



Dear Parishioners,

As I mentioned last week, on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving Day, November 26, we will be hosting at St. Joseph the ecumenical Thanksgiving prayer service that we annually do with First United Methodist Church. This will be at 7:00 PM. Pastor Galen Wray will be the homilist for the service. I hope that you will be able to participate in this as we welcome Pastor Wray and the members of First United Methodist who will be joining us. If you are coming to this service, please bring non-perishable food items for the community food pantry that First United Methodist operates. You may also bring food that you will use for your Thanksgiving dinner to be blessed. Afterwards there will be refreshments served by our Ladies Guild. I also encourage you to come for the 8:00 AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day. While expressing to Our Lord our gratitude for all of his graces and blessings is something we should do daily, it is good that we take the time at Thanksgiving to do something special in the way of prayer, which these afford us the opportunity to do so.

On another note, in regards to giving thanks, our Ignite the Faith/Blessed and Thankful Capital Campaign is going very well. In terms of the pledge cards that have been processed thus far we have pledges of approximately \$180,000. I thank all who have made pledges in responding to our Lord to express their thanks for His blessings by gifting our parish with their generosity. I am grateful for all who are praying for the success of our campaign. I express my appreciation, too, to our campaign team for their generous gift of giving of their time to contact and meet with parishioners. Our campaign team is finishing up on contacting registered parishioners during November and, in December, pledge forms will be made available at Masses for participation in the campaign for those who have not registered yet in the parish and for those who have not been able to meet with a team member. It is wonderful that over the next five years (as pledges

have been made to be fulfilled over a period anywhere from immediately to five years) we will be able to pay down a substantial amount of the principal on the loan for the new Religious Education Center. Whether I am in the new center for religious education classes and Youth Group on Wednesdays, for adult Bible study on Mondays, or for various parish meetings that have been held there, I realize what a blessing this facility is to our parish. Thank you to all whose generous support has made possible this facility that enhances in so many ways the life of our parish, especially the faith formation of our children and youth!

Finally, I encourage all to come by for the holiday nativity display taking place here at St. Joseph this coming weekend. It will be a wonderful way to begin the holiday season and to keep our focus on the fact that this time of year is all about celebrating the birth of Christ our Savior as we prepare for Christmas. I thank Deacon Dave Christensen, his wife Linda, our Ladies Guild, Knights of Columbus, and all who are involved in organizing this event.

Have a blessed and grace-filled week and a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

God bless you,
Fr. Gutowski

Mass Intentions for the Week

NOVEMBER 24 THRU NOVEMBER 30

Monday	Patricia Stimmel
Tuesday	Maurine Lehan
Wednesday	Leonard Herman
Thursday	Patricia Talcott
Friday	William Meister
Saturday	Tina McDaniel
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

PLEASE NOTE

Any items for next week's bulletin must be turned in by Tuesday morning as it will be printed early due to Thanksgiving. Thank you.

SERVERS & 1 LECTOR NEEDED:

We still need the following ministers for the December holidays. Please consider helping if you can. We are getting there.

For Christmas Eve: 5 p.m.: 1 Lector, 1 Server

Midnight: 1 Servers

Christmas Day, 9 a.m.: 2 Servers

Please email Sharon VanTassell at sharonvan1@gmail.com if you can help.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

The Saint Joseph Knights of Columbus Council is inviting all boys and girls in the parish from ages 5 through 14 to participate in the organization's international "Keep Christ In Christmas" poster contest. The contest will be conducted locally with winning entries advancing to the district/region and then to state, national, and international levels. The winning entries will serve as the basis for a series of new Christmas posters that encourage a deeper understanding of the holiday. Entry deadline is December 7th. Complete rules for the contest can be found on signs in the church entry area.

RE HAPPENINGS

NO RE classes November 26. Happy Thanksgiving.

Reconciliation for grades 3 – 8 is December 3 from 6:15 – 7:30. We have 4 priests, but could still run long because we have over 90 children making confessions.

The RE Christmas celebration is December 17 from 6:15 – 7:30. The theme this year is "Christmas in Italy." All RE families, parishioners, and friends are invited to come celebrate. If you are of Italian descent and have special memories of Christmas traditions, please share them with Sherry (shuntwork@msn.com).


Be a Blood Donor

Please mark your calendars for Sunday Dec. 14th

for the next Blood Drive in Springfield. It begins at 8:00am and runs until 1:00pm at the Springfield

Fire Dept. To make an appointment you can call

[402-253-8301](tel:402-253-8301) or signup on line at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code 0099111.

Hope to see you there your Springfield Knights of Columbus (sponsor) and the Red Cross.

UPCOMING SPRINGFIELD AT HEART DINNER

December 13, 2014

First United Methodist Church

5:00-7:30 pm

Turkey, Ham, and all the trimmings

Free will donations accepted at the door split among Springfield churches

Door prizes

Questions: [402-990-9933](tel:402-990-9933)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE

Everyone is encouraged to attend this year's Thanksgiving Prayer Service that we do each year with the Methodist Church. It will be held here at St. Joseph on Wednesday evening, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service. Please bring non-perishable food items that will be placed collected and given to the food pantry.

SAUSAGE SALE

The K of C will be selling Italian sausage sandwiches meals during the weekend Nativity Display. Come and enjoy lunch while you browse.

STEPHENS' CENTER

A big thank you to the Tate family, the Parr family and the Belt family for preparing and serving the dinner at the Stephens' Center this past Monday. It was greatly appreciated.