

### Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)

On January 25, our parish will join Catholics across the country in sending a message to Congress: Please oppose the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) and retain laws against government funding and promotion of abortion, as well as laws for the protection of women such as informed consent and waiting periods. You will have the opportunity to sign postcards to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators, which will be collected by the Ushers and the Parish Office will mail them in for you.

Please plan to participate in this important event. **Our voices MUST be heard!**

### Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph

#### Monday, January 12

- 1:00 pm Prayer Group, Madonna Rm
- 4:30 pm Children's Choir, Music Room
- 5:15 pm PSR, School
- 7:00 pm Education Comm., School
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

#### Tuesday, January 13

- 12:30 pm Senior's Luncheon, Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm RCIA, Madonna Rm

#### Friday, January 16

- 7:00 pm Cursillo, Parish Hall

#### Sunday, January 18

- Martin Luther King Day -- No School



**Please pray for the following men and women as they carry out their duties in the service of our country:**

**Christopher Johnson**, grandson of Naomi Carmody. Christopher is stationed in Iraq outside of Baghdad.

**James O'Connell**, son-in-law of Deacon Al and Mickey Williams is stationed in Iraq.

**Tracy Sampson**, sister-in-law of Elizabeth Sampson and **John Sampson**, brother of Elizabeth Sampson, stationed at Al-Asad air-base in Iraq.

We are very happy to report that two of the military personnel we have been praying for have returned safely to the U.S. Let us give thanks for the safe return of Captain John Worland (son of Carr Worland), and Major William Patience (nephew of Vic and Sylvia Schulte).

### St. Joe's Seniors Center

We hope you can join us on Jan. 13th, at 12:30 in the church hall, for our next senior luncheon. To celebrate the feast of St. Hilary, we plan a hilarious afternoon of fun and games. Please bring a friend and a white elephant to share. (RSVP to 726-1221.)

### Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers the soul of **George Textor**. May our Heavenly Father welcome **George** into His eternal home and may He send the comfort only He can to his family and friends.

### UPDATE SICK LIST...

Please take a moment to help update our sick list. If someone should be added or removed from the list, please call 726-1221. Together we will keep the list as current as possible. If we have not heard about someone on the list by the end of January the name will be dropped.

### St. Joseph Knights Of Columbus Fish Dinner

#### Ash Wednesday, February 25

Look for lots of changes to our Annual Ash Wednesday Fish Meal. The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus are taking over the Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner. In addition to the regular baked fish they will offer fried fish and shrimp and lots of choices of side dishes. Desserts will be fun too! Watch for more information. Mark February 25th in your calendar and come support the Knights in this effort.



**NOTE:** If you would like to help by baking cakes please call Steve Topping at 225-9453.

### Readings for the Week of Jan. 11, 2009

- Sun: Is 42:1-4,6-7 Ps 29:1a,2,3ac-4,3b,9b-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mk 1:7-11
- Mon: Heb 1:1-6 Ps 97:1,2b,6,7c,9 Mk 1:14-20
- Tues: Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2a,5-9 Mk 1:21-28
- Wed: Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4,6-9 Mk 1:29-39
- Thur: Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-11 Mk 1:40-45
- Fri: Heb 4:1-5,11 Ps 78:3,4bc,6c,8 Mk 2:1-12
- Sat: Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10,15 Mk 2:13-17

### Mass Intentions

**Monday, Jan. 12**  
 6:30 am  
 Fr. Raymond McCarthy  
 8:00 am  
 Betsy Jordan  
 12:00 pm  
 Margaret Helms

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
 6:30 am  
 Richard Goyer  
 8:00 am  
 Peggy Kinsella  
 12:00 pm  
 Ann Ryan Healing

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**  
 6:30 am  
 Poor Souls  
 8:00 am  
 Dustin Griffin  
 12:00 pm  
 Daniel F. Sheehan, Jr.

