

August 2011

AMEN!

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Fr. R. Marc Sherlock

What do we really treasure?

During the summer months we heard Jesus tell us in St. Matthew's gospel parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus referred to the Kingdom as our greatest treasure. It is compared to a buried treasure and a pearl of great price. Members of the Kingdom are compared to wheat that is planted but must grow in the midst of weeds.

We are challenged to ask whether or not our faith is really

important to us. Is it a treasure we are willing to give up all that we have so we may possess it? Or, do we merely give lip service to being a Catholic?

Fear often plays a part in the way we answer these questions. What if there is no God? What if there is no life after this life? Maybe we should hold on to the treasures we have and know just in case our faith is just a fairy tale.

Now we must grapple with what faith and hope really mean. We cannot prove there

is a loving God who can give us an afterlife of unbelievable joy. We are taking the word of people who walked with Jesus on this earth some 2000 years ago. Their story has been passed down to us over these many years. Many of them died because they believed what Jesus told them. Faith means hoping in the word of our ancestors in faith with no scientific proof to back it up.

Faith has been described as a "leap". We must leap beyond the here and now. We

must leap beyond the limits of scientific proof. We are not asked to make this leap alone. We belong to a community called the Church. We gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. We gather each Sunday for the support we need to appreciate our real and lasting treasure!

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THE CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH

Our 180 year old Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Telegraph*, will move from a weekly to a monthly publication beginning in September 2011. With this change the paper will be mailed to every Catholic household registered in every parish in the Archdiocese. The cost of the newspaper will now be covered by the yearly assessment each parish pays to fund the operation of the Archdiocese instead of individual subscriptions.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Beginning on the second Sunday of September St. John the Baptist Parish will be participating in a Stewardship Program required by and paid for by the Archdiocese. The program reminds us of our need to be thankful and generous. It reminds us that all Catholics have a responsibility to financially support the work of the Church by supporting their parish. Please be open to this effort and show your thankfulness to God by your generous response!

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

By Cindy Griffin, Editor

I have often written in this column about finding God in the small events of life. I've told you about my garden, my children, my grandson, my friends and my extended family. I've even shared my job experiences with you and how strangers have allowed me to have graced moments. Today I'd like to share another such story with you. This time I want to tell you about my bike.



You are probably wondering how God came to be on a bike. Well, you see it wasn't on the bike that I had this interesting experience. It was the buying of the bike that was so special. Let me start at the beginning. I went to buy a bike. Because it was a somewhat big deal to me, I asked somewhere in the neighborhood of a gazillion questions of the salesman. That poor guy didn't bat an eye, even when I asked him if the bike was made sturdy enough for my less than petite self. He didn't try to sell me more bike than I needed and seemed only to care that I buy the right bike for me. I left the shop to "think about it" and didn't come back for four months.

When I did return four months later to get THE BIKE, I was able to finalize the purchase from the same salesman. After the bike was successfully loaded into my car, I told him how much I appreciated the fact that he had served me so well in both of my trips to the bike store and that I was very pleased that

I got to do business with him. He said "It's a good thing you came back today." "Why is that?", I asked. "Well, I don't work tomorrow and Saturday is my last day," he replied. "I am leaving to go to seminary."

So we stood in the parking lot at the bike store and he told me how he had felt called for a long time but, like Jonah, he had tried for years to run away from it. Now, he finally had decided that he didn't want to run away anymore and is beginning his studies to become a Lutheran minister. I wished him well and promised him that we'd pray for him as he begins this new journey in life. As I drove away, I was so excited about that experience that I had to call a friend to share what a neat story it was. I was pretty jazzed that this young man chose to tell me, a stranger, about this big deal in his life. And now, every time I get on my bike, I will remember to pray for him and all of those men and women who are choosing to serve the Lord in a myriad of ways.

That, in short, is the story of how God came to me on a Thursday morning in the parking lot of a bike store. Funny, isn't it, how things work out? I didn't know when I left the house that morning that my big purchase would be overshadowed by sharing faith with a total stranger. What a wonderful moment of grace it was! Please remember Larry and his family in your prayers as I am in mine.

