



WORDS AND WORKS

Vol. 8 No. 1 Winter 2012

quarterly newsletter for Holy Infant Parish
Ballwin, MO

Two Voices, One Pain: A Story of Forgiveness and Hope After Abortion

By Chuck and Linda Raymond

With JoAnn Dinkelkamp



photo by Don Dinkelkamp

We sat there in front of the EWTN TV coverage of the March for Life in Washington DC in January 2004 with tears streaming down our faces. The Holy Spirit had moved our hearts to finally seek healing after nearly 3 decades of shame

and grief. Just four weeks later, we attended a Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat (www.rachelsvineyard.org) that has totally transformed our lives.

In 1976, as teenagers, we had made the unspeakable "choice" to end an unplanned pregnancy with an abortion. The years following had been clouded with unspeakable grief, periods of depression, shame and silence. Linda recalls "I hated myself so much, at times; I didn't want to go on. I was angry and didn't know why. Later, after years of marriage to Chuck, I felt undeserving when God blessed me with 2 healthy babies." Chuck reflects that "eventually I began to understand that a woman's love for her child is stamped in her heart by God. Her baby cannot be ripped away without dev-

astating and permanent consequences. The wound is forever. The crisis pregnancy was not "solved" by the abortion."

The weekend retreat program was the most profound experience we have had to help us find hope and forgiveness. We learned that God had already forgiven us and we could begin to forgive ourselves. Christ's mercy and love has lead us to devote much of our time these days to giving back by speaking to groups and writing about our abortion experience. As Respect for Life coordinators at Holy Infant, we are thrilled with the parish's growing awareness and passion for life through participation in the *40 Days for Life* campaigns (beginning again on February 22), weekly pro-life Rosaries and the third Saturday Pro Life Mass at the Cathedral. Linda now serves as a regional coordinator for the *Silent No More Awareness* campaign (www.silentnomoreawareness.org) which seeks to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women and men. The campaign seeks to expose and heal the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion. The fruit of Chuck's healing leads him to work in the *Project Joseph* program, a Church ministry specifically for men who have been through an abortion experience (<http://archstl.org/respectlife/page/project-rachel>).

As awareness for the respect for life continues to build, we recognize, however, that our culture still does not understand the pain that comes after

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

abortion. As uncomfortable as it is to share our story, our hope is that by reaching out, we can help others to find forgiveness and healing and also to make life affirming choices. "Abortion is the wrong answer for women." We deserve better than abortion, Linda relates, and "Jesus is waiting with love and mercy, they may not even realize." "Let your heart out of prison, and seek the help that is available." Chuck says.

"Without our faith, we would not have been able to heal." says Linda, "We want others to know that there is healing and hope!" We have been very blessed through this ongoing journey. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can talk or help in any way. Thank you and God bless.



A New Year With New Opportunities for Growth

By Kathie Hanneke

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

UNDERSTANDING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

6:30 - 8:00 pm Upper Cafeteria

Dr. Gulten Ilhan; Muslim Professor of Philosophy
at St. Louis Community College, Meramec

- Will provide a basic introduction
to the beliefs and practices of Islam,
the role of Muslim women
and Muslim life in America. -

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19 **SERIES ON THE INCARNATION :**

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Rosario Hall

Dr. Jim Ginther; Associate Professor of Medieval Theology,
St. Louis University



MARCH 5, 6, 7

Parish Mission

ARE YOU RUNNING WITH ME, JESUS?

7:00 - 8:00 pm In Church

As a committed Catholic, how do I connect the Sunday "stuff" with the Monday "stuff"? Where is God in the midst of the demands of my life? What do I need the Church for? Do I really need Jesus?

Monday, March 6, Fr. Gary Braun, Director,
Catholic Student Center, Washington University

<http://www.washucsc.org/contact-us.html> **

Tuesday, March 7, Sr. Carla Mae Streeter, O.P.,
Professor of Systematic Theology,
Aquinas Institute of Theology

**Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the
presentation.**

<http://ai.connectingmembers.com/AboutUs/FacultyandAdministration/FacultyBios/CarlaMaeStreeterOP.aspx> **

Wednesday, March 8 Closing Mass
Deacon Dennis Chitwood, guest homilist,
Deacon at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish,
Recipient 2011 Preacher of the Year Award
from Aquinas Institute of Theology

<http://www.stspeterandpaulchurch-stlouis.net/Home/Leadership> **

** select the links provided to learn a bit more about our dynamic presenters.

**These dynamic speakers will inspire you
and set you on fire in your faith!**

All are welcome!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND
WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR MORE DETAILS!**

Reception to follow each evening's presentation

What is holy water and where does it come from?

