
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 32 Issue 9

December, 2008

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Ed Reilly

894-1373 pastor@mmoc4u.org

Dear Parishioners,

1. If you let God be God, then you are a free person.
2. God's best name is "surprise."
3. Don't let yourself be defined by others.
4. Accept your parents as they are/were.
5. Comparing is the death of the spiritual life.
6. Love people without manipulating them.
7. Possessions do not make you free.
8. The more transparent we become, the more we radiate happiness.
9. The experience of genuine love is always an undeserved gift.
10. Give your children back to God.

This take-off on the Ten Commandments may be found in Peter Van Breemen, S.J., "The God Who Won't Let Go." Ave Maria Press, Chapter 3.

November 29/ 30 weekends mark the beginning of a new Church Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent. You are welcome to rejoin us if you have been inactive.

Love,

Fr. Ed



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

This vivacious woman with a contagious laugh is willing to jump in and help anyone with any type of need. About two years ago, she completed the RCIA program in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. She loves to read novels, has a son in Iraq, a daughter soon to graduate from college and a son At Mehlville High School. She is an important member of the Mary Mother staff, but not visible to many parishioners. The staff appreciates her because she prepares delicious lunches for them. Fr. Ed and Fr. Mark appreciate her because she cooks their evening meals and keeps the rectory sparkling clean. Look on page 2 to see who this lady is.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Jim Yamnitz 894-7375

jimyamnitz@hotmail.com

It's that wonderful time of year when we take a few minutes to assess our circumstances and correctly conclude that we are truly blessed.

In spite of the many troubles in our world today and how they may affect us individually, I pray that we remain mindful that we are each graced with the capacity to bring the love and comfort of Christ to others.

Those who continue to act on that grace will, no doubt, find peace in their hearts and be filled with joy. After all, it is only in giving that one truly receives.

On behalf of a Council that honestly delights in serving the people of Mary Mother, I wish you much of that peace and joy throughout the Christmas season and in the New Year.

God bless!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

UPDATE STAFF

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**PARISH COUNCIL
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Lisa Raglin 894-9976

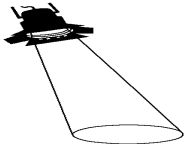
I'm continually amazed to witness the hand each commission has in the smooth running of our parish. We ALL know we're part of something special at Mary Mother; and Advent is a good time to contemplate what each of us can do to serve our Lord and parish a little better. It's the time of year to spread the great news of Jesus being born. "Evangelize!" There are many ways to do this. Mary Jo, our Evangelization Commission head, said it beautifully in her September Update; "To pray for others, to care for them and to model our faith by word and action." These are all things we can do. Use the little Blue Book provided by our Liturgy Commission. PRAY! Take part in the giving tree and food drives sponsored by the Christian Service Commission. Maybe there are friends or neighbors who have been away from church or who are new to the parish-- invite them back! Our bulletin is full of ways to become involved; and Advent is the perfect time for all of us to become better "evangelists."

Happy Advent!--Merry Christmas!

MMC NEWS FOR EVERYONE!

If you haven't bought MMC's, you don't know what you're missing – **AN EASY WAY TO HELP MARY MOTHER!**

PLEASE take a list home of the retailers who give a discount to non-profits for buying their certificates. With Christmas coming, use that list to plan your purchases, either for gifts OR to use when you're buying a gift or dining out.



THE SPOTLIGHT'S

PAM PLEIMANN

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHEERFUL SPIRIT
AND JOY-FILLED HEART AND FOR SERVING
YOUR MARY MOTHER FAMILY!!!**

Submitted by Libby Long and Laura Klages

PARISH NURSE

Libby Long & Laura Klages 894-1373

STRESS AND THE HOLIDAYS

Some suggestions for handling stress during the holidays:

S – smile. Shopping, preparation, planning saps our energy, making us feel frustrated and even angry. When you feel yourself becoming overloaded, stop what you are doing. Make yourself smile. Attitude change makes a difference.

T – talk. When we are worried, talking things out with a level headed and trusted confidant helps.

R – relax. Take a couple of minutes to relax every body part from toes to head, mentally letting go of tension. Take deep, slow breaths while relaxing.

E – eat properly. Stress robs the body of water, soluble vitamins and nutrients. Avoid extra sugar, fats, caffeine and nicotine. Eat more protein, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and whole grains. A daily vitamin is advised. Don't skip meals.

S – sing. Super busy day? This is when you really need to sit back and sing or hum your favorite song. Singing relaxes your mind and body.

S – schedule time out. During this stressful time, make time for exercise. Put 20 minutes aside each day for you and only you. Take care of you. Your family will love you for it.

It is our Privilege to Serve You! May you have a loving and peaceful Christmas season.

