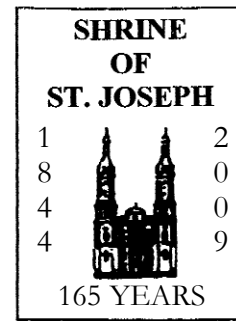


# NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 • Rectory Telephone (314) 231-9407

WINTER-SPRING ISSUE 2009



Check if appropriate:  
 My name is misspelled.  
 My address is incorrect.  
 I received more than one copy.  
 I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.  
 I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.  
 Please clip this address panel and mail it to us noting your request.

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 ST. LOUIS, MO  
 PERMIT NO. 1891

The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614



## Religious Services

Sunday Masses: 9 a.m. - Latin Mass or "old rite"; 11 a.m. - Traditional English Mass  
 Weekday Masses on Tues. & Thurs. - 12:10 p.m.; confessions 11-11:45 a.m.  
 On First Friday of each month - Mass at 12:10 p.m.

## Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership



Doris Kannady  
 On reviewing our membership files, we find some people have fallen behind on their annual dues, which are only \$10 a year or \$20 for both husband and wife. Filling out the application form below renews your membership for the year. Remember that all membership revenues are used to preserve and restore the Shrine. All donations are tax deductible, so encourage your friends. Please send donations by check. Any questions contact Doris Kannady, your Membership Committee Chair at (314) 231-9407 or see her or Ralph Kannady after Mass on Sunday.

Remember the Shrine in your will or trust.

Application for Membership  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 Dues are \$10.00 per person, per year

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
 1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

Renewal # \_\_\_\_\_  New Member

## Air & Steam Club

Those of you who are members of the Air & Steam Club have, since its beginning, provided utility costs. We need your continued support as dues-paying members.

Our overall utilities expense in 2008 was approximately \$23,000. Your generous support of the Air & Steam Club brought in \$20,000 to apply to these utility costs.

Thank you, Thank you! Please continue this level of support for the Shrine. If you are not currently a member, please join now. Your help is needed. Dues are just \$12 per year and all members participate in the monthly drawings for prizes totaling \$200.

Fill out the box below and mail to 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106. If you need additional information, please contact Ralph Ellerbrock or Donna Milligan, who serve as co-chairpersons. Phone (314) 231-9407.



Ralph Ellerbrock

Shrine of St. Joseph Friends, Inc.  
 1220 North 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

AIR AND STEAM CLUB

Monthly Dues: \$1.00  
 President Receives: \$100.00  
 Vice President Receives: \$50.00  
 Secretary Receives: \$50.00  
 1st Sunday of Each Month - Annual Dues \$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## More Spiritual Events Added to Shrine's Schedule

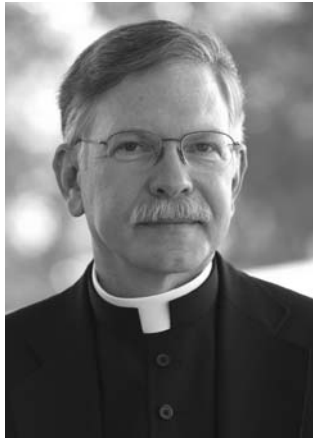
We are beginning a new era here at the Shrine, which involves a transition toward trying to increase the schedule of spiritual activities. Since 1984, the Shrine has had only one Mass on Sunday and a first Friday Mass. Now, with the departure of the Capuchin Fathers from St. Louis, Father Van Hove, S.J., the Shrine's new Rector, has added some of the week-day masses that had been at St. Patrick's and St. John's. Beginning on Jan. 12th, a weekday Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays was added which begins at 12:10 pm to allow downtown workers who break at noon-some time to get to the Shrine. Confessions are also now heard just before these Masses from 11 to 11:45 am. An additional Sunday Mass in the Extraordinary Form, has been instituted for several months at 9:00 am.

In assigning Father Van Hove to the Shrine last June, Archbishop Raymond Burke, archbishop emeritus of St. Louis, envisioned and expressed hope for what he called "the on-going development of the mission of the new evangelization at the Shrine." Burke said, "Clearly, the Shrine is a center for the promotion of the devotion to St. Joseph. I ask you as the new Rector, to foster the devotion to him especially the Novena in preparation for his feast day. I re-call especially the miraculous cure when a

man close to death was blessed with the relic of Peter Claver at the Shrine. I ask you also to foster the devotion to St. Peter Claver."