By Pam Miller



photo by Don Dinkelkamp

Holy water has been used in both the Eastern Christian churches as well as in the Roman Catholic church since ancient times. It is special water that has been blessed by priests who make the sign of the cross and say a solemn prayer asking for God's blessing on those who use it and to ask for protection from the powers of sin.

In Christian churches, water is associated with baptism. In the early Christian communities the waters of rivers and streams were preferred for baptism and received no special blessing. But as time went on, the waters of baptism appeared in fonts and pools. Water was blessed for the use of the faithful as a way to ward off the unclean spirit (sin) and to be used as a safeguard against sickness and disease. Over the course of time, blessed holy water has made its way into homes for the use of a daily blessing.

This past Christmas, Holy Infant parish and the Holy Infant Evangelization Team, presented each parish family and guest family with a bottle of holy water after each Christmas Mass. We were then invited to bring the holy water into our homes to bless ourselves and family members. As you con-

tinue to use the gift of holy water in your home, the water will of course dwindle and the bottle will need to be refilled. Another gift to the people of Holy Infant is a permanent holy water font that is now housed in the vestibule of the church. You are invited to bring your empty holy water bottles received at Christmas (or any small vessel) back to church and refill it as often as you would like in order to continuously have blessed water in your home.

We are fortunate to have access to holy water each time we enter our Catholic church and now in our homes. When we dip our fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross we remember the meaning of our baptism. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross while saying, "By this holy water and by Thy Precious Blood wash away all my sins, O Lord." Amen.



photo by Don Dinkelkamp

(L-R) Tim Steenberge, Ron Colletti, and Tom Pike. Peggy Feldt, parishioner and owner of Custom Alterations by Peggy, along with three of her seamstresses, spent some 500 hours putting her vision of the Three Kings attire together for the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord. To quote Peggy: "I sew to worship God."

HOLY INFANT "ALIVE IN CHRIST"

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



submitted photo

By Sr. Rosario Delaney

Greetings, parishioners. On behalf of the Holy Infant School community, I wish you a very Happy New Year. Together we pray that 2012 will bring the peace of Christ to our hearts, homes, communities, and the world.

During Catholic Schools Week 2010, Archbishop Carlson shared his vision that Catholic schools be *Alive in Christ!* In his pastoral letter detailing this vision, the Archbishop reminds us that "To truly be *Alive in Christ*, our schools must be vibrant centers of evangelization and missionary activity..., giving witness in our words and our actions to the dignity of all human life.....and to the stewardship of all creation..." We believe that our tagline, *Educating for Life's Journey*, and our five core values (*Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts, Training Leaders, Treasuring Tradition, and Transforming Lives*) are consistent with the Archbishop's vision and guide us in our efforts to be a Catholic school that is *Alive in Christ!*

Our focus throughout the year is on training students to accept, appreciate, and respect *all* stages of human life. In our efforts to *train leaders, touch hearts, and transform lives*, students are encouraged to look beyond themselves and to recognize that all humanity is created in God's image. As we endeavor to teach the Gospel message, we provide opportunities for our students to live out that message by reaching out to those in need. It might interest you to know a few of the students' many outreach efforts:

- Primary students support the Refugee Program at St. Pius V parish, collect shoes for children in Haiti and Kenya, provide hats and gloves to the



Guardian Angels Settlement, and send small plush animals to children in Kuwait and toys to Our Lady's Inn.

- Students in the middle grades send new toys to the Guardian Angels Settlement, make blankets for patients at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, collect library books for an inner city school, send hats and gloves to St. Wenceslaus parish, and correspond with the families of newly baptized babies in our parish.
- Junior High students bring gifts, play games, and entertain the residents at the Mary Ryder Home and, this year, collected over 200 new and gently used blankets for the homeless who do not avail of shelter at night.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



The annual *Pennies Make Sense* collection (pictured on page 4) benefits the

Area Food Banks. Students organized a week-long school-wide collection to provide school supplies to St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Joplin (pictured right).

- A Catholic Schools Week cereal collection benefits the Circle of Concern.

