

The Baptism of the Lord - January 10, 2010

Mass Intentions

Dear Parishioners,

Today we close our Christmas Season with the **Feast of the Baptism Of The Lord**. The Sacrament of Baptism brings parents and their families to the Church to give thanks for the gift of their child and through the pouring of water in the name of the trinity to ask God to cleanse and bless this child. Then the child's parents and Godparents and the entire community are asked to cherish, guide and love this child through the sharing of faith and life with the child. May all of us here at St. Joseph continue to support the gift of life by our constant support of life through our prayers and actions.

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.

Blessings!
Msgr. John Shamleffer

Memorial Mass Honoring the Lives Lost Since Roe v. Wade Saturday, January 16, 8:00 a.m.

Join the Respect Life Apostolate in honoring the innocent lives lost and forgotten as a result of the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade. This January, we will continue this long-held tradition to mark, with sadness, the 37th anniversary of legalized abortion in the U.S.

Let us join together at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and pray for an end to all abortion and that our country begins again to respect the sanctity of every human life.

The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson.

Following the Mass, please join with the Helpers of God's Precious Infants for a rosary procession from the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis to Planned Parenthood at Boyle and Forest Park Parkway.

Rest in Peace

Let us, as a parish family, pray for all of our deceased parishioners, relatives, benefactors and friends. We remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us and pray that they are celebrating with our Lord in heaven.

Please Help Me Update Our List of Those in Need of Prayers...

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

Monday, Jan. 11
6:30 am
Helene Schweitzer
12:00 pm
Prudencia P. Arribas

Tuesday, Jan. 12
8:00 am
Rita Maloney
12:00 pm
Robert Braun

Wednesday, Jan. 13
6:30 am
Virginia Schroeder
12:00 pm
Mary Lois Holland

Thursday, Jan. 14
8:00 am
William Sullivan
12:00 pm
Finnley James Maminta

Friday, Jan. 15
6:30 am
Poor Souls
11:00 am
Roberto & Juliana
Solamillo

Saturday, Jan. 16
8:00 am
Mary Frances Lytton
5:00 pm
Kaye Burns & Family

Sunday, Jan. 17
7:30 am
People of the Parish
9:00 am
William Croghan, Sr.
11:00 am
Bruce Hagen



We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health and comfort to:

Lillian Eck
Don Williams
Patricia Mahmood
Steve Theby
Kathy Masters
Marie Meyer
Fr. Frank Cleary
Mary Ann Dolan
Frank Timmers
Joe Loebach
Elaine & John Edwards
Ruth Tredway
Mary Slais
Fr. Gerry Kleba
Mary Lee Rovira
Mildred Fraser
Barbara Lindsay
Joan Wilson
Sean O'Connor
Michael Phelps
Lynn Burch
Joseph Niedbalski
Naomi Carmody
Richard Vance
LaVerne Safron
Susie Taff
Sr. Eleanor
Lois Laffey
Peggy Holmes
Vincenttia Majka
Barbara Beauzethier

Welcome to St. Joseph - Clayton, Missouri

Mass to pray for life and for the pilgrimages to D.C.

St. Mary Magdalen in Brentwood will host a Mass open for all to come and pray for life and for those traveling to Washington D.C for the March for Life. Mass will be **Friday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** Most of us can't make the trip to D.C. but we be in union with them in prayer. **Why do we ask for your participation and support? -- Read on . . .**

STAGGERING STATISTICS

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) recently released its annual performance report for 2008-2009. Despite an economic downturn and a slight decrease in annual income, the abortion industry giant boasts of increased activity across all of its lines of work, including condom distribution, advocacy and abortion services.

IPPF'S overall income for 2008 was US\$119.7 million, down from over \$120 million the previous year. While IPPF's total financial intake dipped, its abortion business boomed. The organization provided almost 428,000 "abortion services" to young people alone, with a staggering 1,134,549 total number of such services - almost double the number from 2007 - across the globe.

Education News

PSR Class:

- Sunday, Monday, January 10, 11
- First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Day Break: January 17 and 18.
- Confirmation Class Retreat: Sunday, January 24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m
Parents, sponsors, and students please attend.

R.C.I.A.

We have 6 candidates which we will introduce to you one at a time.

