
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 33 Issue 9

December, 2009

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Jim Telthorst 894-1373
jamestelthorst@gmail.com

Dear Parishioners of Mary, Mother of the Church,

Many of you are familiar with the practice of "Mass intentions." This practice has long been part of our Church's traditions but often misunderstood. An intention is requested by individuals wishing to remember a friend or family member who has died (or a request that a living person be remembered for a special reason), asking that the intention be remembered by a priest during a particular Mass. A financial offering usually accompanies the request. Often a Mass card is provided to those requesting the intention should they wish to notify the family of the deceased. Sometimes people ask if the name could be mentioned during the Mass. We may do so only as we mention "all who have died and especially..." then name the person. We try to avoid the words, "for whom this Mass is offered," since no Mass can be limited to a single intention. Countless intentions are present in the hearts of those attending but only one daily offering may be accepted by the priest.

Msgr. Jim Telthorst

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Lisa Raglin 894-9976

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!!" I've always loved the Advent season and all of the different ways we "prepare" here at Mary Mother for the birthday of Jesus. It is a time of anticipation, hope and excitement! Just as in our own homes we are busily preparing for Christmas and have our own traditions, so we do here in our Mary Mother family. The Advent Enhancement Team has been helping to prepare our liturgies for months so that we can hear the same familiar readings and songs, yet have a new and different way of hearing and understanding them. The Youth are getting ready for their annual sale of holiday items in the vestibule to prepare for their retreat this coming year. Christian Service has prepared paper ornaments (or cards) with items to be purchased for the needy in our area. Our Advent Reconciliation Service is another special way to prepare our OWN selves. Our weekly bulletin is full of ways for us to be involved with our parish family, not only during this lovely season of Advent, but throughout the whole year.

Happy Advent!!

UPDATE STAFF

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SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

She played a saint, she cooks and serves food at Alpha. She takes blood pressure and gives out the Body and Blood of Christ. Look on page 5 to see who this lady is.

PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Randy Howe 892-6396

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

We begin the celebration of the Season of Advent on November 28-29. The focus of Advent is preparation for the coming of the Lord—both in the commemoration of His Birth and His coming again at the end of time. Did you know that even though most of our country thinks (acts) like the Christmas Season starts on the Friday after Thanksgiving, that it really **DOES NOT**? If we start celebrating the Christmas Season at Thanksgiving, we miss the rich opportunity presented to us in the Season of Advent. The mood of this season should be one of somber spiritual preparation that increases in joy with each day. Advent is the time to make ready for Christ to live with us. Maybe this year we can focus on and take to heart the message of John the Baptist from whom we hear so much during Advent.

**“Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”**

PARISH NURSE

Libby Long & Laura Klages 894-1373

CATARACTS

A cataract is a clouding of the eye’s lens that causes loss of vision. A cataract can occur in either eye or both eyes. The lens of the eye is composed of water and protein arranged in a precise way to let the light through. When the protein clumps together it clouds the lens and this is a cataract.

Cataracts used to be considered “age related;” but that is misleading. People can develop a cataract due to certain diseases, (hypertension, diabetes), personal behaviors (smoking, alcohol use) and the environment (prolonged exposure to ultraviolet sunlight). There are even congenital cataracts seen in infants.

Throughout the year, when you are – working, driving in a vehicle, playing sports - wear sunglasses and a hat with a brim to block ultraviolet sunlight. Eat green leafy vegetables, fruit and other foods with antioxidants. Have a professional eye exam annually. If you are over 60, your pupils should be dilated giving the doctor a good view of the retina and optic nerve to help detect glaucoma and macular degeneration. Take an active role in the health care of your eyes.

It is Our Privilege to Serve You!



LITURGY NOTES

Ken Barnes 894-1373

A music question came up recently which deserves to be addressed. **Why do we sing the same melodies for Mass Acclamations for several weeks before we switch to another set of melodies?** Actually, there is a very specific pattern that we are following for determining this.

