

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 16, 2007

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

-Psalm 51:12

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



We are happy to let the parish know that we now have all of our catechists. The pancake breakfast provided us with the 4th grade teacher, as well as many new helpers. Thank you so much for your gracious response. The Junior High classes will begin next Sunday September 23rd. The catechist for Grade 7a is Mark Robuck.. The catechist for Grade 7b is Dominique Colantuoni. The catechist for Grade 8 is Janet Staats.

Catechetical Congress: The Diocese of Wilmington is sponsoring a Congress on Saturday, October 27 at Chase River Front Center. The key note speaker is Bishop Kevin Rhodes of the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Congress is for all catechists of adults and children, as well as parents and interested parishioners



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

St. Joseph on the Brandywine Bible Study series *Six Weeks with the Bible* may be your perfect solution. Our October/November sessions will focus on the Old Testament books of Jonah and Ruth, two ancient books with relevant messages for our modern lives. Participants will receive a study guide that includes all biblical text, eliminating the confusion that sometimes arises when people are using different translations of the Bible. Each session will include readings from the appropriate passages, explanation of the historical context, discussion of biblical passages, and suggestions for applying the lessons to our lives. Facilitator Pamela Nash has graciously agreed to offer both afternoon and evening sessions if we can attract a sufficient number of participants for each series. Monday Series 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and November 5; Wednesday Series 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and November 7.

Each series must have a minimum of 5 registered participants. So we know how many study guides to order, please register in advance. Registration closes on *Sunday, September 16*. To register, contact Loretta Carlson at 302.836.5883 or lcarlson@tree-tech.com.

Marian Pilgrimage - National Shrine - Oct. 20th. Bishop Saltarelli celebrates the 11 a.m. Mass, SJOB Choir provides the music. Fr. Andrew Apostoli of the Friars of Renewal will preach the Holy Hour at 3 p.m. Flyers are in the back of church. Call Marg Danz 633-6352 to register. Bus is \$25 - departs at 8 a.m., returns @ 7 p.m.

PASTOR'S NOTES

Second Chances

What the world needs now, perhaps even more than love, is a second chance. In many ways, some things are so bad that we almost have to start over from scratch. It's hard to know where to begin. But a second chance is what we all need. And we need it, not once, but many times in our lives. We need to know that no matter what has happened, or is happening in our lives, that there is always the chance to start over again.

But instead, what quite often happens is that we ourselves will not allow that second chance to happen. If we have done something seriously wrong, many of us judge that we are forever branded with that sin. It's as if that sin had the power to imprint itself onto our very skin, and no matter what we tried, we could not erase that marking. And so, we were branded for life. We felt condemned by our past with no hope of changing how we saw ourselves, or how others saw us.

Listen to this short reflection:

"I wish there were some wonderful place called *The Land of Beginning Again*, where all of our past mistakes and heartaches, and all of our poor selfish grief, could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door. And never be put on again." (Louisa Tarkington).

So often we wear our past like that shabby old coat. We don't like it. It doesn't feel comfortable and it looks terrible. But that's the coat we put on each day as we go about our business. In today's Gospel, the forgiving father has different ideas for his wayward son. "*But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.'*" We need to release ourselves from our past, and let God take us into the future, whatever that future may be. I pray that we all can put away our shabby coats and let God dress us in the best of robes



Catholics throughout the Diocese of Wilmington will have a special opportunity to help our youth and to strengthen the Church of the future by contributing to the third annual "Share in the Spirit" tuition assistance collection on September 22nd and 23rd.

Parish Outreach/Food Pantry

Donations are needed again for our Food Pantry. Suggested items are tea, coffee, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna fish, rice (5lb. bags or smaller) dry cereals, beans, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are distributed to the poor in St. Michael's in Georgetown and in the Wilmington area. Please leave the items in the back of the church. Many thanks for your generous contributions in the past!

SJOB Parish Outreach

Outreach Committee members will meet on Monday, September 24, at 10 a.m. in the Family Center. Marci Perkins, Director of Women's Ministry at Friendship House in Wilmington, will be our guest speaker. Marci will talk about her program for homeless women preparing for employment and offer suggestions on how we can help. The meeting is open to all.

