

Dear Parishioners:

I pray that you are having a blessed Lent. I will be on Retreat this week with 25 priests of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, in the town of Ars, France. As you know Pope Benedict named this the "Year of the Priest" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney (Cure of Ars) who is the patron of priests. Archbishop Carlson is leading this retreat and the opportunity to pray at the Church in Ars where St. John Vianney prayed will be a graced experience. St. John Vianney was renowned as a man of prayer and an extraordinary Confessor, wholly dedicated to God and the people of Ars.

Please pray for me, for Fr. Tom and all priests as we strive to minister to you and help all of us grow in real holiness and oneness with our God. Also continue to pray for the women and men who are preparing to enter our Church this Easter.

Lastly, just a reminder that St. Joseph will hold its annual St. Joseph day party on Saturday March 27 at 6 PM, all are invited.

*Lenten Blessings!*  
*Msgr. John Shamleffer*

**Friday, March 19**  
**Solemnity of Joseph, husband of Mary**  
**The Call of Saint Joseph**

A most decisive act in life is the initial surrender made to God when he calls. Unfortunately it is always possible to ignore him, or to explain away the inner sense that God is inviting a recognition. But for one unafraid to listen to this prompting, the discovery that God has a choice for one's life is a matchless blessing.

Saint Joseph is a wonderful example. At first deeply disappointed by Mary's pregnancy while they were still betrothed, he was ready to divorce her quietly to protect her from public shame. God's call came then in a dream, and the first words he heard -- "Do not be afraid" -- were addressed to Mary also when she was called. They are important precisely because a surrender to God's call is a risk, a leap forward toward a promise not fully known, requiring a courage perhaps not easily felt. The Gospel tells us that Joseph did not hesitate at all. He woke from this dream and took Mary into his home. The truth is that he took Mary for ever to his heart at that hour. She remained a virgin and he a true husband, enjoying in his hidden life in Nazareth the most privileged intimacy with God. Indeed he came to know the immense generousities of divine love in the affection of a little child for his father.

*Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of Saint Joseph to the Church, and we ask his intercessions for all those called to recognize from you a vocation to holiness in the Church.*

**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.

**Wedding Banns**

There is a promise of marriage in Christ between  
**Elizabeth Heger & David Steck (III)**  
Please pray for them as they begin their life together.

**Monday, March 15**  
6:30 am  
Helene Schweitzer  
12:00 pm  
Mae Cella

**Tuesday, March 16**  
8:00 am  
Maloney Family  
12:00 pm  
Poor Souls

**Wednesday, March 17**  
Saint Patrick, bp  
6:30 am  
Patrick McGinty  
12:00 pm  
Myra Kelly

**Thursday, March 18**  
8:00 am  
William Sullivan  
12:00 pm  
Robert Davidson

**Friday, March 19**  
Saint Joseph,  
Husband of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
6:30 am  
Patricia Ann Mahmood  
12:00 pm  
Dennis & Mildred  
Bernardo Int.

**Saturday, March 20**  
8:00 am  
Tom Powers  
5:00 pm  
Marjorie Haley

**Sunday, March 21**  
7:30 am  
People of the Parish  
9:00 am  
Marian Clear  
11:00 am  
Dorothy Coleman

## We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health  
and comfort to:

Frank Josse  
Marianne Sullivan & baby  
Tom Biondo  
Marilyn Maret  
Lillian Eck  
Don & Judy Williams  
Steve Theby  
Fr. Frank Cleary  
Elaine & John Edwards  
Mary Slais  
Fr. Gerry Kleba  
Mary Lee Rovira  
Mildred Fraser  
Joan Wilson  
Sean O'Connor  
Michael Phelps  
Lynn Burch  
Joseph Niedbalski  
Naomi Carmody  
Richard Vance  
LaVerne Safron  
Sr. Eleanor  
Lois Laffey  
Peggy Holmes  
Vincenttia Majka  
Barbara Beauzethier  
Maria Guehlstorf  
William Kredo  
Kathleen Valenta  
John Schweiss

*Welcome to St. Joseph - Clayton, Missouri*

### YEAR FOR PRIESTS -- *The Unknown Priest*

Every country has a memorial to the *unknown soldier*. This story is my memorial to all the *unknown priests*. Those are the priests who, with a word, a challenge, or a smile, effect a radical change in our way of loving and perceiving God. One such priest was a Franciscan friar who gave a weekend retreat for married women several years ago.

I had deliberately taken some over-due time out from my hectic life as a mother of five children and a wife of a busy politician. I was so eager for some spiritual refreshment that I didn't even care who the priest would be. I only knew I needed a couple nights of solitude and quiet, with time to reflect on my spiritual life that was often neglected due to my exhaustion.

Once at the convent, we were assigned to our rooms and then directed to the dining room for a light supper. We were informed that this was a *silent* retreat, so meals were eaten with no conversation. What a change from Friday night supper at home!

After supper, we moved into the warmth of the tiny chapel, waiting expectantly for our first session and meditation. As I sat there, I was so overcome by the lack of pressure and the quiet that I barely heard what the priest was talking about. But then, all of a sudden, I perked up as if God had nudged me to stay alert for what was coming next.