First, it might be good to explain which Mass Acclamations are in question. There are a total of **six pieces of music** that fit into this category. They include the *Glory To God*, the *Gospel Acclamation* (or Alleluia!), the *Holy*, the *Memorial Acclamation* (i.e. “Christ Has Died,” etc.), the *Amen*, and the *Lamb Of God*.

Most of the time, **these pieces are available in a set**, i.e., Mass Acclamations written by the same composer to be compatible. Right now, **our parish sings about six sets** of Mass Acclamations. So, we use these sets in the following pattern: Set 1 is sung for **Advent and Christmas**; Set 2 for **Winter Ordinary Time** (from mid-January until Ash Wednesday); Set 3 for **Lent and Holy Week**; Set 4 for the **Easter Vigil and the Easter Season**; Set 5 for **Summer Ordinary Time** (from mid-June until mid-September --- *this is the longest stretch of time*); and Set 6 for **Fall Ordinary Time** (mid-September until Advent begins again). **It has long been a recommendation of the Church to change Mass Settings along with the seasons**, which is what we are doing right now. However, a possible adaptation for the future is to break up that long stretch of Summer Ordinary Time by using two Mass Settings instead of one. Perhaps we should try that in 2010. **What do you think?**



LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE ENTERTAINMENT 2010 COUPON BOOKS

Your last chance to purchase your **ENTERTAINMENT 2010 COUPON BOOK** will be in the vestibule after all Masses on the **weekend of December 19-20**, and in the Parish office or by calling Phil or Liz Brave at 892-7782 by Monday December 21st.

Sales have now reached the **BONUS** level. This means that for each book sold, Mary Mother receives \$15. If anyone has a friend, relative or co-worker who might be interested in purchasing a book, please help by letting them know we have books for sale.

Don’t forget, they make great Christmas gifts.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ed Lewandowski 894-1373

SPONSORS ATTEND CONFIRMATION CLASS on DECEMBER 13th, 7-9 p.m. Please notify sponsors ahead of time. Complete and return Sponsor Card. If 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

Read each leaflet with your child for week of
December 6 - #3 Love One Another
December 13 - #4 God's Rules
December 20 - #5 Jesus Forgives
December 27- #6 Coming Home Again
January 3 - #7 Families Work Together
January 10- #8 Brand New Beginning
1st Penance Service on January 18, 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS RECESS for PSR begins after PSR sessions on December 14 and 16 and resume on January 4 and 6. No Sunday Preschool School on December 27. Sunday School resumes January 3rd.

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 the parish office for a form. Thank you for your faithfulness!



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK SUPPER

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
AT 5:00 PM**

AT THE HOME OF PAT AND JACKIE WILSON
4586 Braungate Dr.

All individuals who have made a Marriage Encounter
Weekend are invited.

FOR INFORMATION OR TO RSVP,
CALL 314-892-3547 OR EMAIL
wilsjmar@charter.net

RSVP by December 8th

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

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

Kim & Rich Blackford 845-9422

Maybe it is due to the poor economy, but it seems like "they" are pushing us to Christmas much earlier this year. As I write this, it's about 10 days before Thanksgiving and I see few signs of it in general society. Many who seemingly would like to skip right over Thanksgiving don't even know that Advent exists. So I urge you to remember Advent and to help your children, grandchildren, or nieces and nephews to learn what it's all about. Maybe the following ideas will help.

- **Make an Advent prayer chain.** Using construction paper, cut one strip for each day of Advent. Before linking them together write a prayer request on each one. Be sure to include the children's ideas too. Make them into a chain. On each day of Advent take one off and pray together for that intention.
- **Make a family blessing jar.** Decorate an empty jar and put it on your dining table. On each day during Advent, write one blessing you are thankful for on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. On Christmas day, pour out the blessings. Read them together and give thanks to God for the blessings you have enjoyed during Advent.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Pat Dean 842-1887

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 17, 2010 – 1 PM

The Christian Formation and Evangelization Commissions are teaming up to bring you a new Theater of the Word production in honor of the Year for Priests. This will be presented in the sanctuary at 1 PM, on Sunday, December 17, at no cost to parishioners, other than a free will offering.

