
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 39 Issue 9

December, 2016

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Jim Telthorst 894-1373
jtelthorst@marymother.org

Dear members of Mary Mother of the Church,

Over the past few weeks you have begun to hear more about the campaign – *Beyond Sunday*. As you may know, this outreach was created primarily to support middle class students who need assistance to attend a Catholic elementary or high school. Many of you have already received an invitation to the various ways of how you can contribute to the campaign. Some have responded with very generous sacrificial gifts, others have also with sacrificial gifts “as best they could.” Others shared with me their reasons for not participating, reasons that I well understood. Some said they would be praying for the campaign.

All of these responses reflected your membership and ongoing fidelity to be an active member of our parish, *Mary Mother of the Church*. Like you, I receive daily and weekly mailings requesting charitable gifts. After reading some of these, I hear myself saying, “I can’t respond to all these. I can only do what I can do.” Thank you for any and all you do.

Msgr. James Telthorst

MERRY CHRISTMAS



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

You can find this friendly face serving in and around our parish. He is in the choir, an ACTS “junkie” of sorts--serving Mary Mother as well as parishes around the area. He hosts the Youth Group as well as numerous charitable events in his home. In addition, this giving soul serves on annual mission trips to Nepal, to extend his service to others. To see who this compassionate, enthusiastic man is, just look on page 2!

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Ted Montoia 729-7828
pcchair@marymother.org

Aging is not for Sissies.

Our parish is becoming an older parish.

I've learned from the aging of myself and others that dignity and pride and independence are fleeting luxuries.

I've learned that accepting help from others becomes necessary, more than you want sometimes.

I've learned that socks and shoes, a shirt, buttons, zippers, and even seat belts that were once simple private personal matters are now the work of a small committee. That means less privacy than you have had since all the way back when you were a snotty-nosed toddler.

The slow decline is obvious and frightening and paints a clear picture of our future. We all die either quickly or slowly.

Yet, there is a peace to aging. There is the beautiful smooth softness of old hands that used to work shovels and tools that are so pleasing to touch and hold.

The photos of my smiling and confident dad in his prime always make me smile; but that smile turns to selfish fear as the quick math reveals that he was then the age that I am now.

Our future is written in our past.

"Aging is not for sissies" they say. I need to toughen up....and consider what this means for our parish, too.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

UPDATE STAFF

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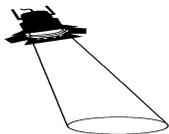
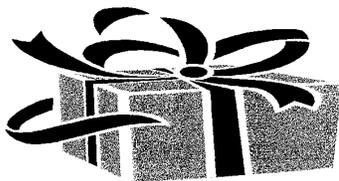
PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRPERSON

*Ann Werner 636-349-2992
pcveep@marymother.org*

CHANGE. . .one of the most difficult parts of life. We may have to learn a new skill, find a new place to eat or change our routine. Some of us may find change fun, giving us the opportunity to learn something new. Just think of the ways we have adapted with our television or phone. My dear parents started the VCR before they went out and watched everything they recorded when they came home. (Dad would love Netflix).

We have experienced some changes in our parish this year. Beyond Sunday and new Mass times have been significant ways we are called to change. For many of us, giving a percentage of our "treasure" to others is always a challenge as the economy and our ability to earn changes. We do our best to balance the needs of family with our sacrificial giving. And we adapt with prayer, willingness to change and trust in God that we will be given the grace to accept what the changes bring to our lives.

"How can we do things better?" Father T often asks, as the Parish Council considers the changes in our parish. We are so very grateful that many of you are adapting to the challenges. My hope is that you will always feel free to reach out to council members with your questions or concerns. Please let us know how we can work together as we learn how we can do things better for all the members of our community.



THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON.....

DAN WINKELMANN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF
SERVICE TO OUR MARY MOTHER FAMILY.

Submitted by Jill Farmer

PARISH COUNCIL SECRETARY

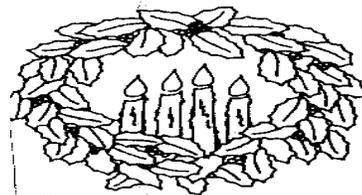
*Jay & Christine Stuckel 808-0032
pcsec@marymother.org*

The October meeting of the Parish Council had extensive discussion regarding the planning and participation of the Beyond Sunday program that is being implemented throughout the parish by many great volunteers. Your participation in helping Mary Mother reach our fundraising goal is greatly appreciated.

