

Fall  
2010



# Casting the NET

St. James Catholic Church Newsletter

## Calendar of Events

### October

- **Oct 3** - Life Chain Sunday
- **Oct. 8** - Catholic Daughters' Trivia Night
- **Oct. 11** - Columbus Day
- **Oct 13** - Multiple Sclerosis Information & Support Group, 11:30 a.m.
- **Oct. 24** - Welcome Sunday with refreshments after morning Masses
- **Oct. 31** - World Youth Day; Archdiocesan Youth Rally; Halloween

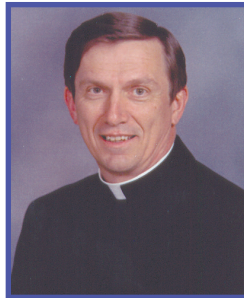
### November

- **Nov. 1** - All Saints Day
- **Nov. 2** - All Souls Day
- **Nov. 7** - Daylight -Saving Time ends!
- **Nov. 9** - Widowed, Divorced, Separated Catholics monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 11** - Veterans Day
- **Nov. 12** - Casino Night @ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (school fundraiser)
- **May 19** - Bloodmobile at St. James 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 25** - Thanksgiving, Mass at 9:00 a.m. with refreshments after Mass

### December

- **Dec. 8** - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Masses: 6:30, 8:15, 10:00 a.m.; 5:30, 7:15 p.m.; Christian Women Wine & Cheese Mass and party, 7:15 p.m.
- **Dec. 11** - Sacrament of First Reconciliation @ St. James, 9:30 a.m.
- **Dec. 16** - Reconciliation Services, 7:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 17** - Reconciliation Services, 12:00 Noon
- **Dec. 21** - Winter Begins!!
- **Dec. 22** - No school Dec. 22 through Jan.4, 2011
- **Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Masses, 4:00, 4:05, 6:00p.m.
- **Dec. 25** - Christmas, Masses 12 Midnight (w/music 15 minutes before Mass), 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
- **Dec. 31** - New Year's Eve, Pro Sanctity, 10:00 p.m., followed by Midnight Mass

## A Letter From the Pastor



Dear Friend,

The fall season in the Midwest brings the growing season to an end and invites the harvest of the fruits of the earth to be gathered. It is a time to be thankful for the abundance that God has given for our good. Our country's celebration of Thanksgiving is a beautiful time to remember all of the blessings God has given to us.

There are numerous passages in the Bible that encourage us to see our lives similar to the growing seasons around us. In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians we are told "... in due time we shall reap our harvest." (Gal. 6:9) Heaven is our harvest home.

To help us along our way to harvest we can benefit from brothers and sisters who are growing along with us. They can become helpers with listening ears and encouraging words. The Stephen Ministers at St. James are just those kinds of plants who can help us grow to an abundant harvest. If you are going through some tough growing weather in life I'd like you to consider inviting a Stephen Minister to walk with you.

All harvests begin with seeds that are planted. At present our community is being threatened by the building of an abortion facility which will terminate life before it can grow and come to harvest. Our St. James for Life Committee continues to keep before us the challenge to be people who support God's gift of life from womb to tomb.

In this season of harvest and thanksgiving may you continue to know God's love calling you to an abundant harvest in your life.

Peace,

Father Richard Reiser  
Pastor

## 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.



## October: Respect Life Month



"God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: No one can under any circumstance claim for him(her)self the right directly to destroy an innocent human being." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, [CCC] 2270, Donum vitae, intro. 5)

The Catholic Church has always asserted the sacredness of life from conception until natural death, and there are many church documents that validate the church's position regarding the preservation of life as an indisputable issue. In particular, the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae: The Gospel of Life* by Pope John Paul II proclaims the church's authoritative position on such issues as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty and embryonic stem cell research. [See the Vatican website at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).]

Now, more than ever, we St. James parishioners need to become involved in the pro-life ministry, because we have the "Culture of Death" knocking at our back door. Planned Parenthood is planning to open an abortion mill at 3105 N. 93rd St., and the mill may open as soon as next January.

At St. James we are fortunate to have our pastor, Fr. Richard Reiser, and a Pro-Life Committee, coordinated by Caroline Parys, who strongly support the "Gospel of Life." Fr. Richard said, "Pro-life work is a prophetic ministry" and it is essential "to keep the 'Gospel of Life' in front of us."

