



HOLY FAMILY

Matters

Holy Family Catholic Church
919 NE 96th Street, Kansas City, MO 64155

(816) 436-9200
www.holyfamily.com

August 2011

Volume 10



Scenes from
Vacation Bible School



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

FROM FATHER MATTHEW
PAGE 2
PEOPLE IN THE PEWS
THE BEDNAR FAMILY
PAGE 3
FIRST COMMUNICANTS
PAGE 4

ON THE JOB
PEGGY PETERSEN
PAGE 5
NEW CATHOLICS
PAGE 6
FAITH MATTERS
SUZANNE HILL
PAGE 7

EYE-OPENER
TRIP TO GUYANA
PAGE 8
SHARING BLESSINGS
THE ROETHELIS
PAGE 9
BARLETT GRADUATES
PAGE 11

YOUNG MUSICIANS
PAGE 11
ORGAN FESTIVAL
PAGE 12
LEHMAN CO-DRE
PAGE 12
ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS
PAGE 14

A Look Back at the Carefree Summer Days

Most kids in Southern Indiana back in the 1960s and 70s marked the beginning and end of their summers with Memorial Day and Labor Day.

But such was not the case in my family. Summer officially began with our annual trip to Fontaine Ferry Park and ended with our visit to the Kentucky State Fair.

Fontaine Ferry was a small amusement park, built by the local trolley company in Louisville, Ky., at the beginning of the 1900s. It was located on the old Fontaine estate, which had a ferry landing on the Ohio River – hence the park’s name.

You could present your last report card of the school year at the park entrance and receive free ride tickets based on the number of A’s you had received. I suppose this was to encourage us in our academic pursuits.

Every summer was launched by taking our report cards, crossing the river (by bridge, not by ferry – I am not that old), getting our free tickets and running wild for the afternoon.

I remember “Hilarity Hall,” which contained a barrel of fun, a bumpy slide, a maze of mirrors and something called a sugar bowl – where you were shot out onto a spinning floor where you tried to regain your balance and walk off to do it all again – way before OSHA deprived us of such delights.

The park had the requisite rickety old wooden roller coaster, the Comet, which my mother *absolutely* forbade us to ride. (Being the good child I was, I never did, but I think my older brother and sister may have stealthily had a ride or two). We little rascals enjoyed our first tastes of summer freedom on the merry-go-round, huge arcade and Ferris wheel.

Thanks to the power of the Internet, I learned that Fontaine Ferry Park closed in 1969. I vaguely remember it closed because they did not want to integrate the swimming pool. How silly some people were to sacrifice the fun of many kids instead of sharing that fun with all. But this was the 60s after all.

At the end of summer, my family took a daylong trip to the Kentucky State Fair, held the middle of August in Louisville. We always looked forward to this with mixed emotions. We wanted fair time to roll around, because we always had so much fun there. But we dreaded its coming since it meant school would start in about a week.

We spent a day looking at the cows, horses, chickens, goats and all the various livestock. And we spent time in shoulder-to-shoulder crowds pushing our way around various booths giving out free pencils, calendars and other such valuable, just-have-to-have, trinkets.

We always took our lunch packed in a big blue phe-



nomenally heavy Pepsi-Cola cooler, and ate our ham sandwiches and enjoyed our cold drinks under a tree. Could life get any better?

Packed between these two bookends of summer was time for work: baling hay, working in the garden, mowing grass and other chores.

But we also had time for fishing, Wiffle ball, camping, swimming, going to the library and a host of other activities. We enjoyed these

carefree days when it was safe to turn your kids out of the house at dawn and not worry about them until it was time for supper. Little did we know how innocent it all was and how quickly times would change.

Let’s fast forward to this summer. If I had to identify the bookends beginning and ending my summer, they would be the trip to Guyana (see related article on page 8) and our annual staff retreat at the end of August, when we spend time praying and reflecting together, as well as getting to know each other better.

Packed in between are staff reviews, meetings, a welcome event, other parish activities, Vacation Bible School, the national pastoral musicians convention, rehearsals, weddings and server camp.

And then there are Masses at campgrounds, convents, Catholic Worker House and other locales, and the continuous ministry of preaching and presiding at Eucharist in the parish.

But, I also have time for more relaxing pursuits such as Starlight musicals, vacation time, time at the lake with other priests, reading, walking, woodworking and gardening, which in my youth, I considered work rather than relaxation.

So in some ways the rhythms of summer have remained the same: a little work mixed in with a little fun. But, in other ways, there seems to be a vast difference in today’s summers versus those of an earlier time.

It’s that loss of the carefree attitude that used to come with summer. Perhaps I’m just being nostalgic.

One thing for sure, is summers seem to pass a bit more quickly than they did when I was 12. And Labor Day will arrive much too soon. And the routines that seem to come with the onset of school will all too quickly re-establish themselves. And summer will become fall, and fall will become winter.

Perhaps what I really need is a ride on the Timberwolf at World’s of Fun, assuming my mother will let me.

The Bednar Family

Matt and Gina Bednar were both raised Catholic and they now work hard to pass the faith down to their three children.

Matt attended Catholic grade and high schools, as well as college. Gina grew up attending parish religion classes. The Bednar children attend St. Charles School.

Gina wanted Claire, 12, Jacob, 10, and John, 7, to receive a Catholic education to complement what they learn at home and at Holy Family.

They are learning "good values intertwined with faith. It's something you can't beat," she said.

All three children attended three years of preschool at St. Charles before entering kindergarten there.

The family prays together at meals and before the children go to bed. John learned the Act of Contrition from hearing his sister and brother say it.

During Advent, the family prays with an Advent wreath before every meal. And during Lent, the entire family abstains from meat on Fridays. They either give something up or do something positive during that time.