Ann Werner, Vice Chairperson, is researching the possibility of expanding our participation in the eScript program with Schnucks. Currently, a percentage of a parishioner's purchases is refunded to Mary Mother when the eScript card is presented at check out. Ann will be reporting back at the next council meeting on ways to promote this revenue generating program.

Future Parish Council meetings are:
December – No meeting
January 28, 2017
February 23, 2017

All parishioners are welcome to attend the meetings which start at 7:00 pm and are in the classrooms. The complete minutes to the Parish Council meetings are published on Mary Mother's web site at www.marymother.org



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

*Michele Venable 894-1373
parishnurse@marymother.org*

Advent is a prayerful time of reflection and waiting. We open ourselves to the precious gift of loving and serving one another. I am richly blessed to spend my third holiday season with Mary, Mother parishioners who truly serve one another! Your faithful weekly communion visits, help with rides to doctor appointments and errands, prayerful support of one another through illnesses, surgeries, cancer treatments and through heartbreaking losses show how Christ shines through YOU. We, once again, experience the challenge of "getting ready for Christmas." Take a deep breath, remember in this holy season of Advent, that "we already are." May Peace Be With You.



LITURGY NOTES

Ken Barnes 894-1373
kbarnes@marymother.org

Our Advent Team gathered recently to make preparations for our celebration of the season of Advent. Here are some thoughts from the team: Our focus this year is: **“Actively, We Wait For Christ.”** This phrase reflects the fact that many of the readings we hear during this season encourage activity: **climbing mountains, making changes in our lives, bringing about justice.**

God’s intervention in the world is carried out through us. We are encouraged to **take responsibility for carrying out God’s work.** When we do this, we show our true nature and our better selves. **As we wait** for the coming of Christ into our lives during this Advent Season, **we are active at the same time that we are patiently waiting.**

As the *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons* points out, **“our Advent task is to accept the charge to stay awake, to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s coming.** We do not know when this will be. We can however, rest assured that [as we wait] **God calls us to respond to all those who seek healing, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and justice** in ways befitting our belief in Jesus. God has an endless, eternal font of grace to share with us.” **We can each be a conduit through which this grace is shared among us.**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Factor 894-3925
service@marymother.org

The Mary Mother and Rock Church Discussion on Race brought together both parishes to mingle, share a meal, and talk with one another about the video on Race. From comments gathered after this event, everything went well except for the microphone issue and not enough time for discussion. We can solve both problems. Our commission is working with the Rock Church to have a follow-up but with a different format this time.

Several members of our commission have attended a presentation by an attorney who is intimately involved in improving the Race Issue in St Louis. This Attorney has agreed to work with us to do a presentation followed by Questions and Answers. This Speaker is informative, engaging, and realistic yet hopeful. With St Louis being the 5th most segregated city in the US, this presentation will include the history of Race in the US and St Louis, the impact of poverty on our community, and what measures are being taken to make improvements on our streets and in our community.

This will be a format to listen, learn, and ask questions from an expert. Stay tuned....

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ed Lewandowski 894-1373
edlew@marymother.org

Parents and Children in **Grades 3 through 7** gather for **Mass on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, at 7 p.m.** to honor Mary and her Immaculate Conception. This Mass will honor the Holy Day of Obligation. Arrive by 6:50 p.m., check in with your teacher in the vestibule, be seated with your child anywhere in church. *Due to the later time, children in Grades 1 and 2 attend at the discretion of parents.*

SPONSORS ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION CLASS on DECEMBER 11th, 7-9 p.m. Please notify sponsors ahead of time. Complete and return the Sponsor Card. If sponsor cannot attend, a parent must accompany the candidate.

PREPARING FOR FIRST PENANCE

Read each leaflet with your child for week of
November 27 - #4 God's Rules
December 4 - #5 Jesus Forgives
December 11 - #6 Coming Home Again
January 1 - #7 Families Work Together
January 8 - #8 Brand New Beginning
1st Penance Service on January 16, 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS RECESS for PSR begins after PSR sessions on Monday, December 19 and Wednesday, December 21. Classes resume on Monday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 11.



HEALTH MINISTRY

*Kathy Newbold 843-6801
health@marymother.org*

The holidays are upon us; and the Health Ministry Commission would like to wish all of our Mary Mother of the Church families a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. Many parishioners will make a New Year resolution for 2017. Why not consider joining the Health Ministry Commission as a member or a volunteer in the New Year?? Did you know that the Health Ministry Commission sponsors a garden tour in June, helps with the Good Samaritan drivers, offers CPR/AED courses 2 times a year, "IN THE PINK"-printed information on health related subjects- is available 4 times a year, provide continental breakfast after the Mass of Remembrance, and many more activities that influence our health.