May we introduce Tom Dimig, who will be Confirmed, is the VP of Account Services for Creative On Call. He is newly engaged and will be married in the Catholic Church.

The topic for January 12 is Baptism & Confirmation.

St. Joe's Seniors

Our January luncheon will be held on the 12th, at 12:45 pm in the church hall. Join us for good food, good conversation, and good fun. As always, bring a friend and a gift to share for "Rob Your Neighbor".

Blest Art, Inc. -- This Weekend

Representatives of Blest Art, Inc. will be displaying the handiwork of the Catholics who have remained in the Holy Land. Purchasing a lovely hand carved olive wood religious item will assist in supporting these families. This has become their main source of income..

We would like to invite you to view this beautiful artwork and, hopefully, you will find something you like.

PLEASE HOLD THESE DATES:

February 17 -- Annual Fish Dinner, PH

February 20 -- Trivia Night, PH

The Fish Dinner is the start of Lent--and what a tasty start. It's really a Big Dinner in the Church Hall. By Saturday we can come back to the Church Hall to see if the Brain food (Fish) really works for Trivia Answers. See You There!

ST. LOUIS REVIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is time for St. Louis Review subscriptions. In 2009 St. Joseph paid approximately \$5,000 to send the St. Louis Review to families who did not pay for it. If you do not wish to receive the St. Louis Review, please fill out the form below and return to the parish office. Thank you for your help.

Please do not send me the Review:

Name _____
Address _____

Year for Priests -- Would You Believe

Many years ago I was a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in Missouri. My bishop during that time was Bernard F. Law, who later became Cardinal Law.

After several years of discernment I determined that the priesthood was not my calling and left the seminary in 1975. I later moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where I met and married my beloved wife Kathleen in 1978. As blessings come when one is open to them, in the first four years of our marriage we were blessed with three babies.

On one memorable occasion, Kathleen, the kids, and I were in Glennonville, Missouri, visiting my parents. There was a big celebration that weekend at Mom and Dad's parish, St. Teresa's, and Bishop Law was to be guest of honor at a parish potluck dinner. Somehow Kathleen and I ended up at the very end of the serving line, and, as luck would have it, the only seats left were those directly across the table from the bishop.

So, we sat down with our three little children: a two-year-old, a one-year-old, and a baby. Kathleen, a recent convert to Catholicism, was nervous about sitting across from Bishop Law, but since he was a very gracious man, he made us feel at ease.

Of course, I will admit to my own twinge of awkwardness . . . After all, one could feel a bit strange dining with one's former bishop after having left the seminary and now with a wife and children. At the conclusion of the meal, however, Bishop Law turned to me, patted me on the arm, and said, "You did good."

Until her death in 2003, Kathleen bragged frequently about that incident. She always claimed that she had received her own personal "ecclesiastical approbation" that night.

Birthright Heaven and Earth program at St. Joseph's

This is the weekend the pro life committee will be manning the doors of our church with baby bottles for you to take home and fill with your loose change. Thanks in advance for taking a bottle home, for all you do for unborn lives - children who live in hope in the womb, for 'Liz' and all the pregnant mothers struggling to make the right decision for themselves and their unborn child, and for Birthright and all the fine agencies who help those mothers.

Olan Mills --Dates for Re-takes February 26 & 27

Some parishioners were very pleased with the results of their photo shoot. Others did not have such a good experience. We have contacted our Olan Mills Representative and he has arranged to offer to re-shoot photos for those who were not satisfied, and open sign-ups for those who were not able to participate but wanted to. They promise **absolutely no pressure** to buy, and **satisfaction guaranteed**.

Please, let's give them a second chance. And, if you didn't have your photo taken -- reconsider -- let's make this a directory to be proud of. Call Pat at the Rectory to schedule a time for your photo, 726-1221.

Olan Mills is very anxious to make this right.

We need to be able to identify our parishioners by names and faces., and you will find it a big help too! You don't have to buy anything, just sign, show up and have your photo taken.

Thank you.

