

4th Sunday of Advent

OFFERTORY

Offertory Budget.....	1,500,000.00
YTD Actual	650,230.02
Weekly Budget	28,846.15
Offertory -- 12-14-08	27,381.13
Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future ...	31,087.43
Parish Debt (as of 12-1-08)	183,643.00
 "Pride in Our Past - Faith in Our Future"	
Pledged	3,118,479.71
Received	1,695,218.58

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" — "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." — that the promise finds fulfillment. See Luke 1:38

TRIBUTES

The Bread and Wine Offered
Sunday, December 21, 2008

... at the 8:15 AM Mass are in loving memory of Robert O'Neal and are given by Ann Wells.

... at the 10:30 AM Mass are in loving memory of Bill Conlon and are given by his wife, Dorothy.

Christmas Eve

... at the 5:00 PM Mass are in loving memory of Pamela Atkins Sizemore and are given by Pat & Harry Atkins.

... at the 7:30 PM Mass are in honor of David Hunt

... at the Midnight Mass - for special prayers & intentions

Congratulations to Charlie and Marie Hill on their 65th wedding anniversary. (December 19)

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

www.cym1.com

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

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

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish

Baptist: Peggy Hunt



SCHOOL NEWS

On Behalf of the Administration,
Faculty, Staff and Students

We wish you a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas!

Saint Joseph Catholic School will be closed December 22 to January 4. We will resume on January 5.

ADDITIONAL PARKING

Due to the crowds attending Masses during the Advent and Christmas Season, our Masses are more full than usual. This can make for difficulties in obtaining a parking space. Please be reminded that the parish owns the three houses facing Devine Street. (The old Imperial Real Estate Building, the St. Frances de Sales building and the former convent) Additional parking is available behind these houses. Please take advantage.

Also, Shanndon Methodist Church's first Christmas service will be at the same time as our first two Christmas Masses (5:00 PM and 5:15 PM). Therefore, please do not use their parking lot.

The City of Columbia Fire Marshall has strongly recommended that once the church is filled to the approved capacity, we MUST direct people to the Hall / Gym. This is a matter of safety. The parish will be fined for any violation.

Coming early and reserving numerous seats / pews for family and friends is discouraged. Please be charitable this Christmas Season.

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, 2009 for New Year's Day.

Fr. Harris, the Religious
& Staff of St. Joseph
wish you a very
Merry Christmas

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

There will be no Religious Education classes this week. Classes will resume following the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:15 PM.

Parents of grade 8 students: If you have not returned your Family Honor *Real Love and Real Life* registration form to the Office of Religious Education, please do so immediately.

PARISH DINNERS

There will be no Parish Dinner this week. Dinners will resume following the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:15 PM.

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 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. 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.

SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION (MAJOR CHANGE)

There will be a major change in registration for the upcoming soccer season. There will be no paper registration forms and all registration will be done online. To register for a Saint Joseph team, please complete the online form at www.columbiaunitedfc.com, list your school as Saint Joseph, and indicate that you wish to be on the "school team." Also, be very specific in the request box as to team assignment (specific coach, friends, etc).

Teams are open to all Parish youth in the U5 thru U12 divisions. There are further instructions in the Youth Athletics section on our website, www.stjosephcolumbia.org.

The deadline for registration is February 2. Please contact Todd Wilkinson at 540-1908 or e-mail, coachwilkinson@sjcc.newsouth.net for further information.

SENIOR LIFE NEWS

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Senior Mass and Luncheon on Monday, January 19 (Martin Luther King Holiday). Mass will be at 11:30 AM in the church, followed by luncheon in the Parish Hall/Gym. Our entertainment will be music by "The Front Page News," a quartet from the Main Street Harmonizers. We hope to see you there meeting old friends and making new ones.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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 +

Monday, December 22

8:00 AM Mr. Jozef Zachuta +

Tuesday, December 23

7:30 AM Mr. David Clark +
5:30 PM Mr. Frank Stiglbauer +

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM Mrs. Elizabeth Rawski +
5:15 PM Mr. Alex Weir +
7:30 PM Fr. Lee A. Selzer +
Midnight Parishioners of St. Joseph

Thursday, December 25

10:00 AM Mrs. Ellen Cahill +

Friday, December 26

7:30 AM No Mass

Saturday, December 27

5:30 PM Mrs. Carmen E. Novellas +

Sunday, December 28

8:15 AM Mrs. Corina Lalinde +
10:30 AM Miss Kristina Ross (I)
12:15 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph
5:30 PM Mrs. Fadwa Aduata +

**There will be a Mass
Monday, December 22 at 8:00 AM.**

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**

Christmas Day Masses at:

St. Peter's at 10:00 AM & 12:00 noon

St. John Neumann at 10:00 AM & 12:00 noon

St. Martin de Porres at 12:00 noon



Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) September, 2008

In September, our students took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to monitor their acquisition of basic skills on a nationally-normed core battery. The students in the Catholic schools take their standardized testing in the fall of the year whereas students in our public schools take tests of this type in the spring. When the children take the ITBS, it is the test for the grade that they are in at the time: third graders take the third grade ITBS test. It is understood that all of the material on the test may not have been taught to the children yet. However, using this data helps us to pinpoint areas in our curriculum that need to be emphasized in order to improve student learning outcomes.

The test results below are given as grade equivalents. For example, in Language Arts, our sixth graders averaged a grade equivalent of 9.4. This means that our students in the FIRST MONTH of sixth grade (6.1) averaged an equivalent of the ninth grade – fourth month (9.4). In other words, our students at the start of 6th grade are working at about three and one half years above grade level!

The faculty continues to do an amazing job in preparing our young people. The data in parentheses is the composite averages for each grade last year (Sept 2007). Students continue to test above grade level in every area.

Saint Joseph ITBS Results

Language Arts			Core Battery		
	2008	2007		2008	2007
2	2.8/78%	(2.7/74%)	2	3.2/83%	(2.8/77%)
3	4.4/91%	(5.0/90%)	3	4.3/86%	(4.2/80%)
4	6.9/90%	(6.2/83%)	4	5.9/87%	(5.8/86%)
5	7.8/83%	(8.3/86%)	5	6.8/80%	(6.7/81%)
6	9.4/81%	(10.4/87%)	6	7.8/74%	(8.8/88%)
Math			Reading		
	2008	2007		2008	2007
2	2.3/64%	(2.3/62%)	2	3.1/86%	(3.2/87%)
3	3.8/75%	(3.9/78%)	3	4.4/82%	(4.5/83%)
4	5.0/75%	(4.6/66%)	4	5.9/84%	(6.0/84%)
5	5.7/64%	(6.2/71%)	5	7.4/85%	(6.7/77%)
6	6.7/60%	(7.5/71%)	6	7.7/73%	(9.2/88%)

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

A STUDY OF ISLAM:

Joseph McCabe, Ph.D.

6 Sessions beginning on January 7

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

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.