month of life, baby teeth begin to form, and fingers and toes are developing. Her ears, nose and lips and tongue can now be clearly seen, and her skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. The central nervous system is functioning and her forty muscle sets are practicing their first exercises.

**ROSE FOR LIFE** 'In Memory of Joseph McGee' - Donated by Ann Leatherwood

If you wish to donate to the Rose for Life initiative please call us at 203.656.3696 or 917.415.1427. The cost is \$10 per donation. Please make checks out to St. John Church with Celebrate Life 'Rose for Life' in the memo and drop off in Parish office. Please title envelope 'Rose for Life.'

**Men's 2010 Winter Breakfast Series**

St. John's Men's Group  
2010 Winter Breakfast Series  
continuing on Saturday, March 13  
at 7:00 AM *sharp*  
in the Pierre Room of the Parish Center.

Please join us for hot coffee, hot breakfast and warm brotherhood. The winter schedule of the St. John's Men's Group breakfasts is:  
Sat. Mar. 13 How Can I Make The Most Of My Life?  
Please call or email Ken Byrne at 203-662-9334 ([kenbyrne@optonline.net](mailto:kenbyrne@optonline.net)) with any questions

**ST. JOHN WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

Are you interested in exploring and deepening your faith through reading Christian books and discussing them in an intimate group of St. John's women? We will meet the last Tuesday of each month conveniently after school drop off. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM the rectory living room. We are reading Captivating by John and Stasi Eldredge. Please call Sheri Hone at 324-7318 or [hhone@gmail.com](mailto:hhone@gmail.com) if interested.

**ST. JOHN  
CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM**

**Elementary Program**

GRADES 1-5 - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Classes will meet March 8, 9, 10 - 4:00-5:15 PM for instruction in the Parish Center.

**Middle Grades Program**

GRADES 6, 7, 8- Sunday Classes meet March 7, 14, 21 - 8:30 AM - Parish Center

GRADES 6, 7, 8 - Tuesday Classes meet March 9, 16, 23 - 5:45 PM and 7:00 PM - Parish Center

**PROGRAM FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS** - Next Class Sessions - Sunday March 14, 21 - 9:45-11:00 AM Parish Center. Diane Barston: Coordinator. **\*Special Presentation** by the children - **March 21** at the conclusion of class. Families most welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

**PARKING REGULATIONS** - For the safety of all children attending Christian Formation Program classes please observe parking regulations - sent at the beginning of the year to all families of enrolled children. **Sincere thanks.**

**TO THE PARISH FAMILY**

Please continue your support of the candidates of St. John First Holy Communion Class of 2010. Your role their faith formation is important and vital. Kindly encourage them with a kind word when you see them at church with their families and please keep them in your prayers as they prepare of the reception of this special sacrament. They may be identified by the special round badge, with an attached white ribbon imprinted with the words: Communion 2010", they are asked to wear to **church**. Thank you so much!

**SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS AND THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

Donations of "tube" type white socks (other colors are fine, too) are most welcomed, gratefully appreciated and accepted by our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders (Sunday Classes) as they reach out to others. Kindly place donations in the special boxes located in the Parish Center. Thank you sincerely!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Thank you to Monsignor McGrath, Father Frank and other priest guests for helping the children last week receive the grace and blessings from celebrating during Lent the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are grateful to them for arranging their busy schedules so the children may experience The Lord's loving forgiveness.

**"SUNDAY" 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS SPONSOR A BAKE SALE**

Sixth Graders under the direction of their Catechist: **Deanna Molnar**, will sponsor a Bake Sale, Sunday March 7 after the 10:00AM Mass **ONLY** I the Conservatory (Lower Church). Proceeds will benefit the earthquake victims of Haiti and Chile. Kindly support their efforts.

**A THIRD GRADER SHARES A THOUGHT WITH THE LORD**

"Dear God, sorry, if I was bad...(Also) I feel bad for Haiti. Some day I will travel and help the world."

**THOUGHTS FROM CHILDREN AFTER HAVING CELEBRATED THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

(Grade 5) - "I feel like a new person because all my sins are forgiven and God can see me as a good person. I also feel that I should be kinder to friends and family members."

(Grade 4) - "I felt like a credit card being renewed because when I walked in the (Reconciliation) room I was scared but when he (the priest) said a quick prayer...it felt like my life started all over again - but just a little older."

(Grade 3) - "I feel great and confident because after my sins went away I know (they) will not come back."