

The Parish Family of
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Farmington, Missouri

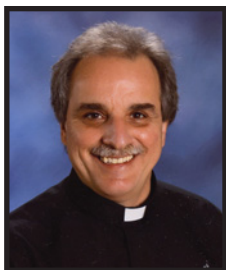
January 2nd, 2011

Living the Gospel Message Since 1890



The Epiphany of the Lord





From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph

Epiphany of Our Lord...

Seeking the Star to Bethlehem
Throughout the Year...

“Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith.” These are the words from the opening prayer of our Mass today. As the three wise men followed the star to Bethlehem and found the Word made flesh in the humble dwelling of the stable, may we too discover the Light anew on our journey in this New Year.

Since God has drawn us out of darkness into His own wonderful light, may we continue to experience his kindness and blessings, and be strong in faith, hope and love all 365 days of this New Year! Made worthy by His grace and nourished by the Holy Eucharist each week, may our hearts truly be His dwelling place. May God grant us the grace to recognize Christ in our Eucharistic celebration today and welcome Him with love.

A Tremendous Honor Given to Our Parish

During the week before Christmas I received a most unexpected phone call from the President of the Board of Directors of the National March for Life in Washington D.C. asking if our group of pilgrims would like to lead the 2011 March for Life in our Nation's Capitol this coming January. This honor will include leading the March by carrying the banner down Constitutional Avenue to the United States Supreme Court Building. This is truly an honor of a lifetime for those from our parish participating in this year's pilgrimage.

D. C. Pilgrimage Meeting this Week

For those attending this year's pilgrimage, please mark your calendar for a special meeting this **Thursday, January 6th in church at 7:00 pm** to go over the itinerary of the trip! Your sweatshirts will be available for pick up on this evening.

Thank you St. Joe's for your tremendous support of our fundraisers that helped to make this trip more affordable to those attending. We have reached our monetary goal!!



Our Yesterday's Kids Saw Some Angels this Christmas!!!

And as the song says:

*“Oh I believe there are angels among us
Sent down to us from somewhere up above
They come to you and me in our darkest hours
To show us how to live
To teach us how to give
To guide us with a light of love”*

Pastoral Care for Those Who are Homebound

If you know of anyone who is homebound because of illness or aging, please contact **Agnes Hinkebein, RN** at the Parish Office at 756-4250 to let us know. We would like to provide pastoral care for all our parishioners, especially those who cannot join us at Mass.

If you or someone in your family is in the hospital, please let us know as the hospital does not contact us with this information. If you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister for our Nursing Homes, please call the Parish Office.

Join Us Next Sunday For Our “All You Can Eat Breakfast”

I hope you will join us next week for our monthly breakfast sponsored by our **Knights of Columbus** after all the masses. All proceeds from the breakfast go for special need items for our school. The food is awesome!!!

Want a Great Suggestion for a New Year's Resolution? How about a commitment of spending one hour in Eucharistic Adoration each week of the New Year?

As we all know, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church's life and ministry. Fostering devotion to the Eucharist Adoration among the faithful should be a priority for our parish! As Pope Benedict XVI expressed so beautifully in The Sacrament of Charity, "The personal relationship which the individual believer establishes with Jesus present in the Eucharist points beyond itself to the whole communion of the Church and nourishes a fuller sense of membership in the Body of Christ."

I fully believe that all of the wonderful things that our parish experiences come directly from the prayers offered in Eucharistic adoration each week!

God calls; we respond. Each one of us is called by God for a particular life's work. But all of us share in the fundamental call to holiness of life, to service in the name of Jesus Christ. I invite each of you to join with me in renewed Eucharistic devotion for our parish. Please call **Rita Boyd** at 756-2383 to make your commitment of one hour in the Real Presence of Christ in the New Year! **I promise you, you will bear much fruit and grace from this New Year's resolution that will nourish both body and soul.**

At this time we are in need of someone to commit to the **3:30 - 4:30 pm time slot** for Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays. Is God tugging at your heart to spend this time with Him?

Our Annual Catholic Appeal Reaches Out to Our St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. St. Vincent de Paul recently applied for and received a grant from the Annual Catholic Appeal for **\$1,750.00**. This will certainly help us help the needy through these cold winter months.

Roses for Life Next Weekend

Next weekend after all of the masses our **Knights of Columbus** will be outside of church asking you to sign a small paper rose that will be carried personally with us on our pilgrimage to Washington D. C. These roses will then be taken to the office of Joann Emerson. Please take a moment to sign a rose.

