

Holy Spirit Catholic Church



Faith focus

COMMUNICATING CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS FOR
MEMBERS OF HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Q and A with Fr. J” Father Jerry Wetovick

How are things going in your first couple of months of the priesthood?

I am very happy for the first two months of priesthood especially for the privilege of saying the mass. The only thing I would request is the use of my left shoulder once again.

Are our prayers working for the healing of your shoulder?

My shoulder is working somewhat better but has a long ways to go as I've indicated in my first answer.

You were married before you became a priest, how is the priesthood similar to marriage?

I think my priorities were very similar. My first priority was always God and his will, my second

priority was family, friends and now parishioners, and my third priority was myself in other words I am third. Another way of saying it is love God, love neighbor, and love self and in that order.

Tell us a little about your family.

My wife Pat and I had five children starting from the oldest to youngest; Renée, David, Sheila, Paula, and Patrick. We have 14 grandchildren also, to numerous to mention their names. We have a unique distinction with the grandchildren in that all of our girls have only girls and all of our boys have only boys. We have eight granddaughters and six grandsons because we had more girls than boys. We also have four doctors in the family.

What has been the highlight of your time in North Platte/

Hershey/Sutherland?

I think the highlight of my time has been the caring, sharing, and the helpfulness of the people in the three parishes. Several individuals have gone out of their way to help me in my new ministry as a priest.

What are you most looking forward to in your ministry as a priest?

I'm looking forward to continuing as a sacramental priest, especially saying the mass.

If someone will were to bring you dinner, what would your dream meal be?

A prepared salad of lettuce, green peas, sliced boiled eggs and mayonnaise. Either a T-bone steak or a large fillet wrapped in bacon with peaches and cream, corn on the cob, a baked potato with butter only and homemade ice cream for dessert.

Have an item you want listed in the Newsletter? Email your news to Cheri Thalken at rcaaat@charter.net

Have you checked out the Holy Spirit Church web site? You can download the Bulletin, find a calendar of events, contact the staff of Holy Spirit and much, much more! Check it out at: <http://home.catholicweb.com/HolySpiritNP/>



The New Worship Space

Now that construction is underway, services at Holy Spirit Church have moved into Nelson Hall. The worship space seats 230 people. A new mass has been added at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Mass remains at 5:15 on Saturday evening and also 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.



Parish Newcomers

Newcomers

April 2010 – August 2010

Tyson & Clancy
Hammond

Jeff & Cristi Smith

Louis & Frances
Schimonitz

Travis & Gwen Covey

Baptisms

Brooklyn Logsdon
son of Jacob & Heidi
Logsdon

Colton Hellman
son of Shane & Jennifer
Hellman

Paige Rogers
daughter of Charles & Stacy
Rogers

Oliwia Wieszorek
daughter of Joseph &
Katarzyna Wieszorek

Landry Hammond
son of Tyson & Clancy
Hammond

GIVE BLOOD

Who knew? Holy Spirit's generosity—led by Janet Gilg—gave our community the opportunity to save 1,881 lives in a four year time span. Wow! Awesome! Way to go Janet! Good work Blood Drive Team and donors!

In August of 2006, at the urging of her co-worker and Red Cross representative, Mike Bartling, Janet held her first of what became twenty-three blood drives at Holy Spirit. (Only one was cancelled in all that time and that was at the Red Cross' request.) Janet said "yes" to her co-worker/friend thinking it would be "a one time deal". However, seeing the need and drawn in by her gifted organizing skills, when asked a second time, she consented to do it one more time...and then...one more.

Reluctant at first to commit to an every six week schedule, she began to recognize what a good thing it was. She was familiar with Pat Richards' harrowing life and death story and how generous blood donations literally helped save his life. She also heard from others, like Deb Dekleva, who sent notes of support and encouragement. Janet not only began to understand all the good things a pint of blood can do, but she developed a community of dedicated workers who, whole heartedly, took on this service project. People like Peggy Mason, Bill and Kay Tyree and Dolores Walter stepped up and remained faithful to this ministry throughout the entire four years. Janet named Bridget Pettit, who made not only one kind of cookie, but several varieties each time, her "cookie queen". She also fondly recalled her sandwich makers, Jean Waltemath, Marge Altig (whose unique pimento sandwiches were often requested) and Joe Holmquist. The Blood Drive's unique mission drew parishioners to a very worthy, much needed ministry.

