



# PILLAR COLUMN

...GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

## A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, NEW GROWTH, NEW LIFE

**O**n August 28, our school doors opened to a new school year. Our Lady of the Pillar school opened those school doors for the first time in 1938 in the old white house on Chaminade property. Our Franciscan sisters have faithfully given of themselves to the ministry of Catholic education here at Our Lady of the Pillar since 1938. This year we welcomed 203 students and our dedicated faculty provides them with an excellent education and faith formation. We are blessed as a parish to have such a good Catholic school. Our school brings much life to our parish and our parish brings much life to our school. Our parish and school form one community of faith.

Our parish community continues to grow. We have at the present time about 935 households and just this summer, we welcomed about 30 new parishioners. It's great to see all the enthusiasm and energy that keeps our parish alive and growing. Volunteer parishioners pitch in and help with our celebrations. Our Pillarfest was a great success in August and plans are already underway to prepare for our annual Fall Festival in early November. Our Mothers Club is very busy at the present time planning and preparing for the Yard Sale at the end of September. Our Mens club continues to grow and help so much with all our athletics. Our Altar Society does so much for our church. Our Parish Council and leadership commissions have just begun to plan for the coming year. Our staff continues to provide leadership in the areas of worship, youth ministry, evangelization,

and administration. Our Finance Committee and Development committee are very dedicated in the gift of their time and talent. We have a Social Justice group just beginning. Our School Board meets monthly to work with our principal in the continuing development of our school. Many of our parishioners volunteer their time in many outreach efforts: GuardianAngel Settlement, Our Lady's Inn, Birthright, St. Patrick's Center, St. Augustine parish. Our scouting programs are also getting underway.

As our parish community begins this new academic year with new energy, we also welcome Father Gerry Hammel to our parish. Father Hammel comes to us from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Helotes, Texas. He brings a rich experience to us from his ministry there. Welcome, Father Hammel!



We have a great parish community. And the center of our parish life is the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source of our life. There is where we draw life to keep the life of our parish growing strong. It is there that we are sustained and nourished, reconciled and challenged. It is there, in our parish church, where we celebrate our life in Christ and continue to grow as a community of faith.



*Father James M. Tobin SM  
Pastor*

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VISIT [WWW.OLPILLAR.COM](http://WWW.OLPILLAR.COM) FOR  
AN UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

Our Parish Mission	1	Leadership Commissioning	5	OLP School News	7
Welcome Father Hammel	2	OLP Youth Ministry	5	Just for Kids	7
How Christ is Present	2	Summer at OLP	6	Shield-A-Badge	8
Rite of Welcome for Ryan Clark	4	OLP Fete du Cochon	6		

## Welcome Father Hammel Best Wishes Father Oscar



### HOW CHRIST IS PRESENT IN THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

**W**e have heard the term “Real Presence” as of late regarding the presence of the Lord in the bread that has become the Body of Christ and the wine that has become the Blood of Christ. Every Wednesday we have 24 hour adoration in the rectory chapel when the Body of the Lord is revered by adorers. However, Christ is present in the Eucharistic Liturgy in four related ways. If our understanding of the Eucharist is to be complete we need to visit all the vehicles for Christ’s presence.

Firstly: Christ is present in the worshipping **assembly**. By our initiation into the Christian faith by means of baptism we have put on Christ. Saint Paul tells us that baptism is dying and rising again with Christ. He goes on to say that the baptized person no longer lives but it is Christ who lives in him. We attend mass together, it is not my mass or your mass but rather, it

is our mass. That seems to break down personal barriers in favor of communal participation. You may remember the Church speaking of the Mystical Body of Christ. In fact there is an Apostolic Letter called, *Mystici Corporis* written by Pius VII in 1943, many years before Vatican II which outlines and explains the Mystical Body. In short, it is the assembly, the community of believers. If we understand the Mystical Body correctly then those who choose not to attend the Eucharist or participate cause the Body to be incomplete. Christ is truly present in the worshipping assembly.

**Practical Aspects:** Do not discount the value of your presence at the Eucharist both for yourself and for others in the assembly. You are part of the Body of Christ and remember to arrive at mass on time and be ready to participate. If you are not present the Body is incomplete. Being constantly late or not showing up is not a good ritual to be on display especially when setting faith examples for children. Inaction as well as action can speak volumes.

Secondly: Christ is present in the prayer of the worshipping assembly. The Second Vatican Council uses three descriptions regarding everyone's participation that should be present in the prayer of the assembly, they are: Full, Active and Conscience – meaning the liturgical action primarily rests and comes from the worshipping assembly with the presider as head of the body. Everyone needs to participate. Praying is an Upper Room experience– the Holy Spirit is pouring out grace upon those who pray in the name of Jesus. Saint Paul to the Ephesians says to “pray constantly.” No one would deny the graces found in prayer. For in prayer, when two or three are gathered, Christ is present. Christ is present in the prayer of the worshipping assembly.