Some Thoughts on New Year's Resolutions...

I received this email numerous times. . . what a great meditation to reflect on as a New Year's resolution. The following meditation might give us some thought as to how we will feed and nourish our souls for the New Year.

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old man simply replied, "The one you feed."

And Finally...

Here is one of my favorite meditations as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany...

"Now Christmas Begins"

When the song of the angels is stilled

When the star in the sky is gone

When the kings and princes are home

When the shepherds are back with their flocks

The true meaning of Christmas is revealed...

To find the lost... To heal the broken...

To feed the hungry... To release the prisoner...

To rebuild the nations...

To bring peace among the people...

And to make Christ's love known in the world.

Author Unknown

"Always remember that as long as we keep the Eucharist the center of our lives, everything else will fall in place...of that I am confident"!!!

Blessings of Peace... *Fr. Rickey*

Our Pastoral Team

Rev. Rickey J. Valleroy..... Pastor
 email: frickvalleroy@aol.com

Rev. James W. Dyer..... Associate Pastor
 email: frjim@stjosephfarmington.com

Deacon Albin Gegg Permanent Deacon

Susie RohrerPrincipal
 email: principal@stjosephfarmington.com

Sr. Barbara Wentworth.....Religion Coordinator

Agnes Hinkebein Pastoral Health Care
 email: agnes@stjosephfarmington.com

Lauren Stein..... Preschool Director
 email: prekdirector@stjosephfarmington.com

Nathan SteinBusiness Manager
 email: nathan@stjosephfarmington.com

Sandy Doty..... Event Coordinator and Bulletin Editor
 email: bulletin@stjosephfarmington.com

Jane Hardy & Lisa Cartee Secretaries
 email: secretary@stjosephfarmington.com

Mike WardMaintenance Supervisor

Brian Stamm Pastoral Council

Chuck Hayden Financial Commission

Ed Brown.....Cemetery Association
 phone: 573-756-5369

Parish Business Office Hours

Monday thru Friday • 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
 Phone (573)756-4250 • Fax (573)756-6938
 10 North Long Street • Farmington, MO 63640

Mass Schedule

Monday thru Friday	7:00 am
Friday (All School Mass August - May)	8:05 am
Sunday Observance	
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am
Holy Days of Obligation	7:00 am, 8:00 am, and 7:00 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 am, or by appointment

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month
 after the 10:30 am Mass

The Sacrament of Marriage

Celebrated after meeting the bride and groom and
 beginning preparation six months before the wedding,
 in accordance with Archdiocesan Wedding Policy.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 7:30 am thru Closing Prayer Service at 5:20 pm
 First Fridays of the month from 8:30 am to 2:15 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Open Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For assistance call 756-0997

This Week in Our Parish

Tues	01/04	Cub Scouts 6:30 pm • Cafeteria
Wed	01/05	PSR Classes 6:00 pm • School
		Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 pm • Parish Center
		Parish Rosary 7:15 pm • Church
		Bible Timeline 7:30 pm • Cafeteria
Thurs	01/06	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 am - 5:20 pm • Church
		Boy Scout Committee Meeting 6:00 pm • Cafeteria
Fri	01/07	First Friday Adoration 8:30 am - 2:15 pm • Church
Sun	01/09	K of C Parish Breakfast After 7:30 and 9:00 masses in cafeteria
		RCIA 9:00 am • Parish Center
		K of C Free Throw Contest 2:00 pm • Gym



Happy Birthday



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 2nd</u></p> <p>Rosemary Kane Alex Kearns Luke Landreneau Courtney Nicholson Kody Winch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 3rd</u></p> <p>Floyd McFarland Amy Reynolds</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 4th</u></p> <p>Golda Aseniero Nicholas Dore' Isabel Holloway Cindy Wade</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 5th</u></p> <p>Barbara Brun Gina Gerstenecker Rose Petinga Connie Watson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 6th</u></p> <p>John Dugan Karen Hutson Michelle Ramirez Dorothy Wade Gabrielle Werner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 7th</u></p> <p>Amy Gerstner Bob Govreau Todd Reidt</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>January 8th</u></p> <p>Jacob Bone</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Happy Anniversary