Would you like to share a moment of grace? We will be adding a new column to the AMEN! Newsletter called **GraceFull Moments**. Please email your stories to cgriffin@coax.net or drop them in the collection basket or at the parish offices. The AMEN! Newsletter is printed four times a year: February, May, August and November. Your input is always appreciated and efforts are made to print all submissions. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Griffin at cgriffin@coax.net or 698-5590.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Nicholas and Patricia Davis

Janet Lomme

Melissa Thobe

Robert and Kimberly Graham

Jeffrey Mains

Craig and Leslie Vaughn

WOMEN OF SPIRIT

Submitted by Theresa Ewing

Just when we thought summer would never get here, it came in like a lion. I promised myself I would not complain about the heat this summer after the cold winter we had. I am glad to say, I have kept my promise. With that being said, the Women of Spirit are looking forward to Fall. We have our Weekend Get-A-Way being planned for September 30 – October 2. Those of us that have Gotten-A-Way for the weekend many years now are looking so forward to this weekend. Most of all, we are looking forward to the new friends to be made. The weekend starts with Hors d'oeuvres and campfire. Saturday the options are endless. Prayer walks, relaxation, corn hole, lots of food, s'mores and hotdogs at the campfire. You bring snacks, a dish to pass and a lawn chair and we will take care of the rest.

My first encounter with the Women of Spirit was back in 2005. There was a brunch and a speaker. I met some great ladies and had one of my most memorable moments with the WOS. I have been working the last few years to relive that experience and bring it to more women in the parish. With the help of Margaret Alvarez, I am pleased to say that on November 13th we get the honor of hearing Heather King, the author of Parched and Redeemed, speak to us. We are working toward child care for the afternoon and have some wonderful men of the parish that will serve us brunch and then clean while we enjoy hearing Heather talk to us about finding ourselves in the RIGHT place as we head into Advent. Although I love the scriptures and music during the Advent season, I find myself looking forward to it all being over because so often we lose the meaning of the Christmas season with shopping, presents and Santa Claus. Heather will not be speaking specifically about her book, she will be doing that later in the evening for the entire parish, but she will not be able to get her message across without touching on her past.

I am not trying to rush the summer along, I am enjoying the sun but I am also looking forward to Fall with our great plans. Spaces are limited to both events so keep your eye out for signing up so you don't miss a truly spirited time. If you would like to help plan either of these events or have other ideas, please plan on attending our WOS meetings or drop me and email theresae@woh.rr.com . We have a secure email list if you would like to be added to receive updates on upcoming events or keep an eye on the bulletin. WOS is for all women of the parish ages 18 to 99+. We also encourage you to bring a friend.



CONGRATULATIONS, ERMA!

The Parish Staff would like to congratulate Erma Hagan on her retirement from St. John the Baptist Parish and thank her for almost 25 years of caring service to this community. Her dedication truly has been appreciated. We will miss you. Thank you, Erma!

MEMOS FROM MARGARET *by Margaret Alvarez, DEC*

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

We are looking forward to the PSR September 11, 2011 start date! PSR registration has been sent home to all families. An early registration discount is available for most grade levels if registrations are returned to the parish office by August 17. Extra registration forms are available in the Narthex. They can also be downloaded from the parish website.

In an attempt to provide the best possible religious education experience for our youth, we have made a few changes to the curriculum.

- The four-year old pre-school and kindergarten programs will be in session Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. This change will provide an opportunity for parents to fully participate at Mass, while their children learn their faith. This is a highly interactive, age-appropriate program that provides a solid spiritual foundation that will prepare our children for First Holy Communion.
- Our second grade program prepares children for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. In an attempt to support our parents as the primary educators of their children in faith, we have added this year, parent Sacramental preparation gatherings, a parent/child retreat, and two Sacramental preparation texts to be used in the home.
- We will be emphasizing scripture study and morality in this year's eighth grade sessions. Our curriculum will consist of an age-appropriate scripture study series that parallels the adult "Great Adventure Bible Study" by Jeff Cavins and Mark Hart. This year, our students will be introduced to the "timeline" overview of the bible, the book of Matthew and the Acts of the Apostles. This approach to scripture study will provide our eighth graders with a solid, age-appropriate, foundational understanding of scripture and how it relates to Church tradition. In addition to scripture study, our eighth graders will be introduced to the middle school version of *Theology of the Body* morality program. The *Theology of the Body* is Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit.
- Confirmation preparation is now a two-year process beginning in ninth grade. The ninth grade session has been moved to the morning in order to better coincide with the tenth grade session. The Confirmation 1 sessions will allow our students time to discern the roles that the saints and their sponsors will play in their lives as they continue on their journey of faith. The curricular focus will be on Church history and on Christian morality. The ninth graders will engage in the full *Theology of the Body for Teens* morality program.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We are very enthusiastic about the new and returning adult faith formation programs coming to St. John's in the fall.