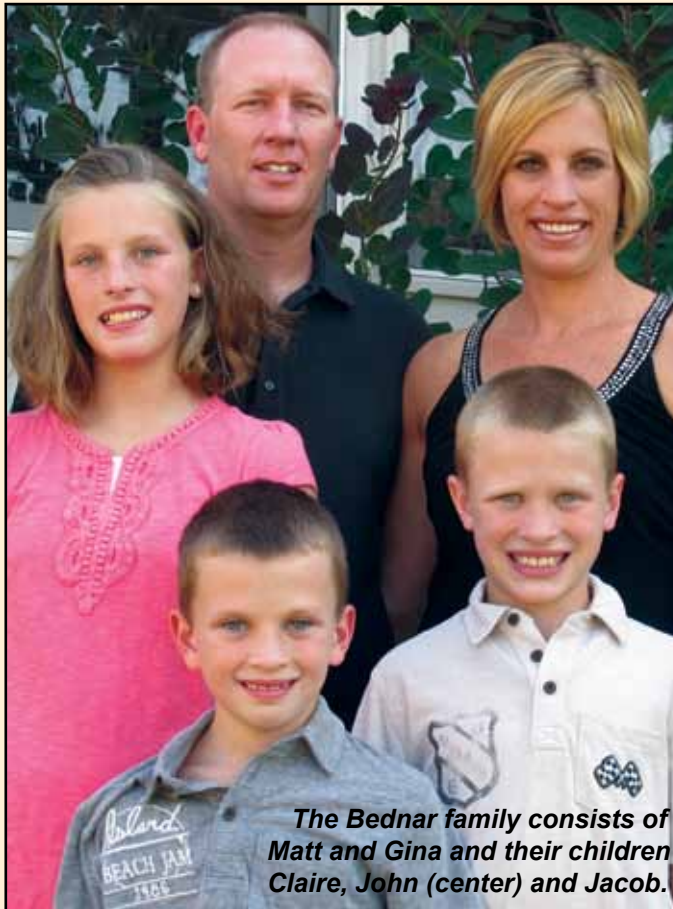
"Prayer is a big part of my life," Gina said. She regularly says the prayer to the Guardian Angel, the Memorare and the Act of Contrition. She includes petitions for the children's needs. Throughout the day, she prays as she thinks of things, such as the children doing well on tests or that they get home safely, and of course, when she has bigger needs. She enjoyed reading "The Shack," after hearing about it at Holy Family.

Claire enjoys reading Bible stories. Her favorite is the nativity.

Faithful Mass attendance is important to the Bednars. They are at Holy Family most Saturday evenings and when not, attend Sunday mornings.

The entire family is involved at Holy Family.

Claire attends junior high youth sessions, is an altar server and helped at Vacation Bible School.



The Bednar family consists of Matt and Gina and their children Claire, John (center) and Jacob.

John and Jacob attended Vacation Bible School at Holy Family. Jacob has received the sacraments of first reconciliation and first Communion there.

The boys attended the Children's Liturgy of the Word together until Jacob received his first Communion.

Matt serves on Holy Family's finance committee and is committee liaison to St. Charles School.

Gina is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and helped with Vacation Bible School. She served as a chaperone when junior high girls from Holy Family attended the "Revolve Tour" in Kansas City. It is an outgrowth of the interdenominational Women of Faith programs for adults.

While Gina found the two-day event "eye-opening and inspirational," Claire de-

scribed it as "awesome," saying that she enjoyed the skits and songs from Christian rock bands. Speakers explained how their lives were affected by their decisions.

"It was good for girls to hear how to get through dilemmas . . . and to see a bigger picture of life," Gina said.

At St. Charles, faith is interspersed throughout academic classes. The children learn about helping others. In the lower grades, they donate food and toys to area charities.

As Claire has grown older, the school has taken field trips to Bishop Sullivan Center and St. James Place. Students make the connection between what they give and where it goes. She met a woman who lived in poverty and who is now working at Bishop Sullivan Center.

Students at St. Charles pray daily and attend a school-wide Mass weekly. Older children sit next to younger ones to help them find the right pages in the missal and hymnal. They participate in the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Jacob is a member of the St. Charles Cub Scout Pack. He has received two religious medals, the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei.

First Communion

May 7 and 8, 2011



*Anthony Abbott
Kaitlin Bennett
Arielle Bixler
Andrew Brown
Victor Cascio
Alexandra Cole
Kierra Conroy
Anna Daveline
Ryan Deterding
Gabriella Esteban
Adara Ezekwe
Elizabeth Fleury
Jack Flournoy
Grant Frawley
Joe Funke
Justin Gonzalez
Amber Granberg*

*Leah Hays
Nikolas Hidayat
Christian Jespersen
Martha Johnson
Charlotte Kettler
Nicolas King
Brynn Longley
Katherine Mackenzie
Haley Anne Mahusay
Alyssa Malena
Will May
Molly McAdams
Alyssa McGowan
Kennedy McGrath
Sabrina McGraw
Patricio Mendoza
Vincent Miceli*

*Andrew Moretina
Anna Nardella
Zachary Osbahr
Amy O'Toole
Cassie Paczosa
Ian Riley
Joel Rodriguez
Sarah Rogowski
Daly Rosenbloom
Sophia Sander
Ethan Straight
Madison Swafford
Jessica Toczek
Sam Torno
Olivia White
Kelsey Winemiller
Owen Young*

ON THE JOB

With Peggy Petersen Pastoral Associate

Serving as pastoral associate for Holy Family is more than a job for Peggy Petersen.

“Holy Family Parish is my faith community, my family, my support. The people give me so many graced moments in my ministry and my life,” she said.

Former pastor Father Robert Stewart hired Peggy in 1998 to work with junior and senior high school students and confirmation sessions as religious education coordinator.

She became pastoral associate in 2000. The bulk of her duties fall under the umbrella of adult faith formation.

Peggy administrates and directs the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

RCIA “is a very rewarding ministry as in being able to share my faith – a great place to evangelize! I enjoy watching them (catechumens and candidates) grow in faith with their yearning to know more about God, learning to pray and seeing how the Spirit is at work in each individual life.”

While RCIA runs from September through a few weeks after Easter, she communicates with inquirers all year, welcoming them to the parish and inviting them to worship.

She incorporates baptismal preparation into RCIA for the never baptized – the catechumen.

When appropriate, she coordinates the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) with special sacramental needs.

Peggy has prepared a baptism workbook for children, titled “My Baptism.” Children learn through “Mina the Monarch” butterfly about rebirth. It explains the sacrament and its symbols in kid-friendly language. Adults can read it to those who cannot read, while others will be able to read it themselves.

Parents who wish to have their baby baptized at Holy Family must participate in the Jordan Program, a baptism preparation program that Peggy coordinates.