January 5, 1991
John & Carol Vuichard



Eucharistic Celebrations and Mass Intentions

Week of January 3rd - 9th, 2011

- Monday: Christmas Weekday**
Readings: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8,10-12a
Mt 4:12-17,23-25
7:00 am: **Fred & Ruth Bangert**
- Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**
Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44
1 Cor 13:4-13 Lk 10:38-42 or 737-742
7:00 am: **Rose Dolores Mendoza**
- Wednesday: St. John Neumann**
Readings: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13
Mk 6:45-52
7:00 am: **Lon Hayden Family**
- Thursday: Christmas Weekday**
Readings: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14, 15bc,17
Lk 4:14-22a
7:00 am: **The Morris Family**
- Friday: Christmas Weekday**
Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20
Lk 5:12-16
7:00 am: **Jerry Wengler**
8:05 am: **Jacqueline Niedert**
- Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord**
Readings: Is 42:1-4,6-7 Ps 29:1-2,3-4,9-10
Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17
- Saturday**
5:00 pm **Charles Prokopf**
- Sunday**
7:30 am: **Josephine Govreau**
9:00 am: **Parishioners**
10:30 am: **Phillip Rice**

visit www.stjosephfarmington.com and click on "daily mass readings" for easy reference.



Welcome to St. Joseph Parish

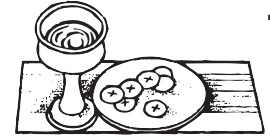
Welcome to St. Joseph's Parish. If you are a regular visitor and would like to join our parish, please return this form in next week's collection basket or stop by the Parish Office at 10 North Long Street.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Ministers of the Liturgy



Saturday, January 8th

5:00 pm Mass

- Priest:** Fr. James Dyer
Deacon: Deacon Al Gegg
Lector: Terry Guiley
Extraordinary Ministers:
John Denkler, Tom Karl,
Jim Willis, Linda Versluys
Ushers: Ralph Trepasso, Bill Baker,
Buddy Bordewick, Donald Boyd
Servers: A. Gillespie, A. Willis, G. Gerstenecker

Sunday, January 9th

7:30 am Mass

- Priest:** Fr. James Dyer
Lector: Jim Eaton
Extraordinary Ministers:
Bob Lowery, Dottie Reeves, Chris Westrich,
Melissa Mitchell, Steve Forsythe
Ushers: Bob Govreau, Charles Govreau,
Tom Donze, Charles Koppeis
Servers: M. Eaton, M. K. Eaton

9:00 am Mass

- Priest:** Fr. James Dyer
Lector: Charlotte Vander Bol
Extraordinary Ministers:
George & Sandi Kracke, Rob Grindel,
Kevin Boatright, Doak Holloway
Ushers: John England, Dan Combs,
Bill Kure, Jerry Morris
Servers: T. Holloway, C. Fishbeck, I. Holloway

10:30 am Mass

- Priest:** Fr. James Dyer
Lector: Phyllis LaPlant
Extraordinary Ministers:
William & Isa Sippo, Jim & Jill Robert,
Theresa Aubuchon
Ushers: Tom Lutsch, Roy Henson,
Travis Trolinger, John Bieser
Servers: E. Heberlie, S. Lyons-Jahn, J. Zaricor

Monday, January 3rd, 2011

Sacristans

Theresa AuBuchon, Sue Brown,
Barb Doss, Geneva Jokerst

Money Counters

Beulah Carrow, Jackie Maloney,
Nancy Ott, Carolyn Rigdon

Nativity Prayer

Hymn of St. Ephraim the Syrian

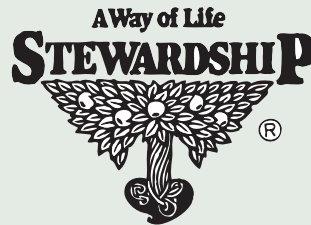


The feast day of your birth resembles You, Lord
Because it brings joy to all humanity.
Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.
Your day is celebrated
from generation to generation.
Kings and emperors may pass away,
And the festivals to commemorate them
soon lapse.
But your festival
will be remembered until the end of time.
Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.
At Your birth heaven and earth were reconciled,
Since you came from heaven to earth on
that day
You forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.
You gave us so many gifts on the day of
your birth:
A treasure chest of spiritual medicines for
the sick;
Spiritual light for the blind;
The cup of salvation for the thirsty;
The bread of life for the hungry.
In the winter when trees are bare,
You give us the most succulent spiritual fruit.
In the frost when the earth is barren,
You bring new hope to our souls.
In December when seeds are hidden in the soil,
The staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb

St. Ephraim the Syrian (AD 306-373)

Your Gifts to God and Parish

*Due to the holiday printing deadlines
we could not include the offerings for
December 26th in this issue. They will
be published in next week's bulletin.*



*Then they opened
their treasures
and offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense, and
myrrh." - Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to embrace. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus, offering Him what He needs. We can remember that we are called to share our gifts by keeping one of the Magi from our Nativity set on our desk or dresser as a year-round a reminder to bring our gifts to Jesus.