The archbishop emeritus further said in his official document of assignment of Father Van Hove to the Shrine that "the Shrine exists today because of the remarkable dedication and generosity of the lay faithful who, when the Shrine was scheduled to close, devoted themselves to its restoration. Today, thanks to their efforts, the Shrine continues to be a most beautiful center of prayer for the faithful of the archdiocese and for those on visit to the Shrine on pilgrimage from other parts of our nation and the world."

We all hope that over time attendance at the weekday masses will increase. Father Van Hove is endeavoring to find more ways the Shrine can strengthen its spiritual mission and, at the same time, contribute toward attracting newer worshippers.



Father Brian Van Hove

## The Friends of the Shrine Need Your Financial Help

Since the beginning of the effort to save and restore the Shrine we have used many fund-raising methods, including festivals and raffles of many types. We used raffles as a means of giving our many generous donors an opportunity of receiving a small reward for their charitable contribution. However, times change and our need for income for both operations and restoration has grown to the point that we must seek a more direct way to reach all of you who have been so generous to the Shrine in the past. Therefore, in this newsletter is a direct appeal for donations. Without this additional source of revenue, the ongoing efforts of the Friends organization will be severely impacted. You probably know that the Friends are a volunteer group that has been laboring on behalf of the Shrine since 1979. We need your prayers and your financial assistance.

You may designate how your donation is to be used. However, at this time we are more in need of "funds to operate the Shrine" than for on-going restoration.

I wish to donate to the Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10  \$25  \$40  \$50  \$100  \$500  other

I would like  Operations  Restoration  
 it to go for:  the Board of Directors decision

Please tear this off and mail it with your contribution to:  
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, 1220 N. 11th St., St. Louis, MO 63106

## The Donor Memorial Honor Roll

Another way of making a special gift to the Shrine is that by contributing \$500 or more, the names of individuals, groups, or companies are inscribed on brass plates and placed on the large Donor Memorial Honor Roll located in the rear of the church. Over 480 entries grace these Honor Roll Plaques with 468 spaces remaining. Nearly half the entries represent a gift that honors the memory of family members or friends (in memory of...) This donation would be a greatly appreciated gift and, at the same time, a wonderful way to honor a loved one. Please contact Pauline Frost, treasurer, for more information at (314) 231-9407.



One of the three large Donor Memorial Honor Roll Plaques containing inscribed brass plates.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 LEO FROST  
 8/25/1925 7/29/2007

A sample brass plate measuring about 3 1/2 in. long by 1/2 in. wide.

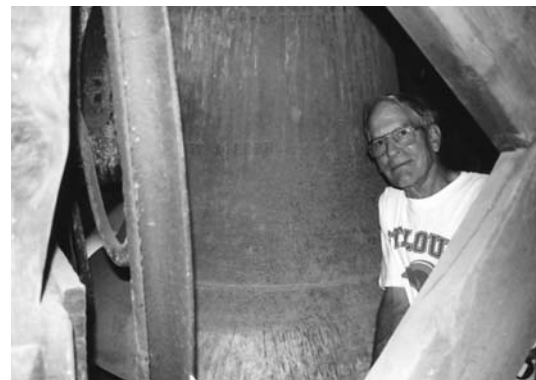
# The Shrine's Four Historic Bells

## "the church has the heaviest bell in the state of Missouri"

Never seen, occasionally heard. That's all most folks know about the Shrine's bells. Few realize the intriguing history behind this aspect of this remarkable church. Last August, a noted campanologist (bell expert), Carl Zimmerman, spent a morning high up in the west tower here examining and explaining interesting facets of our historic bells.

According to Mr. Zimmerman, who has identified and catalogued more than 1,000 bells in the St. Louis area, the Shrine's largest bell--known as "St. Joseph"--is the heaviest single bell in the state of Missouri. (A bell at Christ Church Cathedral is larger but not as heavy.)

By anyone's description, this bell is a monster--a massive 6,000 pound bell with a diameter of 67 inches (over 5 and 1/2 feet across) and a strike tone of a deep B. It was cast at the foundry of J.G. Stuckstede and Bro., which was located on south 2nd Street (now the property of Nooter Boiler Co.) and was hung in the west tower upon the completion of the front facade and flanking baroque towers in 1881. Zimmerman noted that there are still at least 340 bells in the St. Louis region that were cast by this foundry under the various names in its 74-yr. history. However, this 6,000- pounder is believed



Gene Wetzel, the Shrine's volunteer carpenter, standing next to the huge 6,000 lb. "St. Joseph" bell.