St. John's Social Group

St. John's Social Group is a new ministry that has been added to St. John the Baptist Parish. This ministry creates an opportunity for adults to have a place to gather for fellowship, social activities, educational activities and trips with other parishioners and friends from outside the parish. Activities will rotate on a monthly basis. Gatherings will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall on the third Thursday of each month.

The first gathering will be on September 15 and is designated as an afternoon for social activities. We will enjoy snacks and games including euchre, bridge, dominoes and board games. The gathering on October 20 is designated as an afternoon for educational activity. We will have a guest speaker present on the changes in the New

Roman Missal. November's designation will be decided at the September 15 gathering. The St. John's Social Group is a free activity offered to any interested adult. Attendees need not be St. John's parishioners. All are welcome and we encourage you to bring a friend! Look for future information in the bulletin and on the parish website.

Theology of the Body for Parents of Teenagers

Join us for an overview of the *Theology of the Body* on Tuesday evening, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. This event will provide an overview of the middle school and high school morality programs. Participants will engage in discussion and will be encouraged to ask questions relating to any challenge confronting parents of teenagers.

What is the *Theology of the Body*?

The 'Theology of the Body' is Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person - body, soul, and spirit. As he explains, the physical human body has a specific meaning and is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives:

Is there a real purpose to life and if so, what is it?

Why were we created male and female? Does it really matter if we are one sex or another?

Why were man and woman called to communion from the beginning? What does the marital union of a man and woman say to us about God and his plan for our lives?

What is the purpose of the married and celibate vocations?

What exactly is "Love"?

Is it truly possible to be pure of heart?

All of these questions and many more are answered in Pope John Paul II's 129 Wednesday audiences, which were given between the years 1979 and 1984. His reflections are based on Scripture (especially the Gospels, St. Paul and the Book of Genesis), and contain a vision of the human person truly worthy of man. John Paul II discusses who man was in the beginning, who he is now (after original sin), and who he will be in the age to come. He then applies this message to the vocations of marriage and celibacy, in preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Marriage Enrichment Comes to St. John's: Six Dates for Catholic Couples

Six Dates... will take place on Saturday evenings immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass, on September 10, 17, 24 and on October 1, 8 and 15. Each video lasts approximately 15 minutes. Couples will receive discussion starters based on each week's video. Once the video presentation is complete, couples are encouraged to go out on a date! Free childcare will be provided for couples with young children. Please contact Margaret Alvarez to make reservations for childcare by Friday, August 19 at 667-3419 or maalvarez@woh.rr.com

Information on: *Six Dates for Catholic Couples*

Building and strengthening marriages begins with husbands and wives making time to be with each other, and having fun together. In a world full of competing demands for our attention: children, work, friends, etc., time for each other is a rare commodity for most married couples. Yet, without this opportunity for staying connected spouses drift apart and marriages suffer. The strength of marriages is a concern of the Catholic Church because marriage is the heart of the family, and families are schools of love. Understanding this, St. John's is offering this program to encourage couples to make time for each other.

"The Church is built on the foundation of marriage and family life," wrote the United States Catholic Bishops in their recent Pastoral Letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*. They urge the entire Catholic community to "a renewed commitment to helping those called to the vocation of married life."

MEMOS FROM MARGARET *by Margaret Alvarez, DEC* continued from page 5

In response to the Bishops' call, John Bosio, author of *Happy Together*, the Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage and his wife Teri used the materials from his book to develop a program to help couples strengthen their marriage. The program is called SIX DATES for Catholic Couples. The six videos inspire spouses to become aware of the gift that they are to each other as husband and wife, and of the preciousness of their relationship. The topics of the six dates are:

1) ONCE UPON A TIME

Each couple's love story is connected to God's love story.

2) MARRIAGE IS ...

What we believe about marriage as Catholics.

3) WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

What keeps spouses in love is the ability to see God's image in each other.

4) WHAT ABOUT ME?