When adults ask for the sacrament of confirmation, she prepares them. If they haven’t attended Mass much since they received their first Communion, they attend RCIA. If they have been attending church and are participating, she gives them a refresher course.

When an engaged couple seeks to be married, Peggy meets with them to review information and procedures, as well as to administrate PREPARE—a premarital relationship inventory program.

“I always like meeting with them,” she said of engaged couples. “It is an opportunity to talk about starting a new chapter of life and how precious time is.” She enjoys teaching them about “the importance of the sacrament of marriage and the covenant relationship between them and God.”



Peggy matches lead couples with engaged couples so they can discuss marriage issues. She works with the diocesan Office of Family Life for ongoing education and training in this area.

Some people seek an annulment before they may marry in the church or become Catholic. Peggy serves as an annulment advocate, meeting with petitioners, helping them gather information and completing forms. She writes a pastoral letter for submission with all paperwork and is in contact with the marriage tribunal throughout the process.

Peggy is parish liaison for the diocesan pastoral care ministry and coordinates the hospital, nursing home and shut-

in communion ministries for Holy Family.

Many adults at Holy Family benefit from Peggy’s work with adult formation programs, such as study groups that meet on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. She organizes periodic one-evening adult formation sessions throughout the year.

She serves on the parish’s religious education committee along with the directors of religious education and youth ministries. The committee provides continuing education for catechists and families.

Peggy is also a liaison for several adult groups, such as That Man Is You, the St. Brigid Needlework Group, the St. Joseph Women’s Group, among others, and to adoration and rosary coordinators.

Another area of work is pastoral assistance.

Peggy, Father Matthew and John Winkels, director of liturgy and music, meet with families to prepare for funeral services. She prepares prayers of the faithful and worship aids for the vigil and funeral. She coordinates with the funeral director and the St. Joseph Women’s Group, which provide luncheons or refreshments to the mourners. After the funeral, she follows up with grief assistance.

Holy Family holds an annual funeral-planning workshop. Peggy helps coordinate, and has prepared the funeral-planning guide used at the workshop. The guide includes descriptions of the various services, including their order, appropriate scripture and songs, and a preparation worksheet.

Peggy also serves on the liturgy committee, helping John create a prayerful Eucharistic experience.

A SERIES ON HOLY FAMILY STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR WORK

LONGING FOR GOD

“Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.”
Psalm 42:2

This Psalm read at the Easter Vigil reflects the yearning that drew the RCIA candidates and catechumens to full communion with the Catholic Church. Five adults and one child entered the church that evening.

While **Gina Margaret Rasinski** was baptized a Catholic as a baby, she was not raised in the church. “I always felt a connection,” she said. Then, she married her husband Matthew, who was raised Catholic and had attended Catholic schools.

“After having our child, Julia, I felt very compelled to finish the process and receive Communion and be confirmed.”

Her sponsor was GERALYN STARR.

Gina is a receptionist and enjoys reading, spending time with her family and dreaming about vacations.

Close family and friends influenced **David George Stark** to become Catholic. His sponsor was APRIL MCCRARY.

He is married to Lori Stark. They have two children, Sarah and Trevor.

David is a general supervisor who enjoys the outdoors by hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, gardening and working with Boy Scouts.

Despite not having a structured religious influence as she grew up, **Leena Bridget Ramana** had always been interested in the Catholic Church. As she grew older, she felt that something was missing in her life. Her grandmother and college friends influenced her in the decision to become Catholic.

Her sponsor was JOE DANEFF.

She is single. Her family includes Dindigalla, Marsha, Anand, Erin, Ravi and Rebecca Ramana and Jyothi and Dale Martin.

Leena works in law enforcement and enjoys running, working out, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Tony Francis Starr started coming to Holy Family with his wife GERALYN before they were married. Father Matthew presided at their marriage ceremony.

“I just felt such a sense of peace and community here that last Easter I decided it (becoming Catholic) was what I wanted to do,” he said. His sponsor was BRIAN HUDNALL.

Tony works in information technology. His hobbies include listening to music, doing home improvements, working on computers and doing “anything at the lake.”

Maluk “William” Mamir is from Sudan and was sent to a refugee camp in Egypt at age five for safety.



From left, Tony Starr, Leena Ramana, Gina Rasinski and David Stark. Julie Moore is in front.

“My experience while living in Egypt was that if you were not a professed Muslim, you underwent discrimination for jobs, schooling, bank loans and all other aspects of society,” he explained. “In some instances Christians were even beaten in the streets.”

Maluk met his fiancée Agel Dneg in Egypt. Later they both came to the United States separately. He learned he had relatives in the Kansas City area and then learned she was in Rochester, Minn., with her family.

When Agel decided to become Catholic, the priest at her parish encouraged Maluk to become Catholic, too, because he felt it important for a family to share the same faith.

“Having studied both the Koran and the Bible, and based on my experience in Egypt, I decided that the principles I wanted to live by were those of Jesus Christ. And I believe he is the true founder of the Catholic faith. Since my job at that time was in Kansas City, her priest put me in touch with the program at Holy Family.”

Maluk entered the Catholic Church with Agel at St. John’s Parish in Rochester, Minn. Frank Boos was his sponsor. Maluk and Agel will get married in August and live in Atlanta.



Maluk Mamir

He is a receiving manager for an auto parts distribution company. His hobbies are playing basketball, soccer, volleyball and spending time with his fiancée and his daughter, Ayen Maluk.

Julie Loretta Moore was baptized at the Easter Vigil. Her father is James Moore. She is eight years old and was in Julie White’s PSR class last year.

Faith matters

It's why we believe



Suzanne Hill

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak.

She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."

Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. *Mark 5:25-29*

For a time in 1992, my right hand was numb. By early 1993, the numbness spread to more places. The doctor ordered an MRI, scheduled for April Fool's Day, no joke.

While the MRI was frightening enough – I was claustrophobic – what was to come was worse.

I have a Chiari Malformation. The cerebellum is herniated into the cervical canal, next to the brainstem where it does not belong. It's a relatively rare disorder.

I had many symptoms – severe headaches, facial and head pain, numbness, swallowing and breathing difficulties, among others.

The first neurologist said that Chiari didn't cause symptoms. It was "too small." She said I was a young woman with a demanding job. My symptoms were "anxiety." Then she contradicted herself and said I could also have multiple sclerosis that did not yet appear on the MRI.

