

Carpenter's Connection

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

September, 2008

A WORD FROM FATHER REINERSMAN.....

Dear St. Joe Parishioners:

This is Part IV, the last, of a series entitled, LIVING THE EUCHARIST. By considering the actions of each part of the Mass we hope to have a better appreciation of the meaning of the whole Mass. This helps us to understand the Eucharist as a mystery of Christ we live as well as the Sacramental presence of Christ.

LIVING THE EUCHARIST

Part IV

The Eucharistic Prayer and Dismissal

“The Church’s intention however, is that the faithful not only offer this spotless Victim but also learn to offer themselves, and so day by day to be consummated, through Christ the Mediator, into unity with God and with each other, so that at last God may be all in all.”

General Instruction on the Roman Missal (79)

The love of Jesus, which we celebrate in the Eucharist, is not just a symbolic ritual, or pretending Jesus is present or a lot of nice words about Jesus. It is the “perpetuation” (a word used at Vatican II and often by John Paul II in reference to the Eucharist) of the love of Jesus. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross has never ceased to be effective and real through the celebration of the Eucharist.

This profound mystery of the real presence of Jesus is an awesome gift to the Church and deserves our deepest reverence in every respect. As mentioned earlier in this series, before we even take our place in the pew we genuflect toward the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle in acknowledgement of the presence of Christ. Our other actions at Mass reflect what we believe about the Eucharist.

The Offertory Rites of Mass are finished when the priest washes his hands. At that point the whole assembly stands to indicate its readiness to participate in the Eucharist. There is a dialogue between the priest and the assembly, “*we lift up our hearts to the Lord*” because is “*right to give Him thanks and praise*”, that shows the prayer the priest prays unites the entire community to God and one another. After the Holy, Holy, Holy is sung (or said) the whole assembly kneels as a sign of their unity of worship.

Following the consecration of bread and wine, the mystery of our faith is proclaimed when all sing the memorial acclamation, e.g. “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again”. The great significance of the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer is not always appreciated. It expresses that not only does the Church offer the Paschal sacrifice of Christ, but desires to *offer itself* so as to be brought into complete unity with God and each other. For example in the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer we pray, “*Grant that we who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become on body, one spirit in Christ.*” The 4th Eucharistic Prayer prays that we will become a “*living sacrifice* of praise.” At every Mass you are praying to become more united to Christ and others. In fact, we pray to become what we receive, as St. Augustine teaches.

A WORD FROM FATHER REINERSMAN.....(cont'd)

All of us express that unity when join as one voice in praying the Our Father. At the sign of peace, too, we demonstrate that we desire to live in the unity and peace of Christ.

As we process up the aisle to receive Holy Communion our attitude and posture should demonstrate great reverence as we approach such a profound gift of Jesus Christ. First, we bow before the Body and Blood of Christ. Then we recognize that the Eucharist is a gift by opening our hands to receive the consecrated host. We do not *take* or *grab* the Body of Christ as if it were owed to us. Our “*Amen*” to “*The Body of Christ*” should be a clear declaration of our faith that by his sacrifice we are saved and that we hope to be in union with Christ by the sacrifice of our own lives.

The natural response after receiving Christ in the Eucharist is to want to spend some time in quiet prayer. When we return to the pew, we kneel (if able) to give thanks for this gift and pray that we can become what we have received. The prayer after communion always includes the elements of thanksgiving for the gift of Christ we have just received and the hope that we can become the living sacrament of Christ’s love.

The dismissal rite of the Mass is very simple but significant. It consists of a blessing and commissioning to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” It does not tell us how to love and serve the Lord. It leaves to each person the way he /she will do that in daily life.

Anyone who paid careful attention at Mass would be awestruck by the beauty and depth and implication of the prayers we pray. He / she would also be moved to express those prayers with every gesture and action during Mass and try to live them out after Mass.

*Blessings,
Fr. Gerry*

DAY OF GRATITUDE TO SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 11:30 Mass (with reception after)**

The Sisters of Notre Dame may be gone from the convent but they will always be a part of the St. Joseph Parish. For 130 years they taught in our school and assisted the parish in an untold number of ways. We couldn’t begin to measure the gift they have been to this parish. Our roots and the roots of the Sisters of Notre Dame are deeply intertwined.

On Sunday, November 9, St. Joseph Parish will have an opportunity to express its gratitude to the Sisters of Notre Dame. The entire SND community will be invited to join us at our 11:30 Mass that day. After Mass a reception in their honor will be held in Memorial Hall. It will be a time for visiting with the Sisters, for them to share stories with us and remind ourselves that we have a large debt of gratitude for their inspiring, faithful and dedicated service to us and our ancestors.

***PLEASE MARK THE DATE TODAY AND
PLAN TO JOIN THE PARISH FOR THIS OCCASION!***

From Our Board of Education.....

