



Dear Friends

"When you look at the Crucifix,
You understand how much Jesus loved you then.
When you look at the Sacred Host
You understand how much Jesus loves you now"
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

As we approach the season of Christmas, we are drawn back again to the mystery of God's love ***which takes human flesh***. This mystery has a purpose. Christ comes so that He can fulfill the work of salvation that is won for us on the Cross. Christmas reminds us that the coming of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh, is the central truth of the Christian Faith. Everything revolves around this one belief - that God loves us so much that He has sent us His Son - not as a disembodied spirit, not disguised as an angel, but as a real life in the flesh ***human person***.

Christ came to us in human history to make the Cross possible so that we can grasp the depth of God's love for us. Christ continues to come to us now in the Sacred Host so that we can continue to know that Jesus loves us now - not in some abstract way but really, truly, totally, here and now. Why else would He offer Himself to us under the frail species of bread and wine? Why else would he come inside of us to strengthen us in holiness and help us grow in grace?

As you come to Holy Mass this Christmastide, remember that in the Sacred Host and Precious Blood you are encountering the same Jesus who lived and died and rose again for us 2000 years ago. Remember too that He comes to you in this humble form to strengthen you in holiness, to allow his grace to build on your human nature if you will let Him. Remember to receive Him humbly and to open your hearts to Him so that He may find room to dwell there. Remember that this is the beginning of an eternal relationship with Him for those who love and worship Him.

May God bless you all this Christmastide with the peace of the Prince of Peace, and may you know His love every day of the coming year.

Fr Bob

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE (Holy Day of Obligation) LITURGIES (Wednesday, Dec. 24)

5:00 p.m. - Good Measure & Children Choirs, carols at 4:30 pm.

PLEASE NOTE: *The 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve is a Family Mass and has been very crowded in recent years. To be assured a seat and to celebrate Christmas on the actual day of the feast, please consider coming to a Christmas Day Mass. Thank you.*

8:00 p.m. - Acappella Quartet, carols at 7:30 pm

11:30 p.m. (**NOTE THE TIME**) - Adult Choir, carols at 11:00 pm (come early as church is darkened for carols)

CHRISTMAS DAY (Holy Day of Obligation) LITURGIES (Thursday, Dec. 25)

8:00 a.m. - Cantor & Organ

10:00 a.m. - Adult Choir, carols at 9:30 am

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation) Liturgies

5:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve (Wednesday, December 31)

10:00 a.m. - New Year's Day (Thursday, Jan. 1)



A FESTIVAL OF MANY DAYS: The liturgical celebration of Christmas extends for three weeks beyond Christmas Day. The mystery is so deep that the liturgical calendar swells with occasions to enter it again and again.

Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord celebrate the implications of Christmas Day. It is not enough that God became one like us. This mystery is to be shared with the world. Jesus manifested himself to the magi at Bethlehem and to John at the Jordan.

Christmas

His incarnation redeems people near and far. He comes not just for a few people, not just for one race. His arrival announces salvation to all the nations of the world.



St. Francis School Christmas parties will be on Dec. 19th (the last day of school before Christmas break) in the afternoon.

At 9:30 am on the 19th, the Hampstead Players will be performing "Prince Caspian" in the gym for the entire school.

St. Francis School will be closed from Dec. 22nd through Jan. 2nd. School resumes on Jan. 5th.

Market Day

Hope everyone took advantage of our November & December sale for the holidays. We had great sales those months.

In January, our sale will take place on the 24th, 8:00 to 9:00 am in the school cafeteria.

Please pick up an order form or order on-line at: www.marketday.com and give us a try, if you haven't before.

We have a lot of items for the school lunches and quick fix dinner items also. Our chicken steaks are always a big hit.

You may place an order by filling out the form and putting it in the collection basket at church or dropping off at the parish or school offices. Or you may call Natascha Bowman @ 349-8523.

As always the profits made from this goes to our tech lab at school.

Remember - Jesus is the reason for the season!

Women of St. Francis

The January meeting of **The Women of St. Francis** - Thursday, January 8, 2009 – Johnson Hall – 7:00PM.

