

From the Desk of Bishop Cote:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity for all Catholics to celebrate the Church's dedication to the education of the young. This year Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January 31 to February 6, 2010. The theme this year is: Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, and Morals.

The Church has a long history in the field of education. Most of the great universities in Europe were established by the Church or religious orders. Catholic Schools in this country harken back to the mid-19th Century when the American hierarchy created schools to ensure that the faith would live in the children of immigrants. What a marvelous success story the Church has written! Today the efforts of our predecessors continue, though admittedly under difficult circumstances.

Our schools indeed provide Dividends for Life. Our schools teach the faith. Children are exposed to the truths of Catholicism. They are taught how to pray and how to begin the journey of growing in the spiritual life. Our schools teach children and young adults how to learn and how to grasp skills and knowledge. They do so in such a way as to ensure an understanding that learning is a life long endeavor in a complex technological world.

Our schools have always been characterized as institutions which expect young people to learn and grow with honesty and integrity. They have always maintained high standards for student conduct. Catholic schools produce well disciplined graduates.

Our schools teach right from wrong. Catholic schools produce graduates who are morally good. They teach the moral theology of the Church which reinforces the same high moral expectations which parents have for their children.

I ask you to pray for the success of our Catholic Schools. I ask you to pray for our teachers and principals. And I ask you to support Catholic education in these trying economic times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael R. Cote

Bishop of Norwich

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- ⊕ **ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17, 2010**
- ⊕ **PARISH MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Sunday, February 21st at 2:00 P.M.
- ⊕ **PARISH MINI-MISSION ON RECONCILIATION** - Mon-Feb 22, Tues-Feb 23, and Wed-Feb 24 There is Mass each night at 7:00 P.M. followed by Confessions. Rev. Hugh Vincent Dyer will be the speaker.

Parish Support

*The Stewardship offering for
Sunday, January 17, 2010*

\$9,065.00

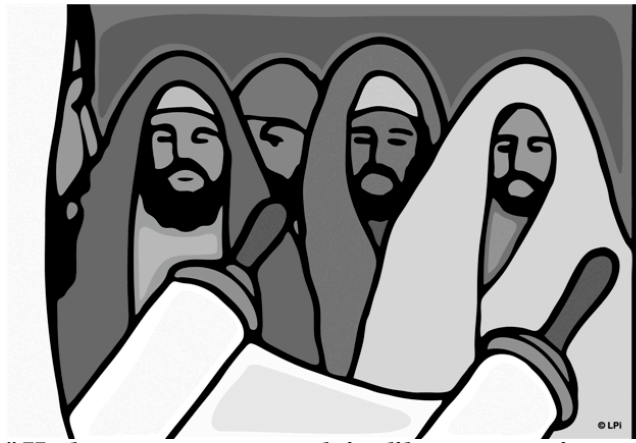
National Combined Collection

\$4,886.00

Thank you!

NATIONAL COMBINED COLLECTION

Last weekend the National Combined Collection which benefits: The Retirement Fund for Religious, The Annual Appeal for the Holy Father, The Catholic Communications Campaign, and Catholic University of America was taken up in our Parish. To all those who made a gift, thank you for your generous response. If you did not bring your gift envelope to Mass last weekend or if you were away, extra envelopes are available in the narthex. Your contribution can be placed in the collection basket next weekend or mailed directly to the Parish. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you.



"He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Jesus said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." - Lk 4:18b-19, 21

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Jan. 23 -Vigil - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

5:00 pm YDonna Powers r/b John & Eileen Torrenti

Y Marie Giordano r/b Russell & Giordano families

Sunday, Jan.24-3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am Y David Spring r/b Rita

10:30 am Y Joan Operhall r/b family

Y Luella & Joe Vitteritto r/b Eunice Ficara
Y Ellen Ann Toffolon r/b husband, Siro

Monday, Jan. 25 – Conversion of St. Paul

7:30 am For the parishioners of Christ the King

Tuesday, Jan. 26 – St. Timothy & St. Titus

7:30 am Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, Jan. 27 – St. Angela Merici

7:30 am YWilliam H. White r/b Ed & Marlene McTaggart

Thursday, Jan. 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas

7:30 am In Thanksgiving for my Morning Mass Family r/b Jean Pernal

Friday, Jan. 29-Weekday

7:30 am Y Carol Shore Guyer r/b Marty Guyer

Saturday, Jan. 30 -Vigil – 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

5:00 pm YJoseph Firgelewski r/b Gertrude & Jean

Sunday, Jan.31-4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am Y Varky Mattam r/b family

