

Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

September 28, 2008

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Principal:

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Nancy Evans

Secretary:

Mrs. Molly Rearden

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements are to be secured with the Pastor at least six months in advance of desired date.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Saturdays after 4:30 p.m. Mass and Sundays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Parents are to attend the Baptism Class before their child is born, if possible. Call the Parish Office.

BLESSED SACRAMENT PRAYER LINE: If you need prayer for a special intention, call the Prayer Line by contacting Jean Quigley at 523-6573 or Mary Theresa Drake at 726-6649.

CELEBRATING THE DAYS

Monday, September 29, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Bob Bice

Tuesday, September 30, Jerome

- ✘ Confessions before 8:20 Mass
- ✘ 8:20 AM Ray Bramlet and Ed Bramlet, Sr.

Wednesday, October 1, Therese of the Child Jesus

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Mary Edna Kramp and Marita Child

Thursday, October 2, Guardian Angels

- ✘ Confessions before 8:20 Mass
- ✘ 8:20 AM Samantha Brahler and Jane Howard-Nelson

Friday, October 3

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Dorothy Sholtis Wise

Saturday, October 4, Francis of Assisi

- ✘ 7:00 AM Vic Gorney
- ✘ 7:30-8:00 AM Confessions
- ✘ 3:00-4:00 PM Confessions
- ✘ 4:30 PM Johnny Fischer

Sunday, October 5, Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

- ✘ 7:00 AM Mary Evelyn Rechner
- ✘ 8:30 AM Bill Lehman
- ✘ 10:30 AM Intentions of our Parishioners

The Cathedral's 5:00 PM Sunday evening Mass will be held at Blessed Sacrament beginning in October.

If you attend this mass, please use your weekly envelope for your contribution, or contact the parish office about direct debit from your bank account.

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

The Responsorial Psalm for Mass is considered another reading during the Liturgy of the Word. This Sunday the psalm is a wonderful prayer for us. The first stanza gives us an attitude and prayer that should be part of our everyday life. "Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior." What if we approached every day with asking God to help us understand His ways and follow His paths?

We can see in this psalm that the author is maturing in age and realizing that he didn't always pray that first stanza in his life. When we find ourselves there, we should pray the second stanza, "Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and you love are from of old. The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD."

The Psalms are prayed everyday by the Church around the world. Over the course of four weeks, the whole Church prays through the 150 Psalms. She does this continually over and over as a way to draw closer to the Lord in any circumstance of life. If you are not familiar with the psalms, take the time to find them in the Bible and start reading through them.

Last weekend I announced that we once again operated at a surplus last year. Thanks again for all your generosity. We had the Annual Parish Financial Report in the bulletin last week as well. I realize that it is in a very difficult format to understand. It is written in that format as a requirement for the diocese, which needs the information in a different way than we would readily understand it. We have found that we can submit a different format to you as long as the diocese gets a copy. So hopefully next year you will have a financial report that is much easier to understand. In the meantime, if you have any questions, we would be happy to help you.

**Sincerely in Christ,
Father Hoefler**

MARRIAGE BANNS

Ryan Gobble & Amy Agatucci plan to wed October 18, 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY WED

Lacey Burt and Shawn Binney, September 20, 2008

THE CHURCH AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

At the core of Catholic Social Teaching is the sacredness of human life. The dignity of each person is the foundation of a moral society. Fundamental to human dignity is the right to life, *from conception to natural death*, which must be *defended and promoted* with maximum determination.

Direct attacks on human life and dignity are intrinsically evil, always wrong, and must always be opposed. These attacks include: abortion; euthanasia and assisted suicide; the destruction of human embryos for research; human cloning; the use of the death penalty; racism; torture; and genocide.

The teachings of the Church deem any law that authorizes these practices as unjust and immoral. The Catechism instructs that we are Catholics first, and citizens second. Accordingly, we are obligated "in conscience not to follow" these laws.

Church teachings also call on us to *promote* human life and dignity by advocating the repeal of unjust laws and the end to immoral practices. We must also support laws and programs that, among other things, encourage child birth and adoption over abortion, address poverty, provide health care, and offer assistance to pregnant women, children, and families.

Since people are more important than things, society and its institutions must be measured by whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. As Catholics, we are "to consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity."

