



HANCOCK COUNTY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

CARTHAGE DALLAS CITY HAMILTON NAUVOO WARSAW



Leading All to Christ

"We, the Hancock County Catholic Churches, Work Together to Form Disciples of JESUS, to Lead All to HIM in the Eucharist, and to be HIS Presence in the World."

RECTORY FOR ALL CHURCHES:

VILLA MARIE
190 N WELLS STREET
P O BOX 147
NAUVOO, IL 62354
PHONE: 217-453-2428
ssppnauvoo@gmail.com
<http://hancockcountycatholic.org>

STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH

170 WELLS STREET
NAUVOO, IL 62354
PHONE: 217-453-2428

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

125 N. FAYETTE STREET
CARTHAGE, IL 62321
PHONE: 217-357-3087

SACRED HEART CHURCH

211 E FIFTH STREET
DALLAS CITY, IL 62330

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

560 LAKEVIEW AVENUE
HAMILTON, IL 62341
PHONE: 217-256-3657

SACRED HEART CHURCH

8TH & WEBSTER STREET
WARSAW, IL 62379
PHONE: 217-256-3657

STS PETER & PAUL SCHOOL

1115 YOUNG STREET, P O BOX 160
NAUVOO, IL 62354
PHONE: 217-453-2511
sppskids@mchsi.com
www.stspeterpaul.org

(For bulletin announcements)

office@stspeterpaul.org
dianeshc@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

September 7th-13th-2015

Monday:

8:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

7:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Thursday:

8:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

Friday:

7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

Saturday:

4:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.

Sunday:

8:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

September 7th, (Weekday; Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11)

SSPP-Adeline & Elmer Kraus, by Dan Kraus family

SHW-Jessica Lasswell, by M/M Monte Longenecker

September 8th, (The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Mi 5:1-4a, Mt 1:1-16, 18-23)

IC-Holy Hour

IC-Martha Stewart, by Pat Weatherington

SMH-Kathy Sprague, by Rose Dingman

September 9th, (St. Peter Claver, Priest; Col 3:1-11, Lk 6:20-26)

SSPP-John & Marian Allen, by John & Rita Allen

Montebello-All Souls, by Ruth Buckert

SHDC-John Jacobs, by Dolores Markey

September 10th, (Weekday; Col 3:12-17, Lk 6:27-38)

IC-Ron Burling family, by Ron & Ruth Burling

SHW-M/M Joe Ewers, by M/M Monte Longenecker

September 11th, (Weekday; 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14, Lk 6:39-42)

SSPP-Holy Hour

SSPP-Family, by Jessie Karpawicz

IC-Brittany Wear, by Tony & Susette Goetz family

September 12th, (Weekday, The Most Holy Name of Mary; BVM, 1 Tm 1:15-17, Lk 6:43-49)

SHDC-Gail Markey

IC-For the People

SSPP-Steve & Betty Bergmeier, by Randy & Cathy Bergmeier

SMH-Jim Drozd, by Greg Fuller

September 13th (Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Is 50:5-9a, Jas 2:14-18, Mk 8:27-35)

SSPP-Joe Pilkington, by Alan & Julie Metternich

SHW-Fr. Lukoskie, by Runge family

IC-Jim Drozd, by Rick & Pam Gambrell

SHDC-Mario Antonio Gualtieri, by Ed & Katherine Symmonds

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday: 9:30 a.m., SSPP
3:30 p.m., IC
3:30 p.m., SHDC
After Mass, SMH

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., SSPP
After Mass, IC
After Mass, SHDC
7:30 a.m., SHW

Gifts for God

August 30th, 2015

Sts. Peter & Paul (Sunday)	\$2,610.00
Sacred Heart DC (Sunday)	\$643.00
Immaculate Conception (Sunday)	\$1,835.00
Sacred Heart W (Sunday)	\$762.00
St. Mary (Sunday)	\$1,472.00

ROSARY INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: Our enemies and those seeking to harm us.