Come join us for our weekly Parish Rosary to be offered this Wednesday at 7:15 pm in church.



Our rosary leaders will be:

Sandy Brooks, Sue Brown, Pat Dastoor,
Ginger Baechle, Beverly Bryant

The Mysteries this week are: **Sorrowful**

Our petition for this week will be:

**"Lord, we pray for an increase of vocations
to the priesthood and religious life."**

Together we pray for those who are sick. (Parishioners names are in bold.)

Please pray for: Wilma Kernan, Mary Ann Burns, Howard Denton, Becky Hassell, Tracy Beussink, Kathy Stewart, Joe Stewart, Mike Carriere, Meg Corizine, Jack Cunningham, Mazie Roegner, Debbie Gebhardt, Jhena Copeland, Shannon Moorman, Kirk Family, Kathy Pearce, John Wieland, Doug Booth, Jim and Mary Ogden, Jamie Golden, Quentin King, Brenda Barks, Stephanie Webb, Mary Lou Lodholz, Nan Link, Kim Wilkinson, Wanda Meyer, Mary Jones, Charmaine McFarland, Tom Rigdon, Bob Medley, Charles Southard, Kathy Krechnyak, Rhonda LaPierre, Norma "Mutzie" Greif, Diane Starks, Robert McManus, Roy Wirth, Melissa McKelvey, Rose Trepasso, Thelma Blake, Frances Zolman.

If you need to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Pat Boatright at 756-4169.

The Answer is Always “Jesus”

Sr. Barbara Wentworth, DHM • Parish Religion Coordinator



In 150 A.D. Justin Martyr....a convert (an RCIA participant incidentally) and philosopher wrote a description of Eucharist as it was celebrated in both Ephesus and Rome. Justin, called Martyr because he chose to die by beheading rather than worship the Roman gods, tells us that Mass was held on Sunday and clearly states the early Church's unshakable belief in the real presence of our Lord in the bread and wine. Justin says that the participation of the community was acknowledged by the communal "Amen." He goes on to say that on Sunday there were two readings by a lector, a homily by the priest, the bringing up of the gifts...then the Eucharistic Prayer, and distribution of Communion....and yes...there was a collection !!!

In the early years Mass was celebrated in someone's home....the *Acts of the Apostles* relate that Prisca and Aquila (Church in Asia) opened their homes as did someone named Nympha (the Church in Laodicea), as well as Philemon and Archippus (called Paul's co-workers).

In the **Book of Revelations**, it's recorded that John wrote letters to the seven churches....seven Christian communities and the houses where they gathered for prayer, Eucharist and mutual encouragement. At this point the Roman government would not tolerate public gatherings of Christians that included worship so the early Christians were forced to quietly meet in designated homes or house churches. In the beginning the householder presided at the Liturgies.... soon it was decided that only ordained bishops and priests would preside at Eucharistic Liturgies.

Generally speaking the kind of house that was used for these gatherings had to be large enough to accommodate at least one hundred people...it would have a table situated at one end of the room or the atrium and next to it would be a reading stand or an ambo from which the lector proclaimed the Word. Participants stood for the most part during the entire Liturgy.

In what language did they celebrate Eucharist? The first Eucharist at the Last Supper was in Aramaic ...the language of Judea, Galilee, Antioch and probably other parts of the Empire. Even today it is the language used in the Chaldean churches of Syria and Iraq. With the arrival of the gentile converts the Eucharist began to be celebrated in Greek Latin and Coptic (Egyptians and Ethiopians).

As the Roman Empire put more pressure on the Christians they retreated to the catacombs. The catacombs were a network of underground tunnels that became the burial places for Christians during the centuries of persecutions. These tunnels were build in Malta, Sicily, Asia Minor, North Africa and parts of Western Europe. The most elaborate ones were in Rome. The Roman government had laws against molesting tombs...so for a time the Christians had a safe place not only to bury their dead but had places to honor the anniversary of particular martyr's death by celebrating Eucharist at his or her burial site. This "underground Church" flourished and grew and by 313 A. D. things began to improve for the early Christians.



