

OFFERTORY

Offertory Budget.....	1,500,000.00
YTD Actual	622,848.89
Weekly Budget	28,846.15
Offertory -- 12-07-08	38,762.91
Retirement Fund for Religious.....	4,718.43
Immaculate Conception.....	3,477.25
Parish Debt (as of 12-1-08)	183,643.00
 "Pride in Our Past - Faith in Our Future"	
Pledged	3,118,479.71
Received	1,660,002.08

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

TRIBUTES



The Tabernacle Vigil Candle (December 14 to 27) is in loving memory of Mary Wapinski and is given by her husband.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

www.cym1.com

**Washington D.C. Youth and March for Life
January 21 to 22, 2009**

All high school youth are invited to travel with us to join 200,000 others in protest of abortion. This is an overnight trip and the cost is only \$35 for active youth ministry students and \$80 for non-member youth. Call John for details.

For more information on our activities, call John Waters at 238-6131.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

is extended to the families of **Rosemary Byrd, J. Harold Morgan, Frank J. Stiglbauer, Alex Wier, Josh Lemmon and Eddie Kahaly.** May their souls rest in peace.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

You are invited to prepare for the birth of Jesus by attending an Advent Penance Service at one of the area churches.

All services are scheduled for 7:00 PM

Monday, December 15	St. Peter
Tuesday, December 16	St. Martin de Porres
Wednesday, December 17	Our Lady of the Hills
Thursday, December 18	Corpus Christi
Friday, December 19	St. John Neumann

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish

Baptist: Peggy Hunt

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parish Friends,



As this is our last week before Christmas Break, the students are praising God and celebrating the season in a variety of ways.

On Tuesday, our students in the Drama Club will be performing their semester play for the student body at 2:00 PM in our cafeteria. On Wednesday, our first grade will be performing their Christmas show in the cafeteria. On Thursday, the entire school will present their musical program at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall/Gym. On Friday at 8:15 AM the students and faculty will gather for Mass and then we will dismiss at 12 noon. The school will be **Closed** until our return on January 5.

As always, we will remember our parish family in our prayers as we celebrate the Birth of our Blessed Savior. May God bless you!

ST. JOSEPH SENIOR LIFE OUTREACH

One of the activities of St. Joseph Senior Life Board is a Telephone Outreach Committee. Would you like to meet a new friend via telephone? Do you know of someone who is alone and would like to receive a telephone call now and then or on a daily basis? If so, please call Sr. Julienne Guy at 540-1901 for more information.

FENDER - BENDER COURTESY

Recently, we have had several instances of cars parked for Mass being hit by others cars leaving Mass. If you back into or hit a parked car, please either leave a note or report it to the church office. Thank You.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve Masses
 5:00 PM in the Church
 5:15 PM in the Hall/Gym
 7:30 PM in the Church
Midnight Mass in the Church

Christmas Day Mass
 10:00 AM in the Church

**No 7:30 AM Mass
on Friday, December 26, 2008**

December 14, 2008

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This is the last week for Religious Education classes for the year. Classes will resume following the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, at 6:15 PM.

PARISH DINNERS

A hot meal will be available from 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM in the Parish Hall/Gym on Religious Education Wednesdays. The cost for dinners will be \$5.00 / adult, \$3.00 / child under 12 or \$12.00 / family. This week's menu: hot dogs and hamburgers, baked beans, cole slaw or potato salad, dessert and beverages.

“Just as the mere memory of fire doesn't warm the body, so also faith without love doesn't produce the light of knowledge in the soul.”

St. Maximus the Confessor (580-662AD) on Faith and Love

PARISH CHRISMON TREE

Blessing and Lighting

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM

All are invited to the blessing and lighting of the Parish Chrismon Tree. This evergreen tree will be decorated with tiny white lights and framed cross-stitch Chrismon ornaments. The word Chrismon is a contraction of two words - **Christ** and **Monogram**. The ornaments are symbols from Christian history and tell the story of the true meaning of Christmas. The Chrismons were hand made by the Women's Society and parishioners. **As part of the Blessing and Lighting Service, our Religious Education children's in K5 through third grade will present their Christmas Pageant.** Refreshments will be served following the service in the Lobby of the Education Building.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Family Life Office is arranging a bus to attend the March for Life in Washington, DC. It will leave from Our Lady of the Hills Church in Columbia at 7:30 AM on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 with another stop at 9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Church in Fort Mill. The bus will return to Columbia around midnight on January 22, 2009. The cost, which includes the hotel stay, will be between \$150 - \$200 (depending on how many participate.) If you are interested, please contact the Family Life Office at 547-5063. Reservations must be made by December 22.