ALTAR SERVERS

Weekend of September 12-13, 2015

- 4:00 p.m. (SHDC) Hill family
4:00 p.m. (IC) Jackson & McKenna Merritt
5:30 p.m. (SSPP) Annabelle & James Scheetz, Isabella Poppe
8:00 a.m. (SSPP) Luke Celania, John & Alexis McIlmoil
10:00 a.m. (IC) Ashton Hunter & Adam Hurlburt
10:00 a.m. (SHDC) Cicely Stevenson

FOR EVERYONE

Youth Group - A New Name, A New Vision Last Sunday our area high school youth group met for the first time this year...and for the first time with a new name: Christians In Action (aka CIA). There were a number of reasons why we decided to change the name: 1) We wanted to put a greater emphasis on the Person of Jesus - hence the name "CHRISTians In Action" as opposed to "Catholics In Action." The connection to Christ in "Heart Ministry" was sometimes lost. 2) We wanted to put a greater emphasis on service - hence "Christians In ACTION." People need to see Christians at work in the world, and we want our youth group to be a training ground for that.

Our desire is that CIA will be a training ground for young Christian disciples, so you'll find us doing more service, more prayer, and (hopefully) less fundraising. So much time was spent on selling things...and not enough time was spent on learning how to be Christ. (Don't worry - we do have a plan in place to cover costs for our trip to Catholic Heart Workcamp.) So, that's where we're at - just wanted to keep you up to date!

Financial Reports Coming - Be Forewarned! There's no reason to worry (the finances of all of our parish institutions look good), but I did want to give you a heads up that I will be doing financial reports for our 5 parishes over the next two weekends. Carthage, Hamilton, and Warsaw will have their financial reports on this weekend, September 5-6, and Dallas City and Nauvoo will have their reports on September 12-13. Like I said, there won't be anything too serious to discuss. I did want to warn you, though - in case you want to come and hear...or in case you don't! - Fr. Szydlak

SAFE ENVIRONMENT trainings will be conducted on **Tuesday, September 8 (9:00 a.m.) and Wednesday, September 9 (6:30 p.m.) in the gym at SPPS.** It will take about an hour, and a police officer is scheduled to be available to do the necessary fingerprinting.

SPPS SCHOOL NEWS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Please don't forget to join us this Sunday morning, 7-10:30 a.m. at the Nauvoo State Park shelter house for some delicious pancakes and sausage-you won't go away hungry! Thank you to everyone who made donations and also to our workers!!

ALUMINUM CAN CONTEST: September 26-October 12

God Bless,
Lisa Gray, Principal

P.S. The Hot Lunch Program would love to have donations of fresh produce from your garden. Just call the school or drop off at school.

Don't cancel life insurance you no longer need! By naming our parish as beneficiary, you'll provide financial support and possible qualify for tax benefits as well. Be an angel and pass on Your Catholic Heritage. Contact Fr. Szydlak at the Villa Marie Rectory (453-2428).

...and After the Financial Reports. A Year-Long Focus on the Mass Over the course of the next (school) year, I'll be doing something different with my homilies. I have heard from a number of people how they'd like to know more about the Mass, how we need a refresher on what we believe, and how many of our young people aren't aware of the great gift we have in it. So, I'll be preaching on that topic. Honestly, I don't think there's any need to worry that the topic will be exhausted. There's so much there! Effectively, I'll be giving the same homily for two weeks in a row: on week one, Carthage, Hamilton, and Warsaw will hear it, and on week two, Dallas City and Nauvoo will. If you have any thoughts or comments or if you have anything that you'd like to hear discussed, let me know. My schedule isn't laid out yet, so I have plenty of room to include items of interest. - Fr. Szydlak

FIRST SATURDAY MASS DISCONTINUED I realize this will be a disappointment to those of you who have participated in our First Saturday Devotions in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but the week's schedule and accompanying travel demands make it necessary to discontinue these Saturday morning celebrations for the sake of a little rest. Hate to admit this; but it's true. From now on, and in keeping with the directives of the Church, on First Fridays, the 5:30 p.m. ICC Mass will include both Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotions. This will include confessions and Adoration before Mass; the Mass itself; a joint act of consecration after the homily of the Mass; and a litany to conclude. For the sake of world peace, and a heartfelt love for the God who loves us, please consider a commitment to First Friday devotions as an aid to your spiritual life. -- Fr. Tony

RCIA 2015-16 The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) fast approaches, the Sunday after the Labor Day Weekend. If you, or anybody you know, is interested in being introduced to the faith of the Catholic Church, or renewing the Catholic faith in which you already share, please contact Fr. Tony at the rectory for advance registration. Copies of this year's schedule are at the main doors of our churches. Feel free to pick one up and consider whether you or someone you know would consider participating in RCIA this year. Sessions will take place on Sunday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with breaks appropriately scheduled, from September to late April.