Please ponder this idea and think about joining our merry band of members and volunteers. You will be helping Mary Mother of the Church and fulfilling a New Year resolution.



ATHLETIC COMMISSION

*Bob Slama 845-0189
athletics@marymother.org*

This month there is not a lot to report. By the time you read this the parish Mass and Bonfire will be history. I would like to thank all of the people that took part in making it a success. The volleyball and soccer seasons have just ended; and basketball season will start soon. Thanks again to the Over 30 Old Men's Basketball Group for stepping up to run this year's basketball tournament. If there are any parents that would be willing to assist with basketball, please let me know. If anyone is interested in becoming a referee or score keeper, there are training sessions scheduled. For more information, e-mail gcarlson73@att.net. Once again, please consider filling some of the open positions especially the Uniform and Equipment Manager Position. Jeff Bradley has done it for many years and is willing to train someone for the rest of this year.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

*Claude Leezy 894-1404
adfin@marymother.org*

Well, the general election is behind us; and the Holydays and Holidays season is here. We celebrate Thanksgiving Day, the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, the Holy Family and Mary, the Mother of God on New Year's Day. And another year is ending. Very busy times can clutter our lives. But let us not forget the many blessings that we are graced with by our families, friends, faith community and country.

Our Parish Council commissions will soon begin preparing budgets for the next parish fiscal year (2017-2018). This is an integral process in the management of our parish going forward...to assure that Mary, Mother of the Church will continue to be the 'radiant light' that is boldly proclaimed in our mission statement. Please continue to keep the Parish Council in your prayers.

May all continue to be blessed in the peace that only Christ can bring in this joyous season!

The AdFin Commission monthly meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the church meeting room at 6:00PM. This time change is to make AdFin more accessible to parishioners who may work and are generally not available at other times.

*God bless you
with health and happiness*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

*Sr. Suzanne Giro 329-6339
formation@marymother.org*

The holidays are coming and with them a new year of living, loving and growing in our relationships with God, one another and ourselves. Something new is coming in January. On the third Saturday of January, February and March, we will begin 3 month cycles of a new adult education series...IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE AT MM! It is the desire of the committee that this not only expands our faith but also our community of Mary Mother. The 4:30 Mass, 5:30 Cocktails, and 6:15 Dinner are all optional. The presentation of the program and table discussion will be from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. Signup sheets will be out as well as signup sheets to bring covered dishes.

Our first speaker will be Zip Rzeppa which will be a treat for all. In addition, we will be receiving his latest book as our Christmas present from the Parish.

May each of you find the warmth of the Christ Child within you and radiate it to all you meet in the New Year! Blessings!!!

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

*Michelle Martin 636-282-1836
evangel@marymother.org*

Consider the gifts your time, love and attention could be - more powerful than wrapped gifts -- with no bow or box big enough to contain the recipient's joy.

May our genuine listening, care, and actual help be the best gifts our family, friends and strangers will receive.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



LITURGY COMMISSION

*Andy Dapron 550-2094
liturgy@marymother.org*

It's often noted, both here in our own Mary Mother community, and in Christian communities around the world, that a Church (and indeed, any gathering of the Body of Christ) is a countercultural place, a place where we remember that we are called to be "not of the world" (John 17:16). This call is never more evident than during the Advent season. While the world around us dives headlong into the commercial excesses of the upcoming holiday season, many Christians all over the world will observe Advent as a time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of Christmas that lies just over the horizon. Of course, we are indeed a part of the world, and we too will find excitement creeping in while we hum a familiar Christmas tune, or see a lights display. But, we will also balance that by actively waiting for the Christ who once came among us as a baby in a manger, and who still dwells among us as Emmanuel: God With Us. May we embrace Advent!

*** * * IMPORTANT!! * * ***

If you would prefer not to receive a printed copy of the Update and to access it on our Mary Mother website (www.marymother.org), please indicate that preference below. You can send it to the parish office, marking it ATTENTION: Jackie Wilson, or email at wilsjmar@charter.net.