**Thursday, Jan. 15**  
 6:30 am  
 Helene Schweitzer  
 8:00 am  
 Robert Sicking  
 12:00 pm  
 Sue Kurtz Int.

**Friday, Jan. 16**  
 6:30 am  
 Virginia Schroeder  
 8:00 am  
 Mary Frances Lytton  
 12:00 pm  
 Robert Geekig

**Saturday, Jan. 17**  
 Anthony, abbot  
 8:00 am  
 Kevin & Alison McCabe  
 5:00 pm  
 Michael & Molly O'Brien

**Sunday, Jan 18**  
 7:30 am  
 People of the Parish  
 9:00 am  
 Floro-Leonardo Fam.  
 11:00 am  
 Caddie & Bob Kilker

## We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health  
and comfort to:

Ann Ryan

Fr. Gerry Kleba

Mary Lee Rovira

John Gillis

Robert Coplan

Mildred Fraser

Elvessie Edwards

Peggy Reade

Jane Byrne

Barbara Lindsay

Joan Wilson

Bob Wilson

Sean O'Connor

Josh Eckhoff

Maria Guehlstorf

Michael Phelps

Lynn Burch

Joseph Niedbalski

Naomi Carmody

Beth Wilcox

Richard Vance

Paula Mulhearn

LaVerne Safron

Susie Taff

Marsha Sanner Koeller

Sr. Eleanor

Lois Laffey

Peggy Holmes

Vincenttia Majka

Barbara Beauzethier

Dear Parishioners,

Life is God's most precious gift to us, a gift that takes our breath away in all its wonder and beauty. This coming week we commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Courts decision to legalize abortions. This act is a rejection of life and causes great harm to all involved.

Pope John Paul II in his pastoral letter *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) and the US Bishops in *Living the Gospel of Life* had this to say concerning the gift of life.

"As we tinker with the beginnings, the end and even the intimate cell structure of life, we tinker with our own identity as a free nation dedicated to the dignity of the human person. When American political life becomes an experiment on people rather than for and by them, it will no longer be worth conducting. We are arguably moving closer to that day. Today, when the inviolable rights of the human person are proclaimed and the value of life publicly affirmed, the most basic human right, the right to life, is being denied or trampled upon, especially at the more significant moments of existence, the moment of birth and the moment of death".

I would like to thank our Pro-Life committee for all their work throughout the year to help promote the dignity and sacredness of life in all its forms. I thank you for all your words, prayers, and actions that proclaim to our society the sacredness of all life. I also would like to invite anyone who is interested to join our Pro-Life group.

This year the Archdiocese of St. Louis is joining a nationwide effort to fight passage of the Freedom of Choice Act.

Parishes here will participate in the "Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign" after Masses the weekend of Jan. 24-25. In signing their postcards, Catholics will be asking legislators to oppose the pro-abortion act.

The national campaign is co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment. Locally, the effort is being coordinated by the Archdiocesan Respect Life Apostolate.

"FOCA is the most radical pro-abortion legislation that has ever been promoted, and therefore, it is very important that every Catholic inform their public representatives that we cannot tolerate legislation that will intensify the destruction of our children," Archdiocesan Administrator Bishop Robert J. Hermann told the Review.

FOCA "is more radical than Roe vs. Wade because it will not allow anyone — the government, doctors, parents — to interfere with the so-called 'right' to an abortion," said Christina Heddell, director of the Respect Life Apostolate. "It is imperative that the Church send a clear message to the elected officials in Washington that we do not want women and their unborn children to suffer under FOCA or any related measure that promotes procured abortion."

So what would FOCA do? In short, the act could wipe out a broad range of pro-life laws currently set into place and allowed under the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. That means many existing state laws on abortion could be eliminated and could lessen states' future ability to regulate abortion.

A flier produced for the FOCA postcard campaign by U.S. bishops also presents several other possible effects of FOCA, including forced taxpayer funding for abortion, a requirement that all states allow partial birth and other late-term abortions and subjection of women to abortions by nonphysicians.

The act also could violate conscience rights of medical professionals and hospitals and take away from parents the right to be involved in their minor daughter's decision to have an abortion.

Pro-abortion advocates have made numerous attempts to pass FOCA for the past 20 years. The U.S. bishops, however, have noted that Congress is "more disposed than any in recent years to pass the bill." President-elect Barack Obama also has said he would sign it into law.

The postcards, which will be distributed at archdiocesan parishes Jan. 24-25, call on legislators to "oppose FOCA or any similar measure, and retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion."

FOCA was introduced this past congressional session, in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and in the House by Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y. The House version's co-sponsors included Missouri Reps. William "Lacy" Clay and Russ Carnahan.