AND AFTER RCIA For the past three years, several parishioners of our area churches have taken part in RCIA with a view toward more intensive formation and instruction in the faith, so that they can assist us in helping give instructions to people who can't meet the times and dates of the schedule for RCIA. This year, we again extend an invitation to any past participant in RCIA who would like to enter more deeply into the teaching of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. We will be using the program published by Fireside Bible Company, using the Catholic Study Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and a volume of the teachings of the early Fathers of the Church. There is a depth to the Catholic faith, and it is available to anyone who wants to go deeper into the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church. Contact Fr. Tony if you're interested. Sessions will take place on Sunday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., following the RCIA schedule mentioned above. This advanced RCIA will follow the same scheduled dates as the introductory RCIA.

Regarding Pope Francis's Words On Abortion One of my best friends from Seminary, Fr. Bryan Stitt of the diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, wrote this piece, and I thought it was worth sharing - better than anything I could say:

I know scores of women who have had abortions. I've been the chaplain for eight Rachel's Vineyard Retreats right here in Saranac Lake, and I've attended another in Pittsburgh, PA with approximately seven post-abortive women at each retreat. So when the news came out yesterday that Pope Francis was allowing all priests to lift the penalty of excommunication that comes with abortion, I thought of these women.

The media surprised many people by making it sound like abortion was unforgivable before Pope Francis came up with this great idea. And the media confused even more people by pointing out that this was a temporary offering. (This special permission will be granted to all priests throughout the Year for Mercy—December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016.)

First of all a little background: abortion brings with it the penalty of excommunication. I'm not a canon law scholar. I don't know the history of when this went on the books. But I do know that it was done for two very pastoral reasons: First, the Church wanted to do everything in her power to discourage people from killing children in the womb. You can imagine "I can't get an abortion, I'll get excommunicated" being an ecclesiastical version of "I can't do X, my mother will kill me!" Secondly, the Church wanted to acknowledge just how much grief so many people feel after the abortion has taken place.

This is what made me think of the Rachel's Vineyard retreatants. At the retreat many of them talk about "forbidden grief." They are grieving the deaths of their children, but they feel forbidden from doing so—since to some degree or other, they chose those deaths. For them, the gravity of their decision cannot be overemphasized. There is a strange division inside of them: on one hand they want mercy, on the other they think that mercy is too good to be true. Hearing the priest say: "I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father..." just won't cut it for them. That's where the excommunication makes sense. It's saying what most of the women that I've meet on the retreat already know: my actions have separated me from the communion of the Church. This stuff is serious.

Here's the deal, ever since Jesus spoke with the woman caught in adultery, the Church has been trying to love the sinner and hate the sin. So the sentiment behind the papal decision is nothing new. Instead it's a reminder that some sins are incredibly terrible, but that we must love everyone—especially those who are living in the midst of sin and death. Jesus wants us all to know freedom and truth and beauty.

As an addendum to Fr. Stitt's words - here in the diocese of Peoria (and in many dioceses in the United States), we have had the faculty to absolve the sin and the excommunication for at least as long as I have been a priest. Locally - what the Pope is giving to everyone - is nothing new.

The High School Youth Group is once again planning their trip next June to Catholic Heart Work Camp. We are registered to attend Louisville, KY, from June 19-25. If there is any High School youth that are interested in attending, PLEASE contact Ann Cokel at 217-357-1561. So excited for another great experience for our HS youth!!!

The High School Youth group now known as Christians In Action or CIA will meet again on September 20 at St. Mary's in Hamilton from 4-6 p.m. We are looking forward to a great year!!

Wednesday night video series at Milly Golemo's house—All are welcome Beginning September 16th at 7:00 p.m., we will look at a series of videos on *Galileo: Science, Faith, and the Catholic Church*. Our guide will be Brother Guy Consolmagno, a renowned astronomer, Jesuit, and popular writer. It's hard to separate truth from fiction in the Galileo affair. The first lecture is called, "The Galileo Problem." What do people think happened, versus what actually did happen? How do our preconceptions color the way we see the issues, even today? It turns out, the same things—hopes, fears, ignorance, preconceptions—that tripped up Galileo and his opponents relate to what we face in explaining science and religion in our times. Brother Guy uses humor and simple discussion to explain; it really is not "rocket science." Many scripture passages and Saints' writings will be referenced as we continue this study. Our group DISCUSSION and sharing will be what makes it so valuable. Each lecture is about 25 minutes followed by discussion. We always have fun. Popcorn and tea or coffee will be provided.