10:30 am Y Joan Operhall r/b family

Y Joseph W. Cunningham r/b Meg Cunningham

Y Frederick Rubelmann r/b Mary Riege

Readings for the Week of January 24, 2010

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31---13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

Regularly scheduled parish events

Rosary.....Tuesdays – 7:00pm
Pro-Life Meeting1st Wednesday – 9:30am
New Life Meeting.....1st Thursday – 9:00am
Men's Club2nd Thursday – 6:30pm
Bible Study.....Thursdays – 9:00 am

REMINDER

Parish Pot Luck
Friday, January 29th at 6:00 PM

MEN'S CLUB

There is a Men's Club meeting scheduled for February 11th at 6:30 PM. Following the meeting, (7:00 PM) Father Terence Kristofak, C.P., Rector of Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center will be a guest speaker. His topic is "Called and Sent" - which refers to being called by God to do our work in the world

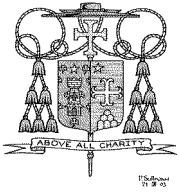


Adult Education will begin a new topic on February 1st. The group will discuss the Gospel of St. John.

PLEASE NOTE: DATE CHANGE

The date for 1st Penance has been changed from February 20th to February 27th at 10:30 AM.





Diocese of Norwich Office of the Bishop

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The immigration issue is, undoubtedly, one of the most important social issues facing our country today. It affects not only a few states along the border or the big cities, but it impacts virtually every community in our nation, including the parishes of our own Diocese of Norwich. In the last twenty to thirty years both our country and our Church have experienced an unprecedented wave of immigration. How that phenomenon is handled will determine what kind of nation – and church - we will be in this twenty-first century. As Congress readies itself to take up the debate on immigration reform, I urge you to join with Catholics and other people of good faith across this nation to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who continue to live in the shadows, many of whom have been in this country for several years and are productive members of their civic and church communities.

A simple way to offer this support is by participating in the national postcard campaign, an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration. The Justice for Immigrants Campaign of the USCCB is making available postcards to parishes as a tool to build support for immigration reform. The goal of this initiative is to enhance the ability of the church community to advocate for immigration reform and to encourage our Federal officials to enact reform legislation as soon as possible.

In 2007, legislation failed because opponents contacted their legislators ten times more than proponents. In order for us to win passage of this legislation, proponents, including the Catholic community, must do a better job of generating grass roots support. The purpose of the postcards is to provide a flood of support to the offices of our senators and representatives nationwide, to encourage them to work for comprehensive immigration reform. Since debate on this issue could be considered in Congress as early as February 2010, the next few weeks are crucial. To that end, I have designated February 6-7, 2010 as "sign-up week-end" for those wishing to participate in this campaign.

The present immigration system is severely broken and must be repaired. How that is done will make all the difference for the future of this country and the Church. Mass deportations or enforcement-only policies clearly contradict the teachings of our Lord himself, as they violate the integrity of our people and of this great nation. Comprehensive immigration reform, one that looks at all aspects of the issue and strives to respond from a perspective of faith, is the only reform worthy of this great nation. The contributions of immigrants are

what have made America what it is today. To abandon this legacy could change the character of our nation and dim our prospects for the future. The challenge before this country is to preserve America's position as a beacon of hope and freedom to those in need. The challenge before each of us as people of faith, as Catholic Christians, is to see the immigrant through the eyes of faith and so make reality in our lives the explicit teaching of Christ himself: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35). Jesus identified himself personally with the alien and challenged His followers to see Him in the stranger. Our faith obliges us to meet that challenge. May God bless each of you in this New Year?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

PARISH BULLETIN TO SHUT-INS

We send out a number of bulletins each week. If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass but would like to receive the parish bulletin, we will send it to them. This is a link to our parish community and helps those who are not present at Mass to feel part of our Community of Faith. Please call the parish office with names and addresses of homebound parishioners.

Help us keep our records up-to-date!

Do you need to register with the parish, have you changed your address, will you be moving out of the parish, or would you like to receive envelopes? Please call the Parish office at 860 434-1669.

Please fill out the following and return via the basket, drop it off at the office or mail to:

1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

____ New registration ____ Change of address

____ would like envelopes

____ moving out of the parish