Our scheduled program will feature Dave Alianiello from Licking Memorial Hospital's Physical Therapy Department. Dave will be demonstrating simple exercises for beginners. In addition, plans for the Ladies' Brunch will be finalized. Start the New Year out right with **The Women of St. Francis**.

An Invitation to ALL ladies of St. Francis de Sales Parish

Need a break from the winter blahs?

We offer the perfect solution for Wives, Moms, Daughters, Sisters, Grandmas, Granddaughters, Aunts, Nieces, Cousins, Friends

6th Annual Ladies Brunch – sponsored by the Women of St. Francis

Saturday, January 24, 2009

9:30 A.M. – Johnson Hall

No charge (freewill donation accepted)

Come, join us for delicious food and great fellowship

RSVP by – Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Questions? Contact Debby Shelly @366-6924 or Lori Brown @323-3562

Our Program – A SURPRISE!!!

Registration for Ladies Brunch – January 24, 2009

Please complete the reservation form and drop in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office (reservations will help us in planning food preparation)

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____

Welcome New Parishioners!

**The following have recently joined the St. Francis de Sales family.
Please welcome them!**

Wilma Bickett
Meredith Sikora & Family

Christopher and Abbie Shepherd

We are so blessed to have you in our community!

Knights of Columbus

Father Bill Johnson

Council 11665

Upcoming Activities –

Dec. 17 – 1st Degree, Knight before Christmas, Candidate Call 6:30 pm, Multi-Purpose Room

Dec. 21 – Assist parish Environmental Arts Committee in decorating the church for Christmas

Dec. 24 & 25 – Christmas Eve & Day Mass schedule. Assist with moving chairs from cafeteria to church and back.

Jan. 3 - Pray the Rosary at Mary statue at 9:00 am

Jan. 7 – Business Meeting, 7:30 pm, Lamy Center, Multi-Purpose Room

Jan. 10 & 11 – Free Throw sign-ups after all masses, Johnson Hall.

Jan. 18 – St. Francis de Sales Feast Day Week Breakfast. Need volunteers to cook, serve and cleanup

Jan. 20 – 4th Degree Meeting, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Mass at 6:30 pm

Jan. 25 – Free Throw Contest. Need volunteers to assist with contest. Contact Brother Mike Weiland @ 366-5007.

ST. FRANCIS de SALES FEAST DAY WEEK BREAKFAST



Come join us for Breakfast/Brunch to celebrate St. Francis de Sales Feast Day week in Johnson Hall on **Sunday, January 18 between 8 am and noon.** Adults, Senior Citizens and Children are all welcome and invited.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a smorgasbord breakfast/brunch with eggs, pancakes and all the trimmings.

Prices: \$6.00 for Adults
\$4.00 for Children
\$4.00 for Senior Citizens
\$17.00 per Family.



K of C

**FREE THROW
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Free Throw Contest

The contest is open to **all girls and boys between the ages of 10 and 14.** There will be winners in each age group.

When: Sunday, January 25, 2009

Where: St. Francis Gym

Time: 1 p.m.

To enter: Fill out a K of C form at Johnson Hall after masses on Jan. 10 & 11 or at the contest.

Note - Parental permission is required on the form. Copies of the form can be obtained at the St. Francis School Office or by calling Mike Weiland @ 366-5007.

Winners go to a DISTRICT "free-throw" contest to be held during the first two (2) weeks of February. Regional contests and State Finals will be held in March. Winners will be notified as to the time, date, and location of each contest.

Cub Scout Corner



PLEASE JOIN US!

The Annual Pack 8 Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
will be held on *SuperBowl Sunday, February 1, 2009.*

Check the Sunday bulletin and next month's Generations Magazine for more details.

"In the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, I wish to make an appeal - an appeal to Catholics throughout the world... especially to those who for one reason or another are separated from the practice of their faith. Christ is seeking you out and inviting you back to the community of faith."

- Pope John Paul II: Homily Jan 27, 1999.



Wednesday, January 7

Welcome. "Why Am I Here?"