Scrip cards are available during the week at SPPS and Outlaw Tee's and at weekend masses at Sts. Peter & Paul, Sacred Heart Dallas City and Immaculate Conception. Scrip orders are placed each Monday morning. NOTE: Because of the Labor Day holiday, scrip orders will be placed Tuesday, September 8. Please have order to the school by 10 a.m.

God's Portion Day – The God's Portion Day Committee has kicked off the 2015-2016 year with a bang! We are excited for what this year will bring. We would like to inform you of some dates that we have set. Please mark these events down in your calendar and we look forward to a fun-filled year.

Cash Dash – Drawing to be held on 12/20/15

GPD Breakfasts – Several Sundays in January- March

Chili Cook-off – March 5, 2016

Auction – June 5, 2016

Knights of Columbus would like to remind everyone to stop by the KC Hall Saturday or Sunday of the Grape Festival to continue a tradition and enjoy a good meal. We kindly ask all parishioners to please donate a pie for desert. We will be selling food at the car show again this year, if you are down there stop by to eat some good food at reasonable prices. We have raffle tickets for sale. The drawing will be at the KC Hall Sunday at 4:00 p.m., need not be present to win. We conduct our Tootsie Roll drive Sunday during the main parade with the proceeds going to Hancock County Mental Health. We are always looking for KC members, friends and family to help with all these events. Please contact me at 309-331-3414 if you would like to help, or if you have any questions about anything. The support we receive never fails to amaze me. Thank you all. Have a Grape Weekend! --Kent Schmitz.

All ladies of Hancock County Catholic Churches - Save the Date - Monday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. for a Halloween Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by Sacred Heart Altar & Rosary being held at The 1850's House 2 miles west of Dallas City on Highway 96.

Sts. Peter & Paul School Wish List

We have compiled a wish list of items that would greatly benefit our students and staff, but they are above and beyond what our current budget will allow. If you would like to consider donating one of the items listed below or donate money towards the purchase of an item, please contact Lisa Gray, Principal, for details (453-2511). Thank you for your consideration and generosity!!

- \$ for Janitorial cart (\$150)
- Bean bag chairs
- ~~Large floor pillows~~ (Thank you Shirley Gracey!)
- \$\$ for classroom technology (Thank you Knights of Columbus!)
 - Student computers (K – 6th grade) Chromebooks @\$330 each
 - Student computers (preschool) iPads @\$300-\$600 each
 - Mobile computer charging station – 4 @\$150 each
 - Student headphones (need 50 @\$5 each)
- Paper rack for bulletin board paper rolls - 2 @\$200

ADA Update Thanks again for your generosity.

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Paid</u>
SSPP	\$25,407	\$23,440	\$16,290
ICC	\$26,934	\$27,335	\$20,055
SHDC	\$9,652	\$11,406	\$9,986
SHW	\$11,606	\$8,435	\$5,630
SMH	\$11,761	\$8,800	\$6,145

The great big bargain hunt bonanza known as the SSPP Catholic Women's Club Yard Sale is coming soon. Clean out your closets, bring us your left overs September 14-17th. Come and help us sort and set up if you're able! Join us on Saturday, September 19th, 8:30 a.m.-1p.m. for the sale. As someone said "If we don't have it, you don't need it!" Contact Kathryn Evans (309) 221-1854, Alicia Titus (309) 299-5613 or Sts. Peter and Paul School (217) 453-2511.

THE 11TH ANNUAL ROBIN HUSTON MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING IS FAST APPROACHING -- Sunday, September 13 at the Carthage Golf Club. The outing is a 4 person scramble starting at 12:30 p.m. -- \$40 entry per person -- carts included along with supper and prizes!!! If you are interested in participating in the outing, whether playing or helping, PLEASE contact Ann Cokel at 217-357-1561 or acokel@mchsi.com. We need golf teams and hole sponsors - \$50 - and prizes for the outing. Please let Ann know if you are interested!!! We look forward to another GREAT day!!!!

