

St. James NetWork



Fall Gathering helps you find your fit at St. James parish

by Cecilia Richardson, Director of Religious Education

As our parish staff met to discuss what our theme for the year should be and what the Fall Gathering's focus should be, we started talking about stories of parishioners trying to find ways to become part of our parish life, and conversely, ministries that are looking for parishioners to take part in what they have to offer.

We're all looking for a place to fit in and a role to play — and what better venue to talk about that than a whole parish event like the Fall Gathering?

Now, we're not talking about a massive recruitment effort to put everyone to work. We're talking about taking some time to look around and find a place that fits. Maybe you have an idea in the back of your mind that you might like to become more involved in a social/service group like the Knights of Columbus. Or maybe you might like to learn a little more about the Little Saints playgroup for your kids. Perhaps you'd like to volunteer your time at the soup kitchen, but you're not quite sure how.

Some of us might be feeling a little lost in our spiritual lives. It seems like people around us of other faiths just seem to have a better handle on their spirituality or their role in their church. Where do you fit in your church?

Maybe you're simply feeling a little lost during Sunday Mass — the readings are too hard to follow, the homily is too long or the kids are too squirmy. But you really want to connect.....to find God in your life. Somehow.

Many of us would like to find a



place to fit in, but we're not quite sure how to go about it or what to do. And frankly, many people are a little afraid to ask because then it looks like they're some kind of heathen.

Finding yourself in some of these scenarios? That's why we chose our theme — "Where do I fit?"

We'll still have the old favorites. We'll begin with a short prayer in the church and then have another delicious spaghetti dinner (once again prepared by the Filardo, Danze and Scassellati families and their Confirmation group).

Then we'll take some time to explore ways to find the place where

Where Do



Fit ?

**Fall Gathering
Oct. 12
12:30-3 p.m.**

**\$5-adults; \$2.50-kids
No more than \$20 per family**

you fit. We'll showcase some ministries, so that you have a chance to get involved, but also talk about some new adult faith formation opportunities coming up this year that we're calling "Feed Your Faith."

So mark your calendars, plan to come, join us for a meal and some creative surprises from Father Timothy, and a chance to discover where your piece fits in the puzzle.

The Fall Gathering will be held Oct. 12, 12:30-3 p.m. Registration will take place after weekend Masses, Sept. 27-28 and Oct. 4-5. For information, call the parish office, (816) 781-4343.



Have a question about the Catholic Church?

Recognizing that religious education/formation for adults is one of the greatest needs in the Church today, we are beginning Saturday morning sessions for adults called, "What do most people want to know about the Catholic Church?"

The sessions begin at 10 a.m. and end promptly at 11 a.m. in the upstairs room in the church office known as the Saint Gaspar room. Sessions are informal (casual dress), coffee is served, and the only text will be *The New Catholic Answer Bible* (Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 2005). Anyone is welcome, including non-Catholics, and one need not attend all the sessions. It's simply a week-by-week faith sharing on topics that are of interest to Christians about Catholic teaching.

Some sample topics might be:

- How has God revealed himself?
- Does the Church teach evolution?
- Why does the Church ordain priests?

- Do Catholics worship saints?
- Can individuals receive special revelations from God?
- Why won't the Church ordain women?

There is no cost to attend. If you wish to have a copy of *The New Catholic Answer Bible* (New American Bible translation), you can purchase one at a Catholic book store for about \$12. It is not necessary to have the Bible, however, to attend the classes.

Fr. Tom Albers, pastor at St. James, will lead the sessions, but it will be time of sharing thoughts and experiences by all present. The first session was held Sept. 27, and it will be ongoing on Saturday mornings. If a particular Saturday is to be skipped, this will be announced the week prior.

So, come and join us! We welcome your thoughts and experiences, and we eagerly anticipate the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in this simple endeavor.

Glory Be Tea tickets on sale soon

by Linda Stramel

Six years ago, the parish was looking for a special event to bring God's Word to St. James and a way to bring together the women of our parish — and the Glory Be Tea was born.

