

# REFLECTIONS JANUARY 2007

**ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
930 ASHLAND TERRACE, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



## PRE Christmas Pageant

Parish Religious Education students performed a Christmas pageant for their parents on the last class before Christmas. Jr. High students portrayed Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, Gabriel, angels, and served as the narrators. All other students enjoyed dressing as angels and shepherds and approached the manger with reverence and love. After the pageant, the children were excited to have a surprise visit by St. Nicholas, who passed out gifts to all of the children. St. Nick, dressed in a bishop's robe and miter, rather than his traditional Santa Claus robe, explained to the children that long ago in the 4<sup>th</sup> century he was the bishop of Myra and gave gifts to the poor children in his neighborhood.

## Twelfth Night Celebration

Parishioners celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany by bringing forward canned good items during the offertory procession at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 6. After Mass, a potluck dinner was held for all to enjoy. A wonderful variety of food was shared by all, as well as king hats for the children to wear. The highlight of the dinner was cutting the special "Coin Cake" and finding out who the lucky person was that received the piece of cake that contained three coins wrapped in foil. Rose Lovelace was the lucky individual to receive the coins and was officially declared Queen of Mardi Gras!

As you can see the new fence has been installed on the two ends of the newly renovated and relocated athletic field. The fence is mainly to prevent the temptation of someone possibly driving on to the field to cause damage. The fence in conjunction with the earthen berm will also help to contain rolling balls that might otherwise roll into traffic lanes around the field.

## New Fence Installed

The black color of the fence was selected to match the fencing located around the new FLC building. The fence project cost was \$4,900.00 and came in well under the projected budget of \$6,900.00. The funding for the fence project comes from the funds received from the sale of St. Jude property along the Ashland Terrace right of way that was required by the State for the road widening project.



# Life in the Desert: A Youth Ministry Oasis

Held in Las Vegas, NV, the biennial National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry drew a record attendance of some 2500 people to its 31<sup>st</sup> gathering.

Between Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, participants explored this year's theme – “And the Desert Shall Bloom / *Y el Desierto Florecerá*” – through five General Sessions, six Concurrent Sessions, forty-eight Workshops, and a Resource Exposition.

Additional options included five Pre-conference Presentations, various Resource Spotlights, a Prayer Room, a Prayer Labyrinth, daily Mass, Café Soul, and a Coffeehouse featuring rising Catholic entertainers.

Beth Parsons, Youth Minister at Our Lady of Fatima in Alcoa, attended the pre-conference “Marriage and Ministry: A Couples Retreat” with husband, Jeff, and found it “a ...blessing to...reflect on our ministry together, in a place away from our home and the business that... comes with our ministry.”

Each day also focused on its own mini-theme. Nov. 31 invited the newly-assembled group to *Rise Up!* in unity. Dec. 1 offered the hope of *Spreading the Good News of a New Day* in ministry. Dec. 2 challenged the nitty-gritty details of *The Work of Our Hands* with refreshing perspectives. Dec. 3 sent the group forth, each to be a *Light on the Horizon* and witness God bring forth blooms in the desert.

Donna Jones, Chattanooga Deanery Youth Coordinator, comments, “...I learned a lot.... I also love to...meet and [network with] other Youth Ministers. Now I just need more hours in every day....”

Other Diocese of Knoxville attendees included Five Rivers Deanery Youth Coordinator Linda Muraski; Parish Youth Ministers Anne Nassis from All Saints in Knoxville, Melanie Thomas from St. Thomas the Apostle in Lenoir City, Angela Fleck from St. Mary of Oak Ridge, Katherine Angulo from St. Mary in Johnson City, and Angela Bylicki from St. Jude in Chattanooga; and Hiking4Jesus members Preston Fields and Tom Wiesner, also active in youth ministry at Our Lady of Fatima.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Perhaps, the best test to determine if we had a good Christmas is how we live out the month of January. If we are at peace with the world during the usually cold bleak days of the new year's first work weeks with bills coming in, then we had a great Christmas. We allowed the love of Christ to overcome the harshness of winter darkness.

The parish seems to have had a great Christmas. Sure, we rejoiced at all the plays and pageants and programs our St. Jude School and PRE children put on. Our hearts were uplifted at the Christmas Liturgies as we sang carols and canticles led by our wonderful choirs. But, all the parties and gift giving and such are judged (as we all are) by their fruits. And so far, the fruits are delicious. The fruit of the Spirit is peace. A good holy peace seems to be alive in our community as we complete the first month of 2007.

Things are falling into place. The organizations that oversee the primary functions of the parish are gently coalescing and beginning to work together as they haven't before. The Plenary Session (which you can read about on page 5) was a positive step forward toward better communication and shared responsibility. We can now pinpoint areas that need improvement and know how to make it right. The process is still new and is a work in progress, but good progress is being made.

Another joy is the appearance of lots of new faces. Our newcomers are making an impact on our parish, volunteering for everything from singing in the choir to painting rooms to working on information technology. We have a neat flow of new enthusiastic members working under the direction of our more experienced parishioners who have been here since the founding of the parish.