**Practical Aspects:** Actively participate in the **prayer** of the assembly. Mass time is not the correct time for private recitation of the rosary or other personal devotions. Think of these words: Full, Active and Conscience – meaning the liturgical action does not solely rest on the active ministry of the priest and other ministers but also on the assembly. You are paramount to the celebration. Put some participation and volume into your prayer and song.

Thirdly: Christ is present in the **Word**. The Eucharistic Celebration consists of two parts: Word and Sacrament. That is why we call the first part the Liturgy of the Word and the second part the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The bible is divided into three cycles for Sundays and a two year cycle for weekdays. Every three years the Bible is repeated. The Word of God is forever dynamic and changing. It speaks to us today as it has for the early Christians. The use of the Word of God is an Emmaus experience. On the road to Emmaus those early Disciples of Christ told stories about Him that would become part of the Bible and they remembered Him in the breaking of the bread. Christ was there in their telling of stories– exactly like Christ telling people that prophecy has been fulfilled in hearing! We are told that their hearts burned with love because Christ their savior was with them again. Christ is with us too. The Word becomes Sacrament. Christ is present in the Word.

**Practical Aspects:** The Word of God is the legacy of God. It also comprises the first of the two major parts of the Eucharistic Celebration. Participate in it as much as you can. Yes it is important that you hear the Word of God proclaimed. Remember that you must validate your own actions in regard to attending mass. To say that one has participated in the Eucharistic Celebration (the Mass) is to say that one has attended both Word and Sacrament.

Fourthly: Christ is present in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood – the **Eucharist**. The Word became flesh– The Eucharist is a Christmas experience. The Word (Christ) came to die and rise again – The Eucharist is an Easter experience. This great memorial of Christ's suffering and dying is celebrated every Eucharist and all resonate with Easter as the day on which the chains of death and sin were broken. The words of Institution (Jesus' words at the last supper) are his great memorial to us. From the early days of the church Christians believed Christ to truly present, body, soul and divinity in the sacrament of the

altar. We receive the sacrament of Christ's dying and rising for us and it transforms us more and more into his likeness. Christ is present in his Eucharist.

**Practical Aspects:** Remember that you are receiving the true Body and Blood of our Lord. We don't need to get into a whole discourse about transubstantiation and philosophy at this time but I am sure there are some that probably think we should. All familiar to Aristotle and centuries later to Saint Thomas Aquinas are the terms: Form, Substance and Matter. Transubstantiation is nonetheless a true and interesting doctrine using Aristotelian philosophical terms to explain how Christ is present in the Eucharist, but for use in the liturgy it is sounds more like a description and formula for an atomic experiment rather than that of the beautiful gift of Christ's presence. For most it is enough to know that Transubstantiation does occur at the Eucharist and from that point move on. I have yet to hear one believing theologian say that a person in line for communion should be rolling around a six syllable word in his head! I personally do not know any person who has come to believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist primarily by and through the careful analysis and belief in the Doctrine of Transubstantiation. For sure it is not fertile ground for use in homilies and the liturgy. But it is very interesting and worthwhile in a classroom atmosphere where you can brush up on the philosophical side of theology.

Good thing Saint Thomas Aquinas had the liturgy also in mind and did not stop at Transubstantiation as he goes on to tell us in his beautiful hymn, “Tantum Ergo” “...Praestet Fides supplementum, sensuum defectui,” “Faith supplements our failing senses” and will tell us Christ is present. It is a truth that can be best expressed liturgically with a simple two syllable word, “AMEN!” And really because we believe Jesus when he says, “THIS IS MY BODY, THIS IS MY BLOOD!” You will affirm your belief when shown the Body and Blood of Christ by the priest or minister and bow and say, “AMEN, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS.”

We hear it said over and over again, “We are what we eat.” The Lord has given us living bread from heaven. We are the Body of Christ. As the Body of Christ we are commissioned to be Christ for others. The name “MASS” in English comes from the Latin dismissal rite, ITE MISSA EST, the “MASS” is over. Some folks ritualistically, for some reason or another, leave the celebration early. One should not say he or she goes to Mass and then leave before the part of the Mass for which the whole celebration is named and without commission from the priest. But I realize that is not sufficient reason to keep some there. But also think about those who remain the full duration of Mass and who recognize that the invitation to the Eucharistic banquet really comes from Jesus and furthermore want to thank Him for the invitation. “DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME,” says Jesus at the Last Supper. “The Mass is over,” the presider says and the Body of Christ in response says, “THANKS BE TO GOD!”