This annual advent event brings together women of St. James along with their friends for a special afternoon of fellowship, inspiration, entertainment and fun. Along with a light lunch, everyone is treated to the musical talents of St. James members, an inspirational speaker and a delightful story presented by one of St. James favorite storytellers.

This event has provided an annual opportunity to bring many individuals and groups together to serve in fellowship in making this wonderful afternoon happen. Some of the groups who help every year with the tea are the Youth Group, Knights of Columbus and various St. James choirs and musically talented individuals.

We invite all ladies who have never been to the Glory Be Tea in the past to come to this year's tea and join those who have made it an annual tradition. It will be held Dec. 14, 12:30 to 3 p.m. We respectfully request only adults attend this special event.

Watch the parish bulletin for details and ticket information as the event gets closer.



I just wanted to go home!

How an impatient teenage answer turned into a lifetime of clowning around

I sat there tapping my watch and pointing at the door, thinking to myself, "Mom, it's time to go: I have homework to do."

She answered my thoughts with an odd response: "I'll make it if you'll wear it?"

Impatient to leave, I answered, "Fine Mom, I will. Now let's go!"

As we got into the car, I asked, "Wear what, Mom?"

"Oh the clown suit," she said.

Oh! A look of terror came over my face as I thought, "What did I agree to this time?"

My senior year of high school, I was elected president of our high school Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). The parish council had asked for a student to attend its meeting as a student representative. Since I was president of CYO and was unable to get a volunteer on short notice, I attended the meeting myself.

In addition to the regular parish council meeting, they started talking about a parish carnival. Council members were dreaming of all the activities they would have including food, drink and entertainment.

Some wise guy popped up and said, "Great! Now all we are missing is a clown or two."

I never heard that statement because I was ready to get out of there. Mom, however, heard it, and thought it would be a neat idea.

"Fine, Mom, I'll be a clown for the parish carnival," I conceded in that car ride home, "but you have to join me as well!" So instead of making one costume, she made two. And thus was born "Timotheus."

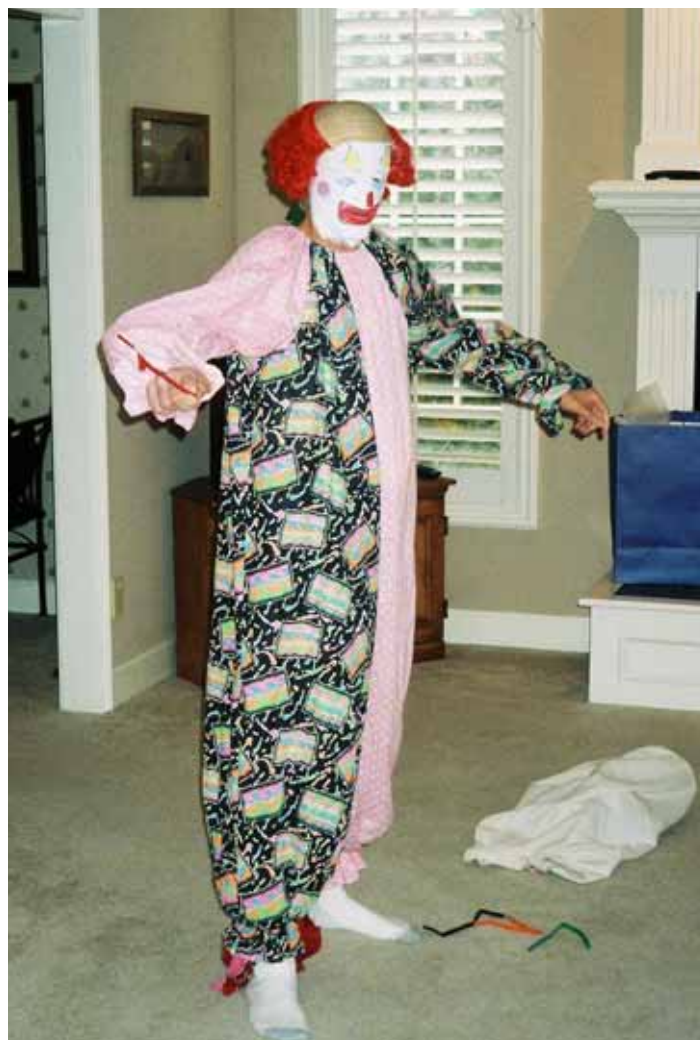
Since then, I have had great fun clowning around and bringing smiles to people's faces. I have clowned at nursing homes, churches, schools and before various other groups that have invited me.