IN TOUCH WITH GOD - Day of reflection in Quincy, Illinois Register **NOW** for the Day of Reflection in Quincy: **IN TOUCH WITH GOD**: Three Ideas from St. Francis of Assisi. The Day will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015, at the new Parish Center at St. Francis Solanus Church in Quincy, Illinois. The Day begins at 9:30 a.m. with registration and ends at 4:00 p.m. St. Francis Solanus Parish conducts a 4:30 Saturday Mass. After supper on your own, the event concludes with Transitus - a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's passing to his heavenly life at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel on The Quincy University Campus. Call Dennis Dowell at 319-372-0786 or write afranciscanview@gmail.com to register for this inspirational day. We suggest pre-registration to ensure that there will be enough lunch for everyone.

Prayerful Reading Book Club: Jesus Shock was Amazing! Our next book is "Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody" by Allen R. Hunt. In his book Hunt states that forgiveness is underrated because it is underused. "We fail to capture the power of forgiveness because we are afraid of it, because we have grown comfortable in our familiar wounds or because we are sinfully stubborn. But the power is there waiting for us. This little book, and the eleven real life stories in it, will help you capture that power". We will meet again on Thursday, Sept. 10th at 7p.m. and/or on Saturday, Sept. 12th at 9:30 a.m. We would love to have you come and join in the discussion! Contact Pam Gambrell for a copy today. There are still a few available at the back of I.C. church or at Dynamic Catholic.com.

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP SAVING Box Tops, Campbell labels, Prairie Farms milk caps, and empty inkjet cartridges, laser toners, laptops, i-pod, and cell phones. All of these things help out our school and don't cost a thing. There are drop boxes in the back of all our churches or at school.

FOOD PANTRIES ALWAYS NEED DONATIONS Please don't forget our Food Pantries are always in need of donations that can be left in the back of our churches. Thank you for caring for the needy.

LITTLE BUSY IN DALLAS CITY

SH LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE: SEPT. 12-13

	<u>4:00 P.M.</u>	<u>10:00 A.M.</u>
EMC, CUP		Tom Schaefer Rita Schaefer
LECTOR	Jessica Menke	Mary Ann Kane
USHERS	Randy Gibb Alan Menke	Robert Clifton Had Gracey

Statue Blessing Next Sunday After the 10AM Mass next Sunday, Fr. Szydluk will bless the new statue of the Sacred Heart that was erected through generous memorials for Leroy Krogmeier. After the final blessing at Mass, he'll lead everyone out of the church and then offer the prayer of blessing. Many thanks to all those who were a part of putting up the statue - it looks great!

Dallas City Altar & Rosary will be hosting our annual Bingo Feather Party Sunday Sept. 27th at Father Schramm Hall in Dallas City. We will have food to be served at 4:30 with bingo following at 5:30. We will have sign-up sheets in the back of church for monetary donations and also pie donations. This is open to the public, so spread the word for an evening of fun! If you have any questions call Laurey Wibbell at 217-852-3118 or Becky Gibb at 217-449-3726.

Ladies of Altar & Rosary we will be having a meeting Monday, Sept. 14th at Father Schramm Hall at 6:00 p.m. Please try to attend as we have to elect new officers for the year! Also we will be planning future events coming up. Hope to see many of you there! Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 27th for our annual Bingo party! We will have future details in the bulletin soon.

HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Prayer Tree Requests: Daniela Harris: 217-847-2522 & Melanie Longenecker: 217-256-3367.

PARENTS @ WARSAW & HAMILTON: If you have a 1st grader this year or are new to the parish, please call and put your student's name on our list. The sooner the better, as books need to be ordered. Thank you, Melanie Longenecker

217-256-3367. **CCD classes for Warsaw/Hamilton students will begin Sept. 13, 2015, in the church hall at Warsaw.**

St. Mary's Women's Club will have a meeting on Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 to setup a schedule for next year. There will be coffee and donuts. Come share your thoughts and ideas!

WHAT TO SEE IN WARSAW

Prayer Tree Requests: Melanie Longenecker: 217-256-3367 & Daniela Harris: 217-847-2522.

Warsaw Ladies Altar & Rosary: The new Altar & Rosary schedules and committee list is now in the back of our church. Please pick one up. The next meeting will be in Sept. The committee will set the date and publish it in the bulletin. Committee: Denise Yuskis & Sue Cunningham. We have some new business to discuss. Please attend if at all possible.

PARENTS @ WARSAW & HAMILTON: If you have a 1st grader this year or are new to the parish, please call and put your student's name on our list. The sooner the better, as books need to be ordered. Thank you, Melanie Longenecker 217-256-3367. **CCD classes for Warsaw/Hamilton students will begin Sept. 13, 2015, in the church hall at Warsaw.** CCD schedules are in the back of the church. If you have a student in CCD (grades 1 through 8), please pick up a schedule. We'll also have a sign-up sheet for the CCD breakfasts in the hall the first day of class (Sept. 13, 2015) Thank you.