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2011

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fr. Rickey J. Valleroy

One Minute Meditations

Mass matters

Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." (John 6:53). Don't miss a single Sunday or Holy Day opportunity to have Jesus' life within you.

Tough times?

God will help you through whatever tough times you face. "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on him.

The Holy Father on joy

"The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And he is joy. Joy is the gift in which all the other gifts are included. It is the expression of happiness, of being in harmony with ourselves, that which can only come from being in harmony with God and with his creation."

(Pope Benedict XVI)



Find a way to the real world

As real as this life seems, it is just a stopover. The real world for us is Heaven and the eternity we hope to spend there. A sure way to get there is to live a holy life on Earth.

Follow the model. When Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6), he meant for us to follow him and live as he lived. Jesus didn't retreat from the world. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Search the Gospels for clues to how you can imitate Jesus in your own life.

Eliminate distractions. Are there thoughts or activities which hold your attention longer than they deserve? For

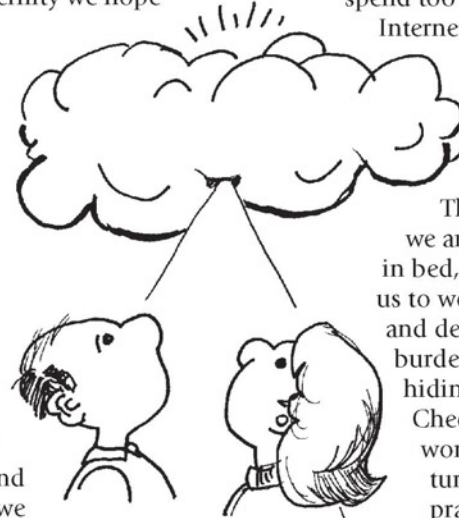
example, do you watch more television than you should, or spend too much time on the Internet? Cut back and give the time you save to God in some way.

Embrace the tough stuff.

There are days when we are tempted to stay in bed, but God intends us to work (Genesis 2:15) and deal with our burdens instead of hiding from them. Cheerfully handling work and suffering turns problems into prayers.

Look over your shoulder.

God is with us each minute of every day in a very real sense. Become more conscious of his presence and you will increase his influence over your actions.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What does the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus mean?

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's love for us. It is often a heart surrounded by flame, pierced by a lance, topped by a cross, and circled by a crown of thorns.



Jesus' love for us burns bright and intense like a flame. His heart is pierced by the lance representing our sins and the crown of thorns and the cross remind us of the death he suffered to bring us life.

Growing in Faith™

Tune out the world and tune into God

In our noisy world, it can be hard to hear God's voice over the din. Yet, listening is as important as talking during prayer. *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies"* (Isaiah 30:15). Try these ideas for some quiet listening in your day:

Quiet sight: during daylight hours, go to a window and look out. Ask God to help you see the familiar sight with new eyes. Discover something you hadn't noticed before.



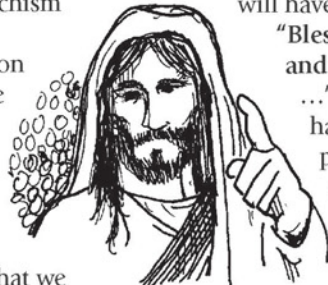
Quiet reading: Bring your Bible or devotional reading to a quiet spot. Read at least 10 verses and take 15 minutes to meditate on them. Be still and allow God to speak to you by whatever means he chooses.

Quiet retreat: several websites offer mini retreats as a way to enter into quiet prayer during your day. This is especially helpful if you spend a lot of time during the day in front of a computer screen. See www.loyolapress.com and click on 3-minute retreat, for an example.

from **Scripture**

Matthew 5:1-12, paths to happiness

God wants us to be happy. When he created us, he put into our hearts the desire to be happy (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1718). During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes – guaranteed ways to obtain peace here and happiness in Heaven.



"Blessed are the poor in spirit ..." Recognize that we need God to compensate for our weakness. Depend upon his help.

"Blessed are they who mourn ..." God knows what you need even better than you do. Trust him to strengthen you and bring you comfort.

"Blessed are the meek ..." Jesus is meek and gentle. Imitate him and you will have everlasting peace.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..." Peacefully accept whatever happens knowing that Jesus promises to give you courage.