But there is more to clowning than just making someone laugh. Over the

years as I've learned more about clowning, I've come to realize the gift it truly is. For instance, the clown's historic makeup is a symbol of death and resurrection. The white is the symbol of death and is applied first. The colors symbolize life. Thus, a clown's own face is a reminder that we are on a journey from death to life.

To think all it took was Mom to say, "I'll make it if you wear it," to get me started on this journey of clowning.

We are called to be "fools for Christ's sake," to be weak so that others can be strong, to encourage, support and build up others. What an honor and privilege that calling is!



▲ Fr. Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S., AKA "Timotheus."

Wanted:

Parents and grandparents with young children

Are you at home with young children and looking for new activities now that school has started? We would love for you to come and join us every Wednesday, 10:15-11:45 a.m., at the Little Saints play group. We have a great time learning about our Creator and enjoying fun preschool activities. We also learn how to be helpers and friends to one another.

For more information contact Lisa Angotti at 781-8498 or tangotti@sbcglobal.net

Adult faith formation opportunities coming to St. James

by Cecilia Richardson, Director of Religious Education

I have a confession to make – sometimes when I'm at home surfing the web, I tend to look at other churches' web sites and snoop to learn how they run their Religious Education programs. I justify it by saying I'm just trying to keep current on trends and practices, but I suspect it's really more about seeing how we measure up.

While it's nice to see that our fees are lower than most, and our registration process is more family-friendly, what I have also noticed is a trend toward having parents become more involved.

Many parishes have abandoned traditional Religious Education classes in favor of whole-community learning. The Generations of Faith model, where the whole parish community meets on a monthly basis to address one particular idea or concept, is particularly popular. We looked into that possibility here at St James and decided that meeting only 12 times per year just couldn't compare to 28 weekly 90-minute sessions. However, we recognized that the major component of Generations of Faith – involving the whole family in learning – was worth keeping.

Adults want spiritual guidance

As the parish director of Religious Education, I get a number of phone

calls each year from adults who are searching for something to teach them about their faith. They want something like the RCIA program for people learning to become Catholic, but designed for cradle Catholics. I have been a bit puzzled with what to do about that. I can see the great need for something for these callers – and also the need for something for the parents of our children.

Someone is always staying after a 2nd grade sacrament preparation parent meeting to ask questions. Usually it's somewhat furtively, because they're afraid to admit what they don't know.

Sessions begin to fill the need

But why *should* they know all of the answers? As Catholics, we've had a recent history of providing excellent formation for our kids, and then pronouncing them "graduated" after high school. Think back to how you thought when you were a teen, and imagine how differently you might understand the concept of "sin and forgiveness," for example, now that you've actually had some real-life experience.

That was a major issue for our Education Committee when we met this spring and summer. What could we do to address this problem, and what

were the best ways to implement our solutions? We agreed that most families have a very hectic life with limited opportunities for more activities. We decided to schedule our adult formation efforts on days and times that people would already be in the area – Wednesday nights during our regularly scheduled youth & children's sessions, for example. Mom and Dad can drop the kids off in the classroom and stay for their own session.

Additionally, Father Tom, our pastor, has decided to do a very informal discussion group on Saturday mornings (see page 2 for details). No attendance will be taken. Just drop in, ask some questions, have some coffee and join the discussion.

We'll also still have our usual gatherings and Soup Suppers. And we'll have the Advent and Lent seasonal table set up in the narthex with materials that parishioners can take home to study.

Come see what you think!

