

Page 1-Front page using your Special Christmas
Cover Holy Family Cover Miracle-Bilingual

Thank You

Kathy

**DECEMBER 27, 2009—HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS
MARY AND JOSEPH**

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! This is a season of celebration, parties, gift-giving, and family gatherings. It is also a time when we often look back on the year and measure what has happened. Here at St. Anne's many things have happened. One event of real change was the transfer of Msgr. Moys and Fr. Ron to new assignments and the arrival of two new priests, me and Fr. Paschal. Here are some other things that have happened in the subsequent months.

Soon after our arrival in July, Fr. Paschal moved into an apartment and the parish house has undergone extensive renovation. Sometime after Christmas, I will hold an open house at the parish house for parishioners to come and visit. Two months after our arrival, we finally finalized the budget which included some serious cuts in order to balance the budget. I held many listening sessions which allowed me to quickly get a sense of the parish's warp and woof as well as desire for the future. In the weeks ahead, a summary of those sessions will be published in the bulletin. The Pastoral Council has been hard at work reflecting on the mission of the parish and advising me as to the pastoral needs of the community. The

various committees of the Pastoral Council have yet to be revived, but in time they will be renewed. The Administrative Council has grown to nine members and now meets every month. I am still trying to get a sense of how things work. After all, a large parish, two missions, and a school involves a complexity that will take some time to understand.

In all, I am glad to be in Grants Pass and glad to be your pastor. You have been very supportive and loving. Thank you! In the following pages of this bulletin, you will find reflections of the year from the various ministers on staff. Please take time to read their reflections and pray for them to continue the good news which continues in their respective ministries.

Remember that Christmas Joy is found in the celebration of Christ come as man for our salvation. That is truly good news. From the staff of St. Anne's, please have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year.

Blessings,
Fr. William Holtzinger
Pastor

**THIS WEEK'S
MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday	12/27	8:00 am	Warren Pearson +
	(RR)	9:00 am	
		9:30 am	
		11:00 am	Parishioners
Monday	12/28	8:00 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Tuesday	12/29	8:00 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Wednesday	12/30	8:00 am	Harold O'Brien +
Thursday	12/31	5:30 pm	
	(CJ)	5:30 pm	
	(RR)	5:30 pm	Ben Sullivan +
Friday	01/01	8:00 am	Donna Buettgen +
		9:30 am	(Bilingual)
Saturday	01/02	5:30 pm	Joe Furtado +
		5:30 pm	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 27, 2009 through January 3, 2010

Sunday	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28
Monday	1 Jn 1:5-22, Mt 2:13-18
Tuesday	1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
Wednesday	1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40
Thursday	1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18
Friday	Nm 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
Saturday	1 Jn 2: 22-28, Jn 1:19-28
Sunday	Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S MASSES (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) WILL BE

Thursday, Dec. 31, 5:30 PM VigilFriday, Jan. 1, 8:00AM and 9:30AM (bilingual)

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

This year has been wonderful. It is such a joy working with all children of the parish. We have 55 children in the program and 22 children in the Sacramental Preparation program.

Thank you to all of the parents that have come forward to be catechists, helpers and prayerful supporters of our program. We also thank those who have donated supplies to the Children's Faith Formation Program. It is very important to educate the youth of our parish and to get them involved in their faith family. These youth and children are the fu-

ture of our faith. They need to know where to turn to during the times of turmoil in the world.

The catechists, staff and I look forward to the New Year with the children of our parish. We have a lot of plans for more children to become involved with the parish, watch for future updates in our bulletin.

Thank you to all who support our program.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

From the office of Faith Formation
Terry Knouff, Director

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

Kathy and I would like to thank you for trusting us with your most precious assets, your children. We happily report that your investments are growing, healthy and happy!

Middle school youth group typically has an attendance of 20-25 young people on any given Wednesday evening. Curiously, besides the core 15 youth, the other 10 or so kids rotate with the various sports seasons and school activities. We have noticed, however, that as the year goes by, the kids that were choosing secular activities over the youth group are a declining census. Mid high kids want to be with their friends, and the friends and the people who care about them are at the church.

As a group, our Catechism education level is below par. We are working on improving that with bible study games, studies on Catholic church traditions, the sacraments, and general church knowledge such as the saints and church history.

Middle school kids tend to hunger for knowledge of spirituality and that sense of justice that kids have. "That's not fair," is a line often heard about daily life issues with kids.

Be it Sunday school class, or Middle School youth group, the kids are good for about 10 minutes of direct teaching. After that, they want to take the group discussions on tangents that are more relevant to their daily lives. As ministers, we attempt to share the Catholic tools for these situations. Somebody's grandma or parent is sick, there are illegal drugs at school, my friend is drinking alcohol, I'm not getting

along with some of my friends, sexuality situations, someone I care about is moving or their economic circumstances are becoming strained, I don't like my school, I hate my teacher, or I didn't get picked for first string in sports.