I/We prefer to access the Update on Mary Mother's website. Please remove me/us from the Update mailing list:
Name: _____

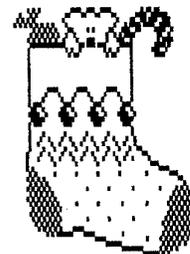
Address: _____

Email address (for reminder): _____

TITHING

**October, 2016 - 5 Sundays
\$1,164 each agency**

- 1.) Joint Neighborhood Ministry – Operates food pantry, clothes closet, summer camp, and provides emergency assistance for energy bills, rent and prescription medications in the Benton Park area.
- 2.) St. Augustine Christmas Program – Provides Christmas baskets and gift certificates for shoes for inner-city poor families.
- 3.) Sisters of Divine Providence (LaPosada)– Provides housing and shelter for indigent immigrants in San Benito, Texas.
- 4.) Center for Women in Transition – Assists women as they transition from the criminal justice system back to their families and community.
- 5.) Missouri Catholic Conference – Catholic church's advocacy group in Jefferson City promotes the inclusion of Catholic teaching in state legislation. Speaking together they influence public policy to represent issues important to the beliefs of our faith.
- 6.) Lemay Child and Family Center – Provides early care and education to children in a diverse, nurturing environment, and strengthening families by promoting children's healthy physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development.



YOUTH COMMISSION

*Ben Dattilo 845-6415
youth@marymother.org*

This month for our religious night, we are having a vocations night. On our rec night, we will be in the gym playing various games. For our service project, we will decide that at our next Youth Commission meeting. We will start working volleyball tournaments to earn money for Steubenville. Our Confirmation retreat will be this January 14th and 15th. If you have any questions, contact Clare via email.

**CITIZENS AGAINST
PORNOGRAPHY**

Carl Hendrickson 892-6451

One of Parents Television Council’s major goals at this time is “Rating Reform.” The goal is to have a rating system which is responsive to the needs of parents and which accurately informs them of the content of the product consumed, be it a television program, a movie or a video game. An example of inappropriate rating was a recent episode of Fox’s “campy” slasher show, *Scream Queen*, which contained explicit sex talk and gory scenes. This program was rated TV-14, appropriate for children as young as 14.

Join with Citizens Against Pornography. Become educated and informed of the dangers to which your children are exposed. Continue to display the white ribbon that was distributed after each Mass at the end of October to show your abhorrence to the evil of pornography and your support for decency and morality. Be pro-active in the war on pornography.

**JESUS
IS THE
REASON
FOR THE
SEASON**

PRO-LIFE

*Craig Snavely 651-7432
csnavely54@gmail.com*

Luke 1:41

⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,

This year’s 40 Days for Life Campaign just ended in St. Louis and across the nation. Hundreds of turnarounds due to prayer, people praying at Planned Parenthood sites and trained sidewalk counselors resulted in young mothers choosing life!

The Pro-Life Committee is preparing for the Christmas Season by selling Christmas cards at the end of each Mass during the first three weekends in December. We have new cards this year to give that someone special a special greeting.



**METROPOLITAN
CONGREGATIONS
UNITED**

*Ginny Schrappen 487-6584
ginnyschrappen@sbcglobal.net*

**BREAKING THE SCHOOL TO
PRISON PIPELINE CAMPAGN**

The three components within this Pipeline: Education; Juvenile Courts and Police Reform. We are trying to End out of School Suspension-Missouri ranks #1 in the nation in number of out of school suspensions (UCLA). One out of seven of these children are African American students. Black boys are suspended 3 times more than white boys and Black girls are suspended 6 times more than white girls.

Juvenile Justice Reform Issues: not providing adequate access to lawyers; allowing probation officer to serve as an arm of the prosecution while being the child advocate; subjecting black youth to formal cases and harsher outcomes. Solutions for these issues are: St. Louis Family Court **must provide a lawyer for every child every time they come in contact with the court** and must pay for the lawyers; they must untangle the roles of probation officers and the prosecution; they must provide recurring anti-bias training and structural racism in juvenile systems for its staff; they must give stakeholders a voice AND Raise the Age – a bill that would make the criminal legal age 18 years old, outlaw prosecuting in adult court anyone 17 or under.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

In the last quarter (July through September) the MMOC Vincentians made 46 home visits, serving 68 people, aged infant through 86 years old. Several of our client neighbors are dealing with serious health issues and continually express their gratitude for your caring and generosity.

Conference members served 394 hungry persons at the lunch window. All together we drove 1093 miles and volunteered 907 hours of service.

Because of your contributions, we have been able to assist parishioners with the following expenses:

- \$5175 Utilities
- \$4000 Rent
- \$949 Transportation
- \$108 Medical, including prescriptions
- \$325 Food Gift Cards to cover perishable items
- \$793 Your donated food (at \$1.25 per item)

We also sent \$500 to the Louisiana SVDP conferences to assist with flood recovery efforts as requested by the national council.

