

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Parish Collection*

	Offertory	Tithe
Jan 26-27	\$13,997.50	\$699.87 - Hockanum Food Pantry



Dear Parishioners,

February finds us deep within the season of winter. Freezing temperatures, cloudy skies, snowy streets and cranky people seem to permeate our surroundings and lives. And yet we also look to this month as the moment we begin the season of Lent. The Lenten season calls us to turn away from the distractions of the world and weather and instead encourages us to concentrate on our hearts and relationships. It is a blessed season of preparation, a season of re-prioritizing, and a season of opening our eyes to the greater picture and truth of who we are and whose we are. During Lent we fast to prove to ourselves that we are not ruled by desires, we give to others to remind ourselves that God calls us to generosity, compassion and empathy, and we delve deeper into prayer to cement a relationship that is intimately united to the Heart of Christ.

It might be cold out there – but the fire of the Spirit is alive and bursting forth in order to invite all of us towards its warmth, light and truth. Lent is that holy time of year where the opportunities abound and the invitation is clear. Let's take the leap of faith required and do everything in our power to utilize the gifts of Lent to better prepare us for the amazing gift of Easter.

With prayers and peace,

*Fr. Rick*

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** ~ "We thought we had a great marriage, but now our love is so much deeper than anything we could have imagined." Rediscover each other with a heart-to-heart **Marriage Encounter**. To register for the March 8-10 weekend in E. Hartford or for info, call 860-376-0440.

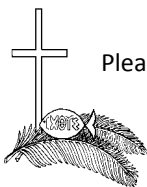
**CORNERSTONE SOUP KITCHEN**

**Volunteer Schedule**

Monday, February 4                      Team #2 St. Monica  
 Tuesday, February 5                      Team #5 St. Clare  
 Friday, February 8                        No Team working

A reminder to soup kitchen volunteers:  
 If you would like to attend Mardi Gras, please call the rectory. You are most welcome!

**Reminder to Return Palms**



Please bring your blessed palms from prior years to church over the next 2 weeks, and deposit them in the baskets at the front doors of the Church. Palms will be burned, and the ashes will be used on Ash Wednesday, February 13.

*Stewardship*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous."*

**Corinthians (1-13:4)**



Are you jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gifts that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you seek to acquire more possessions to impress others? At times we are all guilty of these human weaknesses. Yet as stewards we are called to love

God above all other things – striving always to be less jealous, less pompous and more giving.

*Rachel's Vineyard*

**RETREAT WEEKENDS**

If you are silently grieving after an abortion, then healing, forgiveness and peace can have a beginning with a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**. Retreat February 22-24 in Hamden call 203-631-9030 and March 8-10 in Westerly call 401-421-7833 extension 118 or [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

**"Project Rachel"** is a Diocesan outreach for anyone in need of healing. Priests in "Project Rachel" can help you through healing and forgiveness. Call 860-889-8346 ext.283. All inquiries are confidential.



**Sacred Heart Church - Lenten Parish Retreat**

Topic: Prayer is Dangerous

Fr. Rocky Grimard, OMI

(Immaculata Retreat House, Willimantic)

will be leading a Parish Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Church beginning with Masses on February 16 & 17, 2013.

Fr. Rocky will bring us to reflect on The Lord's Prayer.

What are we asking for when we pray this familiar prayer?

Monday, Feb. 18 - Wednesday, Feb. 20 - 9 A.M. Mass followed by a talk by Fr. Rocky

OR Monday, Feb. 18 - Wednesday, Feb. 20. 7 P.M. talk. Wednesday, Feb. 20 - Talk followed by Penance Service.

Free will offering gratefully accepted.

Refreshments will be served.