GIVING TREE

All Giving Tree Gifts are due today, (Sunday, December 14.) Please place your gifts in the St. Joseph Chapel. If you forgot, please return all gifts to the office no later than Monday, December 15.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14

8:15 AM Mr. George Goodwin +
10:30 AM Mr. Francis Dalton White +
12:15 PM Mrs. Pamela Atkins Sizemore +
5:30 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph

Monday, December 15

7:30 AM Rosary

Tuesday, December 16

7:30 AM Rev. David E. Landholt +
5:30 PM Mrs. Virginia Williams +

Wednesday, December 17

7:30 AM Mr. Max Earl Ballard +

Thursday, December 18

7:30 AM Mr. William Killoy +

Friday, December 19

7:30 AM Miss Mary Katherine Hall (I)
8:15 AM Mrs. Nadine C. Fetner +

Saturday, December 20

5:30 PM Bernice Elias & Cass McCarter +

Sunday, December 21

8:15 AM Parishioners of St. Joseph +
10:30 AM Mary Ellen & Joel Wier +
12:15 PM Mrs. Loretta Colcolough +
5:30 PM Mr. Clifford L. Myers +

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER AND GIFTS!

On Christmas Day, St. Peter's Church/St. Vincent de Paul Society will once again be feeding the homeless and the poorest of the poor. Lunch will be served from 11 AM to 1 PM. Each adult guest will be provided with a new hooded sweatshirt, thermal underwear, wool gloves, hat, socks, belt, a new blanket and toiletries; for the children, toys, candy and a Target gift card will be provided. Also, if you would like to provide a homemade dessert or adopt a gift bag for \$10.00, please call Robert Keeder at 796-9802. Make checks payable to St. Peter's Church, and mail to: Attn: Robert Keeder, St. Peter Catholic Church, 1529 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

GIFT WRAPPERS NEEDED !

We **need** volunteers to help wrap the Christmas gifts we have received through our Giving Tree Program. This opportunity is available to individuals, friends who enjoy spending time together and groups. We will be wrapping December 15-17 (Monday-Wednesday) during office hours. We can also make special arrangements for groups who would like to wrap after hours. Call John at 254-7646 ext. 23 for more information.

H.O.S.T.

Helping Others Serve Today

Do you want to become more involved in your Parish, School, or Community but don't know where to begin? St. Joseph is starting a newsletter of volunteer opportunities - opportunities in your parish, school, community and beyond. This new monthly newsletter will be available via e-mail, on the website and as a once-a-month insert in the bulletin beginning January 2009.

The e-mail address for the H.O.S.T - Helping Others Serve Today - newsletter is :

volunteers@stjosephcolumbia.org

Please e-mail us

- if you would like to receive the new H.O.S.T. newsletter by e-mail
- if you have Volunteer Opportunities to be considered for inclusion in the H.O.S.T. newsletter
- or, if you would like more information about the H.O.S.T. newsletter.

You may also contact the newsletter editor, Melissa, by phone at 647-0394.

HOME WORKS

CHRISTMAS BREAK - DECEMBER 27 TO 30

Home Works of America is sponsoring a multi-day blitz in December. Teens and adults are needed to make repairs to the homes of the elderly and the disadvantaged in the Greater Columbia Area. No skill level is required - your mere presence conveys hope! *What a special way to convey the Christmas Spirit.* Santa and his elves will also be coming to work!

Planning Meeting: Thursday, December 18 at 6:30 PM, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, 5220 Clemson Ave. (pizza and soda will be served.)

