
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 33 Issue 2

March, 2009

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Ed Reilly

894-1373 pastor@mmoc4u.org

Dear parishioners,

As Pastor I cannot be concerned only with the Sacramental/Liturgical aspects of our parish life. I must also look to the financial health of Mary Mother. It is disheartening to realize that 1/3 of MMC households are zero contributors. Despite the injustice of the situation, we have not refused to respond to the requests of this group of parishioners. The down turn in the economy has resulted in an imbalance between parish income and expenses. In the future we will be constrained to charge zero contributors a substantial fee for certain services and not offer others. I hope the justice of this arrangement will encourage the zero contributors to begin to make regular donations to the parish.

Households with special financial difficulties will be treated with compassion.

Love,

Fr. Ed

A Lenten Journey of Love

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Jim Yamnitz 894-7375

jimyamnitz@hotmail.com

How blessed we are to again have such a large number of wonderfully qualified parishioners step up and place their names on Parish Council ballots. They have done so fully aware that a position on this council is not merely an honorarium; it is a commitment.

A sense of duty to the hundreds of gifted individuals who make our many parish programs go will soon captivate a new group of council members. An obligation of parish stewardship and community outreach will embody them; and they will take great joy in serving you.

And in just two short years (one for our Youth rep) they will reflect on how they have come to better know and love this parish and all its members. They will be saddened that their time on the council is winding down, but gladdened by what is in store for the newly elected. And so it goes.

God bless!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

This person has been a member of Mary Mother for over 25 years. She and her husband have 3 children and 14 grandchildren, 3 of which she home schools. She chairs a Parish Council commission and serves as secretary on another. You might find her quilting on Tuesday, keeping track of MM certificates, or checking on the adoration schedule. This very busy lady even found time to open her home for last year's Christmas tour. Look on page 2 to see who this busy lady is.

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PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Lisa Raglin 894-9976

“YES!” That is what 17 nominees have answered to the call to run on this year’s ballot for Parish Council! The Holy Spirit is guiding them; and they are trusting enough to follow. Thank you to all who participated in the nomination process. Each one of us is vital to the growth and direction of this amazing parish, Mary Mother. By the time this is in print you will be seeing posters and bios of the nominees. Please take the time to read about them, pray for them and when the time comes, VOTE! Do not just pass the little papers at the ends of those pews to the person next to you. God calls each one of us in a special way to be involved in our parish, no matter how big or small. Quoting Mother Teresa, “All of us are but His instruments, who do our little bit and pass by.” I am proud and happy to be doing my “little bit” with all of you!

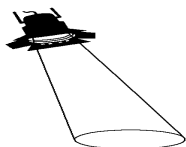
Happy St. Patrick’s Day

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

Mary Jo Masterson 843-7438

Attention friendly people of Mary Mother! The Evangelization Commission needs you. Each month we schedule visits with newly registered families to take them a “welcome” gift and to answer any questions they might have. Over fifty such visits have been made in the past year. Our great Ambassadors have been carrying out this task in pairs. We would love to recruit a few more people to help in this effort. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me or leave your name in the parish office.

Please be sure to join us for The Journey of St. Paul on Tuesday evening, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This wonderful presentation is being brought to MMOC by the Theater of the Word. The free one-hour play brings St. Paul alive to its audience. It’s is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!



THE SPOTLIGHT’S ON.....

PAT DEAN

Thank you for all you do.

Submitted by Mary Jo Masterson



LITURGY NOTES

Ken Barnes 894-1373

As we enter the month of March, we once again find ourselves in the midst of the liturgical **Season of Lent**. Lent has a **three-fold path of spiritual growth** characterized by **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** --- these focus our attention on improving our relationship to God and God’s people. Sometimes we can find ourselves thinking a lot about **repentance, cleansing of sin and guilt, and sacrificing something to help our spiritual growth**.

Another thing that often surfaces during Lent is **the desire to return to the simplicities of life**. Sometimes, we say to ourselves: **life is so complicated and fast-paced**; it would be great to **slow down and appreciate a moment of time in all of its stark wonder and basic glory**.

In a effort to **fulfill a small portion of this desire for simplicity**, those of us in the Parish Music Ministry will be trying something basic and simple with some of the music sung at Mass during Lent. Specifically, **we plan to sing Psalms** (after the First Reading) **that have a very simple setting of chant or psalm tones**. Be aware of this music and its very straightforward and beautiful style. **Perhaps this kind of sound can contribute something**

ROAST THE PASTOR

March 14th, Saturday with Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Corned Beef & Cabbage at 7:00

Roast to follow

Auction of some of Father’s Ed’s personal items plus more!

Tickets are \$35 a person.

If you can’t attend but would like to make a donation, forms are in the vestibule.

Wear your name tag for a chance to win a prize.

Please note this is a FUNDRAISER, not a going-away party which will be later.

LITURGY COMMISSION

Helen Collins 894-2537

I am departing from my usual format this month to address our **Hospitality Ministers**. It has been brought to the attention of our commission that we have been slacking in the area of **welcoming** those who come to worship.