WALK TO JERUSALEM

In January the Health Ministry Commission is hosting an imaginary Walk to Jerusalem for all parishioners. This physical, spiritual and cultural program is in preparation for Lent and is extended to children, teenagers, adults and seniors. We will take a virtual tour from St. Louis to Boston, and then across the Atlantic Ocean, landing in Portugal. From Portugal we will "walk" to Spain, France, Italy, Bosnia, Greece, Turkey and then into Israel. Please watch for more information in the bulletin and in the December "In the Pink."



LITURGY NOTES

Ken Barnes 894-1373

Since the time we have moved back into our newly-renovated church space, there have been **a few questions that have surfaced concerning our Parish Music Ministry and the sound system in church.** It would be good for us to honor and address a few of those questions.

As mentioned at some of the Masses a few of weeks ago, we want to be clear that **the microphone next to the piano is not being used to amplify the piano through the sound system.** Rather, it is being used to send the piano sound to a **small speaker next to the cantor stand to help the cantors** hear the piano better as they sing. **The piano is just naturally loud because of all of the hard surfaces that have been introduced into the worship space (especially the floor).** We are **working on some ways to soften the sound** to make it more in balance with the voices in church. **We ask for your patience** as we continue to search for a solution for this situation.

We are also working on **ways to get all of the instruments in better balance so the Choirs and the Assembly can be heard well.** All of this **could take weeks or months of experimentation** because the balance of sound varies so much from one section of the church to another. **Please know we will work toward an eventual solution.** Thanks for understanding.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Pat Dean 842-1887

I am happy to report that Father Mark has again agreed to lead a group during Advent – Tuesday after Mass before each Advent Sunday – to discuss the readings in order to better prepare for Sunday liturgy. These will begin Tuesday, 11/25. **SIGN-UPS WILL BE IN THE FOYER,** and announcements made.

I recently returned from Medjugorje – a very prayerful trip. In Mary's talks with the visionaries, she repeats over and over the need to pray endlessly. The five weapons against the devil: Rosary, Eucharist, Bible, Fasting (twice weekly if at all possible) and Monthly Confession. In our current culture, we need to do what Mary asks.

God be with you.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ed Lewandowski 894-1373

SPONSORS ATTEND CONFIRMATION CLASS on DECEMBER 7th, 7-9 p.m. Please notify sponsors ahead of time. Complete and return the Sponsor Card. If the sponsor cannot attend, a parent must accompany the candidate. See further information and updated calendar in November Notes mailed to your home.

PREPARING FOR FIRST PENANCE

Calendar for Parents for Week of
December 7 - #3 Love One Another
December 14 - #4 God's Rules
December 21 - #5 Jesus Forgives
December 28- #6 Coming Home Again
January 4 - #7 Families Work Together
January 11- #8 Brand New Beginning
1st Penance Service on January 19, 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS RECESS for PSR begins after PSR sessions on December 15 and 17. PSR classes will resume on January 5 and 7. **No Sunday Preschool** on December 28. Sunday Preschool resumes January 4th, with Christmas Presentation in Church near end of Mass.

THANKS AND A REMINDER:

We are grateful for your regular Sunday offering and thank you very much. If you contribute on a quarterly basis, December 1 is the beginning of the next quarter. Check out FAITH DIRECT for automatic debit; call parish office for form. Thank you for your faithfulness!

'Tis the Season
Christmas House Tour and Luncheon
December 13th, starting at 11:00 a.m.
Cost is \$15

Four beautifully decorated homes to tour including a delicious lunch.

You can do some Christmas shopping and have a chance to win wonderful raffle prizes.

Call Pat at 892-6782 or Lois at 849-8255

LITURGY COMMISSION

Helen Collins 894-2537

After two years of campaigns, debates and the election, we are able to come together as a free country and give thanks to God as a nation on Thanksgiving Day. The Planning Team for the liturgy on Thanksgiving Day, headed by Randy and Mary Anne Howe, note in their plans: "What better way to start this holiday, which is usually marked with a great feast, than by celebrating the greatest Feast of all."

If you have never celebrated the liturgy on Thanksgiving Day at Mary, Mother, you are in for a treat. Mass is at 9:00 AM and takes on the aura of a large family – our parish family – happy to be celebrating together while remembering the poor with our Offertory gifts of canned goods and money, which we each take right up to the sanctuary.

And three days after Thanksgiving we begin the season of Advent! The Advent Planning Team, headed by Mary Ann Herbst, has been working hard to enhance our liturgies as we travel this season of preparation and active waiting– waiting not only for Christmas Day but for Jesus' return at the end of time. You are invited to take home a copy of the *Little Blue Book* for your meditation as you journey toward Christmas.

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

Mary Jo Masterson 843-7438

Thank you to a Mary Mother evangelizer for sharing the following:

Loving God, You called us each by name and gave Your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, You sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us. Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us and the generosity to share His love with those who are far away. We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know His all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please pray this prayer and be an evangelizer, too!