Learning to love requires overcoming selfishness. God helps us with his graces and teaches us self-giving love.

5) THE BLUEPRINT OF LOVE

Christ's love for the Church is the blueprint for our loving. Learning to love like Christ loves is the source of our happiness.

6) WHERE DO I FIND THE COURAGE?

Overcoming selfishness through learning to love is difficult. Prayer is the source of strength in our daily challenges. It opens us up to receive God's graces.

RCIA

Are you or is anyone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism, but would like to receive the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation? Then you might be interested in taking part in the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) process. Sessions begin the week of September 11. Contact Margaret Alvarez for more information.

Matthew Scripture Series

The Matthew Scripture Series starts up again on Monday October 10. We will be covering the final twelve sessions of the twenty-four session series this year. Newcomers are welcome to begin the program at this time. Provisions will be made to catch up anyone desiring to take part in this scripture study series. Contact Margaret Alvarez for more information.

John August Bauer, son of John & Catherine Bauer
Parker Adam Demange, son of Aaron & Lynn Demange
Sophia Patricia Sedlack, daughter of Ryan & Kathryn Sedlack
Jose Alvarado-Cervantes, son of Fidel Mendez & Ramona Ramirez
Angel Alvarado-Cervantes, son of Fidel Mendez & Ramona Ramirez
James Emery Williams, son of Grant Williams & Samantha Rouscoulp
Maxwell Meyer Lyons, son of Andrew & Lisa Lyons
Axel Uriel Cabrera, son of Ishmael Cabrera & Ana Cabrera
Kayla Marie Schmitz, daughter of Bart & Lianne Schmitz

**WE
WELCOME
THROUGH
BAPTISM**

SALUTATIONS FROM SALLY *by Sally Minnich, ECP Director*

In recent weeks two different people who had temporary stints working with preschoolers told me that teachers of young children do not get paid enough. It reminded me of the fact that God in all his wisdom gives each person his own unique gifts because there are certainly careers that I could never imagine myself pursuing. Though it is true that teachers may never be independently wealthy, the other rewards are great indeed. What better way to start a day than seeing the bright smiles of children as they stream through the door anxious to tell you and their friends all the important things that happened the day before--a soccer goal, a lost tooth or a trip to the park. Their enthusiasm is contagious as they make new discoveries whether it be creating a new color with two different paints at the easel or being the first to notice that a seed has just sprouted. It's rewarding to share their pride as they master new skills from learning to write their names to crossing the monkey bars. It warms my heart when I see a child helping a friend pick up spilled crayons or sharing an object from home because another child forgot her show and tell. And how many other jobs end with a hug at the end of the day? Yes, being a preschool teacher truly does make you rich.

As summer changes into fall, there will be a few changes in the early childhood program staff as well. As mentioned is the last *Amen*, Sonja Phillips is moving to Oklahoma. Lisa Stover will be pursuing full-time employment since the rewards of teaching do not transform into tuition payments for the three sons she has in college. We would like to thank her for her four recent and two prior years of service. She truly enjoyed teaching the children in her class.

Everyone has been curious as to how we will replace these two dedicated teachers. Our current staff has added hours and switched roles to take up the slack. Susie Sexton was a volunteer aide for many years as her four children attended the preschool. Last year she was a staff teacher's aide. Now we are happy to announce that she will teach the morning fours and fives. Susie has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and experience teaching preschoolers and primary grade children so we look forward to the contributions she will make to our curriculum. Tracy Green will teach the Monday/Wednesday morning Threes and Fours and will be a

teacher's aide in the afternoon. Kim Browning will teach two classes, the Tuesday/Friday morning and Monday/Wednesday afternoon Threes and Fours classes. The rest of the staff will retain their current status with Sharon Wint teaching the afternoon fours and fives, Sally Minnich instructing the Pre-K class, Cathy Armentrout serving as the morning aide, Debbie Roth filling the role of administrative assistant and Lizann Makley continuing as a sub. Collectively, our staff has well over 70 years of experience here at St. John's.

I am making my annual plea for used printer ink cartridges and old cell phones. We were able to get more than \$500 worth of supplies for free by recycling these items last year. You can drop these items off at the church office or the E.C.P. office during business hours, place them outside the E.C.P. office door when you come to church or put them in the mail slot by the main office door during off hours. Please place the printer cartridges into a plastic bag to prevent leakage. Thanks in advance for your help.