to be the largest and heaviest single bell that this foundry ever made. Cast onto the bell along with the foundry name is the inscription "St. Joseph". On the opposite side is cast "St. Louis Mo 1881" with the following eleven names: J. Biermann, W. Druhe, J. Hilger, B. Boewer, W. Goese, S. Hoffman, A. Cornet, H. Mohrman, J. Petersen, J. Pickel, and J. Wangler. It is not certain why these names are on the bell. Most old-timers believe they were the group that paid for the bell. This would be a plausible explanation were it not for the fact that in the Shrine's archives is an entry that the bell was donated by Joseph Haberstrothe, a German immigrant, whose family lived on Morgan Street (later re-named Delmar). Perhaps the 11 people were the planning committee that over-saw the 1881 front facade addition.

The three other bells sitting on the platform above this big bell have a fascinating history. It seems that members of the early congregation sent all the way to Troy, New York, for three bells, which were made by the Jones Foundry, and for which they paid \$2680 plus freight.

When these three bells rang out together for the very first time here at St. Joseph's, there was great disappointment--they did not harmonize. According to Zimmerman, many bells cast at the Jones Foundry, while adequate for single use, were not noted for being very harmonious when rung together.

The bells were replaced in 1864 in time for the occasion of the 2nd addition to St. Joseph's. The Stuckstede Foundry also re-made the bells. It is Zimmerman's opinion that there was no way the original bells from New York could have been "fixed." He said that Stuckstede may have melted them down and used some of the original metal for the new ones but the replacement bells had to have been completely re-cast.

These three higher quality bells were blessed, (see add. article) placed in the single spire, and then in 1881 moved into the newly-built west tower where they have remained. In relief on each bell are the

words: "Cast by J.G. Stuckstede & Bro. 1864." Zimmerman estimates these bells to weigh 1200 lbs. with a strike tone of G#; 2400 lbs. with an F# tone, and 3000 lbs. with a B tone. Also cast in relief are the names "St. Aloysius" for the smaller bell,

"St. Ignatius" for the mid-sized, and "St. Maria" for the larger of the three.

Like all bells back then, they were originally rung with ropes which swung the entire bell. Bernie Pestka, one of our ushers, remembers as a young man riding the ropes to get the bells swinging. However, the bells were inoperable from about 1976 to 1986. In 1986, after the pigeon droppings (reportedly 5 ft. deep) had been removed from the towers, the bells were electrified where only the clapper moves and the bells themselves remain stationary. All the bells were fully ringing again using the new electrified system from funds provided by the Men's Club. In this modern electrified system, there's much less wear and tear on the bells especially at the "wear spot" where the clapper strikes. There are two changes that reduced the bell sound: One is that the tower louvers were re-built at a lesser angle cutting down on the openings; second, there had been a ceiling above the upper bells which had the effect of directing the sound downward--this was most likely removed when the original cupolas were discarded in 1954.

The combined weight of all four bells up in west tower is 12,600 pounds. It must have been a truly amazing feat to have pulled that much weight high up in the tower back in 1881 and to have witnessed such an ordeal!



Conrad Philipp, member of the Board's building committee, standing between the 3 upper bells.

### From the Shrine's Archives... Blessing of the Bells--1864

The following is translated from German to English of a description of the dedication of the bells ceremony in 1864.

The church bells were standing on a platform in front of the church. They were decorated with a flower wreath and flower ropes along with candles and oak leaves. In front of the church was a throne for the Archbishop. Many priests were present including the three Fathers: Weber, Tscheider, and Wistpern. There was an elaborate ceremony.

A massive crowd came from all over and assembled on the streets in front of the church as well as all connecting side streets. The streets were impassable due to the vast crowd. Every window and rooftop surrounding the church was filled with onlookers. The celebration was so beautiful that one could hardly believe it. Fr. Tscheider delivered the sermon; he spoke on the meaning of the Blessing of the Bells. Afterwards, the Archbishop (Kenrick) briefly spoke--he was full of praise for St. Joseph's.

Visit our newly-designed website:  
[www.shrineofstjoseph.org](http://www.shrineofstjoseph.org)

Photos by Arteaga

## Remembering Cleo Baker, Past President

The Shrine's family of volunteers observed the passing and loss of another significant member -- Cleo Baker -- who was president of the Friends Board of Directors from 1988 to 1995, and died Aug. 23rd at age 80.