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Pat Echelmeyer 892-6782

Living Rosary and Ice Cream Social – I'm sure our Mother Mary was smiling down on our parish. We had a large gathering for the Rosary. Afterwards everyone got together in the hall for ice cream and a good time. Thanks to Barb and Ed Killius for organizing all the participants and Susan Hoskins for serving the ice cream.

Progressive Dinner - What a nice way to share a lovely evening at the Progressive Dinner with our Mary Mother family. Thanks to all who opened their homes for a wonderful night of hospitality, delicious food and fun. Cheryl Boston and Lin Blaszkiewicz did a fantastic job of orchestrating a great night of entertainment.

Christmas Tour and Luncheon – December 13th. Join us for a wonderful lunch, tour four homes and do some Christmas Shopping. Cost is \$15.

Book Fair and Tailgate Sale – April 25th. Continue saving your books and items.

As our year comes to an end and we prepare for the coming of Jesus, may we all "Catch the Mary Mother Spirit" and share it.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Angie Ness 704-1590

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I want to extend my thanks to a wonderful group of people in our parish. This dedicated group gathers monthly to oversee the budget of the church, monitor the expenditures and revenue, discuss long-range planning and discuss how to best financially serve the parish. With a budget of over a million dollars this fiscal year, it is vital that members of the parish be involved in the financial success of the church. The Administration and Finance Commission members contribute to the goals of Mary Mother and deserve thanks for their wonderful work each month. To these members, THANK YOU!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION*Valentine Korenak 842-9237*

Greetings from the Christian Service Commission

The Christmas Gift and Food Drive for the Rock Church are coming up on Dec 7th. We need donations and volunteers to load and unload the truck.

We are looking for someone to relieve Jeanine Schuster on the Funeral Luncheons. Please call Jeanine or myself.

MCU held its Annual Public Meeting at St. Louis University in October and Mary Mother had 25 parishioners in attendance. The theme was Faith and Democracy and was meant as a kick off for local congregations to begin having conversations about the subject.

Sue Buerkle and Ginny Schrappen attended the Human Rights Office Social Justice Workshop at Cardinal Rigali Center in October. Speakers included the director of the Respect Life Apostolate, the Senior Director on Advocacy for Catholic Charities, the director of the Human Rights Office, who addressed diversity/racism, and the Social Justice Outreach Coordinator for the Archdiocese. Judy Reuter just joined the MMOC Social Justice Leadership team. The team will be contacting everyone at MMOC to determine their level of interest.

Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**LAST CHANCE FOR
ENTERTAINMENT 2009
COUPON BOOKS**

The last chance to purchase your Entertainment 2009 Coupon Book will be in the vestibule after all Masses on the **weekend of December 20-21**, and in the church office or by calling Phil or Liz Brave at 314-892-7782 by Monday, December 22nd. Don't forget, they make great Christmas gifts.

TITHING**OCTOBER 2008 (4 SUNDAYS)**

Our Lady of Guadalupe, \$650 – To provide prenatal and infant care through the parish nurse program and to help support the parish school.

St. Augustine's Christmas Program, \$700 – To provide Christmas baskets and gift certificates for shoes for inner-city poor families

Southside Christmas Program, \$700 – To provide food during the holidays thru three area churches (Guardian Angels Settlement Association, Kingdom House, and St. Vincent DePaul Parish)

Feed My People, \$650 – Provides emergency food and many other services to the poor in South County

St. Agatha Center, \$650 – Ministers to the poor within parish boundaries, includes food pantry and education center.

Sts. Peter and Paul Community Services, \$700 – Provides shelter, meals, transportation, and medical care for mentally ill young men who are homeless.

Beyond Housing, \$650– Attends to the needs of obtaining and maintaining housing; helps build up families by teaching them the skills to successfully manage and maintain their property. (Since 1997). This operates like a local Habit for Humanity.

Mary, Mother Emergency Fund, \$600

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK SUPPER**

DECEMBER 14TH AT 5:00 PM

AT THE HOME OF
Pat and Jackie Wilson
4586 Braungate Dr.

Any person who has made a Marriage Encounter weekend is invited.

RSVP at 314-892-3547 or wilsjmar@charter.net

RSVP by December 8th

Also, include the type of dish that you're bringing.

CITIZENS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Carl Hendrickson 892-6451

Missouri ranks 8th in the nation in the number of registered sexual offenders. Our children are not safe from sexual predators. Join CAP on the third Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in its battle to protect our young people.

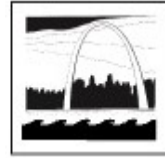
PRO-LIFE

Archbishop Charles T. Chaput, O.F.M. wrote: "Abortion is always gravely evil and so are the evasions employed to justify it. Catholics who make excuses for it, whether they're famous or not, fool only themselves and abuse the fidelity of those Catholics who do sincerely seek to follow the Gospel and live their Catholic faith."

