



Jesus taught them as one having authority

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 1, 2009

Come, let us bow down in worship;
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

We are a Sacrificial Giving Parish, Giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure
Our offertory collection for last Sunday was \$6,325.00.
Our Collection for the Church in Latin America was \$720.52.
(For 2007-2008 our average weekly expenses were \$6,509.00.)

Congratulations to the young men and women of our parish who were confirmed last Wednesday. The parish is grateful to all the teachers and sponsors who worked to prepare them.

Registration for "Six Steps to Easter" Religious Education Program is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 P.M. in St. Charles Chapel. This program is for students in Jr. High & High School (grades 7-8, 9-10 & higher). Completed form and a fee of \$15.00 are due at registration. Four years of this program are required for Confirmation as a Junior in high school. Parent and child must attend this mandatory meeting. Classes start February 25th.

Six-Steps to Easter is fast approaching, and the Religious Education Center is in need of adults who are interested in teaching 7th-8th or 8th-10th grades. Seventh and eighth grades meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and ninth & tenth grade meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on every Wednesday during Lent. Please call the Religion Center at 662-5271 if you are able to volunteer.

Six-Steps to Easter teacher meeting will be held **February 19th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Religious Ed Building. You will receive your rosters and teacher's books. Please call if you are not able to attend.

North Region Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, February 14, 2009, 8:30 am-12:00** at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Opelousas. Guest speaker is Rev. Daniel Mahan from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Topic is "Identify Your Talents for Ministry". For more information, please contact Jackie Griffin at 831-2621.

Sign Pro-Life Postcards Action against FOCA

Please join other Catholic parishes throughout the U.S. and sign postcards urging Congress to oppose the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) and to retain existing laws against government funding and promotion of abortion.

Postcards and a flyer describing FOCA are on the table at the entrance of the church.

SEND a postcard to our two U.S. Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, and to our Representative Charles Boustany.

Let your voice be heard!

Sign a Petition on the Internet

You can also register an opposition against FOCA by going to the internet site: www.fightfoca.com. There you can read about the FOCA legislation and sign a petition to reject this proposed legislation that, sadly, supports taking the life of unborn children by abortion.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for First Friday will be **Thursday, Feb. 5th** at 7:00 PM, ending with Benediction at 8:00 PM. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Activities of the Week	
Feb. 2-6	
M 2	4:00 PM Vigil Mass Choir Practice
T 3	6:00 PM 7:30 Choir Practice
W 4	
TH 5	5:45 PM 10:30 Mass Choir Practice 7:00 PM Exposition & Benediction 7:00 PM Adult Sacrament Class
FR 6	

Minister Schedule-Feb. 7-8

Vigil -Lector	Shirleen Louviere & Mildred Rubit
Communion	Caro Louviere, Dyanne LeBlanc, Lous Santillo, Pat Sonnier, Janice Fox
Altar Server	Nicholas Smith
7:30-Lector	Pat Miller & George Ramier
Communion	Deacon Herd Guilbeau, Theresa Cormier Ruby Gardiner, Melba Courtney Stephanie Richard
Altar Server	Carlie Pierre
10:30-Lector	Danielle Belson & Cathy Taylor
Communion	Flo & Norman Carroll, Polly Etienne Margie McClendon, Janice Kilchrist
Altar Server	Andrew Smith, Jillian Lyons, Morgan Boone

Church Cleaners for Feb. 7-8

Bernadelle Thibodeaux Juanita Comeaux
Leola Guilbeau Betsy Douglas Valerie Pyle
Wilbert & Margaret Thomas

Sacrament Preparation for Adults

St. Charles Church offers a program to prepare adults for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion). Classes start on **February 5th** and meet weekly on Thursdays 7:00-8:00 P.M. Sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil Service on April 11th.

This program is for YOU if you are:

A baptized or un-baptized adult who would like to inquire about the Catholic Faith or who wants to become a Catholic.

A baptized adult who has not yet celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation in the Catholic Faith and who would like to do this.

A Catholic adult who is fully initiated and is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

Call the church office at 662-5279 to register. Please tell others about this opportunity, especially family members or friends who might be interested.

Angel Food Ministries: Great food menus available. Senior Box, Regular Box, and Specials available. Contact Thensted Center at 662-5838 for more information and to place order. You will find next month's menu on the table at the entrance of the Church.

TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God. There are, no doubt, both false and true prophets around us today. The whole history of our church is filled with both. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture, and even held positions of church authority. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. Today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau scheduled retreats:

Mid-week Retreats for Women

March 9-11, 2009	June 29-July 1, 2009
April 6-8, 2009	November 2-4, 2009

Weekend Retreats for Women

February 19-22, 2009	September 10-13, 2009
April 30-May 3, 2009	September 17-20, 2009
May 7-9, 2009	October 15-18, 2009
May 28-31, 2009	November 12-15, 2009
August 6-9, 2009	December 3-6, 2009

Married Couples Retreat

February 13-15, 2009	June 26-28, 2009
April 24-26, 2009	October 23-25, 2009

For more information on any of the above retreats, please contact Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House at 337-662-5410.