This year is our trial balloon. See the box below for our upcoming "Feed Your Faith" sessions. If you like the idea, please come to our sessions and give us your feedback. If all goes well, there will be more sessions next year. I'm anxious to hear your comments and suggestions.

"Feed Your Faith" adult formation schedule

Nov. 12: David Butel: "Mark: The Gospel of the Suffering Messiah." In the Gospel of Mark, the theme of suffering and the shadow of the cross are never far away. In spite of this, it is proclaimed to be "Good News!" We will explore how this gospel was written to witness to the life of Jesus Christ and to encourage its readers to keep their eyes on the cross.

Jan. 14: Abbott Gregory: "The Liturgy of the Hours." The Liturgy of the Hours is the official Prayer of the Church, daily prayed by many people throughout the world. It includes the recitation of Psalms, the reading of Scripture, and Prayers of Intercession. For many people – priests, religious, and laypeople – it is an enriching spiritual experience that fosters deep prayer and true joy of heart. This talk will be a very practical look into how this prayer can become a daily part of your life, bringing you spiritual growth and inner peace.

April 27 & 28: Biagio Mazza: "The Cultural and Religious World of Jesus, a First Century Male Jew." We believe Jesus to be the Son of God, but on earth he came as a first century male Jew. To understand Jesus, it is important to understand the first century Jewish male mindset and worldview, along with the various cultural and religious factors that influenced that worldview.

Keys for Christ

Parish is raising money to purchase a new grand piano for the sanctuary

by Daniel Baker, Director of Liturgy and Music

As you know, there's some general maintenance that comes with owning a car. You have to change the oil every 3,000-5,000 miles. Then there are filters, tires, spark plugs...lots to keep up if you plan on driving the car for an extended period of time. Eventually, however, the maintenance becomes more costly than the car's value, and it's time to consider a new one.

This is the problem we are facing right now with the parish's current piano. It needs to be tuned almost monthly, which costs \$90-\$120. The strings are rusting, and pieces are beginning to stick and break. It needs a complete overhaul, which would cost almost \$10,000 — a lot more than the piano is worth. So it's time to purchase a new grand piano for our sanctuary.

Determining our needs

Buying a piano is much like buying a car. Before buying one, you have to figure out what you're looking for. Our requirements include:

- The piano must be large enough to support congregational singing and accommodate our current space as well as the new sanctuary that is in our future.
- It must be durable and of a quality that can endure being played hard week after week and retain its tuned pitch.
- It needs a beautiful, rich tone that is even from the bottom to the top of the keyboard.
- It has to meet our needs while still being cost-effective.

A solution is found

I spent weeks traveling to piano stores and playing different brands of grand pianos, always inquiring about durability and longevity. We want a piano that sounds just as good 50 years from now as it does the day we purchase it.

After weeks of searching, I found the perfect one — a Pramberger JP 208b grand piano (see photo).

Donations are needed

So now, we need your help.

We've already raised more than \$5,000 toward the \$26,000 price tag of the new piano. This may seem expensive, but compare it with a Steinway grand piano of the same size at \$74,000.

There are green envelopes available in the narthex and church office for those who want to contribute. To raise the money, we are selling "Keys for Christ":

- White keys: \$100.
- Black keys: \$500.
- Pedals: \$1,000.

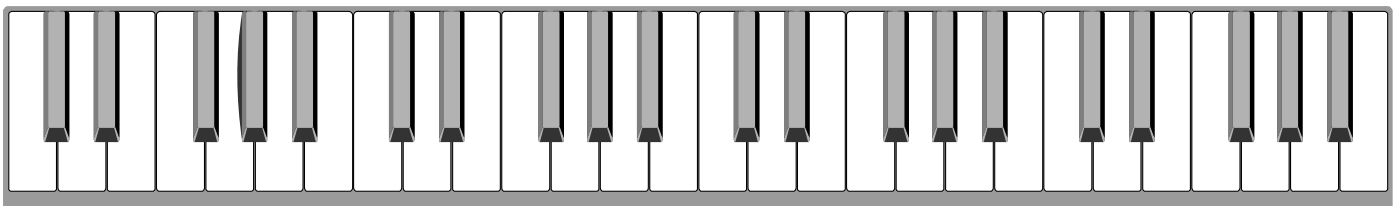
Donations can be made in the memory of a loved one or in honor of your family. After the money is raised, a permanent plaque will be displayed with names of loved ones and families that contributed a key or pedal. We appreciate any contribution you can make, even if it's not a "key."