WHAT'S NEW IN NAUVOO

Prayer Requests Phone tree: Beth and Mickey Knipe 453-2562 or Peggy and John Siegfried 453-6545 or 309-221-3488

SSPP CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

September 7-12 Lora & Gene Taylor
September 14-19 Donna & Max Roedeffer

If you are unable to clean during your week please find someone to switch with you.

SCRIP CARD SCHEDULE FOR STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH:

	<u>5:30 P.M. MASS</u>	<u>8:00 A.M. MASS</u>
Sept. 12-13	Sheila Poppe	Kelly Celandia
Sept. 19-20	Rhonda Boyles	Helen Burger

SSPP CCD Registration will be next Sunday, September 13th after Mass. Classes will begin the following week September 20th.

Sts. Peter and Paul Women's Club News On September 14, 2015, the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Women's Club will begin another year with installation of officers. We will meet at the school at 6:00 PM for a Butterfly Garden Presentation by the Sts. Peter and Paul Students. Installation of officers will take place at 6:30 PM in the church. We will be returning to the school for a message from Father Szydlak, dinner, and a brief business meeting. We have many exciting plans for the coming year. We need your help and support. Please join us on Monday 14th. Remember dinner is provided!! See you there!!

PASSAGE THROUGH CARTHAGE

"Prayer Requests: Connie Kreps 309-333-9483 or email cj-kreps@wiu.edu"

LECTOR SCHEDULE: Saturday, September 12th at 4:00 p.m., Connie Kreps. Sunday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m., Mark Burling.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER SCHEDULE: Sunday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m., Pam Gambrell & Cami Davis. Ciborium-Carrie Carroll.

ROSARY SCHEDULE

4 p.m. Saturday, September 12th, Connie Kreps
10 a.m. Sunday, September 13th, Maggie Bolen

GREETERS/GIFT BEARERS:

September 13 Jennifer Edholm family
September 20 Rick & Kris Pilkington

CHURCH CLEANING

Sept 7-20 Neal & Sherry Merry
Barb Drozd

BASEMENT CLEANING

Sept. 7-20 Terri Twaddle & Judy McGaughey

WELCOME HOME SHARON!!! Sharon Barr has been released from Wesley Village rehab and is back in Carthage! She is staying at her art studio at 729 Buchanan Street. CWC is coordinating meal delivery during this transition period. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Volunteers are asked to sign up for the date they would like to deliver a meal and the type of meal they will likely be making. (The type doesn't have to be exact - just to have some variety.) Sharon is diabetic so she has some dietary restrictions. Her daughter suggests protein, vegetables, salads, etc. Please limit carbohydrates, pasta, sugar, desserts, and artificial sweeteners. If you wish to drop off a meal when it's hot and ready to eat, it works best with Sharon's medication to eat supper between 5 & 6 p.m. Pre-cooked meals that need to be reheated or uncooked meals could be dropped off anytime with cooking instructions. Sharon's cell number is 217-357-1483 if you need to contact her prior to delivery or with questions about specific foods. Gift cards to local restaurants would also be acceptable. Thank you so much!!!

CCD will be starting Sept. 13. If your child has not attended our program before, please contact Carrie Carroll, 217-357-1076 or carrollusa@hotmail.com.

CWC MEETING: The first meeting of the 2015/2016 year for Immaculate Conception Catholic Women's Club will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the rectory. Please plan to attend as officers will be elected and we will be planning future events. Your support and input would be greatly appreciated! Refreshments will be served.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13th, from 4 P.M. - 7 P.M. at the Church Parish Hall (air conditioned) located south of Carthage, IL at 921 North County Road 1900. Steam burgers, Hot dogs, Chicken Salad Sandwiches, Pie, Cake, and Homemade Vanilla, Strawberry, Chocolate, and Pineapple Ice Cream will be served. Proceeds to the Wilde family

Same-Sex Attraction; Same-Sex Simulation of Sexual Union and Relations; Same-Sex Simulation of Marriage: Conclusion. In the December 23, 2013 edition of Time Magazine, Pope Francis was designated "Person of the Year." Do you remember who came in third place? Her name is Edith Windsor, who was in a committed, faithful same-sex simulation of marriage relationship of many years with Thea Spayer. Edith Windsor won a Supreme Court case overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, to challenge the exorbitant estate tax she was charged after Thea Spayer's death because they were not considered a legally married couple.