I looked at the priest (whose name to this day I cannot remember) standing in his simple dark brown robe and sandals. He spoke in soft but deliberate tones to the women assembled. "So you see, that is why we must never imagine that when we do something wrong God will remove Himself from us, even if we have hurt Him, or if He is displeased or even angry. Put a picture in your mind of you and God standing face to face looking at each other. If you do something wrong, something sinful, it is not God who backs away from you. It is you who backs away from God. You are creating the distance between the two of you. He has never moved. He is still standing in the same place, remaining constant, desiring you to ask forgiveness and step forward to be face to face in union with Him again."

As I listened, I felt a total shake up inside myself. I realized that my entire life had been wrongly based on the idea that God withdrew Himself from me when I sinned. It had never occurred to me that I was the one who had the choice, that I was the one who created the distance, not my ever-loving Creator. He was always there for me. Just like the father of the prodigal son.

The words of this dear Franciscan at that retreat created a profound change in my view of my relationship to God. I can never thank God enough for allowing this *unknown priest* to be His instrument of insight for me at that memorable retreat. I returned home on Sunday afternoon with a deepened understanding of God's unconditional love, and a determination to try to imitate it with my husband and children. Dear *unknown priest*, whoever you are now, thank you for those words that changed my life.

### Education News

#### Bible Study

The Great Adventure: The Bible Timeline Chapters 7- 12 with Jeff Cavins in the Madonna Room, join us when you are able. Tues: thru March 30, 12:30 p.m. or Weds: thru March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

#### Lenten Speaker Series

Archbishop Carlson, when he was Bishop of Saginaw, Michigan, wrote a pastoral letter entitled *Jesus Christ Prince of Peace*, which discusses peace in our hearts and homes and in the world. Dr. Carr Worland will lead the sessions on Thursday afternoons in Lent, thru April 1st, from 12:30-2 p.m.

#### Hold the Dates:

Dr. Ben Asen will return to Speak on Revelations September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 at 10 a.m. in the Madonna Room. All are welcome.

#### P.S.R.:

Spring and Easter break begins March 21. Monday classes meet on March 29.

#### Teens:

All teens are welcome. Join us when you are able, March 15 before the spring break March 22. Sessions resume March 29.

#### R.C.I.A.

Our candidates are in the scrutiny period of their preparation for their sacraments on April 3. You will see them at the 9 a.m. mass on March 14 and at the 11 a.m. mass on March 21.



## Wanted: The Bored and the Crafty

**The "Pay-it-Forward" program at Our Lady's Inn works with the Moms to craft hand-made items for fundraising projects to support the Inn.**

**We are looking for:**

*Individuals who would be willing to take on simple sewing projects at home*

- **Quilted squares not being used (to sew on aprons, purses, potholders, etc.)**
- **Fabric, small print or solid, appropriate for napkins and placemats**
- **Materials, fabric and trimmings for craft projects**
- **All things made of fabric-or other craft ideas**



**Contact Dee Hinkle 314-283-8786 (cell)**

**Since 1982...Our Lady's Inn...Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing for Homeless, Pregnant Women & Their Children**

**Approximately two dozen babies are born in each of the two facilities each year. Their challenges are overwhelming and their needs are many.**

### **Daily Needs at the Shelters:**

**Consumable paper products, Soap, cleaning supplies, Personal hygiene products and Food or gas cards**  
**Needs change on a daily basis...please call first to get an update.**

**OUR LADY'S INN - ST. LOUIS (314) 351-4590 FAX: (314) 351-2119 E-mail**  
**OUR LADY'S INN - ST. CHARLES (636) 398-5375 FAX: (636) 398-5376 E-mail**

### **TWICE BLESSED RESALE SHOP**

**3302 Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63118, Phone: (314) 481-3332, Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 AM - 5 PM. Located next door to Winkelmann's Drug Store.**

**Upscale resale for women & children; gently worn items; shoes, jewelry, accessories, small home decor.  
Call Lucy for more details**

### **Readings for the Week of March 14, 2010**

Sun: Jos 5:9a,10-12 Ps 34:2-7 2 Cor 5:17-21

Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Mon: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b

Jn 4:43-54

Tues: Ez 47:1-9,12 Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wed: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9,13c-14,17-18

Jn 5:17-30

Thur: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Fri: Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29

Rom 4:13,16-18,22 Mt 1:16,18-21,24a

Sat: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7: 2-3,9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

Sun: Is 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 3:8-14

Jn 8:1-11

### **Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph**

#### **Monday, March 15**

1:00 pm Prayer Group, MR

5:15 pm PSR, School

7:00 pm HS PSR, PHC

7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

#### **Tuesday, March 16**

12:30 pm Bible Study, MR

#### **Wednesday, March 17**

5:30 pm Stations of the Cross, Ch,  
Followed by Confession

7:30 pm Bible Study, Madonna Rm

#### **Thursday, March 18**

12:30 pm Speaker Series, MR

#### **Friday, March 19**

7:00 pm Cursillo, Parish Hall

#### **Sunday, March 21**

Spring Break -- No PSR, No CLW

11:00 am RCIA, Madonna Rm