My husband believed her. My family doctor believed her. I did not. My symptoms were frightfully real.

Next, I went to the neurology department at a major hospital affiliated with a prestigious medical school. Because people often traveled there from distant places for treatments, I thought they would know how to deal with Chiari.

Like the first neurologist, the next one refused to admit that Chiari was a problem. He pointed out MS plaques on my MRI to medical students. (Subsequent MRIs have never indicated MS.) He said I could have thyroid problems, fibromyalgia or a movement disorder. He was fishing.

In 1996, I stopped working as a feature writer for the Washington Missourian newspaper. With my multitude of symptoms, it was too difficult to continue working. I was exhausted.

Now I had the time to explore my faith more deeply. I joined a prayer group. I became a part of a small faith community that gathered for daily Mass and Communion services at the local Catholic hospital. I participated in a Bible study. I read about my faith.

Chiari produced excruciating anxiety. I was scared I would choke to death. I was scared I would stop breathing – especially in my sleep. I needed my faith and the prayers of others to pull me through.

One day Father Tim, a hospital chaplain, read the Gospel verse above. I felt a close kinship with that woman. She had suffered for many years. Doctors had not helped her. If she could hang on that many years and still have faith, I could,

too. I prayed someone could help me.

Quitting my job allowed me to become a medical detective. I read an article in Catholic Digest how a woman learned about Lyme disease from the Internet. I hadn't thought of using the Internet to find out more – people were just starting to use it and I didn't have a computer.

I devoured as much information as I could, amazed at what I learned. My symptoms were real. Joining an online support group was extremely helpful and validating. Many neurologists weren't educated about Chiari, downplaying its risks and symptoms. While neurosurgeons were more likely to understand it, not all had the experience to assess properly the severity of the malformation or to do an adequate job during surgery.

By this time, I had seen four specialists who had downplayed its severity. I jumped off that merry-go-round, heading to a Chiari expert, a neurosurgeon at the University of Iowa. I underwent a test called a Cine MRI – a moving picture of cerebrospinal fluid flow. This fluid cushions the brain and spinal column. The doctor said the herniation blocked flow in one direction and he was uncertain about the other direction. My cerebellum was hanging down into C-2 – the second cervical vertebrae.

Surgery is the only real treatment for Chiari. Since I exhibited frightening symptoms, I knew it was time for it before I grew worse. The surgery involved cutting away a small portion of the bone at the back of the head, removing the back of the first cervical vertebrae (C-1), shrinking the cerebellum up into C-1, removing the outside brain covering known as the dura and replacing it with tissue from inside my neck. (The procedure may vary depending on the severity and surgeon's preferences.)

I had wasted several years of life dealing with symptoms and fear. While I feared surgery, I feared doing nothing more. I knew, though, that surgery was no quick fix and that it was possible I'd already had too much damage.

I prepared myself thoroughly by connecting with my faith and others who shared it. Our associate pastor Father Mike counseled me. My prayer group had several members experiencing extreme health issues. He offered anointing of the sick at a Mass for the group.

People in the hospital community and at my parish prayed for me. Distant relatives in distant places prayed for me. People in other Christian denominations prayed for me.

Steeled by prayers, I was ready. That morning, my husband asked how I could be so calm. I told him, "Lots of people are praying for me."

The neurosurgeon told my sister and husband that I should have had surgery well before then. My cerebellum had turned white.

I healed well, but it took two years for me to realize its success. Nerves had to bounce back from their cramped state.

While I must still be careful about my head's position, my life is relatively normal. I'm grateful for what I can do. I'm grateful for work that gives me flexibility to rest when necessary.

My faith was important during this ordeal. Like the woman with the bleeding, it took several years for my prayers to be answered. But they were answered. Yes, faith matters.

EYE-OPENER

TRIP TO GUYANA IS LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

“I knew I was going to see poor people, but not this poor,” Father Matthew said of his recent trip to Guyana.

Father Matthew and Holy Family parishioner Janet Buckman, along with Joe and Judy Roetheli, visited Guyana from May 31-June 3. They saw villages the Roethelis’ Lil’ Red Foundation funded through Food for the Poor (FFP), and attended the dedication of the most recently completed village.

The official language of Guyana is English. Father Matthew saw that as a “high point. It allowed us to talk to the people.”

Seeing mile after mile after mile of poor shacks shocked Father Matthew and Janet.

Traditional housing consists of one-room wooden shacks with thatched roofs. Some were worse. Some were built into riverbanks. One woman lived in a decaying shack that had no roof. A blue tarp was stretched across the shack, secured to poles sticking upward.

Food for the Poor has been serving the people of Guyana for 20 years. It has a warehouse in Georgetown, Guyana. Food is transported there and is in and out within 10 days. From Georgetown, box trucks take it to distribution points.



Georgetown is the capital of Guyana and is where “the highest concentration of citizens reside,” according to the book, “Guyana.”

The Lil’ Red Foundation has taken part in financing four villages with 285 houses. Those villages are Lil’ Red, New Haven, Princeville and Georgeville, the newest one. FFP has assisted financially with some homes in two villages.

Travel is difficult, so the group went to two villages by land and the other two by water. It is often easier to get places by boat.

The villages bring people together into a community. Before people built shacks where they could. The villages include a school, community/worship center, stores and water systems. Each home has a sanitation block (toilet and shower). Four to six houses share a common spigot from a well. Three villages have microenterprise projects. Lil’ Red has a small gasoline-powered generator to pump water.

FFP oversees construction. Residents help clear the land with machetes. Some were employed by contractors during construction.

The houses are built on stilts because the country is at or below sea level and often floods. They have three rooms. One is a main room and the others are for sleeping. The houses are painted colorfully. (See picture of Joe and Judy Roetheli on page 9. The houses are in the background.)

Angel Aloma, FFP Executive Director, explained why.

“Those who receive our houses are coming from the darkness and dinginess of poverty, so they welcome the vibrant colors of our homes that are very much in keeping with what is popular in the cultures where



Janet Buckman checks in on the Lil’ Red Foundation’s chicken project. This project provides a source of food and income for women in the villages.

Continued on Page 10

When Joe and Judy Roetheli sold Greenies to Mars in 2006, they wanted to share God's blessings with the needy. They knew their money would help more people in a third world country than it could here.