"Blessed are the merciful ..." Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. If we show

mercy, we are guaranteed mercy. Perhaps the real secret to happiness is remembering that when we follow Jesus, there will always be a happy ending.

Q & A Can I be forgiven for the bad things I have done?

God loves us so much that he is ready to forgive anything we have done. Jesus said, *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners"* (Matthew 9:13). He knew



we would sin and need forgiveness. The key is to ask.

As difficult as offering forgiveness to others can be, forgiving ourselves may be even harder.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God. But second to that is to *"... love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mark 12:31). That means he wants us to behave in a loving way toward all people God created – including ourselves. Forgiveness is critical.

The first step is to ask God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Don't worry that you may shock the priest by what you tell him. If he has been a priest for any length of time, he won't shock easily. When you finish the penance he gives you, resolve to avoid sin and start fresh. If God is ready to forgive you, can you do any less?

Feasts & Celebrations

January 17 – St. Anthony the Abbot (355). Born to a rich family around 250 A.D. in Egypt, St. Anthony gave up his riches to live a life of simplicity in the desert. He is the founder of monasticism.

January 21 – St. Agnes (258). At a young age, St. Agnes pledged chastity for Jesus. Reportedly she was turned in for being a Christian by a suitor whom she refused to marry. She maintained her chastity and her faith and was executed as a result.

January 24 - St. Francis de Sales (1622). As bishop of Geneva, St.

Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St. Francis wrote Introduction to the Devout Life, which is as applicable today as it was in his day.

January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274). St. Thomas was a Dominican teacher and scholar. He is considered by the Church as the preeminent spokesman for the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year, at Christmas time, you can find a newspaper article or TV documentary about the star of Bethlehem. The astronomers give various theories about whether the Magi saw a new star, perhaps a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the Magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

More important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative: they saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus, by the gifts they brought: Gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways: We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for you.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the Child, Herod was furious (Mt 2:16); for all they knew, he could have come after the Magi. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith, or giving Him credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

(from "The Word in our Lives")

Youth Group News

Greetings Parish! It's hard to believe the New Year has already come! It feels like only yesterday that we started school and were looking forward to Christmas to come. We hope that everyone will take this time to look back to the past, but more importantly, look forward to the future, and all the wonderful things God has in store for the New Year!

There will be no Youth Group tonight, but be prepared to start back up next week as we go to the Youth Mass. Look for more updates in the bulletin next week!

Quote of the Week: "Drop the last year into the silent limbo of the past. Let it go, for it was imperfect, and thank God that it can go." - Brooks Atkinson



Let us pray for those who share weekly in our Eucharistic Celebration and who are carrying the gift of life. . .

Golda (Anton) Aseniero

Stephanie (Paul) Boshoff

Lauren (Nathan) Stein

If you are carrying the gift of life and would like the prayers of your parish family please call Sandy at the parish office.

You may take your Christmas Poinsettia Home

Next Sunday, **January 9th, after the 10:30 mass** we will be taking down our Christmas decorations. Our sincere thanks to each of you who made our Sacred Space so beautiful this holiday season through the memorials to your loved ones. After the 10:30 a mass the poinsettias are available to anyone who made a memorial and wishes to take a poinsettia home.

Knights of Columbus Annual Youth Free Throw Championship



All boys and girls (public and parochial school students) ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2011 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held **Sunday, January 9th, 2011 at 2:00 pm** at St. Joseph Gym. Winners will progress through local, district, and state competitions. For more information contact George Boyd at 756-1449.

Attention All 8th Grade School and PSR Students

This year's Confirmation Retreat will be held on **Saturday, February 5th, 2011** at Cardinal Rigali Center in St. Louis. More details will follow. **All Confirmation Candidates are expected to attend this retreat.**

Sr. Barbara

*God dwells among His
people in the flesh of
Jesus Christ, born in
Bethlehem, present in
the Eucharist.*

God is made present in the Holy Eucharist at Holy Mass for us to receive as our Spiritual Food. He dwells in our tabernacle and is enshrined in the monstrance for us to adore. He will be with us until the end of time.



Eucharistic Adoration hours are **Thursdays from 7:30 am - 5:20 pm** followed by Benediction. Everyone is welcome to visit during Adoration Hours! To sign up for a specific hour or to be on the substitute list, please call Charlie and Rita Boyd at 756-2383, or e-mail them at ctboyd@