We are ever grateful for your continued support.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2016</h1> <p>For more information go to www.marymother.org</p>				<p>1 9:30am Women Sharing Faith 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 6pm Basketball 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Divorce Care 7pm Liturgy Mtg 7:15pm Prayer Grp</p>	<p>2 7am Setup for Advent Glow 9:15am "Limiting Sugars" (Oasis Presentation) 6pm Basketball 7pm Advent Glow</p>	<p>3 7am Food/Gift Drive for Rock Church 9am Basketball Tournament 3:30pm Confessions 5:30pm Fair Trade Sale after all Masses 5:30pm Jonah Team</p>
<p>4 7am Food/Gift Drive for Rock Church 9am Fair Trade Sale 9am Jonah Team 1pm Basketball Tournament 4pm Basketball 6pm Healing Mass and Social</p>	<p>5 9:05am AA Group 5pm Horns 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Group 7pm SVDP Mtg</p>	<p>6 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 7pm Women Sharing Faith 7:30pm Basketball</p>	<p>7 9am Adoration 9:30am Cornerstone 9:30am Tai Chi *7:00pm No PSR classes; Mass for vigil of Immaculate Conception 7pm Men's Formation 7pm ProLife Mtg 8pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Grp 9pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p>8 Immaculate Conception - OFFICES CLOSED 8:30 am Mass 7:00 pm Mass 8pm Contemporary Choir</p>	<p>9 9am Meat Slicing 6pm Basketball Tournament</p>	<p>10 9am Basketball Tournament 9:30am presentation by David Factor PT (Health Ministry) 3:30pm Confessions 5:30pm Blood Pressure Screening</p>
<p>11 9am Blood Pressure Screenings 9am Sunday Preschool 1pm Basketball Tournament 4pm Basketball 7pm Confirmation Class and Sponsors</p>	<p>12 9am Sandwich Shoppe II 9:05am AA Group 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Group 7:30pm Youth Com Mtg</p>	<p>13 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 7pm Communal Reconciliation Service 7:30pm Basketball Practice</p>	<p>14 9am Adoration 9:30am Cornerstone Scripture Study 9:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm PSR 7pm ACTS Core Team 7pm Men's Formation 7pm Young Women's Prayer Grp 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Grp 9pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p>15 9:30am Women Sharing Faith 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Divorce Care 7:15pm Prayer Group 7:30pm CAP Meeting</p>	<p>16 11:45am Friday Friends 6pm Basketball Tournament</p>	<p>17 9am Basketball Tournament 3:30pm Confessions</p>
<p>18 Christmas Decorating after 11am Mass - church 9am Sunday Preschool 3pm Private Party 4pm Basketball practice 7pm Youth Group rec nite</p>	<p>19 9am Meat Slicing 9:05am AA Group 5pm horns 6:30pm PSR 7pm Teen Choir Rehearsal 7pm Men's Prayer Grp 7pm SVDP Mtg</p>	<p>20 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 6pm Ad/Fin Mtg 6:30pm Sandwich Shoppe III 6:30pm Stitching 7pm Health Ministry Mtg 7pm Women Sharing Faith 7:30pm Basketball</p>	<p>21 9am Adoration 9:30am Cornerstone Scripture Study 9:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Children's Choir 6:30pm PSR 7pm Athletic Mtg 7pm Men's Formation 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Grp 9pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p>22 9:30am Women Sharing Faith 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Divorce Care 7pm Parish Council Mtg 7:15pm Prayer Grp</p>	<p>23 9am Meat Slicing</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve - church 4pm Mass 7pm Mass</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 9am Mass 11am Mass</p>	<p>26 Christmas Holiday - OFFICES CLOSED 9:05am AA Group NO PSR</p>	<p>27 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am Sandwich Shoppe I 9am TOPS 7:30pm Basketball Practice</p>	<p>28 9am Adoration 9:30am Cornerstone Scripture Study 9:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm NO PSR 7pm Men's Formation 7pm Young Women's Prayer Grp 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Grp 9pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p>29 9:30am Women Sharing Faith 10:30am Zumba Gold 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Divorce Care 7:15pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve - church - 4:30 pm Mass 3:30pm Confessions</p>

UPDATE

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UPDATE

BAPTISMS:

Jason Martin Hoffmann

MARRIAGES:

David Russo & Lindsey
Nieters

DEATHS:

Catherine Reilly

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Rita O'Brien



MERRY

CHRISTMAS