Joe explained, "... from my travels, I knew that those we refer to as poor in the USA are not at all poor relative to Third World countries." People living in those countries cannot depend on a "government safety net."

When Father Columkille Regan came to Holy Family to speak about Food for the Poor, the Roethelis were impressed with this non-profit organization's work with the poorest of the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Through their Lil' Red Foundation, they first attempted to build a village in Jamaica, but they had difficulties getting permits from that country's government. FFP suggested they consider Guyana, South America, as an alternative.

About that same time, Father Lou Papes came to Holy Family and talked about the poor in Guyana. Father Lou is a priest of the diocese of Georgetown, Guyana, assigned to the preaching ministry of Food for the Poor.

Joe said, "I nudged Judy during the sermon and said that maybe this was a sign from God that we should move the work to Guyana. Ultimately, we did so on October 4, 2008."

The first village was dedicated in March 2009. Since then, they have financed three other villages in Guyana. This most recent trip included the dedication of their fourth village.

JOE AND JUDY ROETHELI SHARE THEIR BLESSINGS



ABOUT GUYANA

Guyana is located on the northeastern coast of South America, according to the book, "Guyana."

The Dutch started settling the area in the late 1500s. They found native people known as Amerindians living there. The Amerindians consisted of several nations. Many died due to European diseases, others fled and others were forced to migrate. Today they are only six percent of the population.

The Dutch brought Africans to work as slaves to work the sugar and rice plantations. The slaves revolted and slavery was abolished in 1807. People from India were brought to save the sugar industry, as indentured laborers. Some Europeans and Chinese also came to work as indentured laborers.

After the Dutch lost the colonies to Britain, they were united as "British Guiana" in 1831. The country gained its independence from Britain in 1966 and the name was



changed to Guyana.

Ethnically, the country consists of 50 percent East Indian, 36 percent African, six percent Amerindian, seven percent mixed and one percent white and Chinese. In 2007, it had a population of less than 800,000 people. About 90 percent live along the Atlantic Ocean coast, leaving the interior unpopulated jungle.

About 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture for income. Sugar and rice are the two major crops. About 75 percent of the land is owned by the government, most of which is rain forest.



Maps from CIA Factbook

Guyana Continued from Page 8

they are constructed. That's why some areas have pastel colors and others much brighter ones. Either way, it's a celebration of the departure from darkness and dankness to the bright."

Janet found that people don't have "stuff" as we do, so there's no need for closets or cabinets. "They don't have anything," she said.

In the four villages, women appear to be in charge. Men are often absent. Food for the Poor tries to teach young men to take responsibility about getting married and staying with their families.

Lil' Red has been involved with poultry projects designed to help villagers become self-sustaining. The foundation provides the women with chicken coops, chicks and food for three months. It takes about six weeks for the chicks to grow enough to be sold. Not only does it provide food, it also helps provide an income, helping them become self-sustaining. The foundation also purchased a portable sawmill so men could earn an income.

Joe noted, "The per capita income for the Guyanese is less than \$1,200 per year—and we are working with the poorest of the poor."

Village leadership is responsible for distributing food, but FFP also checks to see that people receive it. The Guyanese government also gives food and water to FFP to distribute to the people. People must request help from



A woman takes advantage of the clean water available at the villages. Behind her are toilet and shower facilities.

FFP.

The people know education is the only way out of their poverty, Father explained. No matter how poor families are, children come to school in clean, tidy uniforms. The uniforms differ in appearance by age groups. The children may have to walk hours or take a canoe to get to school.

"Guyana has a literacy rate of 99 percent," Joe added.

Once the people are educated, they leave for Caribbean nations or North America to work. Food for the Poor representatives noted that more Guyanese live in North America than live in Guyana.

"So much needs to be done to raise standards that they don't want to return after education in Guyana. They go to other countries and live as kings," Father said.

Janet toured Georgetown with Food for the Poor staff. Poverty is worse in the city. Each family is on its own because there is no government assistance. She gave each family she met \$20, providing four to five days of food.

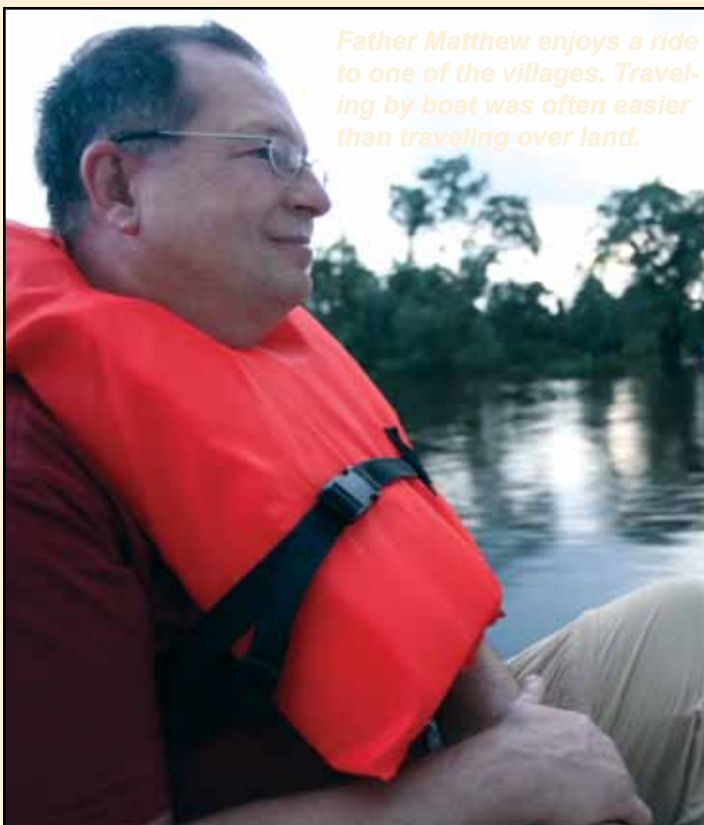
She recalled a family that had a pot of water boiling – with nothing in it. All they had was hope that someone would give them something to cook in it.

The Roethelis had asked Father Matthew to visit Guyana when the other villages were dedicated.

"I asked Father to join us because I think it's 'eye-opening' to see how differently the poorest of the poor in Third World countries live. I think it's part of God's plan for our lives to share this experience," Joe said.

