Mystagogia

Never hear of it? From the Latin and Greek, the word is appearing more and more in the church these days. It is the process of delving deeper into the rituals and mysteries of our faith, particularly the sacramental mysteries, after experiencing them. My goal is not to teach a new word. It’s the concept that is important, and which can give insight into changes in sacramental preparation for First Penance and First Eucharist, changes in our Baptismal preparation process, the way the RCIA is structured, and most importantly, the way growing in faith works.

A good starting point: adult initiation into the church. For years, the process was called ‘convert instructions’. The parish priest would give classes on the Catholic faith to those wanting to become Catholic. Once he believed an individual had learned what they needed to know, they would be baptized, or if already baptized, be received into the church, confirmed, and receive their First Eucharist. From then on, they were Catholic. In a way, it was as if before a sacrament, you had to learn everything necessary to understand the faith. Since Vatican II, and the restoration of the Catechumenate (the ancient process of becoming a Christian), there has been a major shift. Sacramental preparation is just what it says, preparing to celebrate the sacrament. Not a complete course in Catholicism, not learning everything you will ever need to know. Receiving the sacrament is not ‘graduation’, but a beginning. After the Easter Vigil comes an extremely important phase: mystagogia. Then one explores with others: what have I experienced? What does it mean? How do I now live what I have been initiated into? The idea – one prepares to celebrate one of the Christian mysteries, experiences it, and THEN, AFTER the celebration, one begins to explore what it all means, delving into the mystery from the inside.

What analogy can I use? The previous way would almost be like taking classes on cooking, without being in the kitchen, then upon course completion, being considered a chef. The newer way: give some background on ingredients and meal preparation, put the person in the kitchen, let them have a go at it, and then, like on the food network, discuss afterward what worked, what didn’t, and let them discover the mysteries of creating a meal.

In practice: prepare a child to go to confession, but don’t think they will learn all there is to know about God’s mercy, and the sacrament! After the celebration, have some mystagogy. Talk about the experience, explain more about God’s mercy, and how we experience it sacramentally. Discover what the sacrament can offer, growing through 2nd, 3rd, and 50th Penance. Prepare to receive First Eucharist, but then continue to learn. Grow into a person who lives Eucharist. With Baptism, after the Baptism, explore living the Christian life, or for parents, discover how to help your child live a relationship with Christ, in the church, how to pray, to serve. Mystagogy! Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

**Monday - August 18**
Ez 24:15-23/Mt 19:16-22
11:00 am Dr. Henry Patanella - Fred & Karen
5:15 pm John Cannito - Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Paszkiewicz

**Tuesday - August 19**
John Eudes, priest
Ez 28:1-10/Mt 19:23-30
6:45 am Judy, Joan & Jim Kenrick - Kenrick Family
11:00 am Stephen Siegl - Lorraine Iati

**Wednesday - August 20**
Bernard, abbot & doctor of the Church
Ez 34:1-11/Mt 20:1-16
11:00 am Audrey Spiak - Judy Kaltenbach
5:15 pm Flora Mammano - Richard & Donna Jeary

**Thursday - August 21**
Pius X, pope
Ez 36:23-28/Mt 22:1-14
6:45 am John Burkey - Jeff Mason
11:00 am Joyce Considine - Joe Ryan

**Friday - August 22**
Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ez 37:1-14/Mt 22:34-40
11:00 am Ann Ring - John & Joan Zeppetella
5:15 pm Mary deSales Hayden - Sister

**Saturday - August 23**
Rose of Lima, virgin
Ez 43:1-7ab/Mt 23:1-12
9:00 am Dr. Henry Patanella - Irene DeSantis
4:30 pm John Dunn - Family

**Sunday - August 24**
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 am Donald Scanzoroli - Don & Carol Sheehan
9:00 am Raymond Micciche - Yolanda LaMendola
11:00 am Ray Mahar - Meg Reddington
5:00 pm Clarence Johnsen - The Perham Family

Special Intentions
We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week. To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

One Lamp Will Burn
For A Special Intention
By Jo.

One Lamp Will Burn
In Memory of
Bud & Mickey Carrigan
By Jo.

One Lamp Will Burn
In Memory of Janice Streby
By Family.