Finally, we must work to avoid war and promote peace. Nations should protect the dignity of the human person and the right to life by finding more effective ways to prevent conflicts, to resolve them by peaceful means, and to promote reconstruction and reconciliation.

We Catholics must be well-informed and form our consciences in preparation for exercising our duty as good Catholic citizens. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience. This is a difficult and complex task. Church teachings provide the framework for assessing candidates on issues affecting human life and dignity, justice, and the common good.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has put out a document concerning these issues called "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. It is available at the following website: <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org>

Along with this and future columns, the Catholic bishops in Kansas City, Missouri have written an excellent letter that you may find instructive. The letter may be read at the following website: <http://www.archkck.org/images/pdf/election.pdf>

GOSPEL OF LIFE

We invite all Blessed Sacrament parishioners to join the Diocese of Springfield and over 170 cities throughout the country in the **National 40 DAYS FOR LIFE** campaign, **September 24 through November 2:**

- Attend **Blessed Sacrament's vigil** outside Hope abortion clinic in Granite City. Each parish in the diocese will take one day in this nationwide program of 40 Days for Life in vigil outside the clinic. Blessed Sacrament's day is **October 18**. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the Lakeside Christian Church parking lot off Toronto Road and return around 1:00 PM. Please call Eric Portz at 718-4030 if you plan to attend.
- Attend the **Bishop's annual Respect Life Mass** in Granite City on **October 4**, followed by a rosary walk and vigil outside the abortion clinic in Granite City.
- Make a sacrifice or fast for the 40 DAYS FOR LIFE.
- **October 4, 2008: Springfield Right to Life Annual Fundraiser Dinner.** Speaker: Pastor Todd Greiner. 6:00 PM reception & silent auction, 6:45 PM dinner at the Sangamon Prairie Reception Center, Rt. 4, Chatham. \$35 adults, \$20 students. Call 523-2700 or see website www.srtl.org.
- **SRTL Annual Life Chain: 1st Sunday in October, October 5th 2:30-3:30PM.** Meet at the old Esquire Theatre parking lot to pick up your signs. Kindly remember this is a prayerful display of support for life. Free Baskins & Robbins ice cream coupons for all Blessed Sacrament parish children 8th grade and younger when you return your signs at the end of the event.
- We invite all Blessed Sacrament Parish 6, 7, & 8th graders to participate in BS's annual *Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest*. Cash prizes totaling \$500 and trophies awarded each year on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please see Blessed Sacrament website for details or call 414-3078.

SIGN UP NOW!

Don't miss a great chance to strengthen the greatest gift you have. When you breathe your last, you'll be standing before God with just yourself and your Faith – make it strong! Sign-up for *Why Catholic* now! Call the Office (528-7521).

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

BRICKS! - Order forms are available in both the school and rectory offices, and in the back of church, for the purchase of commemorative bricks that will be placed in a prayer garden between the church and the school. There are three sizes available: 4x8 brick for \$100, 8x8 for \$200 and 12x12 for \$300. Completed forms and checks may be submitted to the school, the rectory or in the collection basket. The company will center the text so don't worry if you're letters are not centered on the form. Many of you have expressed concern about what to engrave on the bricks. Some ideas include commemorating a B.S.S. graduation year, remembering a deceased love one or ones, honoring a parent, grandparent, child or nieces and nephews. Many parishioners are simply choosing a brick with their family name(s) on it.

The first set of completed order forms will be submitted on September 24; we must have orders of 50 at a time. The form contains a template that will assist you with what you want engraved on the brick; if you have questions please call Kim Hoffmann in the Development Office at 522-7534.

Thank You, Part I – Our School's Annual Fund reached its first milestone of the fiscal year last week when we hit the \$15,000 mark. That's a ways from the \$90,000 goal for the year, but it's a great start. Thank you to all who have donated to Annual Fund already this year! The Annual Fund supports the operational budget of the school, and played a huge role in enabling us to have a budget surplus last year. The Annual Fund is also vital to keeping tuition costs under control.

Thank You, Part II – This weekend we celebrate the 39th Annual Blessed Sacrament Auction. Thank you very much to Paul and Melissa Antonacci for chairing this event and to all of their volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Thank you also to the scores of our parishioners who purchased raffle tickets, worked on projects, donated items, and attended the Preview Night and Auction events. We couldn't do it without you!