Wednesday, January 14

Video - Sharing Stories of Faith

Wednesday, January 21

The Church Today: Changes Since Vatican II

Wednesday, January 28

Explanation of the Mass

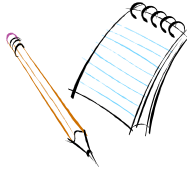
Wednesday, February 4

Explanation of Reconciliation

Wednesday, February 11

The Creed: What Catholics Believe

Catholics Returning Home sessions are offered as a six-week series. Sessions are 7:00 PM in Lamy Conference Room B. The sessions are structured, supportive and non-threatening. Participants are free to attend as many or as few sessions as they wish.



Business Bits

By Christy McNabb

Another year just about in the history books! It is hard to believe that it is December already and we are anxiously awaiting the Christ Child. This past year has been a busy one for us on the business side of the church and school.

Here are the projects that have been completed within the parish and school grounds:

- ❖ New boiler feed unit for the boiler system
- ❖ New sidewalks and curbs on Pearl St. and West side of Church
- ❖ 4 classrooms, Slattery bathrooms and hallways painted
- ❖ Church doors, rear vestibule and restrooms painted
- ❖ New carpet in Johnson Hall - Thank you Nice Carpets!
- ❖ Handrails installed for the baptistery font and lector ambo - Thank you Granville Lumber and Strait & Lamp Lumber!

As you can see it was a busy year! In the spring we will see the stained glass window repairs and installation of storm systems for the church windows. Thanks to a grant from the Catholic Foundation and the generosity of a school alum; new bleachers for the gymnasium will be installed during the summer.

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Advent Season!

Christy McNabb

October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

How grateful and awed we are during this season of thanksgiving, for the financial generosity of the St. Francis de Sales parishioners. The need is going to increase in these tough economic times and we will need their continued support in terms of time, treasure, and talent. YOU, through your generosity and compassion have made this possible. The Lord thanks you.

"Then the just will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?' The king will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.' Matthew 25:37-40

Our dispatchers are: Sally Thompson, Sandy Bragg, Kris Goumas, Sandy Moore, and just beginning, Linda Baldeschwiler.

Our visitors are: Bill and Gennoah Hammond, Mike and Linda Hammond, Wade and Marcella Hammond, Ellen Alheim, Tom and Maggie Bateson, John and Cindy Barbour, Leshia Farias (President), Cathy Holbert, Melissa Yonker, Paul and Polly Harsh, Roberta McDonald, Paul Gassman, Irene Kennedy, Ann Lang, Jim Otto, Ron and Marilyn Pachuta, Marylou and Bill Riley, Bob Shannon, Jane Snow, Sally Thompson, Darrell and Sandy Bragg, Joyce Zimmerman, and Bruce Bennett. These folks made up 363 teams, working on 907 cases, helping 2353 people last year. 100 prison visits were made. Average time on each case was 2.5 hours, and total miles driven were 13,406. Whew!

Our Food Pantry Volunteers are too numerous to mention. They fed the hungry on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings in an atmosphere of dignity and kindness. Thanks to all the volunteers for your precious time you give to us! God bless you!

When the poor and desperate of our city called St. Francis de Sales for help this year, volunteer St. Vincent de Paul dispatchers found teams to visit them as soon as possible, in their homes as neighbors. In the visiting, our volunteers learned much about God's love for themselves and the poor. It was a humbling experience and a greatly rewarding one, to be God's hands and heart in helping His most beloved souls.

Our total income	\$109,798	
Parish collections		\$63,000.00
Grants		12,410.00
Combined Federal Campaign designations		11,829.00
Catholic Foundation		3,000.00
Other Donations		19,559.00
Total spent	\$106,246	
Rent and mortgage payments to prevent evictions		\$46,763.00
Sheltering the homeless from the street		12,642.00
Water, heat, and light to prevent shutoffs		35,371.00
Doctor, hospital and dental bills and medicine		2,382.00
Food, gasoline, taxi-tokens, funeral expenses, utility repairs, birth certificates, car insurance/repair		9,088.00

Reflections of a home visitor...