The success stories come through also. A new baby brother or sister, new friends, I got good grades this quarter, I'm on the football team, our band is going to State! My story was picked for the school newspaper, I'm serving Mass, I read the bible, God answered a prayer and happy things.

Really, I can't imagine a child going through the turbulence of the middle school years without a church family. Life events are moving much faster in these current generations. Choices and circumstances we faced in our late high school years and college years are now directly in the path of every and all 5th graders.

Society has changed drastically on the moral and ethical front. Kids are bombarded with information via the television, internet, and the constant texting and cell phone usage.

At youth group, we turn our phones off. We take off our ball caps, everyone shares a story, and a little time together. We share some prayers, some learning, and eat a snack together. We share a little happiness in a turbulent teenage world. We are at a fun, safe and calm place with our friends and we talk about God and Jesus, it's good medicine.

Merry Christmas to you,
Mark and Kathy Johnson

To our Wonderful St. Anne Catholic Community:

As we look back over 2009, we staff members are witnesses daily to several good news items to remind you about. We started the year with bountiful thankfulness for the huge support so many gave to last year's expanded Christmas Baskets Program; and we are finishing the year acknowledging even greater monetary support this year, allowing us to expand the program yet again. Early in the year, a special fundraiser brought in nearly \$6,000 to replace the 30 year old carpet in the parish center. In just 5 months, thanks to dozens of individual donations and several organizations also contributing to the fund, we raised the money to do the job. Thanks to a superb local supplier who has very close ties to our church, we also benefited greatly from the best possible cost for materials and reduced labor charges to install our wonderful new carpet. The Bazaar Committee purchased several higher cost items for the church, including larger, commercial-grade floor burnisher and vacuum cleaners; a carpet shampooer/extractor; microwave for the parish center kitchen; a larger, quite beautiful Holy Family Nativity Set; and many other smaller items for various uses and needs. We are so thankful for the many different banners hung throughout the year, and for the gorgeous flowers and other plants and decorations in the church. The Adoration Chapel is always an exceptionally holy and blessed place, thanks to the many adorers who bring their own blessings and reverent spirit to pray in the presence of God in that special sanctuary. Countless of our own parishioners and many visitors very favorably comment about availability of so many items in our religious article store. The Altar Society and individuals consistently keep our altar linens and liturgical necessities cleaned, updated, and replaced as necessary. Several special people freely give their time and efforts (and often even supplies) to clean the pews, vestibules, confessionals, and the several iconic statues in our church. Since October, we are seeing a few more each month join us for a very simple potluck and fellowship after first Friday Mass; a revived tradition we surely want to continue in the new year. While this certainly is a special time of year, we have so much to be thankful for throughout the year.

Merry Christmas
from Alan, Sammie, Kathy, Jeanette,
Esperanza, and John.

Merry Christmas!

Youth ministry so far this year has been excellent! From the several service opportunities to the beginning of a youth-style Mass to the youth nights to the Confirmation classes, everything has been getting bigger and better.

The youth at St. Anne's have participated in a couple service days, and some ongoing projects. Once a month, on the fourth Saturday, we head down to St. Vincent's dining hall and serve a hot meal to some of the hungry of our community. It amazes and humbles me to see how much compassion our teens have, and how willing they are to serve. We have also spent a Saturday afternoon up at St. Rita's retreat center planting daffodils, and a Friday evening putting together Christmas Baskets.

Also at St. Rita's we had our fall SOYO (Southern Oregon Youth) retreat, with the theme "Dead to the World." St. Patrick's, Our Lady of the River and St. Anne's combined to send 8 teens to this retreat, which had a total of 27 teens from as far north as Roseburg, and as far south as Ashland. Our community learned about how to live for Christ in this world.

About 3 months ago we started a once-a-month youth-style Mass at the 11:00am Mass on Sundays, and the reaction has been all positive. Through this Mass many of our youth have become active participants as lectors, musicians, ushers and Eucharistic ministers. And it's not just a youth Mass – it's a whole community Mass at which our youth know the support of their faith community. Thank you to all who have shown this amazing support.

Moving youth group to Sunday evenings has made it more accessible to more teens, increasing our size and energy level. The best so far was Fr. Bill's "Grill Father Bill," when teens asked questions ranging from what his favorite sports teams were to whether a priest can be married. This drew a crowd of 32 youth!

And our Confirmation Class has also grown from last year, including several teens in our RCIA program who are working toward their first communion, and some who are looking toward becoming Catholic at this year's Easter Vigil.

God is truly doing great things in our young people's hearts, and within the community here at St. Anne's. I thank you once again for all your support, and I look forward to the coming spring and the continued opportunity to work with our youth.