* The Outreach committee (formerly the Hispanic Ministry committee) includes ministry to anyone in need as well as responsibility for the Food Pantry collection for Wilmington and St. Michael's in Georgetown, DE



DELAWARE RIGHT TO LIFE CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Wilmington Wellness Day - Newark Community Day - Sunday, Sept. 16; 10-5 on the University of Delaware campus. Join in the nationwide campaign to close abortion mills!!! Delaware will join 32 states in committing to 40 Days for Life, a prayer campaign to end abortion in America! The effort begins Sept. 26 and runs through Nov. 4. Visit www.40daysforlife.com to join Delaware's campaign and to stay informed contact Nicole Collins (302) 650-8942; Nlehe@yahoo.com.

Catholic Youth Ministry Speaker at St. Joseph on the Brandywine

The Communication and Education Committee is proud to kick off this year's education series on Wednesday, September 26, with an interactive program for adults and teenagers. Patrick Donovan, executive director of the Office for Catholic Youth Ministry and co-author of *Reaching Teens through Film*, will present "Using the Remote to Channel Jesus." This look at the billion dollar television and movie industry will show us through lecture, discussion, and film clips how we can use television and the movies to teach the lessons of the Bible, our faith, and our God. Please join us in the Family Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for what promises to be an evening of lively discussion!

St. Hedwig School Alumni Mass, Sunday, September 30, 2007, 9:30am, St. Hedwig Church. All St. Hedwig Alumni are invited to join us for this special mass to bring together all former students from St. Hedwig School. Refreshments will follow in Msgr. Gulcz Hall. For more info call, 594-1400, ext. 0. Please join us!

Family Day - Celebrate Monday, Sept. 24th - Eat Together

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday (Sept. 15)

5:00 p.m. Alice Mical by Cathy & Gene Kelleher

Sunday (Sept. 16)

7:30 a.m. Taylor Hanavan by Claire Hanavan

9:00 a.m. Alfred Smith Joe & Shirley Dougherty

10:30 a.m. Parishioners

Monday (Sept. 17)

7:00 a.m. Richard Farrel by Jo Ann Price

12:05 p.m. Liv & Dec. member of Laffey/McHugh families by family

Tuesday (Sept. 18)

7:00 a.m. Bridie Cormican (Liv) Theresa Glynn

12:05 p.m. Anna L. B. Wolfe by Lisa & David Beatson

Wednesday (Sept. 19)

7:00 a.m. John D. Sheridan by family

12:05 p.m. John & Frances Brown requested by the family of James S. Grant, Jr.

Thursday (Sept. 20)

7:00 a.m. John Vahey by Bernard Brady

12:05 p.m. Richard & Jeffrey Reese by family

Friday (Sept. 21)

7:00 a.m. Sue Malloy by Ed & Aline Lynch

12:05 p.m. Richard Eason by M/M Peter Eason

Saturday (Sept. 22)

8:00 a.m. William Krienen by family

5:00 p.m. Phyllis W. McDonald by Donald & Donald McDonald, Jr.



TENDING THE FLOCK! As of 9/13/2007 we have \$249,414 toward our goal of \$252,100 for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Together we can achieve this goal! *No donation is too small!*

A Book Group is meeting at Jesus House beginning Monday, October 15, from 7:00 p.m. -- 8:30 p.m. led by Arleen Kerrigan. We will be reading together "PRAYER: DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?" by Philip Yancey. In his new book, the author of "What's So Amazing About Grace?" and "The Jesus I Never Knew," explores the questions around prayer. Does prayer work? Does it work the way we think it should? What can we really expect from prayer? The cost is \$25/person and includes the book and a participant's guide. For more information or to join, contact Angie Malmgren @ (302) 995-6859 or by e-mail angie2501@comcast.net

Vocational Reflection: He was grateful because he was aware of his own flaws-and yet God still called him? Could God be calling you to the ministry? Call Fr. Joe Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Priestly & Religious Vocations - (302) 573-3113.