Christ the King Ladies Auxiliary Ct. #114 is sponsoring a Children's **Mardi Gras Pageant**. Age categories are 2-4 yr. old, 5-9 yr. old, and 10-13 yr. old. A king and queen will be chosen from each category. The entry fee is \$20. For information, call Grand Lady Paula Jordan at 351-4532 or Yvette Tyler at 684-4868.

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Grand Coteau, LA

Summary Financial Report for Operations of the Half-Year: July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

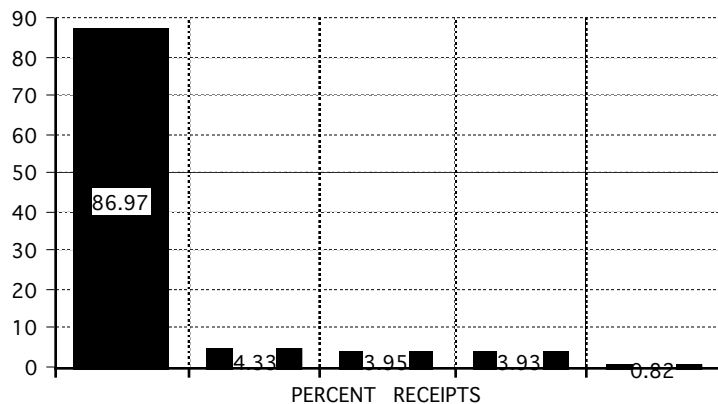
RECEIPTS

1. Sunday Offertory	86.97%
2. Insurance Claim	4.33%
3. Donations to Church	3.95%
4. Sacramental Offerings	3.93%
5. Fund raising Income	0.82%

Receipts for Church: Total \$215,641

{Collected for diocese:
(BSA, and 2nd collections)} \$5,851

Total Receipts: \$221,492

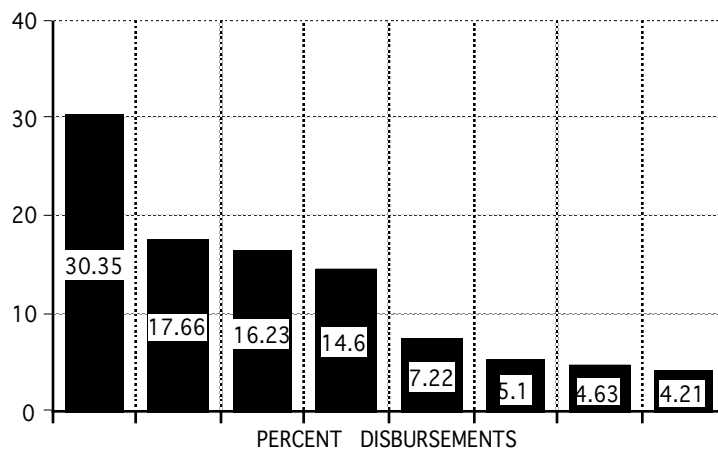


DISBURSEMENTS

1. Lay employee - pay & benefits	30.35%
2. Insurance (property & liability)	17.66%
3. Clergy - salary & benefits	16.23%
4. Stewardship (to Diocese)	14.60%
5. Stewardship (to Thensted Cntr)	7.22%
6. Maintenance work & supplies	5.10%
7. Utilities (elec., gas, water, phone)	4.63%
8. Office & Liturgical supplies	4.21%

Total Disbursements \$229,997

Receipts less Disbursements <\$8,505>



The Parish Finance Committee calls your attention to the following observations.

For the first half of the fiscal year we operated in the red with a deficit of \$8,505.00. However, we have paid the property and liability insurance for the entire fiscal year. This year the bill was \$40,615. (Last year's insurance bill was \$33,607). Not having to make any insurance payment during the second half of the year should help us to stay within budget. Our church suffered a lightning strike in late summer. The Insurance claim covered most of the expenses incurred (\$500 deductible).

Please note that our stewardship to the diocese (including the regular Diocesan Tax and the Second Collections) together with our support of parish outreach ministry (the Thensted Center) represent 21.82% of our total disbursements. Stewardship of our Church community is exemplary.

Religious education is an important effort of our parish community. During this first half of the fiscal year we expended a total of \$11,680 to support Religious education.

Thank you for your continued support of our church's operations and ministries. May we always be good stewards of what God so generously gives to us.

Questions? Please contact Fr. Jim Lambert, SJ or Mr. Ulysses Johnson (Finance Committee chair).