

Summer
2011



Casting the NET

St. James Catholic Church Newsletter

Calendar of Events

July

- **July 16-17** - "Bundle Sunday" collection for St. Vincent de Paul - Registrations on the 17 for new people, 10:30 a.m.
- **July 24** - PARISH PICNIC! In the parking lot, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Cost \$9 (\$10 the day of the picnic) Ticket sales begin July 9-10
- **July 25** - Feast of St. James, refreshments in the narthex after 8:15 a.m. Communion Service.

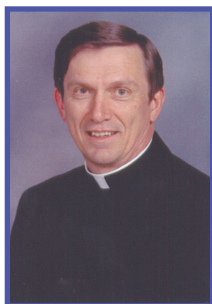
August

- **Aug. 6-7** - St. James/Seton School 1st All-Alumni Gathering; School Tours on the 6, Mass on the 7 at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Contact Person: Lennel Bottoms, 402-305-8664
- **Aug 11** - Stephen Ministry Information Night, 7:00 p.m.
- **Aug. 15** - Assumption of Mary into Heaven, Masses at 6:30 and 8:15 a.m.
- **Aug. 16** - Baptism Evening of Reflection for parents, 7:30 p.m.
- **Aug. 17** - First day of school
- **Aug. 24** - Youth Group Kickoff Party, 7:00 p.m.
- **Aug. 28** - Welcome Sunday, refreshments after 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. Masses

September

- **Sep. 5** - Labor Day, Mass at 9:00 a.m.; parish and school offices closed.
- **Sep. 7** - Parish Religious Education (P.R.E.) classes begin: sessions are 5:15-6:30 and 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- **Sep. 14** - Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, 11:30 a.m.; Bloodmobile at St. James, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Sep. 18** - Catechetical Sunday; New registrations, 10:30 a.m.
- **Sep. 21** - Youth Group Progressive Dinner, 7:00 p.m.
- **Sep. 25** - Welcome Sunday refreshments after 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. Masses

A Letter From the Pastor



Dear Friend,
On June 5, Fr. Rheo Ofalsa, a newly ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha, celebrated his First Mass at St. James.

Both the parish Knights of Columbus and the parish Catholic Daughters helped prepare and serve a special dinner for Father Rheo and his family. It was a blessing and an answer to our parish's prayer to have Father Rheo celebrate his First Mass with us and to realize that the Lord continues to raise up priests to serve at the altar. Through the ministry of priests, all our parish families are made strong through the gift of the Eucharist that comes to us through the hands of the priest.

An aspect of our St. James' Annual Renewal program this year is the invitation for all of our parishioners to be part of "A Thousand Strong." To be included in that number, parishioners are being asked to commit to regular worship, spiritual growth, sharing of financial treasure, and service to build up the Body of Christ at St. James. According to our records, we have the potential to be even over a thousand strong. I hope we can count on you to be in that number.

The celebration of our parish picnic is on Sunday, July 24. This event near the feast of our patron, St. James, is a way to celebrate the strength and life of our parish. Even if you have been away from the parish a while, consider getting a ticket and coming to this fun event. It begins at 4:00 p.m. with a short prayer walk reminiscent of the Way of St. James in Spain, includes a great meal, has fun games and rides for the children, and activities for the adults, too. Tickets can be purchased either at the parish offices or at the welcome table on the day of the picnic.

At present, our parish is also seeking to update its census information. If you have received a census form from the parish, please return it to the parish offices as soon as possible so we can keep our records current.

Happy summer!

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.



Four Doors and the Hope of A Thousand Responses



St. James' stewardship renewal each year focuses on the "Four Doors" to God's Grace: the Doors of Worship, Service, Spiritual Growth and Treasure.

But this year, the parish used another number to set this renewal apart from those of previous years: 1,000.


The theme of this year's renewal, part of the Growing in God's Grace initiative at the parish, was "St. James: A Thousand Strong." The goal was to have 1,000 parish households (out of about 1,450 registered households) return stewardship commitment forms. That would be a new record!

As of early July, the tally was at about 726 and counting. The parish may not reach the goal, but it already has gotten an impressive response.

An important note is that the renewal's goal was not tied to money, only to a pledge to any or all of the "Four Doors." Stewardship of treasure is important, of course, but no more than Mass attendance, service to the parish in one of its many activities, or participation in a spiritual growth offering.

The annual renewal is important both from the parish and parishioner viewpoints. For the parish, commitment forms help with planning and record-keeping, and they allow each organization to review its membership and invite new participation. For the parishioners, it is a faith renewal, an opportunity to pray about a level of commitment that for most flows up and down throughout their lives.

Through the renewal, each parish family gets the chance once a year to say loud and clear: "Yes! We are a part of St. James Parish," and "Yes! We are committed to doing what we can to support it."

If you haven't returned your forms, there is still time. Just drop them in the collection basket at Mass or send them to the parish office. If you didn't receive the renewal packet in the mail, call the office at 402-572-0499 to have one sent to you. 

St. James Annual Picnic - A Celebration of the Parish - Mark Your Calendar

Pam Eihausen says she and her husband, Russ, were interested in becoming more involved at St. James.