**The following are ways you can become involved in this "prophetic ministry" -- any type of participation is helpful:**

- Participate in the Life Chain on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Go to the Prayer Vigil, Sunday, Oct. 10, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at 3105 N. 93rd Street.
- Donate items (disposable diapers, infant formula, etc.) to the Advent Baby Shower.
- Attend the National Night of Prayer Holy Hour on Wednesday, Dec. 8.
- Pray, Pray, Pray to end abortion...
  - the rosary across from the Carhart Abortion Mill, 1002 West Mission Ave. in Bellevue, the third Saturday of the month
  - the Rosary for Life on the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Blessed Mother statue at St. James
  - individually for the intentions of ending abortion, those seeking abortions, etc.
- Volunteer to be trained as a "sidewalk" counselor; contact Liz Miller, 614-0496.

For more information on any of these pro-life activities, or if you wish to become involved with the St. James Pro-Life Committee, contact Caroline Parys at 572-1923. ☺



## Stephen Ministers are ready to walk alongside you

Stephen Ministry is an international one-to-one Christian care giving ministry. The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (as recorded in Acts 6).

The Stephen Ministry logo reminds us that Christ is at the center of Stephen Ministry and all Stephen Ministry relationships. The broken person behind the cross symbolizes how we are all broken people, broken by our own sins and imperfections. The whole person in front of the cross signifies the wholeness we encounter through the transforming power of the cross of Jesus. The circle is a symbol of God's eternal and never ending love for us. The logo tells the story of the journey from brokenness to wholeness.



St. James Parish started our Stephen Ministry program in 1984. Parishioners complete 50+ hours of training and voluntarily make the commitment of being St. James Stephen Ministers. Over the past 26 years, our Stephen Ministers have helped more than 170 parishioners.

Could you benefit with help from a Stephen Minister? Do you need someone to talk with? Someone who cares? Someone who will listen to you? A Stephen Minister can help you in a time of crisis or life challenge. Help guide you through a chapter of grief, loneliness, death, divorce, illness, hospitalization, disability, job loss, despair, and many other life challenges. Stephen Ministers are ready to walk alongside you. We listen, care, encourage, comfort, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

All Stephen Ministry relationships are confidential. We respect your privacy and protect your identity. If you want to explore how Stephen Ministry can help you, or if you want additional information, call St. James Pastoral Minister Bob May at 572-0499. Or, email Bob at [rlmay@stjamescatholicchurch.org](mailto:rlmay@stjamescatholicchurch.org). ☺



## *A parish and its people: So much to be thankful for...*



Thanksgiving each year brings warm thoughts of family and friends and all that we have to be thankful for.

At St. James, our thoughts and thanks turn to another family: Our parish family.

Our parish family is the one that includes the more than 1,400 households and several thousand individuals who make possible all the ministries that St. James offers.

Because of this generosity, St. James is alive with activity at all times of the year. So as Thanksgiving approaches, may we count some of our parish's blessings.

**For example, let's look at just a few of the groups that are thriving here year-round and a few activities ahead in November and December (and check the calendar of events on Page 1 for more):**

- For little ones: Thank you to those who watch our wee ones in the nursery each Sunday; to those who teach the youngsters in the Liturgy for Children at some of the weekend Masses; and to those who lead the K4J (Kids for Jesus) program.
- For high school youths: Thank you to our James GANG, one of the most active youth groups in the area. The group meets regularly on Wednesday nights and will celebrate Christmas at a party on Dec. 15.
- For those suffering from addictions or in a time of crisis: Thank you to the Celebrate Recovery group, which meets Monday evenings



at St. James, and to our Stephen Ministers, who reach out to parishioners facing a difficult time in their lives.


- For senior citizens: Thank you to all those involved with our 55 and Alive group, which offers social and spiritual blessings for our seniors.
- For the needy at Christmastime: Thank you to all those who participate each year in the parish's Christmas Angels program. To participate this year: On Nov. 20-21, pick a family to help from the trees in the narthex. After making your purchase, bring the gift(s) for your family to St. James on Dec. 11-12.
  - For the men of the parish: Thank you to groups such as the Knights of Columbus, which offers a variety of activities and provides much help to the parish.
  - For the women of the parish: Thank you to the Catholic Daughters, who, like the Knights, have a broad reach - offering social and spiritual benefits to many in the parish, whether it's college students receiving care packages or social events such as trivia and movie nights.
  - For those seeking a closer relationship with God: Thank you to all those involved with the Advent offerings that are coming our way. Watch the Good News for details of special events, including reconciliation services, holiday Masses and special faith formation events.

Want more details on any of these activities or groups? Call the parish office at 572-0499.

Address Service Requested

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## We're "Casting the Net"!

 *A quarterly outreach  
newsletter from St. James  
Parish – find us on the Web  
at [www.stjamescatholicchurch.org](http://www.stjamescatholicchurch.org)  
or call 572-0499.*

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### 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](http://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](http://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.