

Jammin' with Jesus Journal

November 25, 2007

The Official Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish

Hello everyone:

God is so good to us at Jammin' with Jesus (JWJ). With Thanksgiving upon us, we want to take a moment to brag about all He has done for the kids of JWJ since our group began some six months ago.

First of all, He has taken the group from eight to now sixteen regular members. Next, He gave us our very own meeting room—a space that at first seemed very large and hopeless in décor—and stuffed it so full of cozy furnishings that we barely have room for a stick more. Then He focused us more seriously on spiritual activities and readings, thereby deepening our faith and friendship with Him. He also gave the kids of JWJ opportunities to channel their energy into a number of projects to serve our parish, including the recent Taste of Hungary.

All this and He still continues to send His blessings upon us. We're so grateful for Him. And for you and the many ways you let Him work through you to help us build a meaningful youth ministry for our kids.

**This edition of the JWJ Journal is sponsored by
The OLH Sacred Heart & Rosary Society**



To thank you for all you've done for us, we will hold an open house at JWJ Headquarters (the former St. Stephen's Room) in the church basement on Sunday, November 25, 2007 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Light refreshments will be served.

And, in conjunction with our open house, JWJ is pleased to bring to OLH the Diocese's Parish History Photo Exhibit. Photography from all 90 of our diocesan parishes (including our own) comprise this exhibit. The exhibit will take place in the Msgr. Sabo Room (just a few short steps away from JWJ Headquarters in the church basement) before and after 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, November 24, and from 10:00am to 1:00pm on Sunday, November 25. We certainly hope to see you there!

For now, we hope that you enjoy reading about how JWJ will do our small part to spread the joy and hope of Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Heather, Ida and Edie

Our Mission Statement

We, the Jammin' with Jesus Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, strive to bring kindness and friendship to our community through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Help me love not only my friends, but my "enemies" too, in imitation of Jesus who offered himself on the cross for all human beings.

Gratitude Corner



“The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. Few Americans have been more impoverished than

these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.”

~H.U. Westermayer, American historian

Many thanks to First Source Bank (where Ida works) for giving JWJ a couch, a chair, and a table. Thanks also to Mike Gruber (Tori's Dad) for using his truck to haul these new furnishings to OLH.

Thanks to the Nowak Family (particularly Phil and Patrick) for also donating a couch and chair to the youth group. The furniture was from the home of the late, great Frank Nowak. As we continue to get more kids in the group, the more seating we've needed. We thank you for such a timely contribution, especially one in memory of someone who did so much for OLH.

Thank you to Kelly Mayfield, an OLH parishioner, who contributed several teen centered books on Catholicism to us. These books enliven and enrich our discussions. Thanks for thinking of us!

Gracias to Mary Pettit, a Pius X parishioner, who contributed a megaphone for the group leaders to use to call order during meetings. Yes, we now have a megaphone and we're not afraid to use it! ☺

We're also grateful to the OLH Alumni Association, specifically to Tassie Jaques, for picking up for us two ottomans, a DVD of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," a classy floor lamp, and a very cool lava lamp. Thanks, too, to Kristi Richard for delivering all this good stuff to the JWJ Room.

Thanks to the OLH Holy Name Society for letting the JWJ kids help at the Taste of Hungary. Thanks are also in order to Holy Name for donating their refrigerator to the youth group AND for presenting us with \$150!!! We'll use that money wisely.

And köszönöm (thanks in Hungarian) to the people who attended the Taste of Hungary who gave the JWJ kids tips for serving. Thanks, too, to the anonymous man who gave a donation specifically to JWJ.

OLH Prayer Chain



“Never cease praying.”

2 Thessalonians

JWJ is pleased to announce that we've taken leadership to bring a prayer chain to OLH.

A few local parishes already have prayer chains. Here's how it works: if you or someone you know has a circumstance that could use some prayer, just give Heather a call at (574) 855.0898 (email is okay, too, at heathermezosi@yahoo.com).

Heather will then call JWJ members (and other parishioners who want to be a part of this chain) and pass the intention along. By the time we reach everyone in the chain, several people will have prayed—in their own special, unique way—for your intention!

Our diocese's Office of Youth Ministry advocates prayer as an important pillar upon which effective youth ministries are built. JWJ is excited to assume leadership on this new project that we hope will enhance our youths' friendship with God and the spiritual life of our entire parish. Please call Heather if you're interested in being a part of this "chain gang."