Now the couple is involved in the biggest way, as co-chairmen of the annual Parish Picnic.

It's the 13th year for the event, which will be held July 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. The late-July celebration is held on the Sunday that is closest to the feast day of St. James, which is July 25.

"We felt getting involved in the picnic was a good way to get to know more people on a personal basis," Pam Eihausen said. "We've definitely met a lot more people this way."

The Eihausens have met those people because the annual event is a large undertaking. It takes 10 committee members, several church organizations (the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, the melodrama group, among others) and many volunteers to make the picnic a success.

"We couldn't do any of this without all of the people who are often behind the scenes," Eihausen said. "A lot of them have worked the picnic for several years, so they definitely

know their way around."

The Eihausens, parishioners since 2004, can be included among those picnic regulars. They had worked as volunteers the past five years and used 2010 as their leadership training year, knowing that they'd be the people in charge this summer.

"It's a great event and one that we feel very strongly about," Eihausen said. "We had pretty much been at the picnic from the start until the finish in past years, so we figured we might as well step up and be in charge."

Planning for the 2011 picnic began shortly after the 2010 event. There was a follow-up meeting and three more meetings over the next several months that included committee members and either St. James pastor Fr. Richard Reiser or senior associate pastor Fr. Roger Kalscheuer.

"It's a great celebration of the parish," Fr. Reiser said. "There are fun things for the young and the old, so there's something for everyone."

This year's picnic will have many of the amenities that



And She Walks With Me

Cathy Wyatt, Catholic Daughters



"The Lord gave me another day, so I go and thank Him." And that, ladies and gentlemen, is Rita Couch's reason for getting out of bed every morning and... heading to Church.

But she doesn't drive. No, at 85 years old, the 5-foot-5 gray-haired wonder walks -- and at a pretty good clip, I might add. Just ask anyone who passes her on Tomahawk Boulevard.

"It's good exercise ... I've always been a walker," she said.

And she's always been something else -- into community service. In fact, she was recently recognized as the Outstanding Catholic Woman from St. James Parish, where she's been a member since 1966.

"Community service gives people a chance to know one another and solve the different problems in their community," said Rita.

If that's the case, then Rita is surely working her way toward solving the world's problems. As an active Catholic Daughter, she is always willing to volunteer for college care packages, Step Out and Serve, baking, serving at the Melodrama, Trivia Night and the parish picnic.

"We share different things and we do a lot of different things for different people. I was a Catholic Daughter for

many years but not an active one. When I heard St. James had one, I transferred because I heard they were doing a lot," said Rita.

In addition to Catholic Daughters, she has also been captain of a money-counting team since the inception of the ministry in 2000. As a perpetual adorer, Rita spends one hour in prayer each week before the Blessed Sacrament.

As for the award, Rita received it on May 5. "It was great. A nice luncheon. Twenty-one parishes represented. I had my picture taken with the Archbishop and Fr. Reiser."

"I have always valued Rita's presence and support of me and the parish," said Fr. Richard Reiser, St. James' pastor. "Her commitment to prayer and service in the parish makes Rita a great example of stewardship. It was great that she could be honored by our parish and the archdiocese."

"Rita is one of those people who are part of the foundation of our church," said parishioner and Catholic Daughter Debbie Armentrout. "She has helped in so many ways but is one who hates any attention."

Side note: Rita did have a younger sister and Aunt who are past recipients of this same award. Talk about the ties that bind.

All in a day's work, I suppose. Well, good night, Rita. And, God willing, we'll see you in the morning.

endars for July 24th - 4 to 8 p.m.

parishioners have come to enjoy. That list includes a disc jockey, carnival games, raffles, inflatables for the kids, bingo in the air-conditioned parish center and a lot of food.

The menu this year includes pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, french fries, corn on the cob and pasta salad.

Something new to the list of games this year is the addition of a mechanical bull.

A wristband to the event costs \$9 in advance and \$10 if purchased the afternoon of the Picnic. Children 4 and under are free.

"It's a day when families can just go out and have fun," Eihausen said. "It's a tradition here and one that everybody always enjoys."

Fr. Reiser said the picnic has never been viewed as a fund-raiser, but more as a celebration of the parish.

"We usually do pretty well just to break even," he said. "It's more about bringing our parishioners together and having a good time."

Eihausen said she and her husband will be kept busy on




July 24 in several ways.

"We'll be selling tickets after all of the Masses, collecting baked goods, making sure the corn is getting shucked and getting our drinks lined up," she said. "And we'll have to make sure all of our volunteers are lined up and ready to go."

The Eihausens' two kids, 13-year-old Andrew and 11-year-old Kelsey, also have been recruited to help.


"Everybody needs to pitch in," Pam said. "That's what makes this picnic the success that it is."

She added that the family will learn from this experience because it won't be the last time the Eihausens are in charge.

"It's a three-year commitment," she said, "so we'll also be here in 2012 and 2013. But right now, we're just concentrating on doing the best job we can this year." 

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 diaconate director, Deacon James Keating, at 546-6384.
- **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.