The play - Faith of Our Father: The Story of a Priest - focuses on Father Mike, a young priest recently appointed pastor at a suburban parish. The four-person play runs 1 to 1½ hours and is especially appropriate for adults, teens and older children. AND it's a GREAT way to start the New Year! More about this will be in the Bulletin closer to the performance date.

Between now and then, I hope your Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations are happy ones. Try to carve out some time each day of Advent to spend with our Lord, as we intensify our desire for His coming.

God be with you during this blessed season!

LITURGY COMMISSION

Mary Anne Howe 892-6396

November is the last month of the Church year celebrated in Ordinary time. Advent approaches quickly and soon we will see our clergy vested in the beautiful lavender/blue hues of the Advent season.

Our church environment will gently remind us that this is a time of peaceful preparation; a time to be still and listen for the ways Our Lord is asking us to prepare our heart-room that waits and longs for Him. This is the perfect time to make it a practice to come into our church and chapel in a prayerful and respectful silence. Silence gives respect to God and our community.

Your Liturgy Commission prays that you and yours will be able to celebrate with us at Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 A.M. as we give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings.

Thank you for all the ways you add to worship at Mary Mother.

ATHLETICS

Mary Ann Daust 892-7452

We wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season and Thank You for your time and love for Our Children at Mary Mother.

Please, there is Basketball Registration and Uniform Pickup Dates as well as Soccer and Volleyball Uniform return dates. All returns and pickups will be done in the Parish Hall.

The dates are:

Tuesday, November 24th: 8:00-9:00 PM
 Wednesday, December 2nd: 8:00-9:00 PM
 Thursday, December 3rd: 8:00-9:00 PM
 Tuesday, January 5th: 8:00-9:00 PM

K-grade 2 Basketball: Bring 2 checks and make them payable to Mary, Mother of the Church.

For CYC Basketball (grades 3-8), also bring 2 checks. Make them payable to Mary, Mother of the Church.

This information has been and will be in the bulletin for your convenience.

We would love to have you come to our meetings. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM in the Annex. Do join us.

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Susan Krieger 892-6167

November was a quiet month for the Social Commission. We unfortunately had to cancel the Progressive Dinner as we did not have enough sign up. Thanks, though, to those who did sign up. We think this may work better as an every other year event, so we'll try again in 2010.

I hope you all had a very blessed Thanksgiving with your families and friends.

Upcoming Social Events:

Mouse Races: Saturday, December 5th. This is not a Social Commission sponsored event; however, it IS a first-time event for Mary Mother and sure to be GREAT Fun! Don't miss out !!!

Christmas Home Tour and Luncheon: Saturday, December 12th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Get your reservations in now!

Annual Poker Tournament: Tentatively scheduled for: Friday, January 29, 2010. Watch for date confirmation and Sign-up details in future Sunday Bulletins.

'Sound of Music' play/musical: February, 5, 6 and 7th performed by our very own Mary Mother parishioners!

Three Lenten Fish Fries: February 19, March 5, and March 19, 2010.

Book Fair: May 14, 15 and 16, 2010. **REMINDER:** If you have books to donate, please start collecting and storing them at home for now.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Craig Snavelly 487-8995

On November 7th we celebrated our Mass of Remembrance for those walking the Journey of Grief. As a parish family we join together and offer our support to those around us who are grieving for their loss.

At Mass, the Autumn Wreath is a circle which represents eternity, symbolizing the spirit of a loved one who lives on forever. Behind the wreath is our Catholic symbol of hope in Christ, the Paschal Candle-The Light of Christ!

The five Candlebearers represented The Fire of Grief, The Fire of Healing, The Fire of Courage, The Fire of Hope, and The Fire of Love. Each of these candles has received its light from the Paschal Candle-the Light of Christ-the Light of Hope. Hope is the optimism and trust that the grief, the courage, the memories-both good and bad, and the love you have for your departed one will come together in your hearts to provide healing!

Each member of the congregation then came forward to take up their lighted candle from the Paschal Candle and took it back to their pew, and home after mass. "Hold onto this light and let it lead you through darkness."

The candle was for them to keep as their symbol of Hope. They light it when needed and may place it on their table at Thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout the year. Let it lead them through the darkness of grief.