The parish is hoping to replace the aging piano in the sanctuary with a new 6-foot, 10-inch Pramberger JP-208b grand piano. For more information about the piano, visit www.prambergerpianoco.com.

Everyone contributes to music ministry during liturgies

Thank you for your support of the music ministry at St. James. We are truly a blessed community. I can always feel the presence of Holy Spirit in our liturgies through your participation.



Teens prepare for Kansas City Youth Conference

by Bobbi Román, Director of Youth Ministry



The Kansas City Youth Conference (KCYC) is held every two years and is open to those in 9th-12 grade. The conference counts as a Confirmation retreat experience, but it is much more than that!

KCYC is a chance for Catholic teens in our diocese to come together to

meet and get to know each other as well as participate in workshops and general sessions. There is a concert on Saturday night, teen adoration as well as celebrating Mass on Sunday with Bishop Finn.

The two-day conference will be held this year at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Nov. 22-23. Cost is \$80, and includes hotel room and registration. Keynote speakers are John Beaulieu from Franciscan University of Steubenville and David Rinaldi, a renowned Catholic speaker. The Saturday night concert is, Curtis Stephens.

This year will be an important year because next year, 2009, the National

Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held in Kansas City. So part of this year's experience will be getting geared up for next year when more than 20,000 Catholic teens from all across the United States will descend on our metro area. There is a great need at this time for adults to help with the 2009 NCYC. Please consider being a part of this life-changing event.

As a youth minister, the thing I love most about conferences is the chance to walk away amazed and in awe of how wonderful our teens are. Our church is in good hands because our youth are so strong! Attending KCYC and NCYC gives just a peek into how alive our faith is in our teens!

Fall shopping season is here; let HOPE help!

Whether it's clothing, groceries for Thanksgiving dinner, or an early start on Christmas preparations, the St. James HOPE program can help.

Stop by the HOPE gift card table after any of the Masses any weekend to buy gift cards for some of the area's leading stores including GAP, Best Buy, Old Navy, Dillard's, J.C. Penney, Kohls and Wal-Mart. We also have many restaurant cards, including Applebees, Chili's, Chipotle, McDonald's, Sonic, Dish Pizza and Starbucks. There are many more, so stop at the HOPE table after Mass to see the full list. If we don't have the cards on hand that you want, we can order them and have them here in about three days.

The HOPE program allows you to support our parish without spending anything other than a few minutes of your time to buy the cards. St. James parish purchases the gift cards at a discounted price and resells them to you at face value. It costs you nothing extra, but earns big profits for our parish enabling it to carry out its educational programs.

Although HOPE gift cards make great gifts, with a little planning ahead, you can use the gift cards yourself to do your own shopping. You'll be spending money you normally would have spent, and the parish is making money at the same time.

Bring your checkbook or cash to church when you go to Mass so you can buy your cards. Cards are also on sale in the parish and school offices during the week.

And, don't forget to pick up Price Chopper or HyVee cards to do all your grocery shopping. We also sell coupon books that will help you save money at the grocery store.



▲ **The HOPE gift card program enables you to help the parish earn money for education programs every time you shop. Stop by the HOPE table in the narthex after Masses for details**

Great rewards require great risks

A 5-year report on our sister parish in Peru

by John and Susan Stolwyk

In 2003, a small group of five parishioners along with our then-pastor, Fr. Ron Will, decided to work toward a parish goal to become more involved in the global church.