Let me begin by thanking all of our Hospitality Ministers who **DO** arrive 15 minutes before Mass, station themselves at an entrance and warmly welcome all who enter. You are beautiful hosts and hostesses for Our Lord's banquet. Your smiling faces and attentive ways tell everyone we have no strangers here - only friends who may not have met - long a tradition at Mary, Mother.

However, some Hospitality Ministers have been observed chatting in clusters while the entrances are left unattended. Others (too many) have been observed leaning against the back wall of church staring straight ahead at the sanctuary and paying no attention to those entering the church. Still others just don't show up at their scheduled times.

Notice - we have **Hospitality Ministers** and not "ushers." **Welcoming all who enter** is the most important aspect of your ministry. Collecting the money, etc. can be done by anyone but it takes a **special person** to represent Our Lord to all who come through our doors!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Pat Dean 842-1887

Our Bible "Adventure" series is in full swing. We have a waiting list if we offer it again, possibly in the fall.

Don't forget—we will offer Stations of the Cross, along with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayers for peace and life on Fridays during Lent—at **4 PM** (an hour later than previous years), concluding by 4:40 PM. Hope many can join us.

The Stations are a prayerful end to each Lenten week. Think of something you can do during Lent each day—not so formidable that it quickly goes by the wayside—to worship the God Who gave His life for us.

Contemplate the daily Mass readings given in our bulletin; say a Rosary each day for the defeat of FOCA; pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily; spend time in our adoration chapel; attend Mass more often than Sundays—**ANYTHING** that reminds you this is a special liturgical season meant to draw us closer to God and prepare for Holy Week.

God be with you!



What is the Sandwich Shoppe and why we need your help?

Three times a month a different group of parishioners gets together in the parish kitchen to make sandwiches for Karen House. Each group buys their meat, bread, and condiments to make up to 480 sandwiches at a time. There are usually six to eight volunteers, but our number of helpers is down. **We need some more help.**

The time commitment is minimal. It takes less than an hour a month at one of the "Sandwich Shoppe" production lines. We could use help just to pick up the bread or the meat. Maybe that is all you have time for now.

The food goes to Karen House, which is a homeless shelter for women and children in north St. Louis that was founded in 1977. It was named for its first guest. Karen house is run solely by volunteers.

Perhaps, you could try helping at the "Sandwich Shoppe" during this Lent. There are morning and evening opportunities - 2nd Wednesday at 9:15 a.m., 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., and 4th Tuesday at 9:15 a.m.

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Pat Echelmeyer 892-6782

Sure and begona you are all cordially invited to the Roasting of Monsignor Reilly.

We'll raise some funds and we'll raise some cheer. And let's not forget to raise a beer.

March 14th, Saturday with Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.
Corned Beef & Cabbage at 7:00
Roast to follow

Auction of some of Father's Ed's personal items plus more! Tickets are \$35 a person. If you can't attend but would like to make a donation, forms are in the vestibule. Wear your name tag for a chance to win a prize. Please note this is a FUNDRAISER, not a going-away party which will be later.

Poker Tournament January 30 - Thanks to Gary, Don and Bob for hosting another terrific tournament providing a fun evening with a profit of \$650. Way to go, guys.

Fish Fry	March 6 and 20 - New items on the menu.
Book Fair Drop-off	March 20 - Donated books may be left on marked tables in vestibule
Pancake Breakfast	April 26
Book Fair and Tailgate Sale	May 15-17
Golf Tournament	TBA
Road Rally	TBA

TITHING

January 2009 (4 Sundays)

- 1.) **Central Catholic St. Nicholas School**, \$1000– To assist our sister parish, the Rock Church, in funding its parish school, providing an education for 275 inner city students. (semi-annual contribution, since 2006)
 - 2.) **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, \$1000 – To support Catholic education at the school. (Quarterly)
 - 3.) **St. Anthony Food Pantry**, \$1000 - Provides direct service to the poor. (donations 3x per year, since 1999)
 - 4.) **Living Faith Foundation**, \$500 – Provides the *Living Faith* booklet and Bibles to prisoners. Prison ministry.
 - 5.) **Redemptorists, Region of Nigeria**, \$1000 – To support poor parishes in Nigeria as well as to help supply materials to the schools. (Since 2004)
 - 6.) **Solar Oven Society**, \$200 – Provides solar ovens to reduce dependence on firewood for cooking. Saves time of scavenging, protects the denuding of the environment and lessens pollution. (since 2004)
 - 7.) **Special Olympics**, \$ 300 – Provides mentally challenged people the opportunity to benefit from athletic and sports training.
- Mary, Mother Emergency Fund**, \$500 (as needed)

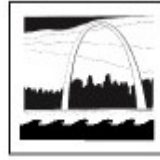
*God bless you
with healthy and happiness*

God Bless You
This Lent

CITIZENS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Carl Hendrickson 892-6451

NOT MY CHILD - heard when the subject of teen sexuality arises. But with the increase of STD, teen sexuality today is a medical and moral crisis. Encourage your child's school to schedule Dr. Robert Bergamini, St. John's Mercy Medial Center, for a presentation on teen sexuality and the spread of STD.