At this writing, we still have a few openings for the fall classes. If you know of anyone who might be interested in learning more about the program, please have them call the center at 667-2629.



*ECP Staff Pictured Above: Standing L-R: Debbie Roth, Kim Browning, Susie Sexton, Tracy Green, Sally Minnich
Seated L-R: Sharon Wint, Cathy Armentrout*



NEW ROMAN MISSAL *submitted by Jim Wolf*

I'm pretty sure by now that you have heard about the new translations of the Roman Missal that will take place the first Sunday of Advent of this year. There are not just translations of the spoken word in the order of the Mass, but also in the **sung** word.

Although the changes are minor in the sung word, they are enough to alter the musical settings of what we currently sing. So revised settings of the sung Mass will be used, as well as brand new settings. Specifically, the sung parts include the "Glory to God," "Holy, Holy," and Memorial Acclamations. These new settings must be used starting the first Sunday of Advent. However, the American Bishops have given permission to start using the new settings as they are learned starting in September.

A new booklet which has been developed by the Archdiocesan Worship Office will be made available for all Churches in the Archdiocese. The booklet will have all the assembly spoken parts of the Mass as well as four sung Mass settings. We have ordered these booklets for St. John's. This will make the transition as simple as possible, as all that will need to be done is to just follow and recite the spoken parts in the booklet. One of the four sung Mass settings will be taught and used during much of the first year.

Bill Griffin will begin using the changes in the printed programs that he provides to the 10:30 congregation.

Although change is almost always difficult, we are sure that with the grace of God and open minds that these changes will be made without a great deal of stress and confusion.

To inaugurate these changes, we are having an open discussion on **September 14th at 7:30 pm in the Church**. We have invited a guest speaker to discuss the new changes and answer any questions or concerns you may have. **Sr. Kathleen Harmon, SNDdeN** who is Music Director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry as well as for St. Paul Parish in Englewood, Ohio will preside. She serves as a consultant to the Archdiocesan Worship Commission and has been collaborating during this present year with the Archdiocesan Music Committee in its work of evaluating and recommending Mass settings for the new Roman Missal. Also present will be Jim Wolf and Bill Griffin who will discuss their procedures for teaching and learning the new settings. Fr. Marc will be present to answer questions. In fact, both choirs will be in attendance to present the new settings and to engage all in attendance to participate in the new music.

Please plan to attend this important meeting to enrich your sense and understanding of liturgy and how it will impact the music ministry of St. John's.

WE MOURN OUR DEAD

Alfred and Genevieve Psczulkoski
Donald Bergemeier

United In Marriage

Matthew Lockwood Cass and Elayne Renee Trick

GETTING TO KNOW VICTORIA *by Cindy Griffin*

In case you haven't heard, we have a new parish secretary. Victoria Hammermeister began work at St. John's on July 1st, replacing Erma Hagan, some very large shoes to fill. We thought it would be nice to give you the chance to get to know the behind-the-scenes Victoria so here is the story.

Once upon a time (all the best stories start that way) there was a couple named Mr. and Mrs. Rice. They had two children, a little girl and a little boy. Then, on an October day, Mrs. Rice gave birth to twin daughters and they named the youngest one Victoria.

Skipping ahead a few years, Victoria graduates from Edison with a degree in Office Systems Administration. She had other jobs but her biggest goal in life was to become the parish secretary at St. John's. Wallah! Erma retires and Victoria is hired for her dream job.

Another important milestone in Victoria's life was on that June day in 2010 when she married Luke Hammermeister. Luke, the love of her life, is a Dayton Police officer and they live in a home they built themselves in Troy with a yellow lab named Drake and a cat named Madeline. Luke and Victoria enjoy walking and bike rides.

Victoria also enjoys movies with her all time fav being Grease Lightening. Her favorite stars are Jennifer Anniston and Adam Sandler. If you want to feed her



Above: Our new parish secretary, Victoria Hammermeister and her husband, Luke.

some junk food during that movie, you may want to consider some chocolate. Chocolate cookie dough ice cream would allow you to hit a home run. If you're going for the healthy, make it strawberries.

If you're in the area, feel free to stop in the parish office and introduce yourself. Perhaps you'll learn a tidbit or two about Victoria that we haven't discovered yet!