We pray for all who suffer from depression

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**Saturday & Sunday, August 23 and 24**
Thank you, faithful servants!

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
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<td>J. Bernacki</td>
<td>C. Carpenter, J. Eisenhart, M. Cargill,</td>
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<td>C. Heffernan</td>
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<td>J. Brandt</td>
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**Sunday Communion Service - August 24**
The Highlands: Marge Mancini  Heather Heights: Pete & Gerry Shea
Finally, Back Home!

Few scholars would attempt to justify Isaiah as written by a single author. The opening chapters address situations in the 8th century BC, long before the Babylonian Exile, another section addresses the hope of return from exile (6th century), while the section we hear from today assumes the Exile has happened, has ended, and speaks to the people who have returned home. Many scholars maintain that the Isaiah scroll preserves collections of writing from three main authors from three different periods. More recently, some divide the work into two sections. A safe bet: the book’s unity is theological; the unity comes from God’s divine inspiration, not the human authorship. Should this be a cause of concern? No! Throughout the Scriptures, teachings, prophecies, laws have been reapplied as new circumstances unfold. Applying tradition to new circumstances: the prophets did it, the psalmists, the historical writers, as did Jesus and the Gospel writers. With our passage today: before the exile, foreigners could perform some roles in the temple precincts. Ezekiel, writing during the Exile, wrote against the practice. After the return, this passage in Isaiah finds the middle ground – foreigners can serve the Lord, so long as they keep the Sabbath and hold to the covenant.

So from this passage, and a little study, we can learn how scripture and tradition must be adapted to apply to new, unforeseen circumstances. We can see a divine vision that doesn’t divide the world into ‘us’ and ‘them’, but which has a place of honor, even for foreigners. We can meditate on those holy words, “my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples”, a verse Jesus reapplied during his cleansing of the Temple, as Mark relates that event to us. Look around at Mass, remember that this is a house of prayer for all people, and whisper a prayer of gratitude for everyone here.

God Bless You, Paul!

St. Paul was a great preacher, evangelist, missionary, planter of churches -- so many amazing things. But his calling was not to be a prophet. As he wrestled with the fact that so many fellow Jews chose not to believe in Jesus, he tried to read the future. Perhaps his Jewish brothers and sisters will become jealous when they see how many Gentiles come to faith and obedience to Christ. That may lead them to embrace the faith. (Remember, Paul was thinking Jesus’s return at the end of the age was imminent.) It didn’t quite turn out that way. Subsequently, the Gospel writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit found ways to adapt Paul’s thinking to the actual events on the ground. The powerful, inspired insight that is timeless: the gifts and call of God are irrevocable. That is why Pope St. John Paul II, visiting a synagogue, could refer to the Jewish people as ‘the beloved elder brothers of the Church’. Did you know that the sole scriptural source for Nostra Aetate, the Vatican II Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions is Romans 9-11? In fact, some would say the document picks up where Paul left off. Have you read Nostra Aetate? Find it on line.

Another Foreigner Heard From

Big families can be messy. In Romans 9-11, Paul wrestles with how his Jewish brothers and sisters might fit into, or become part of the same family of God that Paul helped bring together in the growing Gentile church. Matthew, who was in a predominantly Jewish-Christian community, addresses the other side of the coin in our Gospel – how did the Gentiles ever get welcomed into the fellowship of followers of Jesus? What he captures in the story of this Canaanite woman – Gentiles saw in Jesus an answer to their need, they were persistent, Jesus entered into a dialogue with them, and his compassion had the last word: faith and healing.

It’s Not Always Clear

Sometimes stumped by something in the Sunday readings? We do our best to sort it out, Tuesday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM at the Manse. A Bible study you can come to any week, whenever you can make it. We spend time looking at any questions raised by the previous Sunday’s scriptures, and then prepare for the following weekend by studying the coming weekend’s Bible readings. There is a place at the table for you, any time!
**OUR GIFT TO GOD**

**LAST WEEKEND**

August 10, 2014

Attendance .......... 1,390
Collection ............ $13,774.00

Thank you for joining us in worship! Thank you too for contributing to the support of our parish, as well as the various ministries we support through our tithing. May the Lord take what we have, and multiply it, as he multiplied the loaves and the fish, for the nourishment of all.