Did you know:

- *In 2007 Religiously Affiliated Schools out scored Public Schools on the SAT in Critical Reading, Math and Writing.*¹
- *Catholic Schools scored better on the 2007 NAEP Reading Report Card at an 8th Grade level than both Public and Private Schools and better than Public Schools in Mathematics at an 8th Grade level (scored the same as Private Schools).*

These are very impressive numbers, but they are only part of the total Catholic education.

The Catholic Education philosophy challenges students to improve the world by living and sharing the Gospel values.

Through the Catholic education, students grow to understand their faith and their responsibilities as Catholics. Kathryn Ann Connelly recently wrote an article exploring secrets of success in Catholic Schools. She writes:

Catholic schools develop positive Catholic identity.

There is a culture and an identity that is distinctly religious, that is unlike any other. It leaves no question as to what is central to the school. It gives parents an understanding of the value system they can expect of this school.

Catholic schools develop the whole person.

Solid academics and excellence are the norm. Teachers are ex-

pected to teach; students are expected to learn. These expectations go beyond just passing tests.

Children learn best in a well-disciplined setting.

Children are taught to be responsible for their own actions. In a spirit of justice and charity, children are encouraged to respect themselves and their neighbor.

Catholic schools are good for everyone's future.

Catholic schools contribute greatly to the well-being of our future. They help students assume a sense of civic responsibility; they encourage a thirst for justice and for peace.

Our school, St. Joseph, is no different.

We are blessed with a faculty and staff that work tirelessly to instill Christian values into our students by integrating faith and prayer into all of the educational programs. We are also blessed with a rich community of families that support these efforts and continue that education beyond the school doors.

This year, the theme for our students is “**Companions on a Journey**”. This theme represents the journey our students are on in learning these Christian values – not alone, but together as one. Our children will be learning about the life of St. Paul - a man who converted to Chris-

tianity while on his own journey – the road to Damascus, where he received the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like St. Paul, our students will travel their road with the support of our teachers, our parents, our pastor(s), and each other.

During the school year, they will work to become more like Jesus with four different qualities of St. Paul – acceptance, truthfulness, perseverance and faith. They too will learn what it means to be a Catholic and live according to the Gospel and the values as set forth by Jesus Christ.

At St. Joseph Parish we are fortunate to enjoy the blessings of a community that believes in Catholic education. Our children of today and tomorrow are the future of our parish community.

1 National Catholic Education Association

Knights of Columbus.....

Knights of Columbus launches news and information site for Catholics

The Knights of Columbus this week launched a brand-new Internet-based news and information service for Catholics everywhere: **Headline Bistro** (www.headlinebistro.com).

Headline Bistro is a website that provides a quick digest of daily news sources around the world that contain news of interest to active Catholics. Whether it relates to world affairs, national politics or news specifically about the Catholic Church, you'll find links to the original sources here. You'll also find video clips, detailed state-by-state information about voting and public policy, and recommended reading from the world of books. The web address is www.headlinebistro.com.

You can also sign up for a daily e-mail that'll give you the day's top headlines. If you're already a subscriber to other K of C e-mail updates, just enter your e-mail address in the sign-up box and add Headline Bistro to your preferences.

Tell all your Catholic friends about [Headline Bistro](http://www.headlinebistro.com)!

"I'm a Lector and I Don't Read".....

My name is John McNabb. I became a Lector at St. Joseph shortly after completing the RCIA program and joining the Church in 2000. I also recently volunteered to be Lector Coordinator.

After joining the Church, we were urged to search for ways to utilize our time and talents to contribute to and to become involved in our Parish. I thought that participating in the Mass would make it more meaningful for me as a newly confirmed Catholic. I found attending Mass invigorating each week, but felt that the readings often needed more feeling and inspiration. After all, the Bible is our history and the Gospel is the Word of God, the very foundation of our Church and our lives as Christians.

When the Lector reads the words of a Prophet or one of the Disciples, our mission as Lectors should be for those words to flow through us as if they were coming from the mouth of that person for the first time. All three readings, Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel have a common theme that is often tied together with the Homily. The readings are meant to touch and inspire us to act upon the message of the Homily.

Many times after Mass, we Lectors are complimented, "Nice job," someone says. I've never really considered proclaiming the Word a job; it's more of a privilege. If I'm able to touch someone proclaiming the Word, it makes it even more worthwhile.

If you're interested in learning more about being a Lector, I'd like to hear from you. You can leave your name and phone number with the Church Secretary, you can call me at home (442-0005) or you can send me an email (johnmcnabb@fuse.net). Thank you and God bless you!

Stewardship.....

STEWARDSHIP: TAKING CARE OF WHAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dick Heister, a convert, a retired telephone man and a member of this parish for 53 years. Fr. Reinersman has granted me the privilege of sharing my personal encounter with stewardship. I feel honored for this opportunity.