The better news is that throughout the month of January and continuing until Lent we have been planning for the spring. We have family life initiatives in the gestation process. There's a program for welcoming back Catholics who have been away from the sacraments which is past the drawing board phase readying for a launch. All of these plans are stimulating. Yet, they are small compared to the great diocesan-wide program we will initiate in the fall called RENEW - Why Catholic?

RENEW will involve everyone in the parish. We will meet with neighbors to discuss practical aspects of our Faith, with the results of each of the discussions all over our parish area being taken into account by the parish-at-large and making a difference in how our church acts. It will take a lot of people working out logistics, calling parishioners, determining all of our neighborhoods and subdivisions, providing hosts and hostesses, naming and training discussion facilitators and so much more. We will soon be rounding up a steering committee to begin the process which needs to be up and working so all of our plans will be in place before Summer vacation time.

The times may be peaceful, but they are exciting as well. Christmas at St. Jude has been a blessing and its fruit promises to be a bumper crop.

## A Special Christmas Journey at St. Jude School



It began on a starry night in Bethlehem, and each year it is celebrated in the hearts of young and old. During the 2006 Christmas season, the students at St. Jude School provided an example to everyone of the true reason for the season. First and Second grade provided the entertainment for the annual and eagerly anticipated Christmas Pageant. For 30 minutes, parents, grandparents, students and teachers were reminded of the innocence of Mary and the strength of Joseph, the loyalty of the shepherds and the animals they guided, the sparkle of angels and the way the heavens must have sounded as the earth greeted the baby Jesus. Our young students, so proud of their dramatic achievements, were shining examples of Christmas love – guided as always by Katie Leahy, music and drama teacher, the first and second grade staff and Loraine Torrence, our Assistant Principal.

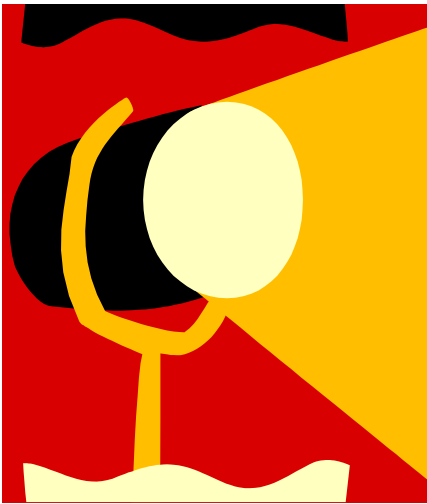
Eighth grade offered a second chance to celebrate the birth of Jesus in their annual Journey to Bethlehem. As each student of the class of 2007 played a part in the Journey to His birth, all classes, from pre-school through seventh grade, were led throughout campus where the Christmas story was shared and demonstrated. Everyone completed their journey in the Church, at the manger, where they placed straw in anticipation of the birth of the Savior.

Sixth grade entertained families and students with a fun and lighthearted look at Christmas in their presentation, "The Not So Perfect Christmas." They reminded all of us that kindness and acceptance, even when we're in a hurry, are true gifts of the holiday.

Faculty and staff continued their journey of career and self development upon their New Year return. Meeting for a day of in-service at Reflection Riding, Jim Williams, a nationally recognized child development expert, worked with staff in developing goals for the second semester. He will return on January 29 to continue working with the fifth and sixth grade classes on relationships and bullying avoidance.

At St. Jude School, where the Christmas and New Year journeys reach far beyond the commercial, *We Do Make a Difference.*





## Spotlight On

### Stewardship in Action

Over the Christmas holidays the Reddick family was busy at work in the PLC building. They were very generously spending every spare moment of their Christmas holiday painting one of the pre-school classrooms. It was a big job taking things off walls and moving various shelves, tables, and chairs out of the way so the painting could take place. The final result was beautiful: the classroom looks brand new again and the color choices were fantastic.

I don't even want to think what professional painters charge these days. The Reddicks' gift of their time and talent is another classic example of what I call Stewardship in Action.

**To the Reddick Family – We Sincerely Thank You!!**

Tom Picard, Parish Manager

# Parish Income and Expense Statement Explained

The December income and expense report reflects an approximate \$36,000.00 overall increase in income from the November Statement. "**Parishioner Contributions**" were up approximately \$46,000.00 from the previous month. The holy day collection total for December was \$1,522.37.

The "**Other Revenues,**" which are detailed on the "**Parish Income**" page, reflected a negative revenue of \$16,346.77 in November based on two expenditures. 1. The insurance settlement for the accident where a car ran into our school office was recorded as a revenue in this line item and has been backed out and paid. 2. A student assessment fee for the school in the amount of \$9,850.00 was paid to the Diocese in November. This assessment fee was reimbursed by the school in December and is reflected on this report. The "**Other Revenues**" for December again reflects a positive income of \$11,902.32 with a total revenue year to date of \$19,903.00.

The "**School Tuition / Subsidies**" tuition payments were down approximately \$5,600.00 from last month for out of parish and non-catholic students.