A few months ago, I became a volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Francis de Sales. I've always tried to give a few dollars, or put some food in the baskets at church. However being on a team, and making calls to the homes of the needy puts a face on the real burdens being carried by the less fortunate in our community. The teams who make the home calls are truly facing hopelessness, despair, and often times the feeling that no one cares. The people who have done this work for years never lose hope, or their desire to make the load a little lighter for those they serve. Their dedication is an inspiration, and I am in awe of them! As for me, I'm receiving far more than I give...and isn't that the way our God does things!!

Mission: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is composed of women and men at St. Francis who seek their personal holiness by works of charity.

SVdP core values:

- The dignity of the human person
- Identification of Jesus with the poor
- Jesus is the Evangelizer and Servant of the poor
- The Society is concerned with charity and justice

What is SVdP doing today in the Newark Community?

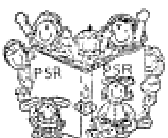
- The outreach of a home visit to someone in need
- Financial assistance to meet a short-term crisis need
- Provide emergency shelter
- Provide emergency food
- Connect those we help with other agencies to provide more short and/or long term support

HOW CAN YOU HELP SVDP AT ST. FRANCIS?

- Pray for spiritual guidance, direction and those who are suffering in our community.
- Financially support SVdP through monthly donations.
- Volunteer as a home visitor – you can participate at the level your schedule allows!

If you feel moved to become even more directly involved, please contact us at 323-2378, and someone will call you back.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION



Our Parish School of Religion has been busy! We have just over 200 students in our program this year from three years old to grade 8, along with 37 catechists and aides. We begin each session this year with a prayer to St. Paul. We also continue our membership to the Christian Foundation for Children & Aging, and support a 16-year-old girl named Faith Mugambi from Kenya.

We recently celebrated Respect Life month by collecting for Heartbeats of Licking County, and also praying a Prayer for the Unborn every Sunday in October. Also during October, we thanked our priests for their dedication by making cards on World Priest Sunday. We also recognize the work of the Serra Club by decorating placements for their meetings. PSR students especially enjoyed our recent Ministry Fair; it was very enlightening for them to visit the various booths and see all the many ways we can live out our faith in the parish; thank you to all those parishioners who staffed the booths and took the time to explain their ministries to our students.

If you walked through the hallways a few weeks ago during class, you would have seen our students' shoes lining the walls as part of our St. Nicholas Feast Day celebration. And if you visit the MPR during class time, you'll find us practicing our songs for the Christmas Carol Service. We invite you to come hear us sing on December 14 at 6 p.m. in the church. We also watched the Third Grade play about creation and the Fourth Grade play about Joseph and his brothers. But it's not all fun and games; we also are taking the time to reflect during this season of Advent, and participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week.

First Reconciliation
Pray and Play



**FROM FATHER BOB, FATHER STREITENBERGER,
DEACON STEVE & the PARISH STAFF**
And THE EDITOR & STAFF of GENERATIONS MAGAZINE

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2009

Dec. 31st & 1st – Holy Day Mass Schedule
7th, 14th, 21st & 28th – Catholics Returning Home
7 to 9 pm
8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th – Women's Bible Study
9 to 11:30 am
8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th – Book Club, 6:30-7:30 pm
11th & 25th – Adult Catechism Class
1:30 to 2:30 pm
12th & 26th – Adult Bible Study, 7 to 9 pm
15th – Generations Mailing, 10 am to 1 pm
19th – No School – M. L. King Holiday
25th – Evening Prayer & Benediction for
Vocations, 4 to 5 pm
25th thru 31st Catholic Schools Week
30th – News Deadline for Generations
31st – Confirmation Retreat

February 2009

4th & 11th – Catholics Returning Home, 7 to 9 pm
5th, 12th, 19th & 26th – Women's Bible Study
9 to 11:30 am
5th, 12th, 19th & 26th – Book Club, 6:30 to 7:30 pm
8th & 22nd – Adult Catechism Class
1:30 to 2:30 pm
9th & 23rd – Adult Bible Study, 7 to 9 pm
13th & 16th – No School, President's Day
Weekend
19th – Generations Mailing, 10 am to 1 pm
22nd – Evening Prayer & Benediction for
Vocations, 4 to 5 pm
25th – Ash Wednesday mass schedule
27th – News Deadline for Generations

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