

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) SCARY. Governor Rauner has proposed a budget for the State of Illinois. He says that the State does not have enough money to fund all its programs. This is probably true. However, the new Governor has decided that the way to “balance the budget” is to cut many services to people who are poor, deaf, or disabled. For example, the Governor wants to cut Medicaid services to people in the state of Illinois. This would make it harder for poor people or people with disabilities to get necessary health care, like basic doctor or dentist care. One of his other suggestions is to get rid of ALL reduced fares on the RTA. What to do? Some agencies and organizations are making plans to fight these “cuts”. As soon as we get more information, we will send the info out to you.

It is ironic that this week we celebrate the feast of ST. CASIMIR, a Polish prince who died in 1484. Even though Casimir was wealthy and powerful, he tried to do everything possible to help the poor, hungry, and homeless.

2) THANKS to...JOHN & VALENTINA FOLERZYNSKI for decorating our chapel for Lent...BRIAN SWATEK who is always working to keep things running at both St. Francis Borgia and Swoboda Deaf Center...BARBARA KEINER for all her volunteering work...TOM SISK for helping out at both St. Francis Borgia and St. Mary of Vernon & our Senior Citizens...T.K & STELLA HILL for their service in many ways to our community...MS. MAUREEN DUNN for her help at Parish Leadership Day.

3) This coming SAT,3/7, FR. CHRIS KLUSMAN will be available NOON-2pm for Confessions for the deaf. Fr. Chris is a wonderful, holy priest. He is willing to drive from Milwaukee to give people God’s forgiveness. All of us – ALL OF US – are sinners. That includes me – FR. JOE! I need God’s forgiveness, too. Maybe you think your sins are too bad for God to forgive. NO! God is more powerful than any sin!!!! Ask God for mercy and forgiveness and God will always –ALWAYS – give you His forgiveness.

4) PARENTS: Archbishop Cupich wants YOUR opinion. This Fall, there will be a special meeting (SYNOD) in Rome re: family life. Archbishop Cupich has asked priests to get the opinion of parents about how the Church can make family life BETTER. Next Sunday, March 8th, 9-10am, Fr. Joe will host a meeting in the back room of the deaf center for ANY parents who want to come. There are several questions we need to discuss. I (Fr. Joe) hope you can make that meeting. Voice (English/Spanish), Sign.

5) ADA25CHICAGO: 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Lots of important activities happening in 2015. For on-going information:

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ada25chicago

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/ada25chicago

6) FRI, March 13, 5:30PM: “DEAF NIGHT” at St. Mary of Vernon “Fish Fry” (all you can eat). Rte. 45, Indian Creek. Reserved seating for the deaf. Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$9, \$6 children.

7) DEAF COFFEE SOCIALS this week: Weds, Mar 4 - 10 am to 4:30 pm at Congregation Bene Shalom, 4435 W. Oakton, Skokie; RSVP – hebrewsemdeaf@juno.com; Fri, Mar 6, 6 to 9 pm at Panera Bread, 9611 Skokie Blvd, Skokie AND 6 to 10 at Panera Bread, 20530 Rand Road, Deer Park (new location).