The Holy Family group, along with the charity's representatives attended the 20th anniversary celebration of Food for the Poor in Guyana. Representatives from all three religious groups – Christian, Hindu and Muslim – said their own prayers at the celebration. The country's prime minister, similar to our vice president, attended the celebration.

Janet said the trip was a life-changing experience. "It doesn't matter what you see in pictures or what you hear – to be there is so moving. I will never forget it."



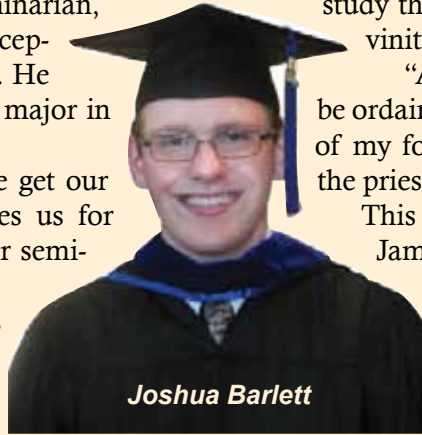
Father Matthew enjoys a ride to one of the villages. Traveling by boat was often easier than traveling over land.

Barlett Graduates from Conception Seminary

Joshua Barlett, Holy Family's seminarian, graduated Saturday, May 14, from Conception Seminary College, a minor seminary. He received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in philosophy.

He explained, "In minor seminary we get our philosophical background which prepares us for the theology that we will receive in major seminary."

Graduates preparing to serve as priests in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph will attend the Pontifical College Josephinum at Columbus, Ohio. They will



Joshua Barlett

study theology, working toward a master of divinity degree.

"At the end of my third year (2014), I will be ordained a transitional deacon, and at the end of my fourth year (2015), I will be ordained to the priesthood, God willing!" he said.

This summer Joshua has been working at St. James Place's food pantry in Midtown Kansas City during the morning. In the afternoon, he was tutored in American Sign Language.

Joshua is the son of Ed and Maryann Barlett of Liberty.

Young Musicians Lead First Communion Celebrations

Ashley Johnson sang sweet songs with the Holy Family children's choir for eight years. Even as a small child, she enjoyed singing so well that she started with the choir when she was in kindergarten.

"The first Communion Mass this year was the first time I really cantored at a Mass, but I've been getting solos throughout the years. I played the organ sometimes when the children's choir sang. That was really fun," Ashley said.

The previous two summers she helped in the Vacation Bible School music department.

In addition to musically sharing her talents with Holy Family, she just completed her fourth year as a server, having served three years in a row at the Easter Vigil. Last year she started helping at the altar server's camp.

Her Holy Family experiences have prepared her for a new life in a new parish. Her family, consisting of parents, Rusty and Sherri, and sister, Lauren, has moved to Marco Island, Florida, recently. There she is continuing her stewardship of sharing her talents as a cantor and a server.

Prior to the Johnsons leaving Holy Family, John Winkels, parish director of liturgy and music, recorded the girls singing their ten favorite church songs.

John "will miss working with Ashley, as she was developing into a good cantor, but her Florida parish will have a great new voice!"



Ashley Johnson

Kyndal Smith learned the joys of singing from her sister, Chandler, but she has made it her own by singing in school and at church.

The daughter of Tim and Lisa Smith, Kyndal started singing in the school choir in fourth grade. This fall as a seventh grader, she will continue singing with the choir at Antioch Middle School.

Kyndal has been a member of the Heartland Singers, an auditioned choir for grade school students in the North Kansas City School District. The choir met once a week outside of school and performed for the public.

At Holy Family she has been a soloist and was cantor for the first time at a first Communion Mass earlier this year.

"Kyndal Smith has been a part of Holy Family's Children's Choir for a couple of years now and shows great leadership among the other kids, through her helpfulness and her singing abilities. It is a pleasure to work with her as she develops her voice in the singing of God's praises!" John said.



Kyndal Smith

Parish Musician Attends Organ Guild Festival

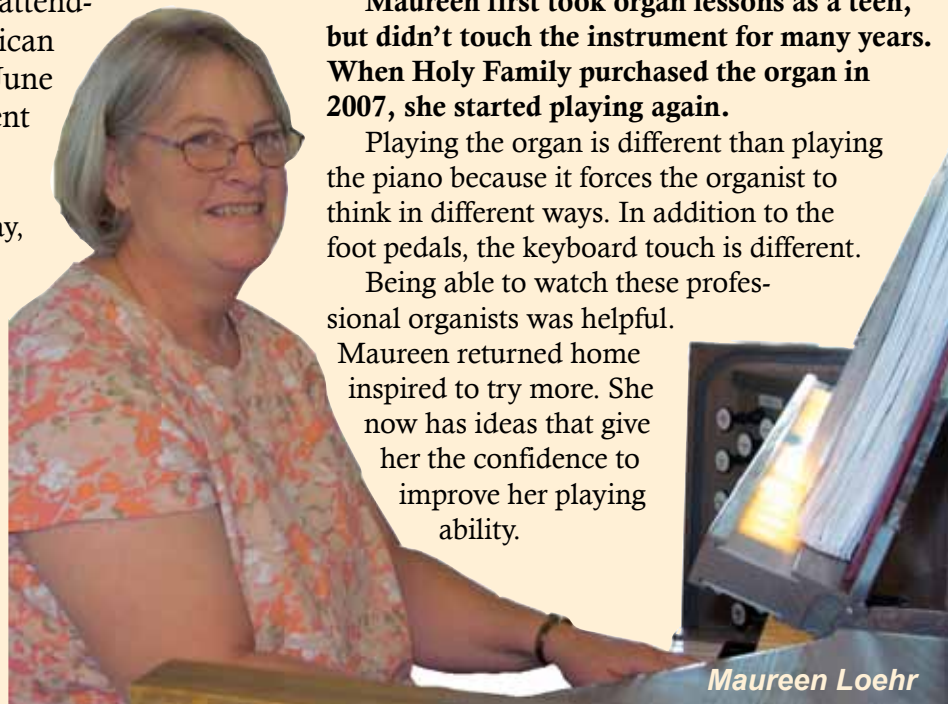
Parish organist Maureen Loehr attended the regional festival of the American Guild of Organists in Des Moines June 20-23. The non-denominational event centered on church music.

Participants attended organ-based morning prayer services. During the day, they attended workshops.