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL NOTES:

Tuesday, Sept. 30 – Fall Picture Day; non-uniform day for students

Thursday, Oct. 2 – 8:20 a.m. all-school Mass

WHAT IS FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP?

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (UCCB) has provided Catholics with excellent documents to guide them as they go about weaving their faith into their lives. A major area of our lives is our interaction with our political process. This is how we influence the direction that our city, our county, our state, and our country take. The UCCB has issued a statement on Catholic teaching and political life entitled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship". **Deacon David Erdmann will provide us an overview of the document on Tuesday, September 30th, for about an hour starting at 7:30 PM, in the rectory basement.** All are invited.

7TH/8TH GRADE DANCE

Knights of Columbus #4175, 2801 West Street, is having a 7th/8th Grade Dance on Friday, October 3rd from 7-10 PM. \$5 admission. For info call 528-5740 or visit www.kofc4175.com.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE**WEEK OF SEPT 29-OCT 5****Mon 8:00 AM**

Erick Hernandez, Rachel Hodo

Fri 8:00 AM/Sat 7:00 AM

Andrew Hoffman, Kerby Ingram

Saturday, October 4, 4:30 PM

Lector: Val Simhauser

Servers: Connor Adams, Ace Aldridge, Jett Aldridge

Eucharistic Ministers: Calvin Bell, Noreen Luhr, Andrea Judd, Cindy Ledbetter, Marge O'Keefe, Doug Warren, Christina Warren, Barney Bruzetti

Sunday, October 5, 7:00 AM

Lectors: Don Tracy

Servers: Zach Conlee, Charlie Delano

Ministers: Kathy Grubb, Kathryn Gietl, Mary Rita Dineen, Johanna Toomey, Dave Langston

Sunday, October 5, 8:30 AM

Lectors: Kevin Lust

Servers: Austin Beger, Parker Bonnett, Ethan Bluhm

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Campbell, Harold Figge, Beckie Figge, Scott Reimers, George Rudis, Jr., Karen Senger, Tom Karaianis, Thomas Schmidt

Sunday, October 5, 10:30 AM

Lectors: Tim Moore

Servers: Jim Moore, Joey Moore, Jack Broeker

Eucharistic Ministers: Mark Ushman, Jude Kennedy, MaryAnn Gorney, Linda Thornberry, Jim Mophew, Tom Garvey, Lynn Frasco, Virginia Moore

Gospel of Life Icon: Dennis and Mary Ellen Hollahan Family

Vocation Chalice: Michael and Dodi Stannard Family

Spend an hour in adoration and prayer

DAYTIME

9:00 A.M. Saturday
 3:00 P.M. Saturday
 12:00 P.M. Sunday
 3:00 P.M. Wednesday
 12:00 PM Friday

NIGHT TIME

12:00 AM Saturday
 1:00 AM Saturday
 12:00 AM Sunday
 1:00 AM Sunday
 2:00 AM Friday
 4:00 AM Thursday

CALL DAVID OR CATHY HEIMLICH 793-9352

FATIMA ROSARY RALLY

The Fatima Rosary Rally will be Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 PM at St. Aloysius Church. Speaker is Father Peter Harmon.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL IN OCONEE

Sacred Heart Church in Oconee will hold its Annual Family Fall Festival on Sundays, September 28, October 5, 12, and 19. The festivities will be held from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM each Sunday on the church grounds.

This year's special events include our First Annual Car show to be held Sunday Oct. 5 starting at 11:00 AM. For information call 217-539-4369. Also being held is the ever popular Tractor Show and Drive on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 11:00. For information on this event, call 217-827-1932 or 217-539-4495.

Included in the many activities are hayrides, a barnyard petting zoo, craft and bake sales, face and pumpkin painting, games and the ever popular 2,000 bale straw maze with giant slide entry. Plenty of delicious food will be available.

Follow the signs to Oconee and take some time to enjoy the fall weather at the Sacred Heart Family Fall Festival. You will be glad you made the trip!

Thank you, Lord, for all our blessings.

STEWARDSHIP
(Time | Talent | Treasure)
In the Spirit of Giving

<u>Parish Collection</u>	
September 14, 2008	\$16,160.00
Target Amount	\$23,500.00

<u>Savings for School Building Project</u>	
August 31, 2008	\$ 1,492.00
Total	\$42,700.31