For more information or to help in any manner, call Hank Chardos at 781-4536.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We have a few extra directories. If you would like to purchase one, please see Mary Kay in the Church office. The cost is \$5.00 per directory.

The Parish Office will be

CLOSED

December 24, 25 & 26 for Christmas

and will **RE-OPEN**

at 8:30 AM on Monday, December 29, 2008

The office will also be

CLOSED

January 1, 2008 for New Year's Day.



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES CRIER

December 2008

We pray everyone had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday! Thank you for all your recent donations! We appreciate it very much! We provided clothing for 250 people during the months of October and November through our weekly clothing closet as well as the family clothing orders we filled. We could not sustain our clothing inventory without your generosity – *thank you!*

With the Christmas season upon us, Catholic Charities is collecting toiletry items to be shared with individuals and families experiencing homelessness or struggling with low income. We are collecting both travel size and full size toiletry items such as *shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and washcloths.* The collection of these items is a wonderful opportunity for scouts, youth groups or any other organization.

In addition to the toiletry items, we are also in need of the following:

- *grocery/gas gifts cards (any dollar amount)*
- *men's white socks*
- *men's briefs (especially sizes 34 and 36)*
- *new or gently used men's pants (especially sizes 30-36)*

Donations can be dropped off at 1529 Assembly Street (back entrance – please call ahead and leave message if necessary) or mailed to PO Box 7245, Columbia, SC 29202. For other ways to support Catholic Charities or to donate your unwanted vehicle, visit the new website: www.supportcatholiccharities.org

Thank you so much for partnering with us as we carry out the mission of Catholic Charities and provide for those in need. We would not be able to carry out our mission without your prayers and generosity!

Christmas Prayer

*During this holy season,
may our minds turn to a search for truth,
our hearts to meeting the needs of others,
and our hands to furthering the cause of peace
in our world. Amen."*

Thank You and God Bless!

*Mary T. Gohean – Regional Coordinator
Cathy Hood-Pittenger – Client Advocate
254-9776*

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS - WINTER 2009



This year we will be offering the following adult seminars on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 – 7:30 PM beginning January 7th. If you are interested in attending one of these classes, please complete the form and return it with a \$15 donation for books and materials to the Pastoral Life Center by December 29th. For information or to register by phone, please call Nettie Taylor at 540-1906 or email stjoedre@aol.com

ISLAM AND THE THREAT TO WESTERN CIVILIZATION:

Joseph McCabe, Ph.D.

6 Sessions beginning on January 7

Topics include an overview of Muhammed and Islamic law, the Crusades, a comparison of Islam and Christianity, and the jihad continues.

Location: Room "A" (first floor classroom) in the Rowland Education Building.

ST. PAUL AND THE SACRAMENTS:

Malcolm and Gwen Skipper

7 sessions beginning January 7

This study will highlight St. Paul's teachings about the sacraments, which are interwoven throughout his letters. His message about the sacraments is not limited to one letter or some small aspect of his teaching. The sacraments, and the teaching about the Church itself, belong to the essence of Paul's teaching.

Location: Parish House, near the Adoration Room

A STUDY OF ST. PAUL:

Deacon Charles Poole

5 sessions beginning January 14

This is the first year dedicated to St. Paul in the history of the Church. In recognition of this Pauline Year, we will offer 5 discussions: 1) Acts of the Apostles Prior to St. Paul, 2) Missionary Journeys of St. Paul, 3) The Major Epistles of St. Paul, 4) The Remaining Works of St. Paul, and 5) The Life and Legacy of St. Paul. Suggested preparation for class is to read the Acts of the Apostles.

Location: Parish Life Center, Lower Level

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION
Winter 2009



Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Daytime/Work/Cell Telephone: _____

Evening/Home Telephone: _____

I would like to register for the following class(es):

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Islam | (Jan. 7 – Feb. 11) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Paul and the Sacraments | (Jan. 7 – Feb. 18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Study of St. Paul | (Jan. 14 – Feb. 11) |

Please check one:

- Enclosed is \$15 to register for any or all of these sessions.
- I will bring the donation on the first night of class.

PLEASE RETURN form to the Pastoral Life Center or

Call Nettie Taylor at 540-1906 to register.