

## **BULLETIN -- FEBRUARY 7**

**Ash Wednesday services.** We are happy to provide, for your convenience, the Ash Wednesday schedule for area parishes, a.m. and p.m.:

- 6:30 Sacred Heart
- 7:00 St. Andrew, St. Adalbert, St. Alphonsus
- 7:45 Sacred Heart
- 8:00 **SS. Peter & Paul**
- 8:30 St. Anthony
- 9:00 Holy Spirit, St. Alphonsus, Assumption, Our Lady of Consolation
- 9:30 St. Andrew
- 12:00** Holy Spirit (not Mass), St. Mary
- 12:05** St. Andrew
- 5:30** St. Andrew, Sacred Heart, **SS. Peter & Paul (not Mass)**
- 6:00** Holy Trinity, St. James
- 7:00** St. Andrew, Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart (Latin), St. Alphonsus, St. Anthony, St. Mary (Spanish), Assumption, Our Lady of Consolation

**A charity report.** Our joint Northwest Food Pantry with Trinity Reformed Church on Davis accomplishes a world of good in our own neighborhood. During the past year of 2015, we served 5,281 households with a total of 16,230 individual people. Our parish donated 15 bags of food, and our cash donations totaled \$10,400. However, Trinity is begging us to send more volunteers--daily, weekly, monthly, whatever your schedule can accommodate. We have a wonderful response with food at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, serving from our clothing center and school; but the Northwest Food Pantry is open the other 49 weeks of the year as well. Anytime you are shopping and can pick up an extra item or two, just bring it to church and leave it in the pantry box in back. We will collect your donations and make sure they get over to Trinity. How to volunteer? Just stop by when they're open, tell them you're from SSPP, and offer your services. They're right behind Ralph's, and the pantry entrance is on the north side of the church. How about taking it on for Lent?

**Lenten Rice Bowl program.** Bishop Walkowiak encourages each individual and family to participate in the Rice Bowl program organized by Catholic Relief Services during Lent. Last year, approximately \$82,000 was raised throughout the Diocese through the change collected in our households by being a bit more frugal with food, giving up the cost of a dessert or favorite beverage, settling for mac and cheese or Ramen noodles instead of our favorite parsnip pudding or plain Greek yogurt. Or whatever. ☺ The idea is that *sacrifice* on our part can help in some small way to alleviate the hunger of other members of the human family. So here's what we'll do at SS. Peter & Paul. Rather than order the Rice Bowls from the CRS, we'll encourage you to be generous with your change each day as you save a little bit here and there on food. Whether you save in a bowl, a jar, or an old sock is up to you. We're going to write the Rice Bowl program a \$1,000 check from our Christian Service fund right now at the beginning of Lent. At Easter, you bring your accumulated "Rice Bowl" savings to church (leave the old sock

home, please!) and we'll add it to those of everyone else. If we collect over \$1,000 at that time, the difference will be put into a second parish check to the Rice Bowl program. If we collect less than \$1,000, whatever comes in will re-fill our parish Christian Service fund to help with the many needs we encounter during the year. Fair enough? Thank you for your generous support, and for your thoughtfulness of the poor.

**Now it's fish.** Early settlers of Québec were just as pious as other pioneers. But these good Catholics had a tough time following the Catholic Church Friday abstinence restrictions, since there wasn't much fish around in some areas. There was no shortage of edible beaver meat, though. So in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Québécois asked the Church to declare that the beaver was a fish. After all, it lived in the water and had a flat, scaly tail. Close enough, right? The Church agreed, and that's how the furry heathen got classified as a Christian fish.

Amazingly, the beaver isn't the only secular mammal that's religiously a fish. Catholics in Michigan living along the Detroit River have traditionally had a dispensation so they may eat muskrat on days of abstinence. There are even a few restaurants that serve it year round. Venezuelans dine on the capybara, a large semiaquatic rodent, during Lent for the same reason. Technically, cold-blooded critters (amphibians and reptiles) are fair game also. But since broiled lizard and rattlesnake casseroles haven't really taken off as culinary staples, at least in this area, most observant Catholics opt for fish. (Adapted from *dentalfloss.com*, May, 2013.)

**Congratulations** to Molly and Ben Kuslikis, to our Knights of Columbus, and to all who helped in any way to make our Lithuanian dinner on Saturday, January 30, a grand success. We fed more people than many Grand Rapids restaurants did that evening, and the camaraderie and spirit of reunion was tangible. Talk it up and come and enjoy it (again) next year. You won't regret it.

**Anyone in your family with a disability?** Mark your calendars now! On Saturday, June 11, 2016, the Diocese is co-sponsoring a conference for all of our parents and families who have children with disabilities. The conference will take place at St. Robert's in Ada. It will begin at 1 p.m., and includes Mass with Bishop Walkowiak at 4:30 p.m. More details to come, but please plan ahead. This could be the first recognition our Diocese has given to those with disabilities in many years, going way back to the wonderful work of Sister Rose Callahan, O.P. St. Robert's has been a leader in offering religious instruction and events, but we are excited to see this diocesan involvement. God bless you!

Fr. Den

**Thought for the week:** "Music without sacred music, architecture minus the cathedral, or painting without the scriptural themes would be eccentric and incomplete, even from a secular point of view" (Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson [1892-1954], in *McCullum v. Board of Education* [1948]). Such reasoning would today no doubt be greeted by scorn from such notable organizations as the Freedom from Religion Foundation, but it remains precedent opinion of the Supreme Court. Simply recognizing

religion as a factual part of our world does not constitute *establishment* of religion on the part of the government.