

## *PASTOR'S CORNER*

### **The Power of Prayer**

One of the more powerful weapons at our disposal as Christians is the power of intercessory prayer; when you or I use our priestly powers, conferred on us at baptism, to intercede for the welfare of another. Moreover, as a Priest, when I pray in that capacity, I bring to bear the entire power of the community that the Lord has asked me to shepherd. Examples of prayers of this type are Priestly blessings over married couples, babies and the like. When these prayers are incorporated during the Mass, they have access to the entire intercessory might of the Catholic Church gathered in prayer. Our special intention book, when placed on the altar, is used in exactly that way (you'll notice I place my hand on the book in silent prayer when it is placed on the altar).

Another kind of ancient prayer of this type is called a "Mass intention". This is a special intention (or prayer) for which the entire Mass is dedicated. For example, every Sunday Mass at 9:00 am is said for the spiritual benefit of all parishioners of St. Therese. This Sunday the 11:30 am Mass is prayed for the repose of the soul of Twila Rohlfing. The Priest saying the Mass will always say a prayer for Mass intentions either prior to Mass or, in the case of a deceased person, during the Mass itself.

In fact, Priests used to live off of the donations folks would make to have special intentions prayed on behalf of their loved ones. I do not take these donations personally, but allow them to accrue for the benefit of the parish. Typically donations for intentions are \$5 or \$10, but no amount need be contributed in order for you to request a Mass intention. Please let Nancy at the office know if you would like a Mass intention. She will inform you of availability (one per week per intention please) and give you a card indicating the intention and the

date the Mass will be said. Let's use all the powers at our disposal for the good of our loved ones and for our intention to grow in the Lord!

*Fr. Stephen Geer*