Please accept my deep gratitude for your strong active and financial support of the Catholic educational program at Holy Infant School. I ask God's blessings on all of you and thank you for



your ongoing assistance as we endeavor to fulfill the Archbishop's vision to be a school that is *Alive in Christ!*

Mark Your Calendar

By Pam Miller

LENT SCHEDULE

February 22 - Ash Wednesday 2012 will mark the beginning of the season of Lent. The date of the observance differs each year. Lent begins 40 days before Easter Sunday (excluding Sundays, the Lord's Day.) Lent is a season of repentance, prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday – Mass schedule will be 6 am, 8 am and 7 pm.

The Way of the Cross is a devotion that consists of meditating on 14 events which took place during Christ's Passion, from being condemned to His burial. Each devotion lasts about 30 minutes. Plan to attend **The Way of the Cross** each Monday afternoon at 2:00 pm (except Monday, March 12) and every Friday evening at 7:00 pm (except Good Friday – April 6 which is at 3:00 pm.) This devotion is held in the church.

Fish Fries

The Holy Infant Men's Club sponsors a weekly fish fry during Lent. Every Friday evening join Holy Infant parishioners in the upper cafeteria where a scrumptious Lenten meal may be purchased; (sit-in and dine or carry-outs available.) Fish Fries begin Friday, February 24!!

Holy Week

April 5, Holy Thursday – **Mass of the Lord's Supper** 7 pm

April 6, Good Friday – **The Lord's Passion** 7:30 pm

April 7, Holy Saturday – **Easter Vigil Mass** 7:30 pm

April 8, **Easter Sunday Masses** – 6 am, 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am, noon.





Words and Works is a quarterly publication of Holy Infant Parish, informing parishioners of events and activities of interest to the parish, with a further goal of fostering unity within the Church and drawing all together into a closer warmer Church family.

Editor

Pam Miller
(314) 498-6730
pam@vizkids.org

Photographer

Don Dinkelkamp
(636) 391-0031
dinxart@sbcglobal.net

Writers

Eileen Buehrle
ebuehrle@charter.net

JoAnn Dinkelkamp
jdinkelkamp@sbcglobal.net

Kathie Hanneke
geneandkathie@hanneke.us

Carol Laupp
ppual@msn.com

Gloria Rohrer
gloriarohrer@gmail.com

Mary Jane Zust
marjan343@charter.net

Our Holy Infant Pastoral Staff The Worker Bees Behind the Scenes

By Carol Laupp

Care, dedication and commitment are universal traits among the pastoral support team here at Holy Infant Parish. Together, they are an essential part of our rectory and school. We thought you'd like to get to know a little bit about them:

Beata Gordon is the Office Manager and full time employee of the rectory for the past eight years. She and her husband, Tony, have been members of the parish for 26 years. Both of their boys, Nicholas and Christopher, have attended Holy Infant School. Beata is grateful to work with so many people who are part of this parish family. She particularly enjoys the generous and creative spirit of so many parishioners involved with our annual St. Patrick's Day Festival and our Parish Picnic. She is also inspired by the prayerful liturgies here at Holy Infant that are filled with beautiful music and song. Beata is responsible for managing the parish office and various needs of support for the three full time priests. She maintains the parishioner database, billing and collecting school tuition, scheduling all events/meetings in the parish complex, and assists all parishioners and others who call or stop by the rectory. She feels Holy Infant is a lively, vibrant community with wonderful



(seated) **Beata Gordon.** (L-R) **Marge Steudeman, Mary Thieret, Mary Hutson**

parishioners, priests, religious and lay staff plus a very dedicated school faculty and staff. She highly recommends attending the children's school masses which are deeply moving and memorable. When asked "If you could be pastor for a day, what would you like to do?" She said, "I'd have flowers on the Office Manager's desk every week."

Mary Hutson is the Child Safety Coordinator and is a part time employee on Mondays and Thursdays. Mary has been a member of Holy Infant Parish for 12 years and has four children (Ann, Wayne, Tammy and Paul), with eight grandchildren and one more on the way in February. Mary arranges and coordinates "Protecting God's Children" workshops. She emphasizes that the Facilitators that conduct these workshops are all volunteers and is so thankful for their time and dedica-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

tion. Mary helps with data entry information regarding these workshops for the Archdiocese and completes paperwork for all background checks. She also works with data entry of contributions, Baptismal records, etc. Mary loves the liturgies at Holy Infant because they are some of the best liturgies she has seen and heard in her lifetime. When asked "If you could be pastor for a day, what would you like to do?" She said, "I'd like to give myself a day off, with pay of course!"

Marge Steudeman serves as the Bulletin Editor and usually works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. After Marge and her husband, Jerry, were married in 1967, they attended Holy Infant Church for a year while they lived in Castlewood. Once they moved to Ballwin, they have been members of St. Joseph Parish in Manchester for 43 years. They have one daughter, Patti, and one son, Bill. Marge enjoys Holy Infant's weekend Masses, and feels the church and school are in the "good hands" of Fr. Stanger and Sr. Rosario. Marge prepares the Sunday bulletin and sends it via Internet to the printer in Chicago. She has prepared the Sunday bulletin every single week since mid-September 1999, when she started working at Holy Infant. The bulletin recently has added two pages and is now in full color. Along with the bulletin preparation, Marge answers phone calls, helps visitors, and does a variety of other jobs at the Rectory Office. When asked "If you could be pastor for a day, what would you like to do?" She said, "I'd like to declare an annual 'Bulletin Vacation' during the summer" when she would not have to prepare a Sunday bulletin.

Mary Thieret has served as the part time Parish Accountant since July, 2011 and works on Tuesday/Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons. Mary and her husband, Bill, have been married for 32 years and have been members of the Holy Infant Parish for almost 12 years. They have three daughters (Michelle, Lisa, and Jennifer), one son (Charlie) and one grandchild (Trinity). Her two youngest children attended Holy Infant School when they moved to Ballwin. She is proud to say

that two generations of her family (her son and now her granddaughter) were both students of Mrs. Offerman's 3rd Grade class here at Holy Infant. Mary worked at Holy Infant school as a teacher's aide/substitute teacher for nine years before changing jobs to full time accountant at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in South County. She also has been a PSR teacher at Holy Infant for eleven years (teaching 6th graders for ten years and 3rd graders for one year). She is a member of the Angel Corp Network helping to provide the luncheons held twice a year after the mass of the "Anointing of the Sick". Her favorite events at Holy Infant are the St. Patrick's Day Festival and the Live Nativity held every Christmas season. Mary is currently responsible for providing accounting services to the parish and school. She maintains a financial accounting system, balances accounts, ledgers and reconciles bank statements. She also prepares financial statements and assists with budgeting. Mary feels blessed to be part of such an active and vibrant community here at Holy Infant. When asked "If you could be pastor for a day, what would you like to do?" She said, "I would take the day off and spend it with my family, who are really fun to be with!"

In summary, I hope you have been informed and inspired with the dedicated work of these wonderful Christian women. Feel free to stop by and see how the "HIVE IS ALIVE" and say "Thanks for all you do to make Holy Infant Parish the best in the St. Louis Archdiocese!"

CLICK HERE

<http://zanylol.com/ad.html>



TEENS SPEAK!

What does the Youth Group at Holy Infant Mean to me?

By Eileen Buehrle

Name: Andrew Bischof

High School attending: De Smet Jesuit High School

“Throughout high school there have been many obstacles standing between me and growing in my faith. But through Holy Infant Youth Ministry I have been able to overcome these obstacles and find my way back to God. As a freshman and sophomore I used to go to youth group for fun and partake in retreats for service hours. As all the fun and service hours began to increase so did my relationship with God. I soon found myself going to youth group and partaking in retreats to grow closer to Christ and to be a leader for Christ to bring others closer to God. This is just a very brief summary of what youth group has done for me. It has made me a better man and I do not know where in my life I would be without it. Youth group has taught me to talk about my faith openly to my friends and family.”

Name: Isabella Laposha

High School attending: Nerinx Hall

“I was born and raised Catholic and my faith has always been an important part of who I am. But when I started attending youth group, my spirituality grew immensely and I realized the true joy and fulfillment my faith offered. When school became stressful or I felt overwhelmed, youth group and the amazing people there always provided me with a home and they reminded me to keep God at the center of life. Every week, I was given a new opportunity to grow deeper in my faith, and I did just that. As I grew during my high school years, youth group became the foundation of who I am. I know that as I continue on to college and beyond, my faith will always provide me with strength, happiness and true fulfillment. I can never thank Holy Infant youth group enough for teaching me this.”

St. John Bosco Pizza by the Yard

(Patron Saint of Apprentices, Editors and Publishers - Feast Day: January 31)

This recipe is so fun and easy to make with children! It is a fun alternative to pizza; great for sleepovers and teenage parties.