*Tom Stephan*

## Rite of Welcome for Ryan Clark



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (commonly known as the RCIA) is the normal process by which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. The RCIA is not just a convert class with a new name. It is a spiritual journey of growing in one's relationship with the Lord. This journey has many facets. First, the RCIA process is about learning the history, doctrines and teachings of the Catholic Church. Second, the RCIA process is about growing spiritually through worship at Sunday Mass, daily prayer, reading the scriptures, and days of reflection. Third, the RCIA process is about mentoring each person in learning about the Catholic faith through the congregation's prayers, a sponsor's support and the RCIA Team leadership.

The RCIA is a gradual process of living, studying and praying with the Catholic community. It is a process that is filled with rites, ceremonies, and celebrations in the presence of the worshipping community. All rites and celebrations take place with the community because the community is the first evangelizer who, by its action, invites people to come and see who we are as Catholics and as a parish. Some basics of the RCIA are:

- Conversion is a process.
- Becoming Catholic is coming into a community of believers.
- The RCIA takes place in an experience of community.
- The RCIA stages are celebrated in community with appropriate liturgical rites.
- The RCIA experience follows the flow of the liturgical seasons through a lectionary-based approach.
- The RCIA process encourages authentic Catholicity.

The first phase of the RCIA process is called Inquiry. People who are thinking about whether they are called to the Catholic way of life are called **Inquirers**. This is a time set aside for inquirers to get acquainted, feel comfortable in the company of other seekers and Catholics, and get answers to questions. Once the inquirer discerns they want to seriously continue the journey of faith toward full communion with the Church, we celebrate this with the **Rite of Welcome**. The inquirer then transitions to the next phase of the process called the **Catechumenate**.

On Sunday, August 27, we celebrated the **Rite of Welcome** with Ryan Clark at the 8:30 mass. The assembly included Ryan's wife, Sara, and their two sons, R.J. and Michael. At the rite, the congregation came forward and surrounded Ryan at the altar as he was introduced to the assembly by his sponsor, Tim Millsap. They affirmed him in his commitment to continue his journey and promised to help him prepare for the sacraments of initiation by their prayers and support.

Ryan has transitioned to the next phase of the RCIA, the catechumenate, where he will learn more about the basics of the faith and how to live the Catholic way of life. This phase of his journey will focus on Jesus, his teachings, the Church and the sacraments. Tim Millsap will continue to walk with Ryan throughout the remaining phases of the RCIA process.

The RCIA process at Our Lady of the Pillar offers an open invitation to anyone interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church. Individuals are free to join at any time. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more, please contact Jo Ann Van Deven at the rectory, 993-2280 ex. 207; or email [jvandeven@olpillar.com](mailto:jvandeven@olpillar.com).

*Jo Ann Van Deven*





**Leadership Commissioning**

### **OLP Youth Ministry**

I am so happy to be back here at my grade school home! My name is Bridget Atwood, and I am the new youth minister here at Pillar. I just finished an internship doing youth ministry at a local parish through my college, Saint Louis University. Having just graduated, I am ready to dive into a new chapter of my life. Being a 1998 graduate and a former participant in the high school youth ministry here, it is truly an honor to be working with all of you, especially our teens!

We have a lot of wonderful plans for this semester and upcoming year! Our kick-off on August 27th was a blast, as is shown in some of our fun photos from the night. The theme of this semester is Revolutionary Love. You may ask, what do you mean by that? Well, it is the ultimate, humble, sacrificial love of Christ! So in every type of activity we do, we as a youth ministry hope to share in some ways the incredible, revolutionary love God has for us.

Speaking of activities, I am so excited for the semester ahead and all the things we have planned! Our amazing music minister, Greg Hulub, is here to bring the awesome gift of music to our program. High School teens meet on Sunday evenings immediately after the 5:00 Mass. There will usually be some form of food after church, and we will go until around 8:00. Some of the awesome nights we have planned include: "What's Your Homepage?", "The Truth or Not the Truth: That Is the Question", and "Where is the Love?" We also meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 for a mid-week break from the stresses of school and life. It is like

an oasis amid the crazy schedule of the school year! These nights include time to hang out, play sports, share prayer time together, do service, and go to XLT.



I am also very excited to share some of the other activities we will do and a new addition to our program! We will be having a fall retreat for high school teens at the Office of Youth Ministry's RockyVine camp on the weekend of November 10-12. We will be joining St. Clements and Queen of All Saints for this great weekend. It will be extremely fun, and a wonderful experience for all who attend! There will also be a Ski Trip in December in which eighth graders are also invited to attend. We will be with St. Clements there, too. This upcoming summer high school teens can go on Project Life, a week-long service retreat run by the Office of Youth Ministry. Out of any retreats I have ever done, this one has really affected me the most. I cannot wait to share this experience with our teens! Lastly, we are starting our once a month X-TREME nights for 7th and 8th graders! The next is October 11th. These nights are specially made just for them and are run by our high school teens and the youth ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity for our teens to share a bit of their life and awesome presence with our 7th and 8th graders. There will be great music, crazy activities, and a chance to go a step deeper in their faith life. I truly look forward to these nights!