Because neither bill passed, FOCA would have to be reintroduced, as all pending bills expire at the end of each two-year congressional session. The 111th Congress begins Saturday, Jan. 3; however, legislators will first meet on Tuesday, Jan. 6 on which day they were sworn in to uphold the Constitution of the United States which among other areas supports and protects life.

For more information, including additional resources, on the Freedom of Choice Act, visit the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment at [www.nchla.org](http://www.nchla.org) or the U.S. bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat at [www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA/](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA/).

*Blessings!*  
*Msgr. John Shamleffer*

## Religious Education News

### PSR

Parent Meeting for the God's Own Making program is at 9:45 a.m. in the Madonna Room on January 11.

The ACRE test will be administered to the 5th and 8th grade on January 11 and 12.

January 18 and 19 classes are dismissed for Martin Luther King Day.

January 25 is the 8th grade Confirmation retreat, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the Rite of Acceptance at 11 a.m. mass. Students, parents and sponsors attend.

### RCIA

We would like to introduce Jeannine Campbell, an accountant / auditor at KPMG. She is coming to the church at this time because she attended mass to support her sick grandmother and wanted to learn more about our faith. She is engaged and will marry in September. She attended Marquette High school in Chesterfield and you guessed it. Jeannine graduated from Mizzou in Columbia with her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Miz ..... Zou! Go Tigers!

### Parish Mission:

**Living Lent:** Preaching, Prayer and Action

5 days, March 1- March 5, 7-8:15 p.m. Redemptorists Fr. David Polek and Fr. Matthew Bonk will lead the mission. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as possible.

## Sunday Worship

Jan. 17-18, 2009

### 5:00 pm

*Altar Servers*  
Meredith McMahon  
Madeline McMahon

*Reader/Lector*  
Bebe Kennedy

*Extraordinary Ministers*  
Vic Schulte  
Ramon Floro  
+Mary Molloy

### 7:30 am

*Altar Servers*  
Server Needed

*Reader/Lector*  
Jane Byrne

*Extraordinary Ministers*  
Betty Torno  
David Ahner

### 9:00 am

*Altar Servers*  
Dan Hoff

*Reader/Lector*  
John Gillis

*Extraordinary Ministers*  
Susan Hackmann  
Ruth Tredway  
+Terry Carmack

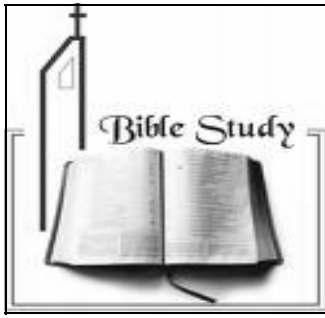
### 11:00 am

*Altar Servers*  
Erica Hill  
Lauren Hill

*Reader/Lector*  
Mary Molloy  
Katharine Shapleigh

*Extraordinary Ministers*  
Carmen Leonardi  
Roger Drone  
Thom Schweteye  
Joe Dickmann

+ Only when no  
deacon is present



**GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**

**Do you want to read the Bible, but do not know how to begin?**

**“A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH the BIBLE”**

Makes reading the Bible not only easy, but also exciting.

In this study, you will learn the major people, places, events, and themes of the Bible—getting the “big picture” of salvation history as well as an overview of the narrative story of the Bible. This then will make your Bible reading and even the Sunday Mass readings come alive like never before.

**“A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH the BIBLE”**

Is an eight-week program that will begin the week of February 8 and then continue throughout the season of Lent.

There will be two opportunities each week:

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am from **February 8 through March 29**  
**and**

Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 pm from **February 10 through March 31.**  
**and**

This Lent we are offering an evening session to be determined by the most agreeable day to participants – see sign-up below.

Please “register” using the form below

We must have all registrations in the office **by noon on JANUARY 14.**



**YES, I DO want to participate in “A Quick Journey Through the Bible”**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to attend the Sunday morning sessions.**

**I plan to attend the Tuesday afternoon sessions.**

**I would like to attend the evening session and I prefer**

**Mon**\_\_\_\_ **Tues**\_\_\_\_ **Weds**\_\_\_\_ **Thurs**\_\_\_\_

**(Please mark your preference by day using 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th)**

**Will host a group in my home on** \_\_\_\_\_ **at** \_\_\_\_\_ **day** \_\_\_\_\_ **time** \_\_\_\_\_.