Oven Temperature: 350 degrees

1 (18 inch) loaf French bread, (the kind you bake in the oven)

2 cans pizza sauce

3 c. Mozzarella Cheese

Toppings:

Pepperoni

1 lb. ground round, cooked

Black olives

Whatever you like best on your pizza!!

Cut loaf in half lengthwise. Place loaves on cookie sheet. Spread the pizza sauce on each loaf, top with the Mozzarella cheese and then add your preferred toppings. Bake in a 350 degree oven, for 15 minutes until the cheese melts and the loaves are browned and bubbly. Check during the last 5 minutes of baking, as ovens vary. Serve with a Caesar salad.

(The Light Weigh; Building the Family Cookbook; Recipes, Saint stories, and advice from a mother of seven . . . By Suzanne Fowler)

What Can Happen When You Send a Youth Minister to Africa? The story of Tim Claudin !

By Gloria Rohrer

Holy Infant has a new youth minister. His name is Tim Claudin. Tim is a native of St. Louis, who graduated from Truman College with a degree in Psychology. Tim is one of three children, all brothers, one older and one younger.

Tim played a lot of sports growing up, including baseball, soccer and tennis. He plays hockey now and is a member of the North American Hockey League. His position is left wing. Tim also does short endurance sports such as the triathlon. He also plays the alto saxophone and guitar.

Tim's interest in youth ministry developed in college. He did Life Teen while at Truman College, for 5 years. He says he enjoyed helping the high school teens and as a member of the core team, Tim helped plan retreats, supervised various groups and helped with the needs of the kids.

After graduation, Tim took a Service Trip to Uganda, to a village called Masaka, which had no electricity. He lived in a parish there for two months, with 3 priests, which he says was "a truly humbling and rewarding experience," one that has definitely changed his life. On his return home, he became Youth Minister at Incarnate Word Parish where he recounted his experiences in Uganda. The parish decided that they would try to use as little electricity as possible to show people how the villagers had to live. So one morning, Mass was started with no electricity and the priest told the parishioners why this was being done and that the project would last a month. The people were asked to give up their favorite drinks and bring the money saved to the church to help the villagers of Masaka. He said people would drink water instead of their ordinary drinks, and donate the money saved to the parish mission. The Authentic Amigos for Christ, a non-profit agency, helped by matching funds and with this help, Incarnate Word was able to send \$13,000, \$1000 more than their goal, to the priests at Masaka.

A friend told Tim about the opening at Holy



Infant, so he decided to apply, as he has known Father Dunlap for about five years. Tim is a newlywed, having married a Holy Infant parishioner, Michelle Raymond, 6 months ago. Michelle's parents are Chuck and Linda Raymond.

Tim has a vision of starting a middle school ministry (6th, 7th and 8th grades) and expanding the youth group.

He says he has felt very welcome since coming to Holy Infant and looks forward to working with the youth of our community. Welcome, Tim!



Mass of Thanksgiving 2011



VETERAN'S DAY 2011



Holy Infant congratulates
Archbishop
Timothy M. Dolan of
 New York on being
 named cardinal by Pope
 Benedict XVI, January
 6. He will be officially
 elevated to the College of
 Cardinals, February
 18, in Rome. Archbishop
 Dolan was among the
 first class to graduate
 from Holy Infant Parish
 School in 1964.

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan



TRUNK OR TREAT 2011



Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday Obligation

Saturday: 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m.,
10:15 a.m. and noon

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. and
8 a.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Please check the bulletin or
call the rectory to check
times for Holy Day Masses.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24 hours, 7 days a week.
Enter the chapel through the
main lobby.

Holy Infant Church

627 Dennison Drive, Ballwin MO 63021-4898

Rectory: (636) 227-7440 FAX (636) 227-4548

Website: www.holyinfantballwin.org

Pastoral Staff

Father Edward J. Stanger Pastor

Father Timothy L. Bannes Associate Pastor

Father Christopher Dunlap Associate Pastor

Deacon Kenneth Clemens Permanent Deacon

Rectory Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Closed for lunch from noon -1 p.m.

Ministry to the Homebound

Please call the rectory if you are ill at home or in the hospital or
nursing facility and would like Communion brought to you. Volun-
teers also are available to help in other ways.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALLWIN MO.
PERMIT NO. 2

Holy Infant Parish
627 Dennison Drive
Ballwin, MO 63021-4898