**Baptismal Preparation**

Soon to have a child, and you want to prepare for baptism in advance? Or you have a child to be baptized, and want to begin the process? Come to the 11:00 am Mass on August 31 (invite potential godparents as well): there will be a baptism at Mass. Stay after Mass for discussion on Baptism, the role of parents, the meaning of the sacrament and ritual; begin the process!

**SAINT’S PLACE**

**TUTORING PROGRAMS**

**WHEN:** Wednesdays or Thursdays from 4:45 – 6PM

**PLACES:** Wednesdays – St. Boniface, Gregory Street
Thursdays - Greek Church of the Holy Spirit, 835 South Ave

**ORIENTATION:** For all new and returning tutors –
St. Louis Church - Parish Meeting Hall
Thursday, September 4th at 5 - 6PM followed by pizza

**RSVP:** or, if you have any questions contact
Geri Dolan at gdola45@rochester.rr.com or 278-8244.

This experience will enrich your life as well as your students lives!

**MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND, AUGUST 16-17**

This weekend, August 16-17, St. Louis Parish participates in the Rochester Diocesan Mission Cooperative Plan. We welcome Father Robert Bradler, Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Jamie Winebrake, a volunteer who has made several trips to Haiti, as our mission speakers on behalf of Hands Together.

The Church in Haiti is struggling to bring God’s love to the poorest of the poor. In Haiti there are 7 million people in an area smaller than Maryland. 70% of these cannot read, and 85% live below the poverty level. In slum areas, 4 out of 5 children do not reach the age of five, and nationally, 1 in 3 suffer from chronic malnutrition. The hurricanes in 2004 and 2008, along with the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake, have left Haiti severely damaged and in desperate need of our prayers and support.

**TUTORS NEEDED**

Sister Stan’s Children, Inc. is the fundraising arm of the Marian Sisters of Eucharistic Love (MASEL), a religious order operating in the Diocese of Yendi in N.E. Ghana. MASEL was founded in 2009 by Sister Stan Terese Mumuni to serve impoverished and neglected children in the region. You may recall that Sister Stan visited our parish in the fall of 2012 and inspired us to generously support her ministry with her moving story of taking in and caring for children with disabilities, who otherwise would have been killed because of a tribal belief that their disability was a manifestation of an “evil spirit” within them. MASEL acquired seven acres of land to construct an orphanage, Nazareth Home for God’s Children, to better serve the needs of these neglected children. There was great joy when after several unsuccessful attempts, one final drilling found water sufficient to support a well.

This Saturday, August 16, Sister Stan, her children, the Diocese of Yendi and many who have supported her ministry, will celebrate the Grand Opening of Nazareth Home for God’s Children, the newly constructed orphanage! Our tithing will support the ongoing need for funds for food, clothing, etc. Visit www.sisterstanschildren.org for more information about Sister Stan’s ministry. You can also view many pictures of the orphanage while under construction at www.facebook.com/SisterStansChildren. You may also visit www.stlouischurch.org, click on NEWS, click on PHOTO GALLERY, click on TRIP TO NAZARETH HOME FOR GOD’S CHILDREN, GHANA, AFRICA, to see pictures of Sister Stan and her children taken by parishioners who visited them last year.

**ENOUGH FOR ALL**
2014 - 2015 REGISTRATION, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, AND SACRAMENT PROGRAMS

Please register your children NOW for religious education for the 2014-2015 school year. In order to prepare for this year’s programs we need your registrations by September 1st.

Now is the time to register your children, if they are ready, for the sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

There are new guidelines for First Penance:
- All children third grade or higher should be registered in the fall 2014 First Penance program.
- Children registered for First Eucharist in spring of 2015, should also be registered in the January 2015 First Penance program.

Registration forms are at the Ministry Center and on the counter at the Faith Formation bulletin board in the narthex area. You can also register on-line, please make sure to mail in your payment.

If you have any questions please contact Sue Payne at 586-5675 (Ext. 233) or email spayne@dor.org

NEW! RCIA Team Being Developed

Have you ever wanted to share your faith and Catholic knowledge with adults who are interested in becoming Catholic? Would you like to learn more about our faith? Are you willing to spend some time walking with another disciple as Jesus did on the road to Emmaus? Please consider joining the New RCIA team. We are taking a new approach in the RCIA process and looking for open-minded, self-motivated, spirit-filled companions to serve as catechists and sponsors for those inquiring about the Catholic faith. If this is something that you might be interested in, contact Cris Wensel in the Ministry Center.