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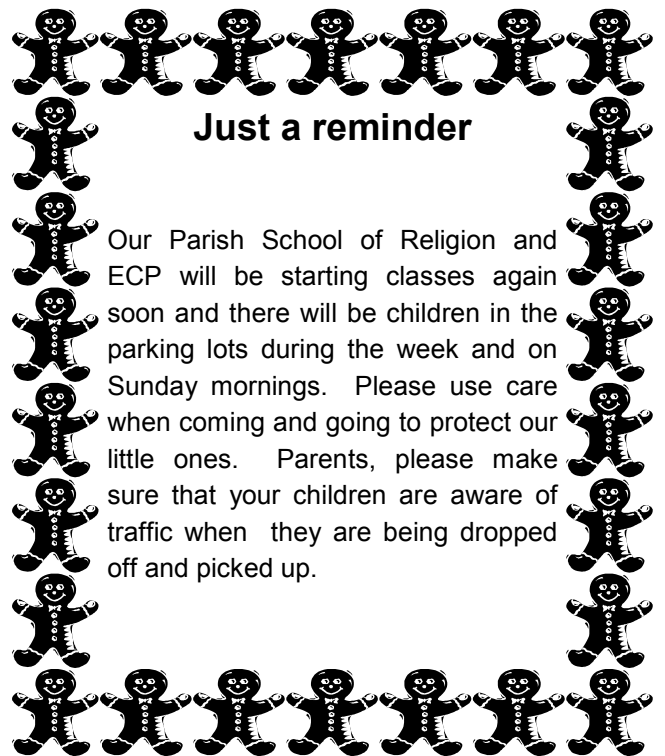


Thanks to Benoit Paquette (See Numbers 14) 03-14-2006

WE'VE BEEN WANDERING OUT HERE FOR YEARS NOW ... I THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME TO STOP ASKING IF WE'RE ALMOST THERE YET

Just a reminder

Our Parish School of Religion and ECP will be starting classes again soon and there will be children in the parking lots during the week and on Sunday mornings. Please use care when coming and going to protect our little ones. Parents, please make sure that your children are aware of traffic when they are being dropped off and picked up.



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St. John's Parish Festival Says Thank You!

To the parishioners and friends of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church:

God definitely smiled upon the St. John's community and blessed us with sunshine and great weather for this year's festival! The warmth of so many giving of their time and talents to make this community event such a great success only added to the already warm temperatures. We could not have asked for anything more!

The Festival is over and past, but the friendships and memories are here to last! The great music of This Side Up and Legacy, as well as the great tracks spun by our own amazing DJ Scott Lawson had the crowd energized as family and friends enjoyed the great rides, games, and festival foods that we had to offer. We would like to take this time to say a BIG Thank You to all of those parishioners who helped make the Festival a great success. Hundreds of volunteer spots were filled, thousands of raffle tickets were purchased, dessert donations were abundant and the friendly encouragement was overwhelming. Thank You! We truly could not have this event without each and every one of you so again we say **THANK YOU!!**

We would also like to thank the parish staff for all of their help and support through out the year! We ask a lot and you always are quick to help with what ever our needs are!!

We thank you Father Marc, Sandy, Erma, Mike, and Victoria, who came in to her new position the week of festival. You are truly the BEST!!

A special Thank You goes out to our wonderful chairpersons: Bingo: Irene Crawford * Beer Garden: Tom Rindler *Chicken Dinners: Lizann Makley* Children's Games: Tiffany Doseck * Corn Hole: Jim & Jerri Layer * Entertainment: Jane Kiser & Scott Lawson * Food: Cindy Griffin * Finance: Treva Monnier * Flea Market: Christy PetersGambling: Jim & Tami Kueterman * Grounds: Joe Seger * Lemon Shake-Up: Sam & Ann Robinson * Sweet Tooth Booth: Carol Heitkamp * Tickets: Marilyn Helke *Ticket Pick-Up: Amy Dziedic * Volunteers: Kathy Trent

We could not have done this without each of you!

We have enjoyed this great tradition of our wonderful Parish Festival and already look forward to next year! If you would like to get involved with the committee and help plan next year's festival please call Jennifer Weir at 667-0282.

Again Thank You!!

Jennifer Weir & Theresa Ewing, Festival Co-Chairs