

I was disappointed to walk into the sanctuary this Sunday and see so few people. Our attendance has been low recently but Sunday's attendance set a new low. I had worked hard on my homily and was convinced that as many of our parish as possible should hear it because it dealt with an issue of fundamental importance. An issue that is threatened in some corners of the church in the days we live in. And an issue that you as the parish and I as the priest must be on the same page. Therefore, I have asked Lynne to post the transcript of it on the website. This <http://www.holytrinitysh.com/sermons-2/> is the link to it. Please take time to read it and meditate on it. It's important. It's so important that I took it home so that Dana and I could work on it together. As it turns out—she's a pretty good preacher!

The catechism class starts this Wednesday the 13th at the church. The time has changed, it will begin at 6:15pm. If you didn't sign up but would like to be included just come on over to the building at 6:15pm.

Someone said to me Sunday, *Boy you sure timed your vacation right. You missed the polar vortex.* I told them it even affected weather in Florida. We only got two days in the 70's. Surprisingly I didn't receive any pity. ☺

We are so very fortunate to be loved and graced by God. I think I can speak for everyone when I say I don't deserve it. (Please no emails confirming that.) I heard a teaching on giving while we were on vacation that I have never heard or thought of before. He pointed to Malachi 3.8 the prototypical v. on giving and pointed out that God made a distinction between the tithe and offerings above the tithe. *"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes **and** offerings due to me.* I have been a tither consistently for decades. It looks like now I am going to need to consider offerings beyond the 10%. Maybe this is new to you to. Maybe we're in the same boat. I don't preach on generosity toward God very much. I guess I think that's something that most every believer knows is a privilege to give to God the best gifts we can each and every Sunday. Generosity! I have checked out the Lessons for next Sunday and chosen the Gospel reading. It's focus is life in the Kingdom. Don't miss it!!