MCU for St. Louis

METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED ISAIAH

Ginny Schrappen 487-6584

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

There is so much more to being healthy than we could imagine. The World Health Organization defines "health" as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." If we truly want to live in thriving communities, people need to have access to care when they need it; but we must also face the realities of economic and racial inequality that often prevent people from holistic well-being and health.

There are many factors that impact health, one of them is education. Missouri does not have a high graduation rate. MCU has been working hard to develop effective means of addressing inequality in public education. Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, on public assistance. "So how does this affect me, where I live?"

As we age and need more people to assist us, we want these people to have some working knowledge of the basics of live. We also want our children and grandchildren to be self supporting and to live in viable communities; those goals are not always easily met. On Tuesday, March 24, at MMOC we will have a Healthy Communities Road Show at 7:00 p.m. that will help us to see what actions can be taken today. All are invited.

PRO-LIFE

John Siesener 842-6408

Two letters of thanks received:

"With grateful hearts we thank you and ask God's blessings for your support of the South County Pro-Life Billboard on Highways 270 & 55 with the purchase of pro-life Christmas cards. Your decision to use pro-life cards to send greetings of a Blessed Christmas helped us realize the funds we need to keep the plight of the unborn in the minds of millions of drivers who pass by it all year long."

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE – SOUTH COUNTY

"Thank you for your support of Missouri Right to Life, your pro-life voice in Jefferson City. Through your generous support, MMOC parishioners are recognized for their deep respect for the sanctity of human life."

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE – EASTERN REGION

Next meeting is March 3rd, 6:30 p.m. in the upper Annex.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Preschool RCIA - 10:00am Chapel	2 PSR Classes	3 Exposition Quilters/TOPS Bible Class Pro-Life-6:30 Journey St. Paul MMSteering Grp.	4 C. Form. - 7:45 Exposition Cornerstone Tai Chi-9:30 PSR Classes Choir Prac. 7:00 Cancer Support	5 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 ALPHA - 6:30 Choir Prac. 7:00 C. Serv. - 7:00 Liturgy - 7:30	6 STATIONS OF THE CROSS-4:00 FISH FRY 4:00 - HALL	7 ACTS - 9:30am 1st Communion Workshop - 9:30 Jonah Team 6:00
8 Preschool Jonah Team after all Masses RCIA - 10:00am Fam. Conn. Mission Carnival 12:30	9 Beg. Again meeting - 7:00 PSR Classes Teen Choir-7:30 Youth Comm. 7:30	10 Exposition Quilters Bible Class TOPS - 9:00 PEACE - 7:00 Youth Vols 7:30	11 Exposition Sandwich Shoppe Cornerstone Tai Chi-9:30 Children's Choir PSR Classes Choir Prac. 7:00	12 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 ALPHA - 6:30 Choir Prac. 7:00	13 STATIONS OF THE CROSS-4:00 Alpha Retreat 6:30 - Hall	14 Alpha Retreat AED/CPR - 8:30 ACTS - 9:30am B.P. Screening PASTOR ROAST - 6:00pm
15 Preschool RCIA - 10:00am B.P. Screening UPDATE DUE	16 NO PSR Classes	17 Exposition Quilters Bible Class TOPS - 9:00 Sandwich Shoppe Health C. - 7:30 Social C. - 7:30	18 Exposition Cornerstone Tai Chi - 9:30 NO PSR Classes Choir Prac. 7:00 Athletics-7:00 Evan. - 7:30	19 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 Teen Choir-6:00 ALPHA - 6:30 Choir Prac. 7:00 Merry Moms-7:00 CAP - 7:30	20 STATIONS OF THE CROSS-4:00 FISH FRY 4:00 - HALL	21 ACTS - 9:30am Ath. Coaches Dinner - 7:00
22 Preschool RCIA - 10:00am Youth Group Service - 7:00 Off site	23 PSR Classes	24 Exposition Quilters/TOPS Bible Class Sandwich Shoppe Stitching-6:30 Ad Fin - 6:30 PEACE - 7:00	25 Exposition Cornerstone Tai Chi - 9:30 Children's Choir PSR Classes Choir Prac. 7:00 Uniform returns	26 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 ALPHA - 6:30 Choir Prac. 7:00 Parish Council Mtg. - 7:30 3&4	27 STATIONS OF THE CROSS-4:00	28 ACTS - 9:30am 5th Gr. Spring Service Project 1st Communion Retreat & Pot- luck - 12:30pm
29 Preschool RCIA - 10:00am	30 PSR Classes	31 Exposition Quilters Bible Class TOPS - 9:00 RECONCILIATION SERVICE - 7:30				

UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church
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UPDATE

BAPTISMS:

Sydney Meyer

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Bryan & Christine Bye
Matthew, Elizabeth
Bill & Patty Cliffe
John & Heather Munzert
Mark & Rhonda Galentine
Charles, Chloe
Mildred Janson
John & Bonnie Lampertz

FAREWELL:

Paul & Betty Randick
Roy Schumaker

HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY