



Newsletter

October 2011

**Special points of interest:**

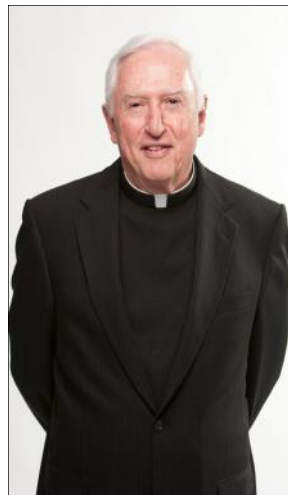
- Fr. Bill's Birthday
- Changes in the Mass
- Health Fair
- New Parishioner Welcome Night
- Yesterday's Kids
- Youth Group News
- Preschool Begins

**Inside this issue:**

Sophia's Legacy	2
Health Fair	3
Ministry for the Sick and Homebound	3
Extraordinary Teens	4
The Gift	5
Yesterday's Kids	6
Preschool Begins	7

**Happy Birthday, Fr. Bill!**

It's been a few years since Fr. Bill's early years of playing Mass with his older brother Bob in Carlyle and then going through seminary. At times during high school he felt like quitting the seminary, but after a talk with his dad he decided to stay. His dad had told him that "when he gets into a



**Above: Fr. Bill turns 70 on October 3rd.**

parish, that would be his family." True to his dad's word, Fr. Bill has a very loving and appreciative family in all of us, the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church. So let's celebrate his birthday with the great joy and love as only a family could. Happy Birthday, Fr. Bill!

**Why the Mass is about to Change**

*By Cathleen Klusek*

We are about to witness a new translation in the Mass this November 27, the first Sunday of Advent. While this may be news to some of you, the Church has actually been preparing for this new translation for the past ten years. It is the most significant liturgical development since Vatican II. While there are many

changes, it is important to understand the essence of the Mass is not changing. Scripture readings and hymns will remain the same. It is still the commemoration of the Lord's Supper. However, the prayers in the liturgy have been retranslated from the original Latin text into English.

Why the change?

The current English translation we use is really a general sense of the original Latin text. It is not a literal word for word translation. Translators just wanted to convey the general meaning. Now after 40 years of using these general translations, the Church has recognized some areas needing to be improved. Many rich

## Sophia's Legacy

By Mary Anne Caponegro



St. Nicholas' Atria for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd have been able to expand to include more children this year because of the additional space in our beautiful new rooms. Each of the children from the Good Shepherd Preschool comes to an atrium once a week. Other children attend sessions on Sunday mornings and after school on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We are privileged to serve children ages 3 to 6 in our Level I Atrium, as well as children ages 6 to 9 in Level II. In addition, a formation course for future catechists is held on Thursday mornings.

Sophia Cavalletti collaborated with Gianna Gobbi to develop this program that seeks to unite the mystery of God with the mystery of the child.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an international religious formation movement that originated in Rome over fifty years ago and has spread to over 37 countries on 5 continents. Sofia Cavalletti, a Scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator, collaborated to develop this program that seeks to unite

the mystery of God with the mystery of the child in order to help the child fall in love with God. When introducing them, a friend said, "Sofia knows everything about Scripture and you (Gianna) know

Sofia Cavalletti died at the age of 94. (Gianna Gobbi passed away several years ago.) We join catechists, parents, and children whose lives have been touched by the work of these two women in mourn-



**Above: Children learn through hands-on play in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.**

the child." Together, over the span of 50 years, they developed hands on materials with which children could ponder biblical moments or parts of the liturgy, always with the belief that the child has a special capacity to respond to God's love.

In 2010, Aquinas Institute in St. Louis awarded Dr. Cavalletti the St. Catherine of Sienna Award. Sadly, on August 23,

ing for Dr. Cavalletti, whose love of working with children continued throughout her life. When recently asked what her hope for the future was, she replied "The child's capacity for joy." What a legacy she left for the future.



## Health Fair Coming Soon

This year at the St. Nicholas Health Fair which will be held on November 5, 2011, PSA testing will be drawn, you must sign up for this blood test. The cost is \$10 which needs to be paid at the time of the draw. The Memo-

rial Hospital Mammography van will be presented again; if it has been longer than 1 year you may get your mammogram, which you must sign up for ahead of time. BMI, bone density, cholesterol and blood sugar

will be drawn upon request.

This ministry provides health screenings and health information. For more information, please contact Judy Tulis at 632-4111.

*By Mona LeGrand*



**Above: The annual health fair includes the Memorial Hospital Mammography van.**

## Ministry for the Sick and Homebound

Helping others is God's work and you don't have to look very far to find those in need. The Ministry for the Sick and Homebound is made up of St. Nicholas parishioners who provide spiritual and other support to those in our parish who are homebound due to illness, injury, aging, or

similar circumstance or to those who are confined to nursing homes or senior living centers. Taking Communion to our parishioners who cannot attend Mass is a very big part of our ministry but just as often we are able to assist with everyday circumstances such as providing a ride to a

doctor's appointment or the grocery store.

If you are homebound and would like for us to bring you Communion or if you need other assistance that we might be able to provide please call Joe or Maureen Edwards at 618-624-8310 or call the parish office.

*By Joe Edwards*

**Please contact Joe or Maureen Edwards at 618-624-8310 if you wish to help with the Ministry for the Sick and**

## New Parishioner Welcome Night

On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, members of the St. Nicholas Parish Council joined Fr. Bill in hosting an evening social at the Good Shepherd Center to welcome our newest parishioners. Guests enjoyed a variety of homemade finger foods throughout the evening provided by council and staff mem-

bers while children had the opportunity to enjoy the new nursery room. Several of our junior high children provided care the young family members while parents enjoyed an opportunity for some wholesome conversations with the staff and council members.

Fr. Bill provided our

newest parishioners with a brief history of the parish. He discussed our co-ownership of St. Clare Catholic School and how important such an education meant in providing our children with a sound knowledge and understanding of their Catholic faith.

Our guests then had

*By Edward Koszykowski*

the opportunity to tour the two new facilities to gain a clearer perspective of how these buildings can better serve our parishioners now and in the many years ahead. Our evening concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving for the newest members of our Parish Family.

## Why the Mass is about to Change

Allow this time of change to inspire a spiritual renewal and deepening of faith.

metaphors and spiritual images found in the Latin text are not apparent in the current English translation. In 2001, the Vatican called for a closer translation to the original Latin text that would be without "omissions, additions or paraphrases" in terms of content. The new translation allows the true meaning and Biblical images really shine through. These are important

changes because the way we worship shapes the way we believe.

Allow this time of change to inspire a spiritual renewal and deepening of faith. This is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the Mass and to evaluate how we pray together. Perhaps we have gotten too familiar with the current text and simply "go through the motions" without really thinking about the words we are saying. Leav-

(Continued from page 1)

ing our normal routine gives us a chance to ponder the meaning of Mass. This moment of attention helps us rediscover our profound love for Jesus, who meets us in the Eucharist. This is the very heart of our Catholic faith.

For more information about the changes in the Mass, please visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and follow the links.



**Above: Luke Terhaar paints during the Youth Summer Mission Trip.**

## Not Just Ordinary...Extraordinary!

*By Todd Klusek*

Raymond Duncan once said, "The best substitute for experience is being sixteen". This quote seems to directly refer to the stereotype attached to teenagers that they are "know-it-alls". As a youth group leader and parent, I have come to the conclusion that it's not that simple. Teens just don't outwardly display an "all knowing" attitude because they want to. I believe it's more about the fact that, for lack of a better way to say it, they just don't know what they don't know and only through the experiences of life can they gain wisdom. Ironically, this wisdom is what makes one realize you don't

know everything. What does all of this have to do with OUR teens here at St Nicholas? Everything, because our St. Nicholas youth group teens gain experiences through service.

One of many examples of this concept of "wisdom through service" occurred last month in Mascoutah as we supported Trinity Services by working at a home built specifically for girls with special needs. Twenty-one teens, most of whom are very busy, gladly gave up a Saturday to paint the interior of a beautiful new home and in return received a valuable life experience as we were privileged to work alongside some of the young women who were going to live there. While the tangible gains

were huge (saving Trinity around \$5,000 in contracting costs) the intangible gains were immeasurable. Our teens were just amazing, clear examples of what the Holy Spirit in action looks like.

Be comforted in the knowledge that our St. Nicholas teens are wiser than their youth would lead you to believe. Through service, and with their strengthening relationship with God, our teens are gaining experience and wisdom often reserved for later in life. The only thing left to wonder is what Raymond Duncan would have to say if he spent a day with OUR teens.

"Our teens are just amazing, clear examples of what the Holy Spirit in action looks like."

## Gift from Yesterday's Kids

Prior to the finish of the St. Nicholas Center and the Good Shepherd Center, the board/officers of Yesterday's Kids decided to give a gift to the parish in honor of the accomplishment of these two additions to the Parish. It was suggested and agreed on, by the membership, that the gift should pertain to children since the St. Nicholas senior group is called "Yesterday's Kids". It was decided that the group would like to do something for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Nancy Kohrig, President and Barb Furdek discussed pos-

sibilities, such as a picture to hang in the Good Shepherd Center in the Catechesis atrium.

Barb suggested the photograph of the altar with the chalice and paten that was one of the posters made for the opening of the buildings be made into a more permanent portrait. She came to Nancy and indicated that according to the catechists and Mary Ann Caponegro, Director, the Catechesis children had related to that poster. That is when the Yesterday's Kids went to work to make this permanent picture the gift for the children

*By Nancy Kohrig*

and the Parish. The Yesterday's Kids board and officers voted an amount from their treasury to start the fund raising. The "hat was passed" at several meetings and a significant amount was raised to complete and fund the project.

This picture is now hanging outside of the rooms used for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Take a look at it when you get a chance. The priest in the picture is Father Bill and the chalice and paten were gifts to him from his Mom and Dad for his ordination.



**Above: Edward Koszykowski, Mary Anne Caponegro, and Nancy Kohrig.**

The picture is now hanging outside the rooms used for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



**Above: The chalice and paten were Fr. Bill's ordination gifts from his parents.**

## Yesterday's Kids

By Nancy Kohrig



**Above: Satch and Dee Keller enjoying time with Yesterday's Kids.**

Join Yesterday's Kids if you or your spouse is age 55 or older, don't be shy!



**Above: Bill Kaiser at the August Yesterday's Kids meeting.**

Yesterday's Kids have been rockin', rollin and having a ball. In August, the Kids met to have a salad potluck and enjoy an evening with the big Band Sound of Bob Tyler. Dinner included salads of many varieties fresh from the kitchens of the most famous cooks at St. Nicholas. After the business meeting, the entertainment had the Kids up jitterbuggin' and slow dancing with their favorite partner. Bob Tyler took requests as the Kids took a journey down memory lane with some of the old tunes that took them back to their younger days. Bob has entertained in our local area and even abroad for many years and is as good as ever.

Also, in August, the Kids took a trip to the News Democrat production plant in Belleville. They now know how those little sticker advertisements are placed on each paper and the kinds of rolls of paper that are used for newspaper production. Do you know

there is even a machine used to put those half sheets on your daily paper? The trip also included lunch at Eckerts (what the Yesterday's Kids do best-EAT).

On September 2, several of the Kids carpooled to a Grizzly game against the River City Rascals but did not see too many balls hit for the home team. It was a pleasant evening and fun for those who attended the game.

The September meeting started with a pulled pork dinner and yummy brownies and cookies for dessert. At the business meeting, nominations for upcoming election for

President and Treasurer were explained. Nominations will continue in October, with the election to be held in November. The Kids then joined hands and learned to square dance. The gals twirled and the group did some square and circle dances to the calls and the clapping of the observers. There were only a few stumbles!!

Please consider joining Yesterday's Kids if you or your spouse is 55 or older. They have couples and singles, so don't be shy. They meet the second Monday of each month and always eat and have fun.



**Above: Yesterday's Kids toured the Belleville News Democrat production plant in August. The trip included lunch at Eckerts.**

### Yesterday's Kids Events

- Oct 10: Meeting at 6pm. Spaghetti dinner . Entertainment is Halloween scavenger hunt. Wear your favorite mask or costume .
- Oct 17: Board meeting at 2 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Center.
- Oct 17: Marian Hour of Prayer, 7 p.m.
- Nov 6: Mass for the Deceased at 6 p.m.
- Nov 7: Meeting at 6 p.m. Bring toiletries for the Joseph Center for Homeless Veterans.
- Nov 14: Board Meeting, 2 p.m., Good Shepherd Center

# Coming Soon!

## *Christ in You Speakers Series*

### **GOD Speaks**

**A candid hour of talk and tips on how to speak to children about God.**

What can children teach me about faith? Explore the answers to tricky questions young children ask about GOD.

**Guest Speaker Ann Garrido, D. Min**

**Monday, November 14th at 7:00 PM  
GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER**

Coming in February: *The Happy Death Art of Dying: Spirituality and Health Care*

## Good Shepherd Preschool Begins

*By Laura Hong*

The Good Shepherd Preschool has gotten off to a great start this school year! We currently have 52 students enrolled in the program. The students are having a great deal of fun getting to know new friends and exploring new skills and concepts in the classroom.

Recently, the students baked over 60 muffins for Grandparents Day. They were so proud to share their muffins and even more delighted with all the compliments they received.

New Spanish words have been learned through song. We can hear some using Spanish when practicing their numbers!

A special place in each classroom is our prayer tables. Students are able to visit the prayer table throughout the day as needed. Many pray for their family and friends during this time. Others enjoy looking at our Bible Story picture books. We practice making the sign of the cross and the proper way to fold our hands.

We would like to thank all of the parishioners that have given their time to the installation of the new playground area. The children are thrilled to be able to have a place to play during the day. Many like to visit the space on the weekend with Mom and Dad as well.



## Catholic Preschool

Our Catholic Preschool is an education program for children ages 3 - 5 years old that began mid-August this year. Please call the St. Clare School Office for more information at 632-6327.

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
625 St. Nicholas Drive  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
632-1797  
Rev. William J. Hitpas, Pastor  
  
Address Service Requested

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Non-Profit Organization  
PERMIT NO. 68  
O'Fallon, IL

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### We're on the Web!

Our website address: <http://www.stnicholasofallon.org>

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/St.Nicholas.OFallon>

You can find daily announcements, event calendar, ministry schedules, forms, contact information, photos, and much, much more on our website and Facebook pages! Be sure to visit and "like" us today!

#### Mass Times

**Sundays:**

- 8 AM
- 10:30 AM

**Saturdays:**

- 5 PM

#### Daily Mass

**(M, W, F):**

- 8:30 AM In the Day Chapel

**Tuesdays :**

- 8:30 AM at St. Clare School during the school year

#### Communion Service:

**Thursdays:**

- 8:30 AM in the Day Chapel

#### Reconciliation:

**Saturdays:**

- 3:30 PM

Newsletter articles and photos may be submitted by anyone to [webmaster@stnicholasofallon.org](mailto:webmaster@stnicholasofallon.org) or dropped off at the Parish Office. The December issue articles are due Thursday, November 10.