So in all these things, we ask for your prayerful support. The youth are not just the future of the Church, they are the present. All our leaders and our teens need your constant prayers! Thanks so much for being such a supportive parish family to our program. We look forward to becoming a bigger part of parish life! For any information or questions, I can be reached at 993-2345 and at P. God Bless!

**Bridget Atwood**



### SUMMER at OLP




**OLP Fête du Cochon**  
*Annual Fall Festival*

Saturday, November 4th  
 Parish Life Center

Cocktails 6 p.m.     Dinner 7:15 p.m.

A Fun Night of Dancing, Karaoke, Games, and Prizes  
 DJ. from 8:00 - 11:30 p.m.

\$25 per Person, Open Bar

Pig Roast & Chicken BBQ     Adults Only - Casual Attire

**OLP School News**

**WELCOME BACK !!!!! A special welcome to our new students and their parents.**

The teachers prepared for this day for many weeks. Finally, the hallways were filled with eager students who were refreshed from the summer vacation, ready to begin the new year.

Thanks to the Mothers' Club for hosting the 'Welcome Back Coffee'. Many parents enjoyed the get-together. The Mothers' Club meeting after was well attended.

May the Holy Spirit inspire and bless each of us during this school year.

**Holy Spirit Mass**

The school year began with Eucharist Celebration in Honor of the Holy Spirit. Father Tobin reminded the children to pray to the Holy Spirit who is our friend and companion.

The Youth Choir, Bell Choir, 6th and 7th grade flag and banner bearers, and the 8th grade portrayal of the Reading helped us begin the year on a high note. We welcomed and blessed the new students, our new Assistant Pastor, Father Gerry Hammel, and our new maintenance director, Mr. John Leaders while the congregation sang The Blessing Song.



**Just For Kids**

**Just for KIDS**  
*What Am I?*  
 We work on gaining this all our lives. It's especially important when we're in school! Use a Bible (NIV) to look up the verses listed below. Find a word in each verse that fits in the boxes. The heavy boxes spell the answer.

1 Corinthians 8:1 N  
 Philippians 1:9 H  
 2 Peter 1:5 S  
 A 2 Timothy 3:7  
 Matthew 24:32 S  
 John 7:15 R  
 I Isaiah 33:6  
 E 2 Peter 3:18  
 W Proverbs 24:5

"By wisdom a house is built, ... through \_\_\_\_\_ its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

**Alumni News**

We are very happy and proud to welcome Bridget Atwood, a 1998 graduate of our Lady of the Pillar School, as the new Youth Minister here at Pillar (see accompanying article). She graduated from St. Louis University this past Spring. It is wonderful to have you with us Bridget.

**Back-to-School Night**

On September 14th, parents met in the Parish Life Center for Back-to-School Night. First was a general meeting during which teachers were introduced and schedules presented indicating times and places where parents could visit their children's classrooms. This was an occasion where curricula and expectations were discussed and parents could observe the excellent educational opportunities their children are receiving at Our Lady of the Pillar School.

**Kindergarten Get-Together**

On August 17th, parents, kindergarteners, and teachers met to get to know one another. The children played games while the parents learned about the curriculum and the activities scheduled for the year. All enjoyed refreshments while the 'getting acquainted' continued.

*Sr. Therese Marie, Principal*

*Shirley Daley*



PILLAR COLUMN  
 Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church  
 401 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
 Creve Coeur, MO 63131

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*Our Lady of the Pillar  
 Blood Drive*

**Be a Hero ...Giving Blood Saves Lives**

**Sunday, 19 November 2006**

**Following the 7, 8:30, and  
 10:30 Masses**

**Shield-A-Badge**



**Shield-A-Badge**  
 Protecting Our Protectors  
 Through Prayer



**What is Shield-A-Badge?**

Since 9/11, many throughout our nation have sought ways to express support and appreciation for those who protect us. Based on an idea that is gaining popularity around the country, individuals are asked to pray for the safety and well-being of police officer or firefighter. Individuals who agree to participate in the program receive the name of a police officer or firefighter. These individuals then commit to pray for that offi-

cer or firefighter throughout the year. With the full support and cooperation of the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District and the Creve Coeur Police Department, the Creve Coeur Public Safety Chaplains have initiated this program. The Public Safety Chaplains believe in the power of

prayer both for the person who is the object of prayer and for the person who offers the prayer.

Shield-A-Badge  
 Creve Coeur Public Safety Chaplains  
 300 N. New Ballas Rd.  
 Creve Coeur, MO 63141

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*Anyone with an article or suggestion for the Pillar Column, please contact Sydney Rodway at (314) 432-5388 or shrodway@charter.net. All submissions are sincerely appreciated. The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of The Column is December 15, 2006.*