In Christ's Peace
Hans Mueller

**JUST A REMINDER, THAT THOSE OF
YOU WHO WANT A TAX DEDUCTIBLE
DEDUCTION FOR 2009, NEED
TO HAVE THEIR DONATIONS INTO
THE OFFICE
BEFORE 5PM ON DECEMBER 30.**

"OTHER NEWS"

MONASTIC VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT. Mount Angel Abbey sponsors vocation discernment retreats for men between the ages of 16-40, several times per year. The next retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 29-31, 2010. If you are interested in making a Monastic Discernment Retreat, please contact Rev. Odo Recker, O.S.B., director of Monastic vocations, at 503-845-3123, or by email: abbeyvocation@mtangel.edu.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT: "DISCOVERING THE LIFE GOD INTENDED FOR YOU" - What it means to live life as Catholics. Non Catholics welcome, so bring your friends. (For adults 18-40, married or single). This happens January 29-31, starting Friday at 7:00PM to Sunday at 11:00AM, at the Christian Renewal Center, Silverton, OR. Cost is \$90 per person if registered by January 3rd, \$100 after that, and it includes food, lodging and retreat materials. Registration deadline is Sunday, January 17, 2010. You can contact Deborah Francisco at 503-357-8075 or email: dfrancisco@stanthonysforestgrove.org

ADORATION CHAPEL



*"Keep Christ in Christmas
Make a New Year's Resolution"*

Come visit our Lord in the adoration chapel; better yet sign up to spend an hour a week with our Lord in this coming new year. No need to be concerned about a weekly commitment, you can take an hour that already has been taken and share the hour, then if for some reason you cannot do your hour, you do not have to find a substitute. Many blessings await those who respond to the Lord's invitation to come spend one hour with Me!!

Contact Rex Titus at 479-3561 if interested.

WANTED: COUPLES INTERESTED IN THEIR MARRIAGES

Teams of Our Lady (TOOL) is a group of 5-7 couples that meet monthly to share their month's news, a potluck meal, pray, and study a topic that has family/marriage/spiritual focus. The couples form a unit that is supportive and caring. As part of an international movement recognized by the Pope, we strive to live the vocation of marriage. There are couples of all ages in TOOL, with and without children. Come December 27th at 12:15 PM to the Parish Center Library for a short presentation. Questions answered, no obligation. Contact couples: Dave and Terri Currie at 476-0322 and David Barbian and Linda Hughes at 474-7574.

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH ARE NOW AVAILABLE at the parish office and the parish center office. \$.75 for the small booklet and \$1.50 for the large print booklet.

WEEK AT A GLANCE...

SUNDAY

NO
12:15 PM
NO

MONDAY

7:00 PM

TUESDAY

6:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

6:30 AM
9:00 AM
NO

THURSDAY

9:30 AM
5:30 PM
6:00 PM
NO

FRIDAY

8:00 AM
9:30 AM
NO

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

9:30 AM
1:00 PM
6:00 PM

**December 27—Holy Family of Jesus
Religious Ed Classes
T.O.O.L. Meeting—Library
High School Youth Group**

**December 28— Holy Innocents
Divorced/Widowed/Separated Support - PC**

**December 29—5th Day Octave of Christmas
Mens Study Group—Library**

**December 30— 6th Day Octave of Christmas
Women's Bible Study—Room 4
Legion of Mary—Room 2
Mid-High Youth Ministry**

**December 31—7th Day Octave, of Christmas
Marian Prayer Group—Room 2
Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass—Church
JustFaith Meeting—Room 3
RCIA Classes**

**January 1, 2010—Happy New Year!!!
Mother of God Mass-Church
Mary, Mother of God Mass (Bilingual) - Church
NOON MASS**

**January 2—St. Basil the Great & St Gregory
Nazianzen**

**January 3—The Epiphany of the Lord
Religious Ed Classes—parish center
La Rosca (Epiphany) - Skyroom
High School Youth Group—KYC**

Good News from Saint Anne Catholic School

Thank you to our parishioners and families for making our first four months of this school year run so smoothly. With the help of a matching grant we raised over \$20,000 for our Annual Fund Drive. We have had two very successful and fun Bingo nights. 22 students in the 1st through 7th grade made the honor roll for the first quarter and one student had a perfect 4.02 average. We raised over \$10,000 for the jog-a-thon and 47 students had a special lunch for being 4 week power pledges. Our new Office Manager is keeping everyone on task and always doing it with a smile or giggle. We have many things to look forward to in 2010. There will be a Catholic Schools Week the first week in February. A ladies' Bunco night will also be in February and we will be serving Lenten dinners. Mark April 17th, 2010 on your calendar. This is the night of our Annual Auction and Dinner. Thank you again for helping our school ensure high academic standards and to provide for the spiritual formation and religious education of our children.

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas,

Frankie Bytheway,
Principal