During Janet's four years with the blood drive there were obviously some ups and downs. When the numbers were small she sometimes questioned the time and energy spent to make the day happen. (Each time required a minimum of forty-two volunteer hours.) However, her positive thoughts always won out. One very positive, but unexpected, outcome was the several good, good givers who after many successful donations were suddenly denied because their iron was low or something else was found amiss. In checking with their family doctors these donors were often able to correct serious health concern that might have gone undetected. Janet stated, "Not being able to give blood may have saved some lives as well!"

Janet always had the support of her husband,

Jerome, who along with our Pastors valued her skills and encouraged her dedication. If you were one of Janet's volunteers during her four year tenure most likely you received a hand-written, thank you note. After the last blood draw in June of 2010, Janet sent out over sixty personalized messages, thanking those she endearingly called "my people, my givers, my workers" for a job well done. Janet was clear in sharing credit for Holy Spirit's Blood Drives success. Although it is a well-known fact that Janet was the driving force behind Holy Spirit's successful blood drives, her gratitude to those who lent a hand during those four years was generous and sincere.

Thank you, Janet Gilg. Thank you volunteers and donors. As a team you made a difference in the lives of some 1,881 people. God will surely bless you abundantly for sharing your time and talent so generously.

-Connie Ruhlman

TWELVE FACTS ABOUT BLOOD

FROM AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

1. Someone needs blood every two seconds.
2. Only 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood—less than 10% do annually.
3. 94% of blood donors are registered voters.
4. Much of today's medical care depends on a steady supply of blood from healthy donors.
5. Children being treated for cancer, premature infants and children having heart surgery need blood and platelets from donors of all types, especially type O.
6. A patient could be forced to pass up a lifesaving organ, if compatible blood is not available to support the transplant.
7. Thirteen tests are performed on each unit of donated blood.
8. 17% of non-donors cite "never thought about it" as the main reason for not giving, while 15% say they are too busy.
9. The rarest blood type is the one not on the shelf when it's needed by a patient.
10. If only one more percent of all Americans would give blood, blood shortages would disappear for the foreseeable future.
11. Blood drives hosted by companies, schools, places of worship and civic organizations supply roughly half of all blood donations across the U.S.
12. The #1 reason blood donors say they give is because they "want to help others."

HOLY SPIRIT TOTAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The mission of the Total Catholic Education Committee is to promote and provide Catholic resources and programs for all avenues of our faith community. This includes youth, young adult, adult, home bound, and our mission parishes. Our goal is to inform our parishioners of ALL that Holy Spirit has to offer in the Total Catholic Education fields. A few accomplishments include the bulletin boards in Nelson Hall/New Worship Area to highlight our Catholic Education systems and parish activities. Aside from our booth at the Ministry Fair we are constantly in search of new ideas for the advancement of Catholic education and lay ministry.

Future plans include providing opportunities to enhance our total catholic faith. These may include Advent or Lenten Brown Bag sessions, support of parish RCIA, semi-

nars such as Estate Planning, bereavement, combined activities with our parish and mission parish Religious Education programs and the North Platte Catholic Schools, working with the PR committee on creating a brochure listing ways to become involved in our Parish Catholic Education.

We are excited about the future Holy Spirit Institute Building and look forward to sponsoring both parish and diocesan programs to further promote and enrich our Catholic faith. Members of our committee include Deb and James O'Malley, Mindy Schmadeke, Kathy Schroeder and Jennifer Winder. A special thanks to the dedication and inspiration of our former parishioner and TCEC President, Deb Blondin (Kansas City's gain is our loss.) Please contact any of these members if you would like to join this committee or suggest ideas for future opportunities of Parish Catholic Education.

-Kathy Schroeder

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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