

**From the
Pastor's Desk**

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this week, I echo the words of St. Paul in Philippians 1: "I thank my God every time I think of you." I want to say thank you to all of you for being members of our wonderful Saint Joseph Parish here in Springfield. From the first day that I came as pastor, it has been a great joy to be here to serve you.

We have a wonderful parish staff for whom I am most grateful: Sharon Van Tassell as our secretary (and, praise God, my housekeeper that is such a blessing!); Rich "Van" Van Tassell, our custodian, who so diligently keeps our buildings clean and operational, ready at any moment to help when I call upon him for something; and Sherry Huntwork, our Director of Religious Education, who is topnotch in coordinating the faith formation of our children and our wonderful catechists, for whom I am most grateful too for their dedication to teaching our children our Catholic Faith. Also, I am thankful that we now will have Deacon Dave Christensen here from time to time with his wife Linda.

I thank all who give of themselves so generously to the life of our faith family here. I thank you for your stewardship that you exercise in being so giving in so many ways—from your financial support of the parish and the needs of the Archdiocese and the worldwide Church to using your gifts and talents to give of your time in helping in so many ways here at St. Joseph's. The life of our parish depends so very much upon all of you who volunteer in so many ways. Thank you to those who serve as trustees and on our parish and finance councils. Thank you to the Ladies Guild and the Knights of Columbus for enriching our parish life in so many ways with your activities and contributions. Thank you to all of our liturgical ministers: our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, our lectors, and our altar servers, as well as Candy Connery, our music coordinator, and all those who play and sing in our various choirs, both adults and youth, as well as those who help

me with the needs of the sacristy, such as Dorothy Foged and others who assist her in doing the "Lord's laundry," the linens that are used for Mass. Thank you to Kathy Long and Teresa Starks for coordinating our youth group. Thank you to all who help cut the grass and do snow removal and help with the other various maintenance items. Thank you to all of those who come to daily Mass and each day remember all of us in their prayers. Thank you to anyone or group whom I failed to mention and should have for the ways you serve our parish. Finally, thank you for all of the kindnesses that all of you have extended to me in these first few months of my being pastor, especially for all who have brought food to me. Thank you for putting up with any of my faults, especially for my sometimes being absent-minded and for being patient with me when I am running behind schedule due to juggling my parish responsibilities with the various ones that I have for the Archdiocese. Thanks too for the kindnesses you've shown Zeke, especially when he so energetically greets you when you come into the rectory!

Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving and may our Lord bless you for all that you do for our parish and me.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Gutowski

**MASS
INTENTIONS**

NOV. 22 THRU NOV. 28

Monday	Rev. Floyd Wessling
Tuesday	Edwin Heimes
Wednesday	Ray Heimes
Thursday	Conrad Kwapnioski
Friday	Richard J. Hazuka
Sr. Saturday	Jim Werner
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Knight of Columbus Council at St. Joseph once again is sponsoring our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for needy families and persons. Please place nonperishable food items in the barrels that are provided in the entry area of the Church. Thank you for your generosity in contributing items.

COATS FOR KIDS

The Springfield Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Winter Coat give away for needy children in the area. The coats are new and range in sizes 8-18 for Boys and 6-17 for Girls. There is a limited number available and will be distributed on First come bases. This is a totally Confidential project. Call: 707-8426 or contact the Elementary Counselor at Springfield Elem. School or Westmont School.

FROM THE LADIES' GUILD:

POTLUCK DINNER - The Ladies Guild and Knights of Columbus Potluck will be on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Ham, turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE

- Heartland Family Services is an organization located in Papillion that helps families with a variety of needs. Barrels are located in the back of the church for collecting donations. Items needed: clothing, toiletries, diapers, dishes, etc.

THE WORD AMONG US - ADVENT

With Advent soon starting up, please take a few minutes a day, maybe five minutes, and use The Word Among Us (or Five Minutes with the Word) to grow closer to the Lord before Christmas. Spending just a few minutes a day reading The Word

Among Us (or Five Minutes with the Word) magazine will dramatically change your experience during Advent from one of commercialization to spiritual openness. Copies are provided by the parish and are located on the tables at the church exits. Please pick one up for your family and start a new Christmas tradition!

DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNBORN BABY

Week 36 – I weigh about six pounds and am about 20 inches long. The bigger I get, the more crowded it gets in here!

SPRINGFIELD AT HEART DINNER

First United Methodist Church
December 11, 2010 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Free will donations accepted at the door and the proceeds are divided between the three Springfield Churches. We are looking for donations ranging from door prizes to turkeys (12 - 15 lbs., ready-made stuffing, corn, gravy, cake, nuts, mints, coffee, tea, paper dinnerware and decorations. Contact Amy Green at 990-9933 for any questions.

NOTE

The church office will be closed on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day and on Friday.

TODAY'S READINGS

Today we celebrate Christ as King. But what kind of king is this? Born in lowly circumstances; no army but fishermen and tax collectors; a king who heals and feeds and washes feet; a king who accepts death on a cross. Jesus is a servant king, and we, as his disciples, are called to imitate him. Let us pray to be worthy subjects of this holy king.