We traveled to a small Catholic community called La Capilla Preciosa Sangre in the El Pinar district of Lima, Peru. We didn't know what to expect and wondered if we would have illness, culture shock, language barriers or a host of other difficulties. Looking back we needn't have worried. We were welcomed by a community of happy, hopeful Peruvians that have become our extended parish family.

Over these five years we have shared our dreams, our needs and our faith with one another. We Americans are edified by our Peruvian brothers' and sisters' gracious hospitality while they are deeply touched by our unwavering interest in helping their little church to grow. Both of us are proud to watch their thatched-roof chapel be transformed into a sturdy, beautiful little church with new classrooms and a growing congregation. We have enjoyed working on outreaches together in a neighboring community called Rio

Chillon where poor families have built ramshackle homes in the midst of a local dump. We have played together — even discovered that 17 people can actually fit into a Toyota van for touring local sites, like the beach and the homes of Saints Martin and Rose of Lima.

With each trip to Peru we realize that we do not travel alone. We believe God guides us, that it is He who has inspired and sustains this wonderful relationship. We realize that everyone from St. James travels with us offering their good wishes and constant support. In the next five years, we want to encourage youth from both churches to get involved. We want to continue reaching out to the people of Rio Chillon. We want to bring a group of Peruvians to visit St. James.

The risk our churches took five years ago is yielding abundant rewards. Blessings flow in both directions now that we have one another as extended family. We are grateful for the on-going support of St. James parish in this commitment to stay involved with the global church. We are looking forward to our next trip in February 2009.



▲ Fr. Matt Link (left), former associate pastor, Ledo and Maria Vargas of Capilla Preciosa Sangre, and Padre Maximo, stand near a shrine Ledo just completed in his yard during the 2008 Peru trip.



▲ Emily Aunspaugh, Second Baptist Church, makes a donation.

Blood drives save lives

by Joe Barry

This will be my last report as the coordinator of the St. James blood drives. From time to time, each organization needs a change in leadership in order to bring new life to its mission. That time has come, and Nikki Power will be our new blood drive coordinator.

Nikki has assisted me in the past and has given me many new ideas on how to expand participation and get new donors. I have the utmost confidence in her. I will continue to assist Nikki in whatever manner she asks for my help. Please help Nikki by your prayers, continuing as a donor or becoming a new donor if you are not one now.

The following is a brief report on what we have accomplished in the past eight years and four months. We held 40 blood drives and collected 5,501 units of whole blood. Since each unit is separated into two parts (platelets and plasma,) we have helped to save the lives of 11,002 hospital patients. Just think what we could have done if everyone who can donate did so!

May Our Heavenly Father richly bless each of you for what you have done to one of His least brethren by your blood donation!



Welcome to St. James School!

by Molly Doherty, Principal

Our growth at St. James School is very exciting. We are fortunate to have almost 430 students enrolled in preschool through

eighth grade for the 2008-2009 school year. We would like to extend a special warm welcome to our new school families and to several new staff members.

We are pleased to announce that

two former St. James students have returned to St. James to teach. Molly Teague is teaching third grade and Maggie Pfeifer is teaching math to our Middle School students. We have two teachers, Lisa Latteman and Julie Alley, that are new to our fifth grade classrooms. Our newly opened second pre-kindergarten room welcomes Mary Mancuso as their lead teacher.

As our Spanish program continues to grow, we welcome Lauren Anderson who will be teaching the students in the preschool/pre-kindergarten classes. Paul Dexter will be teaching

computer to the preschool through fifth grade students as he job shares with veteran teacher Julie Miller.

Nikki Power, Sherry Hennen, and Peggy Jones are part-time staff helping in the café and preschool/pre-kindergarten rooms. Stephanie Steffensmeier will be helping out in the health room/workroom and in the school office.

We also welcome two new school board members, parishioners Rich Lehmann and Keith Volpi.

Thanks to all of you for your support. We are expecting a great year!

