

St. George Knights of Columbus Council gives special honor to the following for the exemplification of their Catholic faith: "Youth" - Brittany Bakewell; "Family" - John Hogan; "Knight of the Month" - Devin Brennan, Jacob Monat & Matt Kruse (new 1st Degree members)!

The St. George Knights of Columbus Council through their "Tootsie Roll Drive" was able to give TASC \$181.00; MOSAIC \$181.00 and Camp Winnebago \$181.00. Thanks to all who purchased Tootsie Rolls or gave to this drive and thanks to the K of C men who conducted the drive!!! God bless you!

I just received the latest results of the "2008 Oct. Count" for our parishes and the following is rather interesting:

	# parishioners	Mass/month	Average Mass count	Total Mass	
I.C. Parish: 2004	564	8	209	417	74%
2005	620	8	193	386	62%
2006	494	8	186	373	75%
2007	572	8	175	351	61%
2008	540	8	162	324	60%
St. Joseph: 2004	364	4	163	163	45%
2005	352	4	147	147	42%
2006	354	4	165	165	47%
2007	303	4	156	156	51%
2008	287	4	133	133	46%

It is known that everyone is searching for happiness and those who go to Church are much happier—the question then is: "How are we able to bring the % up to near 100% attendance?" We all need to be bearers of good news and continue to be missionaries.

Another interesting piece of parish Baptismal census information for the parishes is as follows:

Year	I.C.	St. Joseph
1995	9	4
2004	10	3
2005	10	3
2006	5	1
2007	7	2
2008	6	1

These figures tell us what we are able to expect for the upcoming Religious Education Program numbers per class along with the sacramental program numbers (e.g. First Communion, Confirmation etc.) that we will be dealing with in the future years. The question that arises from very low numbers is, "Should we combine a particular class with the neighboring parish in order to have sufficient numbers for a valid class size?"

Calendar of Events:

Jan 18—3rd Sunday loose Change Collection for Courtney Smith

Jan 21—St. Joseph Parish Council Meeting 7:45 p.m.

Jan 22—St. Joseph Faith Formation Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Jan 25—I.C. Youth Mass

Bingo @ I.C. Church Hall 6:30 p.m.

Jan 26—Grief Support Meeting 6:30 –7:30 p.m. @ I.C. Rel. Ed Center

Feb 2 —Social Concerns Meeting @ I.C. 8:15 a.m.

Feb 4 —Clean I.C. Church after Mass

The annual "Free Throw Shooting Contest" sponsored by the St. George K of C Council will be handled through EACS. Mr. Robert Wellendorf at EACS will have the information about it as time goes on. The "District Shoot Off" will be held at EACS in Lansing for those qualifying from Monona, Waukon, Lansing & Ossian. It will begin at 12:00—noon on Feb. 15, 2009.

A recent socio/psychological study about "People who are Happy" found that those people who go to Church at least once a week are 85% happier with themselves than those who do not go to Church at least once a week. Another factor that they found contributing to personal happiness is not how much a person made, owned or saved but how generous the person is. The study found that person is generous to charity, if it be to their Church or another charitable organization (note that "charity" did not include ones children, wife, husband etc.) is much happier with their life than the person who is not charitable. *Pass this message on to those who do not go to Church very much but spend a lot of time searching for happiness in other things and places where it is not found.*

Goals for the year 2009 for young, middle aged and old? Think about one or more of the following:

1. Getting up a few minutes early and going to Mass one more time during the week.
2. Receiving the sacrament of Confession once a month.
3. Using my contribution envelope each Sunday.
4. Praying the rosary each day.
5. Getting to Mass early on the weekend and joining in praying the rosary.
6. Do some little thing around the parish once a month.
7. Stopping by the church during the week for a prayerful visit.
8. Really joining in the Mass with full participation including the songs.
9. Praying before meals even when at school or in public
10. Reading a part of the Catholic Catechism each day.

Look at the calendar it's time for that 5 year tune up! We would never expect a car to run smoothly forever with out a tune-up, so why do we expect our marriage relationship to keep running smoothly without a little maintenance? The Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couple the tools to keep their relationship in top running condition. The next weekend is in Cedar Falls, Iowa on **Feb. 13-15**. To register contact Roger & Marsha Luensmann at 563-927-4352.

Immaculate Conception parish has a number of steel folding chairs that are structurally in very good condition but ascetically they do not look good because of scratches etc.-they need to be repainted. If you have a small or large paint booth in your shed where you could do this job please give Fr. Knipper a call! The person who painted all the desks for the Rel. Ed center does not have that facility any longer and is not able to do it—do you have the facility and able to do the job or do you know of anyone?

Living Abundantly in Difficult Financial Times: Responsible Stewardship: One of the reasons we have gotten into a financial crisis is because of Irresponsible stewardship. Dan Conway, President & CEO of Mission Advancement Services for O'Meara, Ferguson, Whelan, and Conway Inc, wrote: "Today's financial crisis is the result of poor stewardship by banks & other financial institutions, by regulatory agencies and by governmental officials charged with the responsibility to serve & protect our nation and its institutions. Greed, partisan politics & media hype do not promote good citizenship or good stewardship." (Continued next week).

Marriage Thought: Love isn't just a feeling; it's an action that shows our caring.

Tax Time: Many of you will be going to your lawyer or tax consultant during the coming weeks. This is a good time to review your will or make a will if you do not have one. Please remember your parish in your will!

In today's first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, "Here I am!" each time the Lord calls him. May we too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the Psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

**Stewardship of Treasure
Sunday, January 18, 2009**

I.C.	2008	2009
Adults	\$1253.00	\$1233.00
Children	\$ 14.00	\$ 11.00

St. Joseph	2008	2009
Adults	\$ 476.00	\$ 164.00
Children	\$ 1.00	\$ 4.00