During the Christmas season we must pray for our Church throughout the world, that God shall teach us how to defend and protect the weak, poor, sick, and every little child, so we might value the infinite gift of their life.

The Pro-Life Committee wishes everyone a blessed and happy Christmas and that you feel the abiding love of the Holy Family.

Next meeting is December 2nd, 6:30 p.m. in the upper Annex.



METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED ISAIAH

Ginny Schrappen 487-6584

Now that the election and MCU's public meeting are behind us, our question is "What now?" Our faith tells us that **we are called to live our life as fundamentally connected** to God and to our neighbor. Our **lived reality**, however, **is one of radical separateness, isolation and disconnection. The social structures and institutions that shape our lives keep us separate and disconnected.** These structures keep us separate geographically, economically, racially and relationally. The assumptions that that we are radically separate beings and must compete for scarce resources are the driving forces underlying the current divisions along lines of race, class and place. There is a chasm between the call of our faith and the disconnected nature of our daily reality that causes pain to us as individuals and exacts a profound cost on our society as a whole. To face the crisis we see in our country, our communities and in the lives of our families, we must understand that **the transformation of the center of our democracy is not only a political project, but a spiritual project.** It will require a body of people willing to live, to act and to project **an entirely new way of being.**

KEN DAUST — 2008 — MMOC 4TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



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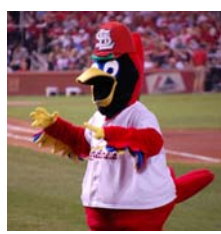
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BOYS 1:30 PM

GIRLS 3:30PM

5901 KERTH RD. PAC CENTER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Preschool Jonah Team Parish Food Drive Conf. Class-7:00 Come & Ask About the Cath. Faith 1:00 - rms. 384</p>	<p>1 PSR Classes</p>	<p>2 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00 Pro-Life - 6:30 Merry Moms-7:00 Soccer/VB unif. returns/BB unif.</p>	<p>3 Exposition C.Stone/Tai Chi PSR Classes ACTS - women 7:00 Parish Council C.Form/Choir 7:15 Cancer Spt.-7:30</p>	<p>4 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 C. Serv. - 7:00 Choir Prac.-7:30 Lit. Mtg. - 7:30</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Parish Food Drive Jonah Team after Mass in Meeting Room</p>
<p>7 Preschool Jonah Team Parish Food Drive Conf. Class-7:00 Come & Ask About the Cath. Faith 1:00 - rms. 384</p>	<p>8 The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary NO PSR Classes Masses: 6:30 & 8:30 am and 7:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00 PEACE - 7:00 Youth Adult Vol. Annex - 7:30 Health Comm. 7:30</p>	<p>10 Exposition Tai Chi - 9:30 Sandwich Shoppe C.Stone - 9:30 PSR Classes ACTS-women-7:00 Choir Prac. 7:15</p>	<p>11 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 Choir Prac.-7:30</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 CHRISTMAS TOUR & LUNCHEON-11:00 Blood Pressure Screening</p>
<p>14 Preschool Blood Pressure Screening Healing Mass Sep.&Divorced Youth Group-7:00</p>	<p>15 PSR Classes</p>	<p>16 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00 ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE - 7:30pm</p>	<p>17 Exposition Cornerstone-9:30 Tai Chi - 9:30 PSR Classes Ath. - 7:00 ACTS-women-7:00 Choir Prac. 7:15</p>	<p>18 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 Choir Prac.-7:30 CAP - 7:30 -fm1</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Preschool NO UPDATE MM Senior Social Group-1:30-1&2 Youth Group 7:00pm - PAC</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Exposition Quilters/TOPS Sandwich Shoppe Stitching-6:30 Ad Fin - 6:30 PEACE - 7:00 Merry Moms-7:00</p>	<p>24 Exposition MASSES: 5:00pm, Midnight</p>	<p>25 Christmas HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS MASSES: 9:30 & 11:15</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 No Preschool Youth Group Service (Off Site) 7:00pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00</p>	<p>31 Exposition</p>	<h1>December 2008</h1>		

UPDATE

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UPDATE

Members

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Michael
Dykstra

Rita
Shirley

Matteo

NEW

MARRIAGES:

Adams & Ellen
Pleimann & Erin

DEATHS:

Maguire
Bommarito

BAPTISMS:

Gatti

PARISHIONERS:

David & Lori Bujnak
Samantha, Kelsey, Rachel, Nicholas
Jerry & Sally Fel Dotto
Shawn & Michelle O'Connell

FAREWELL:

Michael & Janis Conway
Mark & Linda Gardner
John & Patricia Nicka
Anthony & Mary Russo
Bob Valko

A HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR