

Winter
2011



Casting the NET

St. James Catholic Church Newsletter

Calendar of Events

January

- **Jan. 3** - Celebrate Recovery Support Group, 7:00 p.m. (every Monday)
- **Jan. 6** - Alanon, 5:30 p.m.; Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:00 p.m. (every Thursday)
- **Jan. 9** - Knights of Columbus Free Throw Tournament, 1:00 p.m.
- **Jan. 14** - St. James/Seton School Kindergarten Sneak Peek, 8:15 a.m. for Mass
- **Jan. 16** - Register in the parish, 10:30 a.m.
- **Jan. 23** - Welcome Sunday: Refreshments after morning Masses
- **Jan. 23** - Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner, 4:30 p.m.

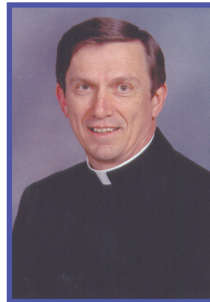
February

- **Jan 31-Feb. 4** - Catholic Schools Week
- **Feb. 6** - "Souper Bowl of Caring"; SJ/Seton School new registrations
- **Feb. 18-20** - Melodrama / Olio performances & **24-26**
- **Feb. 23** - Bloodmobile 2:00-6:00 p.m.

March

- **March 9** - Ash Wednesday Masses: 6:30, 8:15, 10:00 a.m.; 5:30, 7:15 p.m.
- **March 11** - Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.; KofC Fish Fry, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- **March 13** - Daylight-Saving Time Begins
- **March 18** - Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.; Living Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.
- **March 20** - Spring Begins!
- **March 25** - K of C Fish Fry, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- **March 27** - PARISH MISSION; Chris Muglia at all Masses and at 7:00 p.m.
- **March 28** - PARISH MISSION, 7:00 p.m.

A Letter From the Pastor



Dear Friend,

Easter is observed by the churches of the West on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox (March 21). Easter is a "movable" feast that can occur as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. This year Easter is on April 24. It is the most important date on the Christian calendar because it remembers the time when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. This is the foundation event of our faith. Although we fondly remember Jesus' birth (December 25), it is the feast of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Easter) that opens eternal life to all believers.

The feast of Easter is so important on our Christian calendars that we have the Lenten season of 40 days leading up to it and a special Easter season of 50 days after it. These many days that surround Easter are all opportunity days to nurture the gift of faith. By focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to the poor) during these special days, the Church encourages us to be alive in the very life of Jesus.

As a way to prepare for the great Easter event, I would like to invite you to attend a parish mission at St. James on Sunday, March 27, and Monday, March 28, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening. Sound Mission Ministries, including songwriter Chris Muglia, will lead the mission.

Sound Mission Ministries exists to promote and encourage families to grow in holiness. In today's busy world of multiple jobs, education requirements and extracurricular activities, simply making it through the day can be an ordeal. Getting families to embrace their Catholic faith can be a challenge as well. Sound Mission Ministries will help inspire and encourage parishioners and their families to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

May the celebration of Easter renew your life in Christ Jesus!
Peace,

Fr. Richard

Mass Schedule

Weekdays:
6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.

Saturdays:
8:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Sundays:
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

What's a communion service?

When a priest is not available for a weekday morning Mass, we're allowed to have a communion service. A communion service, led by a deacon or a lay person, includes reading of the Scriptures and prayers, with the reserved Blessed Sacrament being distributed to the faithful.



On a journey with AFF



Yet another acronym it seems as though we see them daily - from signs in the stores to work projects to even license plates on vehicles!

Two ladies in our parish have found fun and challenge through working with AFF. In this case, the acronym stands for Adult Faith Formation! Jo Kusek is the faith formation director at St. James, and one faithful participant and volunteer is Chris Young.

For Jo, of course, AFF is a major part of her job description, but for her, it is not just a job but a life mission. Jo began working at St. James in 2003 and has been facilitating prayer groups and Bible studies ever since. She has discovered the joy of sharing her faith with adults, which, in turn, has resulted in building up her own faith. She said, "It's marvelous to see how God works in every life, and that He calls everyone without exception."

Chris also has seen God at work through AFF's efforts. She said, "I experience the privilege of watching adults learn new insights into their faith, correct misconceptions or outdated teaching, and become excited and engaged. ... I have seen lives changed!" One instance involved a young couple with misconceptions about the Catholic faith. Through searching the Scriptures and the catechism, they became more sure of their faith, married, had children and continued to grow in strength. Another experience she noted was when the father of a homicide victim gave a presentation at an AFF event. This father described the process of forgiveness and healing he had gone through, and with the intervention of the Holy Spirit, he experienced "wholeness and holiness." In turn, St. James parishioners struggling with forgiveness were encouraged.

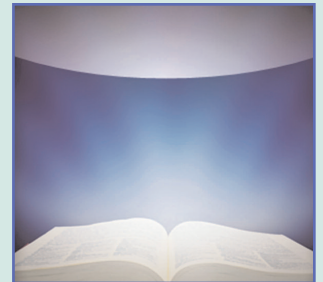
AFF offers opportunities to be involved in small group studies, attend events with speakers, view DVD series on a variety of topics, and share in multi-generational events. Jo specifically enjoys working with "Catholics Returning Home," a six-week program for those who have been away from the Church. One gentleman advised her that if he had known what the Mass was about, he would never have left. Attending marriage validations gave Jo the joy of watching a woman who hadn't been able to receive communion for 15 years walk up the aisle to receive the sacrament. Jo said, "This program has enabled me to see that God never lets go of anyone, and He keeps calling them to join Him again." ☸



Several activities will be offered during Lent 2011

These include, but are not limited to:

- A Quick Journey Through the Bible - a seven-week series beginning Feb. 10
- Women's Day of Reflection - March 12, featuring Dr. Susan Calef speaking on prayer
- Living Stations of the Cross - presented by PRE 8th-graders in March
- Parish Mission - March 27 and 28
- The Four Last Things - a two-part lecture on death, judgment, heaven and hell by Peter Kennedy from the Catholic Formation Office (and a St. James parishioner) April 7 and 14



Anyone can be involved and can find information about AFF activities on the church website at <http://www.stjamescatholicchurch.org>, or by viewing the Good News, also available on the website. Signups for small faith-sharing groups begin in January after weekend Masses, or individuals can contact Jo directly at jokusek@creighton.edu or 572-0369.

Jo's final thought during our discussion was "Remember, God loves us each individually, and He wants us to be close to Him!" Perhaps best experienced via an acronym! ☸



A double dose of HOPE



A new program at St. James - called "Angels of HOPE" - is doubling the profits of the HOPE program! A number of generous parishioners have donated the funds that are being used to match the profit from every HOPE transaction.

A few examples of how this works with just a few of the program's dozens of vendors:

- Using HOPE for your Baker's or Kohl's purchases, for example, generates 10 percent in profit for the program, rather than 5 percent.
- The profit if you use HOPE when you eat at Applebee's is 16 percent, not 8 percent. For Runza or Godfather's the profit is 20 percent instead of the usual 10 percent. At Fernando's, the profit is now 40 percent!
- If you buy a \$5 Hy-Vee coupon book, the profit is \$6 - that's a 120 percent return to the HOPE program!

Nothing else changes about the HOPE transaction:

- 1) It still costs you nothing. You exchange your cash or check for the identical amount in gift cards or certificates from your favorite stores and restaurants. And that Hy-Vee coupon book? You get your \$5 back with the first coupon in the book -- \$5 off a \$50 purchase (and then you can still use the other coupons).
- 2) The profits still go for the same uses - the parish contingency fund/debt retirement and tuition assistance.
- 3) To school parents: Yes! "Angels of HOPE" doubles

your tuition credit. If you have a child at St. James/Seton School, the HOPE program offers a way for you to have a portion of the profit credited to you. Under the "Angels of HOPE" effort, for as long as it lasts, that credit is doubled.

How can I participate in "Angels of HOPE"?

Use HOPE! Again, it costs you nothing. If you're a school parent, you can receive credit toward your tuition. And the parish will benefit twice as much now as it has in the past from EVERY transaction. There are order forms on the parish website (www.stjamescatholicchurch.org), at the HOPE table before and after Masses, and at the parish and school offices. All the information you need is on the order form.



Contribute to the "Angels of HOPE" matching fund. The parish will keep doubling the profits for as long as there are funds available. (Note: These donations would be above and beyond what you already give. We don't want this effort to hurt our regular Sunday giving.)


Contact Debbie Armentrout (572-0499) to find out more about how to contribute on a one-time or ongoing basis, or simply drop an envelope in the Sunday collection basket marked "Angels of HOPE."

Volunteer as a HOPE worker. We're always looking for more help before and after Masses and possibly to fill orders at other times. Can you be a generous steward of your time and talent in this way? Contact the HOPE office by e-mail at hope@sjsomaha.org or by phone at 572-7897 to find out how you can help.

** Don't miss the parish mission on
 March 27th and 28th!
 See the letter from Fr. Richard on Page 1 for details.*

Address Service Requested

We're "Casting the Net"!

 *A quarterly outreach
newsletter from St. James
Parish – find us on the Web
at www.stjamescatholicchurch.org
or call 572-0499.*

How to reach us

Do you have a prayer request, or is a loved one in the hospital? Do you want more information about a St. James activity or have a question about the school? Would you like to volunteer, or do you have a suggestion for us? No matter the need or question, please contact us! Here are a few of the ways:

St. James rectory and parish offices

9025 Larimore Ave.
Omaha, NE 68134-2797
402-572-0499
Fax: 573-9345

Web site: www.stjamescatholicchurch.org

Offices are open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays: The offices include those for Pastoral Ministry, Liturgy, the Good News (the weekly bulletin) and Volunteers.

Church building address

4710 N. 90th St.

Young adult office: 572-0499

Youth office: 9124 Tomahawk Blvd.,
572-0624

St. James/Seton School

4720 N. 90th St.
Omaha, NE 68134
402-572-0339

www.sjsomaha.org

The school buildings include offices for the principal, business manager, religious education personnel and the HOPE program.

Celebrating the Sacraments

We hope you will celebrate Jesus' presence through the sacraments with us.

- **Anointing of the Sick:** A healing sacrament for the chronically or terminally ill, young and old, or prior to surgery. Occasionally celebrated at Mass, but arrangements to receive the sacrament can be made to meet individual and family needs. Call the parish offices at 572-0499.
- **Baptism:** We celebrate baptisms for infants on the last Sunday of each month after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Call to register for infant baptism preparation, 572-0499. Adult baptisms are arranged through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process.
- **Communion:** Our second-graders receive their First Communion in the spring. Students must have attended the Wednesday night PRE (Parish Religious Education) program or the five-day school through first and second grades. Contact Jo Kusek at 572-0369. Adults in RCIA receive their First Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass. Contact Bob May at 572-0499. Homebound parishioners also can receive the Eucharist. Call the parish offices to arrange a visit.
- **Confirmation:** Our eighth-graders receive this sacrament in the spring. Students must have two years of preparation (7th and 8th grade) in the PRE program or the five-day school. Call Jo Kusek at 572-0369. Adults in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) are confirmed at the Easter Vigil Mass.
- **Holy Orders:** Discerning a call to the priesthood or the diaconate? Call our pastor, Father Richard Reiser, at 572-0499, the archdiocese's vocations director, Father Paul Hoelsing, at 558-3100, or the urban diaconate director, Father Ralph O'Donnell, at 733-8811.
- **Matrimony:** Call the parish offices at least nine months before your wedding date, 572-0499. Couples have preparation sessions with a parish priest, deacon and marriage ministers prior to the wedding.
- **Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard on Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment (572-0499). Second-graders celebrate their First Reconciliation in the late fall or early winter. RCIA participants prepare for the Easter Vigil Mass by celebrating this sacrament during Holy Week. Parish communal penance services also are held during the Lent and Advent seasons.