We wish you days filled with courage, warm memories, deep love, eased pain, and eternal hope!

GIVING TREE AND CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE For The Rock Church

Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6

Bring food and gift items to the Parish Hall.

TITHING

OCTOBER 2009 (4 SUNDAYS)

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe, \$900 – Provides support for the Parish and School. The school serves as an outreach to educating the poor. The donation helps pay for basic needs. (Quarterly contribution since 1999)

2. St. Augustine's Christmas Program, \$1,000 – Provides Christmas baskets and gift certificates for shoes for inner-city poor families. (Since 1997)

3. Southside Christmas Program, \$900 – Provides food, toys, clothing, and gifts during the holidays thru Guardian Angels Settlement Association, Kingdom House, and St. Vincent DePaul Parish. (Since 1997)

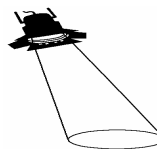
4. Feed My People, \$500 – Provides emergency food and many other services to the poor in South County. (Since 2005)

5. Sheltering Wings, Yako Clinic, Burkina Faso, Africa, \$500 - Supports an orphanage, school, and medical clinic in Burkina Faso, West Africa as well as working with other missionaries. The child sponsorship program now supports 150 children. (Since 2005)

6. Peter and Paul Community Services, \$900– Provides shelter, meals, transportation, and medical care for mentally ill young men who are homeless. (Since 1997)

7. Beyond Housing, \$400 – Provides affordable housing in low-income areas in St. Louis county. Helps strengthen families by teaching them the skills to successfully manage and maintain their property. Provides supportive family social services as needed. (Since 1997)

8. St. Louis Association of Community Organizations, \$500 – Provides support for community-based initiatives including housing development in the City of St. Louis. SLACO provides 175 rental apartments and homes for low income families most of which are in St. Augustine Parish. SLACO teaches the occupants basic skill to successfully manage and maintain their property. (Since 1998)



THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON.....

MARY LOU PETERS

**Thank you for your service to
our Mary Mother family**

Submitted by Bill Peters

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

Mary Jo Masterson 843-7438

Thanks to all who made Alpha 13 a wonderful success. Thirty-six graduates and their guests attended the celebration dinner on November 17. They now join the more than 400 other MMOC Alpha participants. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend yet, please consider signing up for the next session of the fastest growing, non-threatening nine-week Christian Adult Education Course in the world. It is a great way to explore the meaning of life, by being a follower of Christ, in a relaxed, uplifting, and lighthearted atmosphere. For more information, contact Bob Carroll or leave your name in the parish office.

As we enter this Advent season, please remember who and what we are all about. Times will be hectic and schedules overloaded; but, if we take time to spread the good news of Jesus to others, we will be truly ready to celebrate His most wonderful feast of Christmas!

CITIZENS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Carl Hendrickson 892-6451

The message from the October forum is that sexting is capable of destroying the lives of our young people. Sexting could result in criminal prosecution; it could impede future employment as background checks become more sophisticated; and it is immoral.

3rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR AND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

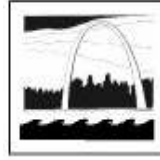
11:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

FOUR BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED HOMES AND
A DELICIOUS CATERED LUNCH

COST: \$20 PER PERSON

FOR THE SHOPPERS:
BAKERY BOUTIQUE
THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE
THE HOLIDAY PET PARLOR

For tickets, call Pat Echelmeyer, 892-6782, or Lois Scully, 849-8255. Forms are in the vestibule and can be dropped off at the parish office with check (made out to MMOC) or cash.



MCU for St. Louis

METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED ISAIAH

Ginny Schrapen 487-6584

During the month of October, Metro held several Transit Planning Community Workshops. One was held at Mehlville High School. There were six stations available for viewing, as well as a quiz to take and an opportunity for voting for favored routes and amenities at the stations. Everything that was viewed in person can be accessed on their website www.movingtransitforward.org

We were told that evening that the Tax Initiative will be on April's ballot. We are in agreement that this will be an excellent time; but it does only give us six months to educate our neighbors, family and friends of the importance of voting in favor of the tax because it is THE best option for the Metropolitan Area. Expanded public transportation will attract people and businesses, and will allow people who have not had access to their employment to regain that access. We don't want to just restore lines and routes, we want to expand them. It also makes great sense ecologically and environmentally. It truly is for the Common Good.