MIDI for Kids is here!

by Cathy Barron, St. James School Music Teacher

Musical Instruction Develops Intelligence (MIDI) for Kids is an incredible after-school music program available at St. James School. It uses the excitement of music to train the brains of children by enhancing their analytical and music skills. Based on what we know about how "emotion drives attention" kids will have so much fun they won't even realize they are learning! MIDI for Kids provides a comprehensive music curriculum that connects concepts in music with parallel concepts in math and language. All this is specifically intended to strengthen a child's ability to think.

The MIDI for Kids curriculum is a great fit to the body-brain compatible elements we follow at St. James School. It is a unique program that provides training by directing students in focused playing, listening and moving activities, improvisation, contextual learning through MIDI technology, cross-curricular education, and creating music in an ensemble setting. Specific brain skills that are developed in MIDI for Kids include pattern recognition, enhanced abstract reasoning

skills necessary for learning math and science, more efficient skilled movements, ability to conduct numerous activities at once, and the ability to make predictions and estimates.

Two types of lessons are offered — keyboard ensemble and guitar ensemble. Group lessons are fun, motivating and an effective way to begin music study. Learning in a group inherently teaches the child about playing in an ensemble and develops their listening skills. In addition, basic musicianship, sight-reading and music fundamentals can be taught using group interaction

and cooperation. Finally, the MIDI for Kids technology enhanced curriculum significantly motivates kids to practice long enough to learn to love music. Mrs. Barron and Mrs. Latteman each teach 2 keyboard classes and Mrs. Flowers teaches 2 guitar classes.

The MIDI for Kids program is available to all St. James School students and parish children, too. Space is limited and many classes are already full. To learn more or sign up for a class, visit www.midiforkids.com and click on the school house. One semester of lessons costs approximately \$550.



Cathy Barron teaches a MIDI for Kids class of 4th and 5th graders. ▶



A way of life

We are all called to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us

by Judy Kiesling

In response to a request by the U.S. Catholic Bishops that Catholics re-evaluate and re-commit themselves to stewardship, a Stewardship Council has been formed at St. James.

What exactly is stewardship? Stewardship is simply giving of your time, talents and treasure back to God. Each of us can be living examples of being good stewards by sharing our God-given gifts, treating others with respect and being good stewards of everything that God has given us, such as the environment.

The Stewardship Council has spent the past year defining and refining its mission and purpose and developing guidelines to give life to stewardship in our parish.

We have defined our mission as: "To call our parish family to make stewardship a way of life by sharing all of the gifts that God has given them and also appreciating the gifts offered by others."

The council has developed a long-term plan consisting of seven guidelines, or areas of action, on which they will focus their attention. These

include:

- Defining ways in which parishioners can be personal witnesses to stewardship as a way of life.
- Obtaining the commitment to stewardship of all of those in leadership positions.
- Demonstrating through hospitality, evangelization, prayer and outreach that we are welcoming communities with a commitment to preaching the Gospel and serving the needs of others.
- Teaching and training parishioners about stewardship and development through education, communication, and formation.
- Respecting the demands made on people's time and energy by recruiting, training and recognizing gifts of time and talent.
- Encouraging, advising and educating about gifts of treasure and returning to the Lord with increase.
- Being accountable for progress by communicating progress to the parish.

In each week's bulletin you see examples of how your fellow parishioners are putting stewardship into action. It can be as simple as extending a friendly greeting to someone you don't know before or after Mass, helping to maintain our facility (mowing, cleaning, picking up trash, etc.), participating in one of our many ministries, responding to a request for help that you see in the bulletin, or pledging and giving of your monetary treasure on a regular basis.

In other words, you are in control of the amount of time, talent and treasure that you will give back to God for all that He has given to you.

You can learn more about how stewardship is becoming a way of life at St. James by requesting a copy of the booklet, "Stewardship — Our Response to the Call of Discipleship" from the parish office.

You can also help put stewardship into action by joining the Stewardship Council. Call Dennis Valentine, 816-792-5818, or e-mail him at dvalentine@kc.rr.com for details.