The overall Expenses for December were up approximately \$34,000.00 from last month. This is due to the following:

1. An additional pay period fell in December
2. A large expense was incurred on the repairs to the organ and the addition of speakers for improved sound.

At the end of December our total expenses for the fiscal year exceed our total income by \$18,742.09. We have just sent out the School Subsidy bills to the neighboring parishes which support their children attending St. Jude School. Those bills total \$21,910.00. That should account for the shortfall. Also, the 2007 contributions should start rising as they begin to reflect the 2007 pledges which were 20% higher than last year's.

## Plenary Session of Parish Committees Reflects On Past Year and Looks to the Future

On Sunday January 21st, members of the Parish Council, Finance Board, School Board, the Stewardship Board and the HASA Board met together in Plenary Session. This was the second such meeting. The previous meeting took place six months earlier when we were looking at ways of bettering communication throughout the parish.

At that first meeting, we realized that the various committees of the parish rarely communicated with each other. That situation resulted in people what the other committees were doing. In fact, no one had the "big picture" of what was happening in the parish. So, the group was shown, debated, modified, and approved a flow chart including the functions and flow of information for parish decision making. A date was established for us to meet again to communicate and determine if the new structure was working.

That was the reason for the Plenary Session. The first item was for everyone to explain what their committee or board was doing. Many people heard these items for the first time. Next, we listened to evaluations as to how things were going at the parish since the first meeting. For the most part all were quite satisfied. Those who represented the School attested that they are now feeling closer to the rest of the parish than they have in the past. The Finance Board was still unclear of its duties and was somewhat out of the communication loop. That will be treated at their next regular meeting.

We also realized another problem. While we have highly capable and generous volunteers working on the Parish Website, it is still no way near up-to-date. We are working on that issue right now and hope to get the site working as well as the School website is.

The meeting concluded by trying to determine the state of the parish. Over all, they thought it was far better than it was when we first met. People seem to be achieving the unity we all desire. The new stewardship model seems to be working. Yet, we are all striving to make our parish's life even better in the future.

## PARISH INCOME

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DEC 1-31</u>	<u>SINCE 7/1/2006</u>
1 Parishioner's Envelopes*	\$ 172,197.29	\$ 897,965.66
1a 1/2 Christmas	\$ 8,463.98	\$ 8,463.98
2 Loose Contributions	\$ 3,685.86	\$ 23,469.83
3 Children's Envelopes	\$ 17.64	\$ 118.40
4 Holy Day Collections	\$ 1,522.37	\$ 5,086.44
5 Other Revenues**	\$ 11,902.32	\$ 19,903.00
6 Parish Religious Education	\$ -	\$ 2,891.95
7 School Tuition/Subsidies	\$ 20,158.05	\$ 216,736.55
8 After School Care	\$ 3,874.00	\$ 33,803.75
9 Partners in Faith	\$ -	\$ -
10 G.I.F.T. Subsidy (Annual)	\$ -	\$ 27,587.00
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 221,821.51</b>	<b>\$ 1,236,026.56</b>
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$ 221,674.48</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,254,768.65</u></b>
	\$ 147.03	\$ (18,742.09)

### Second Collections/ASA/G.I.F.T. Campaign/Building Fund

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
11 Second Collections	\$ 12,548.72	\$ 29,015.74
12 ASA	\$ 6,226.34	\$ 41,751.36
13 G.I.F.T. Campaign	\$ 12,516.74	\$ 48,462.14
14 Building Fund Receipts	\$ 17,242.20	\$ 88,539.65

## PARISH EXPENSES

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEC 1-31</u>	<u>SINCE 7/1/2006</u>
Office Staff Salaries/Benefits*	\$ 29,179.43	\$ 147,711.09
School Staff Salaries/Benefits*	\$ 145,190.38	\$ 792,605.16
3 Pastoral/Administrative	\$ 11,743.25	\$ 89,677.70
4 NDHS Assessment	\$ 9,045.00	\$ 36,180.00
5 Liturgy	\$ 6,745.88	\$ 15,925.91
6 Parish Religious Education	\$ 544.02	\$ 2,257.38
7 RCIA	\$ 48.04	\$ 774.35
8 Youth	\$ 357.14	\$ 3,431.89
9 Family	\$ 107.98	\$ 1,078.93
10 Parish Charity	\$ 850.00	\$ 6,252.78
11 Plant and Parish Operation and Maintenance	\$ 3,957.67	\$ 37,107.18
12 Major Repairs	\$ -	\$ -
13 School - K-8 including Operation and maintenance	\$ 13,237.15	\$ 116,346.45
14 Preschool	\$ 268.10	\$ 1,817.06
15 After School care	<u>\$ 400.44</u>	<u>\$ 3,602.77</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 221,674.48</b>	<b>\$ 1,254,768.65</b>

### LOAN ON FAMILY LIFE CENTER

<b>Beginning Loan</b>	<b>Balance to date</b>
\$ 1,151,709.76	\$ 1,233,074.71