Sunday Worship

Jan. 16-17, 2010

5:00 pm

Altar Servers
Meredith McMahon
Emma Rowley

Reader/Lector
Bebe Kennedy

Ministers of Communion
Peter Smith
Colleen Malone
+Vic Schulte

7:30 am

Altar Servers
Maria Ryan

Reader/Lector
Jane Byrne

Ministers of Communion
Betty Torno
Frank Hackmann
+Barb Gill

9:00 am

Altar Servers
Brian Gaffigan

Reader/Lector
John Gillis

Ministers of Communion
Susan Hackmann
Marcella Leonardo
+Mary Carver

11:00 am

Altar Servers
Connor Mulligan
Caroline Avery

Reader/Lector
Katharine Shapleigh
Mary Molloy

Ministers of Communion
Shannon Hadley
Roger Drone
+Therese Macan

+ Only when no deacon is present



Sixty Households Join Us

in thanking you, our parish family at St. Joseph's, for providing them help with housing, heat, food, gasoline and clothing during the past year through your support of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference.

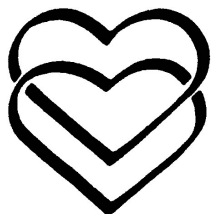
With your contributions of \$39,807, we were able to provide \$12,374 to assist with housing needs, \$6,039 to maintain utilities, \$3,307 in vouchers for groceries, \$638.84 in vouchers for gasoline, \$458 for clothing and household needs from our Thrift Store, and \$186 for transportation.

One exceptionally large contribution enabled us to pay one month's rent for a young man who was working two jobs while continuing college classes, until he fractured his ankle, and couldn't continue his part time work.

In addition, your support extended tuition assistance of \$1,000 to enable one young woman to graduate from Cardinal Ritter College Prep, and use the scholarship she had been awarded, to enter a college in Arkansas. Your generosity provided \$1,865 toward the construction of a wheel chair ramp for a young paraplegic.

As you know, we "twin" with St. Vincent de Paul conferences at St. Matthew's, Visitation, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Sts. Teresa and Bridget, and with the Criminal Justice Ministry. Because of your care for your "neighbor," we were able to share \$11,300 with them for their good work.

Above and beyond your year-round assistance, you provided presents and gift cards through your response to our Giving Tree which brought broad smiles at Christmas and offered personal choices for the heads of many hard-hit households!



Marriage Encounter Sweetheart Mass and Dance:

All encountered couples are invited to attend the Mass and dance on Saturday, February 13, at Immaculate Conception Parish in Maplewood. The Mass starts at 6:00 with the dance following. Cost is \$25 per couple at the door, although couples who have previously attended a M.E. Weekend and do not belong to a Community, and couples who are considering attending a M.E. Weekend can come for free! Call 314-968-8027 for reservations.

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2010

Sun: Is 40:1-5,9-11 Ps 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30
Ti 2:11-14;3:4-7 Lk 3:15-16,21-22
Mon: 1 Sm 1:1-8 Ps 116:12-19 Mk 1:14-20
Tues: 1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Mk 1:21-28
Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20 Ps 40:2,5,7-10
Mk 1:29-39
Thurs: 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25
Mk 1:40-45
Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12
Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1 Ps 21:2-7
Mk 2:13-17
Sun: Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-3,7-10 Jn 2:1-11

A Marriage Lifeline

The celebrations of Christmas and New Year's can be difficult for many couples because their marriages aren't as happy as they used to be. Many folks are desperately searching for "a better tomorrow." If this description fits you, you need to learn about **Retrouaille!** This weekend program (plus six follow-up sessions held over three months) can help to heal your marriage. The next weekend is Feb. 5-7. If you are having financial difficulties, assistance to attend is available. Please call Chuck or Linda at 453-0110 for confidential information.

Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph

Monday, January 11

1:00 pm Prayer Group, Madonna Rm
5:15 pm PSR, School
7:00 pm HS PSR, PHC
7:00 pm Party on the Point Mtg, Madonna Rm
7:00 pm Education Commission, School
7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

Tuesday, January 12

12:45 pm Senior Luncheon, Parish Hall
7:00 pm RCIA, Madonna Rm

Wednesday, January 13

6:30 pm 1st Reconciliation, Church

Thursday, January 14

6:30 pm Bridge, Parish Hall Cove

Friday, January 15

7:00 pm Cursillo, Parish Hall

Sunday, January 17

Martin Luther King Day -- No Classes