My Day program helps ladies of Immacolata Manor

by Georgeanne Salmon

It's been almost a year since I transferred from the residential program at Immacolata Manor to the My Day program. Immacolata Manor is a local, nondenominational not-for-profit agency providing services for women with developmental disabilities. The My Day program, run directly by the manor, was created in 2000, and serves both Manor residents as well as individuals from other homes or agencies

In my day-to-day assignments, I work with all of the ladies in a different but special way. Each lady is unique. We do many volunteer activities, such as delivering Meals on Wheels, stuff bulletins for St. James parish, fill bird feeders at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, and sort food for Harvesters. We also help at the Immacolata Manor Thrift Shop, relieving the volunteers so they can go to lunch, and we cut rags as a special project to make money.

When the ladies arrive at My Day, they exercise by either riding a stationary bike or walking on a treadmill. After they finish, they have different sensory activities such as fishing, attend-



▲ The My Day program is located in Immacolata Manor's Broadacres building on the Manor's grounds in Liberty, Mo.

ing events like Santa-Cali-Gon Days in Independence or the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, picnics, dancing, horse shows, bowling and swimming. We cook once a week with the ladies helping. Each birthday is celebrated in

a special way for each lady.

I hope this gives you some idea of the My Day program. Please come by and see us in action.

Three Bible studies offered at St. James parish



St. James parish offers three Bible study opportunities:

- Want to know what God says about day to day living? Study the Books of Proverbs and Wisdom, Wednesday mornings, starting Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. in the social hall. Children are welcome. For information, call Jackie (last name?), (816) 415-8185.
- A study of John's Gospel using Stephen K. Ray's book began meeting Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. in the St. Stephen Room. For information, call Renee Wilding, (816) 781- 6998.
- The St. James Women's Bible Study group will be starting a new book in October. Women of all ages and walks of life are in the group. That diversity contributes to the quality of discussions. The group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. For information, contact MacKenzie Mallon, (816) 407-1773 or mallon99@kc.rr.com.

Get involved!

Here's a sampling of ministry opportunities at St. James parish

Hillcrest Ministries

Hillcrest Ministries is a program that helps get homeless families back on their feet. Hillcrest puts a homeless family in each of its apartment for 90 days at a time. Each family is screened and qualified by Hillcrest.

St. James parish is responsible for one apartment at Hillcrest Ministries, ensuring the apartment is clean, has food from the list that Hillcrest provides and is well-maintained. We are always in need of skilled carpenters, plumbers, etc., as well as unskilled volunteers. This ministry provides a great chance to help the homeless while having fun and fellowship with other parishioners.

For more information, contact Jack Burns, (816) 781-2676.

Advent Giving Tree

Through the Advent Giving Tree, St. James parishioners "adopt" individuals from our sister parish, St. James Midtown, as well as local groups including nursing homes and Hillcrest ministries. We purchase Christmas gifts from the wish list for each person.

This project is completed over six-week period in November and December. Help is needed with writing the cards that are placed on the tree in church, hanging the cards, sorting gifts and delivering gifts. This is a great family project.

For more information, contact Linda Gross, (816) 750-4471.

Funeral Dinner Ministry

The Funeral Dinner Ministry strives to bring a measure of peace and comfort to parishioners during times of loss.

Volunteers either prepare food for the funeral dinner or help serve the meal. It could be as simple as baking a cake and delivering it to church.

This small gesture means a lot to parishioners at a very difficult time in their lives.

For information, contact Ruth Anderson, (816) 781-4609.

Young Marrieds Group

Young Marrieds provide a social outlet for young married couples in the parish to get together on a monthly basis for both fun and fellowship. Most couples in the group have been married 10 years or less.

The group's goal is to provide events for couples and their families to interact. Most are adult only, focused on giving couples the opportunity to reconnect by leaving their busy lives and children behind for a night out. The group also provides family functions so children can interact and play, and hopefully forge life-long friendships.

The group also supports parish functions including other ministries and the school.

For information, contact Troy or Marcy Sheeley, (816) 781-8460.

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The St. James NetWork team includes Toni Ferro Arthur, editor (guided by the Holy Spirit), Loretta Shea Kline and members of the parish staff.

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