Count Me In!

A parish doesn’t have the number of people who live stewardship, doesn’t have so many involved in ministries, doesn’t make such a difference in the world as St. Louis without people behind the scenes, keeping us focused on being good stewards. Devoted to that behind the scenes effort: Stewardship Council. Want to join the team? E-mail (Ring@dor.org), catch me after Mass, or call to learn more, or to nominate someone you think I should ask. Fr. Bob

2014 Summer Series for Catholics and friends in their twenties and thirties!!!

Good Company…Interesting Speakers Lively Conversation

Thursday, August 21, 7:00 pm
The Culture of Life and the Culture of Dating
With Suzanne Stack,
Life Issues Coordinator for the Diocese of Rochester
@ The Old Toad
277 Alexander St., Rochester

For more information call 328-3228, ext. 1218. Theology on Tap is an opportunity for young adults to gather to discuss and reflect on issues of faith. Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester and Blessed Sacrament/St. Boniface. Theology on Tap is a copyrighted program of Renew International. Used with permission.

Classes begin August 21! – There is still time to register for graduate courses at St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry. Classes can be taken online, at night, and via video conference to Auburn, Apalachin, Hornell, and Watkins Glen for your convenience. Financial aid is available to new students. Go to www.stbernards.edu or call (585) 271-3657 ext. 289 for more information.

A 10 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE – COMPLETELY ONLINE COURSE

This course is designed to acquaint the beginning student with the variety of methods used to interpret the Scriptures within the wider Church community today. We will examine how the Church has understood the Bible throughout history, the question of literal and fundamental interpretations of Scripture, as well as the concepts of inerrancy and divine inspiration. Through an analysis of select passages we will look at the methods used by the Church to develop its theological and pastoral understanding of today’s world. Instructor: Rev. George Heyman. Course opens Monday, September 15 at noon and ends Friday October 10th Computer and High Speed Internet Access are required. Additional online guidelines are available upon request. To register, go to www.stbernards.edu or call (585) 271-3657 ext. 289.
**Unrelenting Faith**

There is a surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel reading. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone. The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Jesus' ministry was primarily directed to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

The early Christian community struggled to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all. Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family, recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

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**Next Saturday~August 23~**

**An Evening With Bishop Matthew Clark!**

Gather with Bishop Clark next Saturday, August 23 at the 4:30 pm Mass. Bishop Clark will be our Celebrant at the Mass and will join us for refreshments afterward at 5:30 pm. A special conversation and discussion follows at 6:00 pm. Save the date, you won't want to miss this very special evening.

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**Life... in Focus!**

"When Karol Wojtyla was elected pope in 1978 ... He led the world into the center of the Church by proclaiming what it means to be a human being. Throughout his pontificate, St. John Paul fearlessly taught the great truth that countless generations had long known, a truth confirmed by both sacred Scripture and the living tradition of the Church: Human life and the beauty of man and woman are not toys or tools; they are gifts, and as such, are meant to show us something not only about ourselves, but about God. ... In the 'quick fix' mentality of our age, we can think that love is about me and getting my way. But genuine love is not about me; it is a gift of self to the other who is different from me." - Calming the Perfect Storm by Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield

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**The next St. Louis Knights of Columbus Council meeting is Monday, August 18 in the Art Room.**

All our meetings start at 6:45 PM with the Rosary followed by the business meeting at 7:00 PM.

All brother Knights who are or have been a 1st Degree member are invited to attend. Any Catholic Gentlemen, 18 and over, who would like to join the Knights of Columbus, are invited to contact the Grand Knight, Richard Whelehan at 585-797-4638 or wheels282@rochester.rr.com. God Bless, Dick Hilliard, Deputy Grand Knight.
It’s Almost Time For Fruit of the Vine

Fruit of the Vine Conversation Series is a program for adults to learn more about the Catholic faith in a comfortable, friendly and relaxing venue. These monthly gatherings provide an opportunity to attend Mass and then join with others for a glass of wine and sharing in the discussion on a topic of faith.