PRO-LIFE

John Siesener 842-6408

The South County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life began a billboard project in 1992. The billboard is located in the I-55/I-270 corridor. The text changes each year, but the message always informs the public about the humanity of the unborn child and the reality of abortion. The Chapter works diligently to put the **PRO-LIFE** message in view of thousands. Once again, the **PRO-LIFE** committee is selling Christmas cards during November for \$10.00 a box. All money goes for the billboard project. Please consider buying these cards. The next time you pass the billboard, say a prayer that the message will transform hearts and lead women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life.

Our next meeting is December 1st, 6:30 p.m., lower Annex.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Preschool Divorced Mass 3:00pm & Hall Jonah Team after all Masses Parish Food Drive	7 NO PSR CLASSES Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception 7:30pm	7 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00 Bible Study-9:15 Sr. Activity Grp Pro-Life - 7:30 Men's ACTS-7:00	2 Exposition Cornerstone Tai-Chi - 9:30 PSR Classes WomenACTS-6:30 Cancer Support Choir Prac.7:00 UniformNite8p	3 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 WomenACTS-6:30 Choir Prac.7:00 C. Serv. - 7:00 Liturgy - 7:30 UNIFORM NITE 8p	4 Men's ACTS Team Retreat Parish Food Drive Jonah Team-6:00 Mouse Races-6:30	5 Men's ACTS Team Retreat Parish Food Drive Jonah Team-6:00 Mouse Races-6:30
13 Preschool Blood Pressure Screening Conf. Class-7:00 Youth - Annex 7:00pm	14 PSR Classes Youth Comm. - Annex-7:30pm	15 Exposition Quilters/TOPS Bible Study-9:15 MenACTS - 7:00 Sandwich Shoppe PENANCE SERVICE Health/Socialmtg	9 Exposition Sandwich Shoppe Cornerstone Tai-Chi - 9:30 PSR Classes Choir Prac.7:00	10 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 Teen Choir-6:00 Choir Prac-7:00 Evan. - 7:30 Catechism-7:00 JustFaithMatters	11 12 Christmas House Tour/Lunch Blood Pressure Screening	12 Christmas House Tour/Lunch Blood Pressure Screening
20 Preschool MMSr. Social Grp 1:30 - rms. 1&2 Youth - 7:00pm Reilly Center	21	22 Exposition Quilters/TOPS Bible Study-9:15 Sandwich Shoppe Stitching-6:30 AD FIN - 6:30 PEACE - 7:00	23 Exposition Cornerstone Tai-Chi - 9:30 Children's Choir PSR Classes Choir Prac.7:00 Ath. - Annex7:00	17 Exposition Yoga - 4:45 Choir Prac.7:00 CAP - 7:30 Just Faith Matters - 7:00	18 CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES AT 9:30 AND 11:15 (NO 8:00 MASS)	19
27 Youth Group Service - 7:00	28	29 Exposition Quilters TOPS - 9:00 Bible Study-9:15 Sr. Activity Grp Teen Choir-7:30	30 Exposition Cornerstone Tai Chi - 9:30 Choir Prac.7:00	31 Exposition NEW YEAR'S EVE		

UPDATE

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St. Louis, MO 63128

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UPDATE

MARRIAGES:

Christian Ahlheim & Steffany
Leicht
Thomas Parchomski, Jr. & Cara
Helm

DEATHS:

Mary Jane Buchanan
Dolores Kurtz

BAPTISMS:

Ryan Moss
Asher Pleimann

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Jeffrey & Lynn Ewy
Kirk
Milton & Mary Ann Kempen

Joyce Kinworthy
Jeanette Knittel

FAREWELL:

Terry & Charlene Bjerken
Donna Gualdoni
Jennifer Ketzner
Tim & Wendy Thomas