Webster's dictionary defines stewardship as the act of managing another's finances, properties and affairs. Our Lord has blessed each of us with gifts of unique talents, interests and abilities. How we use these gifts, is up to us. I hope our God will lead us to recognize where and how we can serve Him best.

What we have is, really, not our own; it belongs to the Lord. He has made us stewards of these gifts he bestows on us in our daily endeavors. From this we owe a tithe for the maintenance of His Church.

Will tithing make you rich?; of course not. It does take care of our needs, but not our wants. Our family started to tithe in 1961. It was something of a leap of faith with four children (and one to come) on a single income. I continue that tradition to this day. Thanks to our Lord, our financial needs have been taken care of ever since.

As parishioners of St. Joseph, we have been very fortunate to have wonderful priests, from Father Leinhauser when we moved into the parish, till the present. Wonderful priests, all who have been ordained to forgive our sins, consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God. He is our Eucharist.

Each priest sets the Table of Plenty at the throne of Christ the King. Are we only going to return crumbs from our own tables, for all that has been given to us from His Table? Lord, help us to remember what is really important. We are your children and you are our Father. You love each of us for who we are, not for what we look like or what we own. So, let us praise You who see into our hearts, and is always with us, easing our pain and solving our problems.

To gain heaven, we must have faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these is charity.

I would like to leave you with a poem that has stuck with me over the years. I don't know who wrote it and I'm not even sure I remember all the words. It goes something like this:

*Oh come let us eat of the angel's sweet bread.
"For loving is giving", the angel said.
But must I keep giving my whole life through?
"Just until our Savior stops giving to you!"*

**God Bless You, Our Parish and our Priests,
Dick Heister**

Parish Pastoral Council - "Council Corner"

The volunteers of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council and its subcommittees work to assist the Pastor to guide the parish in fulfilling its mission. It is a consultative body with pastoral and administrative responsibilities. The council is made up of 21 members including our Pastor, Associate Pastor, Deacon, Director of Religious Education, Business Manager, Principal, Board of Ed President and 11 other dedicated men and women from our parish. We meet 10 times a year to discuss and help further parish goals and objectives and hear reports of the subcommittee's ongoing efforts.

The subcommittees are: Finance; Maintenance, Planning & Development; Public Relations & Communication; Social Action & Outreach; Stewardship; Liturgy & Worship and Youth & Family. We plan to highlight each of our subcommittees in future articles and invite new members to join us to help meet the needs of the Parish.

For more information about your Parish Pastoral Council please visit our section of the parish website. <http://www.stjosephcoldspring.com/church/org/parishCouncil.html>

Catechist Sunday

September 21st, 2008
11:30 MASS

Why a Sunday for Catechists?

The Word "Catechetical" is unfamiliar to most people. Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, "catechesis", is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the church.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life....Her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis" (no. 7).

St. Joseph Church
4011 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Phone: 859-441-1604
Fax: 859-441-7681
Email: stjoseph@stjoeschool.net

We're on the Web!

www.stjoeschool.net

OUR PARISH MISSION

The people of St. Joseph's Parish strive to be a dynamic, Catholic faith community, following the example of Jesus Christ through liturgical, communal and personal prayer. We value education, especially education in the faith. Through parish ministries and organizations, we serve others by offering our gifts of time, talents and treasures. We seek to fulfill this mission with the help of Christ, Who leads us to oneness with God.

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:

6:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday and Friday: 6:30 & 9:00 a.m.

Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Holydays: regular morning mass times and & 7:00 p.m.

Welcome New Parishioners.....

Chris and Connie Schreiber & Family
Alexandria

Ms. Kristi Snyder & Family
Ft. Mitchell

Melissa McMahan
Ft. Thomas

Melissa Koski
Alexandria

Jim & Sue Bradley
Cold Spring

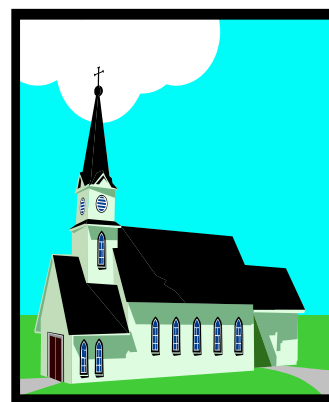
Kathleen Vories
Southgate

Jeff & Abbey Miller & Family
Woodlawn

Nancy Barone Kremer
Melbourne

Thomas & Lisa Rawe
Cold Spring

Andrew and Shelly Griner & Family
Batavia, OH



The Carpenter's Connection is an official publication of St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, KY. The primary purpose of this publication is to provide short informative articles about parish news, such as fundraising activities and current events. All articles should be parish related and have the name and number of a contact person. Please contact the rectory for more information.