Maureen enjoyed attending organ concerts in the evenings at various venues, where packed audiences listened to the music while viewing the organists' hands and feet on video screens.

"It was pretty neat," she said, adding she was amazed by what they could do.

Most events were held in churches, but one was held in an old opera house.



Maureen first took organ lessons as a teen, but didn't touch the instrument for many years. When Holy Family purchased the organ in 2007, she started playing again.

Playing the organ is different than playing the piano because it forces the organist to think in different ways. In addition to the foot pedals, the keyboard touch is different.

Being able to watch these professional organists was helpful.

Maureen returned home inspired to try more. She now has ideas that give her the confidence to improve her playing ability.

Maureen Loehr

Lehman Is Co-Director of Religious Education

Mindy Lehman has taken many steps in her faith since becoming a Holy Family parishioner in 1996. Her most recent step has been to join the parish staff as co-director of religious education, effective July 1.

She and Ember Riley are splitting duties. Ember is now working part-time to spend more time with her family.

Ember said, "I only wanted to share my job responsibilities with someone whom I knew shared the same values and goals for children's ministry as I do." (See page 13.)

Mindy will direct programs for pre-kindergartners through fifth grade, including the Parish School of Religion, Children's Liturgy of the Word, children's Masses and Stations of the Cross. She and Ember will share responsibility of Vacation Bible School.

"I love Holy Family's religious education program!" Mindy said.

She pointed to the "many talented and dedicated catechists who work hard to make our faith more tangible to all the kids . . . I think that it is so important to explain our faith to our kids so that they have the tools to utilize it and nurture it so that our faith becomes their own, especially in our media-obsessed, secular culture.

"I had been thinking about what the next step in my faith journey was going to be for a while, and it happened to coincide with Ember's desire to pare back on her workload.

"I already knew most of the staff at Holy Family, and enjoy them all. How often in life are you offered a chance to work with people you know and enjoy being around?"

Peggy Petersen led Mindy through RCIA, becoming a Catholic in 1997. Mindy started teaching junior high and PSR students 11 years ago. Nine years ago, she started teaching confirmation classes. A couple of years ago, she started teaching senior high students, as well. She has been a Vacation Bible School volunteer for ten years and a member of the religious education committee from the start four years ago.

"Obviously I won't be able to continue teaching PSR, except for the occasional stepping in when a catechist is unable to be there for a session. I love teaching though, and hopefully I can find a way to fit it in with junior high youth group, senior high youth group or confirmation classes."

Mindy is married to Bob Lehman. Their children are Aaron, 15, Adam, 11, and Abbie, 10.



Mindy Lehman

Minor Earns Bronze Medal in World Games

Parishioner Jeff Minor recently earned a bronze medal at the Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece. He is the son of Ed and Theresa Minor.

Jeff was in Greece from June 18 through July 5.

Another parishioner, Steve Wiederholt, a Special Olympics golf coach in the Northland, nominated Jeff for Team USA. Steve and his wife Linda supported Jeff during the process.

Ed noted, "They do so much for Special Olympics and the athletes and with very little recognition. They are true heroes when it comes to selfless giving."

Jeff attended a tryout camp last summer, earning a spot on the Missouri team. After a national selection camp in March, he was named to Team USA.

Despite Jeff's short attention span, golf fascinated him early. He spent hours watching golf on television. Jeff grabbed some old clubs and began imitating golfers when he was eight.

"At that stage, he wanted to do everything that Ed did," Theresa said.

The owner of a nearby driving range first worked with Jeff, allowing him to hit as many balls as he wanted, as long as he picked them up.

"He never cut Jeff any slack about his swing or gave Jeff a break because of his handicaps. We were up there every night," Ed noted.

People accepted Jeff and encouraged him. When he was ten, the Minors enrolled him in a youth program in



Liberty, where the golf pro inspired Jeff to continue learning and develop his skills.

Whenever Ed played golf, so did Jeff. Ed is grateful to friends for allowing Jeff to play despite his handicaps.

"I cannot remember anyone ever making an issue of Jeff playing with us," he added.

The Minors are grateful to Jim and Della Graf for supporting Jeff.

"They did countless acts of trying to raise money and reassuring Jeff and us through the stress of the tryout camps, as well as Jeff being away from home so much."

Holy Family's director of youth ministries Heather Neds organized a parish basketball fundraiser in January to help raise money for the trip to Greece.

Jeff was a "preemie" when he was born, Theresa said. As time went on, it became clear that he was developmentally delayed. He attended school at the Rainbow Center

in Blue Springs until age 21. He is now 26.

Jeff's a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Men's Club.

"We want to thank all of you who supported Jeff and our family through this adventure and over the years as well. 'We are family' at Holy Family is really a true statement."

Ed Minor

"His favorite thing is to usher," she said, adding that it gives him the opportunity to talk to people.

Jeff volunteers at the Hillcrest Ministry Thrift Store. He has been involved with Special Olympics since he was eight, and has participated in gymnastics, basketball, track, bowling and golf. At this time, he is focusing on golf, basketball and bowling.

RILEY IN CHARGE OF SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Ember Riley is now co-director of religious education, splitting duties with Mindy Lehman. (See page 12.) Ember's responsibility is sacramental preparation for first reconciliation and first Communion. She wanted more time for her family.

Ember is confident turning the PSR program over to Mindy, noting that they share the same values and goals.

"Mindy and I have worked closely together at PSR, VBS and we are both on the religious education com-

mittee. Working with Mindy for over four years, we became very good friends. I couldn't think of a more perfect person to job share with.

"I am looking forward to teaching PSR next year for the fifth graders on Monday. This is the first time I get to teach one of my children in the PSR setting. I can't wait!"

Ember is looking into offering other programs at Holy Family, including the Parenting with Love and Logic program.



HOLY FAMILY

EVENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES

St. Joseph Women's Group

St. Joseph Women's Group meetings will resume Thursday, September 8, at noon. NorthCare Hospice will present the program and provide dessert. NorthCare is affiliated with North Kansas City Hospital.

Nuts will go on sale in October after the group has priced them.

The group's officers are Marie Auffert, president; Dee Beerup, vice president; Thelma Grothaus, secretary; Barbara Parker, treasurer.