Our Scheduled Speakers Are:

August 23rd: The Most Reverend Bishop Matthew Clark*
September 27th: Father Jim Schwartz*
October 25th: Sister Mary Lou Heffernan, SSJ
November 22nd: Wreath and Wassail with Father Bob Ring*

*Will be presiding at the 4:30 pm Mass prior to the event

Join us for Mass at 4:30 pm
Lite reception 5:30 pm in the Parish Meeting Hall
Presentation and conversation 6:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Hall

Please bring your favorite appetizer to share!
Beverages will be provided.

Watch for further details in the bulletin.
Hope to see you there!

Dear Friends,

When I retired from St. Louis in June of 2011, you gave me the resources to make a memorable trip to Ireland. I finally planned and made the trip in May of this year. However, it was more 'memorable' than I (and you) ever expected.

After 4 weeks in a lovely cottage on Galway Bay, I took a tumble and broke my left leg at the tibia plateau. I am in the midst of rehab at St. Ann's for the next 8 weeks, as of August 6. Six weeks in, I still can not bear weight on that leg for another 4 weeks...progress is slow but is happening.

Thank you all for your prayers and the cards that so many have sent. Your care means a lot and I am grateful.

Oh, and yes, the story is true: I fell into a pub and suffered the break. The Irish said that if I had been like most Irish, and had fallen 'out' of the pub, I wouldn't have been hurt!! Injured without the benefit of even one Guinness!

Thank you again.

Peace,

Fr. Kevin Murphy

2014 Greek Fest

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
835 SOUTH AVE., ROCHESTER

AUGUST 21-24 • FREE ADMISSION
THURSDAY 11 AM-10 PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11 AM-11 PM
SUNDAY 11 AM - 8 PM

FOOD ~ MUSIC ~ OPA!!

FREE PARKING: HIGHLAND HOSPITAL GARAGE,
ADJACENT TO THE GREEK CHURCH
(THURS. & FRI. AFTER 5 PM; ALL DAY SAT. & SUN.)

WWW.HIGHLANDGREEKFEST.COM
INFO & TAKE-OUT ORDERS: 271-3150

THE GREEK CHURCH HAS BEEN VERY KIND TO SAINT'S PLACE BY ALLOWING US TO TUTOR REFUGEES THERE FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS. IT WOULD BE KIND OF US TO SUPPORT THEM TOO.
CATHOLIC 101

Another way to think about the Sacraments!

Acts of God are made sacramental that is, visible, assured, provable. These, with the Eucharist, form the seven great sacraments (there are many “little sacraments”). Baptism in faith is the sign that God raises us to new life and that our old selfish life is drowned. Confirmation completes Baptism and is the assurance that the Spirit of God is in us, so that we can be witnesses of Jesus. If we die by mortal sinfulness, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is God’s assurance that he does forgive us through the Church, which readmits us to the community. The Anointing of the Sick is the visible continuation of Jesus’ concern for the suffering. Marriage and Holy Orders (priesthood) are God’s seal on two essential functions in the Church.

New Hearing Assistance Loop!

St. Louis now has a T-coil hearing assistance loop, in addition to the existing FM receiver hearing system. The loop covers the main area of pews. Try your T-coil switch and find your best spot for perfect reception!

Do You Have Room in Your Heart?

The Children, Youth and Family Department at Catholic Family Center specializes in foster care services for young people from around the world whose lives have been torn apart by war, tragedy and oppression. These children come from countries such as Nepal, Congo, Honduras, Guatemala and Eritrea. CFC’s unique Foster Care program provides for the safety and life needs of refugee youth in the present and prepares them for a successful future as independent adults. The program is in need of dedicated families to provide a home for the youth and assist them with their growth and path to independence.

For more information on how to become a foster parent please contact: Gina Montanarella, 546-7220 ext.4830 or gmontanarella@cfcrochester.org OR Jennifer Berenson, 546-7220 ext. 4850 or jberenson@cfcrochester.org.

School Supply Time (again)

School supplies and backpacks are needed for refugee children who arrived in Rochester this summer and will start school for the first time in September. Saint's Place provides each school-aged refugee with a backpack filled with needed school supplies. During the year, Saint's Place distributes about 300 backpacks filled with supplies.