During his tenure as president, enough funds were raised to complete the entire interior restoration in time for the church's 150th anniversary celebration in 1994. In addition, membership greatly increased and the Shrine's mailing list expanded to over 9,500 names. A major challenge back then was that Cleo and the Board of Directors contended with a failing new roof in which a lawsuit was filed against the roofing company and was won, resulting in a roof replacement paid for by the successful settlement.

In 1990, the Kansas City Star picked up the story of the run-down Shrine in St. Louis and how the Friends organization accomplished this formidable, grass-roots effort of saving and restoring it. The lengthy article began on the Star's front page with a large color photo of the Shrine's interior and Cleo Baker in the foreground. (see photo)

Carmella, Cleo's surviving wife, is a long-time Shrine supporter and, as far back as 1970, she was always part of every effort to save the Shrine. She grew up in the neighborhood and attended St. Joseph's School. She and Cleo were married at St. Joseph's in 1953. When Cleo served as president, Carmella was also involved in heading up many fund-raising events. They were another wonderful and loving husband and wife pair who contributed so greatly to the Shrine's success story. Carmella continues to attend the Shrine on special occasions from their ranch in Cuba, MO.



On Mar. 4, 1990, this photo appeared on the front page of the Kansas City Star of Cleo Baker and the Shrine.

## Statue Gift

A generous gift was made to the Shrine by the good people of St. Anthony of Padua Parish of South St. Louis. Father Jim Lause, OFM, the church's pastor, said that the "St. Joseph with boy Jesus" statue had been standing in front of their grade school since 1949 but was removed after the school closed in 2005. The nearly 800 pound 7 foot high statue was moved to the Shrine and placed on a grassy knoll overlooking the Shrine's parking lot adorned by trees and flowers. It makes an excellent addition to the continued beautification of our enclosed 80-car parking lot.

St. Joseph & Jesus statue gift.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR • Feast of St. Joseph**  
**Sunday, March 15, 11:00 a.m. • Blessed bread after Mass**

## Window Wood Replacement

Once again, we are reminded that, like an old house, the Shrine is in need of continuous vigilance so that minor problems don't become major ones. The Friends' building committee has for sometime noticed that the exterior trim around most all of the fifteen stained glass windows was in varying stages of deterioration. It is believed that these trim boards were quite old because, when this old trim was removed in December, square nails were discovered. Square nails (sometimes called "cut" nails) ceased from use generally around 1910.

The rotted trim was replaced with over 1500 linear feet of pre-primed fir for the 15 windows. The project was done by Rallo Construction Co. with the painting and necessary caulking done by Picco and Benson Painting Co. at a total cost of nearly \$35,000.



Workers from Rallo Co. applying over 1500 ft. of new trim boards around the 15 stained glass windows.

## A Final Farewell



Father Valentine

Father Valentine's final Mass at the Shrine on Oct 5th was a bitter-sweet occasion for the nearly 500 in attendance celebrating his incredible 25 years as the Shrine's administrator and his 60 years of ordination into the priesthood. A reception and luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel followed. St. Patricks Church and Friary - just east of the Shrine - closed in January, ending the 65-year presence of the Capuchin Franciscans in St. Louis.

The Most Rev. Robt. Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop of the St Louis Archdiocese and homilist at the mass, compared Father Valentine to St. Francis saying "Father Valentine was known for his kindness... Father had his own special way of reaching out and receiving hundreds of people into the Catholic faith. His ministry was

peaceful and life giving," adding that "his work at the Catholic Information Center was known throughout St. Louis." In conclusion, Bishop Hermann said that "whenever we received calls about the Catholic faith at the chancery office, we were delighted when we referred the caller to Father Val because we always knew the person would be handled with total love."

Said Father Charles Polifka, Provincial Minister of the Mid-America Capuchins, "we celebrate not only Fr. Valentine's accomplishments, but especially because people like you and me were always touched by his presence. He has been a great role-model for all of us."

The core of Father Valentine's legacy to this organization will always be his high level of commitment to the Shrine's restoration, his personable style and spiritual support to so many people. His contributions will be forever etched in history. (His current address is: St. Francis of Assisi Friary, 3553 Wyandot St., Denver, CO 80211.)

## Weddings Galore

Another year of memorable and stunningly beautiful weddings here at the Shrine is beginning. A total of 55 weddings is currently scheduled for 2009 with very few openings remaining. Wedding reservations for 2010 are now coming in. For more information, please contact Joann Geisz or Kathie Schmidt, the Shrine's wedding co-ordinators, at 231-0869.



JoAnn Geisz Kathie Schmidt