Adult Education

The Thursday morning group will use the Little Rock Scripture Study of the **Acts of the Apostles**. This study shows how Pentecost enlivened the early believers, leading to establishment of faith communities. The class will run from 9 to 11 a.m. weekly.

The Monday night study and its start date have yet to be determined. Watch your bulletin for details.

That Man Is You will begin again Tuesday, September 13, and runs through Tuesday, November 22. Sessions begin at 6 a.m. in the parish hall. Breakfast is provided.

The fall sessions will focus the Joyful and Luminous mysteries of the rosary. Participants will study in depth each mystery and learn how to apply virtues personified in each to their daily lives. The program is open to all male parishioners. A freewill donation is requested to help cover the cost of breakfast.

Men's Club Trivia Night



Saturday, November 5

7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Watch the Bulletin for Details

RENEWING OURSELVES THROUGH LITURGY

Same Mass, a Few New Words

A PARISH-WIDE RETREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

9 A.M. TO NOON

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FOR ADULTS, TEENS

AND CHILDREN



Reaffirm liturgy to Grow in Faith

LEARN ABOUT MASS CHANGES

Call 436-9200 to RSVP for Babysitting

Knights of Columbus

The Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council installed officers on July 14. Installation was followed by a meal for members and families. Knight and international Special Olympic athlete Jeff Minor and his family presented a program.



The Knights continue to sponsor a breakfast on the second Sunday of each month. The August and September menu will be fruit and cinnamon rolls. Full breakfast, consisting of sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, eggs and hash browns, will be served during the fall and winter months beginning in October.

A pizza party for the PSR students as a reward for their donation of aluminum drink tabs is scheduled for **September 9**. Check the bulletin for details.

The Knights will also sponsor an adult dance on **September 22** beginning at 7 p.m. Music will again be provided by Don Orlando and Paul Newland. Details will be in the bulletin.

The Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic men 18 years and older. For additional information, please contact Jim Graf at 734-2393 or Chris Teel.

SPREADING THE WORD

BY SUZANNE HILL, EDITOR



Have you heard the latest word? Change is coming to Masses beginning the first Sunday of Advent.

John Winkels and the liturgy committee have been working to prepare you for word changes in the Mass.

In preparation, we will learn a new “Glory to God,” “Holy, Holy,” “Memorial Acclamation” and “Great Amen” in September. Also during that month, you will receive handouts in your bulletins to explain changes and to teach you more about the Mass.

All handouts will also be posted on our Web site by clicking on “Mass Wording Changes” in the left-hand home page menu. You may go there now to get a preview of those changes.

The parish will use the easiest options to get started. Worship aids will be inserted in the hymnals. Word changes will be in bold face. We have the option of using either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle’s Creed. We will use the Apostle’s Creed because it has easier words.

A parish-wide retreat will be held Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Entitled “Renewing Ourselves through Liturgy: Same Mass, A Few New Words.” This retreat will have something for everyone – adults, teens and children. In addition to introducing the changes, the morning will reaffirm the liturgy as a way to grow in faith.

To encourage as many people as possible to attend, consider bringing a friend. We will offer babysitting. If you need babysitting, contact the parish office at 436-9200.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

You will receive another issue of Stepping Stones in a few weeks. In that publication, we will update you on the progress of the “Take the Next Step” campaign. If you haven’t committed yet, there’s still time. No amount is too small. Remember, this is an 18-month campaign with two appeals to get our giving on a calendar year. If you need more information, contact Patty Whelchel, director of stewardship and development, at 436-9200, ext. 30.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

While I had visited our Vacation Bible School in the past, I hadn’t stopped to think about how it brings our family together. We had mothers and grandmothers helping. We had a young couple without children helping. We had a mother with children too young to attend. And, we had our teens helping, too. What a wonderful way to help kids to grow in faith and have fun, too!

STATEMENT OF PARISH FUNDS ON DEPOSIT June 30, 2011

Emergency Reserves (Diocesan Account)	\$179,697.64
Building Fund (Diocesan Account)	\$985,080.07
Sound System (Diocesan Account)	\$34,564.64
Building Fund (Parish Accounts)	\$51,837.80
Total Building Funds	\$1,251,180.15

Adult Formation Retreats Planned

Northland adult formation reflection evenings have been set for Advent and Lent. The University of Saint Mary Pastoral Ministry Department will present the Advent reflection Thursday, December 1, and the Lenten reflection Thursday, March 1. Both will be held in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Peggy Petersen at peggy@holyfamily.com or call 436-9200, ext. 24, by the Friday prior to the reflection evening. Cost is \$5 per person.

Holy Family Matters

A quarterly publication of

Holy Family Parish

919 N.E. 96th Street

Kansas City, Mo. 64155

816-436-9200

www.holyfamily.com

www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyKCMO

Parish Staff

Father Matthew Brumleve

Pastor

Marie Relic

Parish Manager

Mindy Lehman

Co-Director of Religious Education

Marie Ludwig-Whipple

Parish Secretary

Heather Neds

Director of Youth Ministries

Peggy Petersen

Pastoral Associate

Ember Riley

Co-sDirector of Religious Education

Patty Whelchel

Director of Stewardship and Development

John Winkels

Director of Liturgy

Dee Carver

Maintenance Supervisor

Suzanne Hill

Editor, Writer

Our Mission

Holy Family Catholic Church is a vibrant, spirit-filled faith community. Following the example of the Holy Family, we seek God by celebrating, growing and living our faith.

Adopted April 14, 2010

Holy Family Image Reprinted
With Permission of Autom
Photos by Suzanne Hill
Unless Otherwise Noted
Holy Family Parish Copyright 2011

Celebrating Family

PARISH PICNIC

Food, Music, Bingo

Entertainment for adults and kids alike

Take a shuttle to our new property
and play our trivia.

Donations Accepted

FUND-RAISER

To Benefit Holy Family's Future Memorial Garden

Saturday, October 8

6:30-10 p.m.

Watch Bulletin for Details

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
SERVING BEGINS – 4 P.M.
SING-ALONG WITH JOHN AND MELISSA – 4:30-5 P.M.
SHUTTLE TO NEW PROPERTY – 4:30-6 P.M.
BINGO – 5-6 P.M.
'UNFORCED ERRORS' BAND – 6-7 P.M.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 2437

Holy Family Parish
919 NE 96th Street
Kansas City, MO 64155
816-436-9200