



# St. Therese Catholic Church

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June 24, 2009

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

The celebration of the **Mass** is the **source and summit** of our **Catholic faith**. As we come together Sunday after Sunday, we gather in gratitude for the great gift of our Lord's sacrificial love. It is at the table of Word and Sacrament that we recall Christ's offering of himself to the Father on the cross and to us at the table of the Eucharist. During the Mass, the **bread and wine** are **changed** into the **Body and Blood of Christ**. Our sharing in this sacrifice and Sacrament of Christ is meant to change us, to transform us into fruitful members of the Body of Christ, the Church. There are **three major areas** of focus in the **sanctuary** of the church: the presiding chair, the lectern, and the altar. But there is another article of church furniture that is equally important, and that is the **tabernacle**. The tabernacle is the receptacle in which the **Blessed Sacrament**, the sacred hosts, are reserved for adoration and distribution at a later Mass or when visiting the sick.

At the present time, we are examining the reasons which led to the placement of the tabernacle in a side chapel, where it has been for nine years. We will also be considering the correctness of those reasons in our present day. This will be done at one or more assemblies in the church. Secondly, we will allow our worshipping congregations an opportunity to experience the presence of the tabernacle in the sanctuary. And lastly, we will solicit the preference of locating the tabernacle in the side chapel or in the sanctuary by the parishioners who make up our congregations.

We can look forward to this year's edition of **Vacation Bible School**. It will take place during the week of **July 27th through July 31st**, Monday through Friday. This will involve children age 4 through grade four. Older boys and girls and adults will assist in working the program. We are very grateful for the wonderful presence of volunteer help. Forms for registration for the children are available on the youth counter in the gathering space. We encourage the participation of many of these young people. **It will be fun!**

**His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI**, has declared a "**Year for Priests**" which will be celebrated from June 19, 2009, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, to June 19, 2010. The Holy Father hopes this special time will "encourage priests in...**striving for spiritual perfection** on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends." Quoted from a Pastoral Letter, given by Bishop Paul J. Swain on June 15, 2009.

**Worker:** "I dug this hole where I was told to, and the following day I put the earth back as I was told. But it won't all go back in. What'll I do?" **Foreman:** (after deep consideration) "There's only one thing to do - you'll have to dig the hole deeper."

The staff and I wish you **enjoyable** and **happy** summer days!

Fr. Hal Barber