If you look at the bottom right of page 109, you will find a photo of Edith Windsor and Thea Spayer holding hands as they look out from a balcony in Venice, Italy toward the Santa Maria della Salute Basilica. Of course, one cannot judge motivation, only state behaviors; but this appeared to be a bit much. Here's Pope Francis in first place for Person of the Year, certainly a boost in positive publicity for the Catholic Church and for the Papacy; but then, not far behind, a same-sex couple defying all the statistics about longevity, faithfulness, and commitment in same-sex relationships, hands joined, looking out toward the dome of a Catholic basilica. Was the photo used to issue a challenge from a lone, solitary same-sex couple to the Catholic Church – you know, that "behind the times" Catholic Church of ours, committing such injustice by insisting on her teaching about homosexual simulation of sexual relations, both inside and outside of same-sex simulation of marriage? One cannot say; but one is certainly free to imagine such a message, even if it wasn't intended, for the sake of setting the stage for an imaginary response. And here's a possible response....

Imagine any two Catholics who deeply believe in the teaching of the Church on this subject – clergy or laity – with hands joined, looking out from the dome of the basilica toward the balcony where Edith Windsor and Thea Spayer are holding hands. Now imagine one of the two people looking out from the dome of the basilica saying to the other, something like this: "When all is said and done, this basilica and the teaching it stands for will still be here. Don't worry about how things look; we'll win. It's only a matter of time."

Thank you for the photo, Time Magazine.

Now, after all these weeks, and all these articles, we've barely scratched the surface, and barely touched upon the specifically religious teaching regarding our topic. This series had one purpose only: namely, to show that we have reasons for what we believe, our faith building upon and permeating reason. Hopefully, we've made the case that the general public is not getting the whole picture when it comes to this issue.

We don't hate anybody. We're not scared of anybody. We don't want anybody to lose their jobs. We don't want anybody to be persecuted or discriminated against. We do not deny anybody's accomplishments or their place in public life. But the fact is that there is no foundation for the claim that homosexuality is inborn; the research simply does not bear that out. There is no foundation for the claim that homosexuality cannot be "reversed," that is, that one cannot turn toward and strive for heterosexuality; the research simply does not bear this out, with case studies of many years to prove it. Admittedly, the turn toward heterosexuality is difficult, and for many, an ongoing quest rather than an accomplished achievement. But the reason for the orientation toward heterosexuality is because of the truth written into the human body as an essential "given" of the human person that we've attempted to present throughout these articles. And let's not forget one last thing – call it a lesson in human nature.

Two people with same-sex or opposite-sex attraction can have a deep affection, an enthrallment with each other, enter into a relationship, be faithful for many years, with all the emotions and the bonding that come from such a close relationship – and still be wrong. Morals do not reside in the passions (the emotions); they reside in the exercise of the will informed by the mind in accord with the truth in every part of you, and in every part of the world around you. The passions signal; they do not decide.

In one of the poet Dante's works, there is a poetic description of two lovers in hell. (Evidently, Dante is making use of a real-life, scandalous adulterous relationship in his day to poetically present a truth.) The couple is described as "flitting around" in hell, totally taken up with each other, in a happiness so intense that they're totally oblivious to everybody and everything around them. Now, in fact, that happens to be the state of mind for people in adulterous relationships. But Dante goes further: he presents the two people in such a state that they don't even realize that they're in hell.

This example is not being used (at least, not here) to condemn or to imply anyone's condemnation. It's presented so that you can deeply realize a profound truth about this life, no matter who you are: you can have everything in place in your life, or think you're right to have someone or something else when everything isn't in place with your life. It can all line up, almost perfectly, to the point that you're convinced you've finally found yourself, and you can live comfortably and peacefully now. Let's throw in all the people who will support you in the way you see things.

And you can still be wrong. If you're not lined up with the truth about every part of you, you can still be wrong, no matter how you feel about it.

If you would like to have Fr. Tony's position paper on homosexuality as well as copies of these bulletin articles, please call the rectory. Two tragedies face us today, when it comes to this issue: first, people's denial of research; and second, people's unwillingness to even look at it when it's presented to them. Don't be either one of them. Thank you for your attentive reading of these articles. Fr. Tony Trosley.