During the month of August, school supplies are at their lowest prices of the year. Many items such as notebooks are as low as 50 cents or one dollar. If you can help by purchasing one backpack and/or supplies for a backpack, it would be greatly appreciated.

Don’t miss the sales! The following items are needed:

- Backpacks
- Loose leaf paper
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Folders
- Pencil sharpener
- Composition notebook
- Spiral notebook
- Markers
- Scissors
- Calculator
- Pens/pencils
- Glue sticks
- Erasers

Need Healthcare but have no insurance? We can help you.

At St. Joseph’s Neighborhood Center, we offer medical care, dental care, personal and family counseling, specialties and other services for the uninsured and under-insured.

Call 585-325-5260 for more information, or visit our website at www.sjncenter.org.
THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

The mail has brought the good news that your parish has presented us with a gift of $3,178.50 for our mission at Mount Carmel House to care for the terminally ill in an ambiance of loving care and spiritual solace.

Our work with the dying could not continue without the prayerful and financial support of those kindred souls who see the need and support this need to the best of their ability to do so. St. Louis Church has been our benefactor since the days in 1984 when I served on the Board of Directors of St. Bernard’s Institute with Fr. Jim Schwartz.

We are well into our 29th year of service in the vineyard of the Lord. With people like you, we are confidant we will continue to do so for another 29 years. We pray regularly that the good parishioners of St. Louis Church will be blessed for their generosity and loyalty.

Sincerely,
Raoul C. Grossi

Dear Rev. Ring and Tithing Ministry and Parishioners,

We would like to thank you, Fr. Ring, the Tithing Ministry and the Parishioners, for your great financial support to the Focus Pregnancy Help Center. We truly appreciate your recent generous gift of $2,675.00! We are grateful for your blessing and generosity to our pregnancy center. We are deeply touched by your kindness.

This wonderful gift will help us to continue to do God’s work, as we assist our clients with their needs, in the community. Our clients are happy that we are here for them to help them in many ways, for themselves and for their families, and we are thankful for them, too. Thank you, again, for helping to make this possible with your generous gift.

Please extend our humble gratitude to the generous parishioners there at St. Louis Church. How very kind of them! This gift blesses us much in our pro-life work.

Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers. Also, we want to thank you for your prayers, for us at Focus, and for our clients, too. They are much needed.

May God bless you and may Mother Mary watch over you and keep you in her loving care.

Sincerely,
Mary Jost, Director and Martha Malone and Staff

Dear Fr. Bob and Parishioners,

Please extend our deepest thanks to the members of St. Louis Church for your gift of $2,409.00 to Daystar. We are delighted that you chose to include Daystar in your charitable efforts.

Daystar is more than expert pediatric medical care and educational programming - it’s a place where babies and young children who are braving life-threatening medical and developmental challenges are loved and cherished and where families find support and encouragement from one another.

Families rely on Daystar and Daystar relies on you to help sustain and expand our mission to provide year-round comprehensive developmental services to children in our community who need it the most. Your gift will help Daystar build exciting educational programs, deepen its community partnerships, and give courageous children the best opportunities to grow and thrive.

Thank you for helping Daystar’s children rise above their diagnoses to find joy and live their young lives to their fullest potential.

With gratitude,
Kim Condon, Executive Director

Dear Fr. Ring and Congregation,

Thank you for your kind and generous donation of $1,892 to Mercy Bridges. Your faithfulness in remembering our ministry is greatly appreciated. This adult literacy ministry of the Sisters of Mercy serves many people in our communities who long to improve their literacy skills. We continue to receive numerous requests for assistance and your support enables us to respond to the needs of people by assisting in the training of tutors and in the purchase of instructional materials.

We are pleased that several of our learners have become citizens, received promotions at work or have even received new job responsibilities as a result of being tutored by Mercy Bridges’ volunteers. We are completely dependent on donations and we are grateful for your support of this much needed ministry.

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Again, please know of our appreciation for your support that enables us to open a new chapter in the lives of those we serve. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are what keep our ministry alive and thriving.

Our deepest gratitude,
Mercy Bridges, Jane Ashley-Stava, Director

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### Parish Staff Directory

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64 S. Main Street, 14534  
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