This year, JWJ will lead our parish's effort in the annual St. Vincent de Paul Society's Blanket Drive. The Society plans to supply 1400 Christmas baskets to local families in need. In each basket, they hope to place at least one blanket. They're not asking for anything very expensive; they actually prefer donations of the \$3.00 to \$4.00 fleece blankets that WalMart or other less expensive stores sell.

St. Vincent's asks that the blankets be new or very gently used. If you'd like to contribute a blanket, please drop it off at the rectory between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday thru Friday. The drive began November 1 and runs throughout November, possibly into early December. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Heather at (574) 855.0898 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com

JWJ Adopts Families for Christmas Parishioners Welcome to Help!



For our first Christmas as a group, JWJ will "adopt" two families who could use our help this season. Parishioners are more than welcome to help us out with this special gift drive, though JWJ assumes ultimate leadership with this project. Our first family belongs to 10 year old Melody. Melody and her Mom, Anna, live a few blocks from OLH. Though they are not parishioners, Melody has come to several JWJ meetings with her babysitter, Edie. Anna, a single mom, works at a fast food restaurant and attends classes at a community college in hopes of better providing for herself and Melody.

Melody goes to a public school in South Bend and is very well behaved. She's shy, but very articulate when you get her talking. Her wish list, according to Grandma (who's

"conspiring" with JWJ to pull off this Christmas surprise), includes mittens, hats, scarves, boots (size 2), and clothes (size 12 in pants and 12 in tops). Melody's favorite color is purple. She also likes baby dolls and Barbie dolls and all the stuff that goes with Barbie (cars, horses, clothes, dream houses, etc...). She also LOVES little doll toys, such as Polly Pocket and the small dolls that often come with McDonald's Happy Meals.

Our other family is centered on nine year old Tony, an OLH student. Tony is a special needs child but, like Melody, is very intelligent and articulate. He lives in South Bend with his grandparents. His Christmas list includes educational books that feature reptiles (especially lizards!) and dinosaurs. He is also rather artistic and would love crayons, paints, paint brushes, and paper to draw on. Tony could also use mittens, gloves, scarves, and boots (size 5). He wears a size 12 in shirts and size 12 Huskey in pants.

Both families could also use gift cards to local grocery stores, along with necessities such as food, laundry detergent, etc...

In the vestibule of the church, JWJ will place a Christmas tree adorned with tags that list a gift idea for the families. Parishioners can take the tag off the tree if they'd like to be responsible for getting the gift listed on the tag.

Our goal with this gift drive is to spread some of the hope and joy of that very first Christmas of so long ago. It would be wonderful to see these children's faces when they dive into their pile of presents, crazily tearing off wrapping paper, their adrenaline pumping. Chances are that, twenty years from now, Melody and Tony probably won't remember specifics of what they got for Christmas 2007, but they hopefully will remember how they felt, that people in their school and community cared, that we gave them some hope and Christmas joy.

Sponsor a JWJ Journal

Sponsoring a JWJ Journal is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion, such as an anniversary or birthday. The cost is \$25, all of which goes to our church. Call Kathy at the rectory at (574) 287.1700 for more information.

Know a teen who might like to join JWJ

Don't hesitate to call or email Heather if you are (or know of) a teen who might like to join the friendship, faith, and fun that JWJ has to offer.

Currently, our meetings take place in JWJ Headquarters (OLH church basement, Bruce Street entrance) each Tuesday evening from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

We're an energetic bunch who would love to make new friends. We seek to bring members to a closer friendship with God through readings, discussions, movies, service, and prayer.

Contact Heather at (574) 855.0898 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com.

Look who helped at Taste of Hungary!!

Most of the JWJ kids came out in full force to serve tables at the October 28 Taste of Hungary. We received so many compliments on how well JWJ performed that we want to spotlight all the kids' names! Enthusiastic service was brought to you by:

Joseph Molnar

Cassidy Richard * Tori Gruber * Lamyia Kindred * Demyra Belcher * Julian Shock * Luke * David Leemreis * Chris Shaw * Ashley Leemreis * Theresa Shaw * Thomas Wicker * Dannie Schweiss

Remember!!

*~Saturday, November 24~
Diocese Parish History Photo Exhibit
Msgr. Sabo Community Room
(OLH Church Basement)
4:00pm to 6:30pm*

*~Sunday, November 25, 2007~
JWJ Open House AND
Parish History Photo Exhibit
JWJ Headquarters (former St. Stephen's Room)
(OLH Church Basement)
10:00am to 1:00pm*

"Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow." Edward Sandford Martin

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." Willie Nelson

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

*"Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns."
Anonymous*



*"Gratitude is the moral memory of humankind."
Georg Simmel, 1858-1918*