



Clarion

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ST. ANNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

WE CELEBRATE THE WITNESSES OF FAITH ... ALL SAINTS ALL SOULS

This weekend reminds us of our heritage. We are strengthened in these difficult times by men and women of heroic faith. We remember, as well, the loved ones who abide in God's hands and our hearts. May the faith that guided them enlighten us.

Yes, All Saints Day does honor those of heroic virtue, but the Saints (the holy ones) are known, named, and honored, not only as models by the wider church, but also as ordinary people whose lives impacted only those who were privileged to share the power of their faith in communities and families all over God's world. They are so often our grandparents or parents, our neighbors, our friends, our fellow workers. None of them were perfect; all of them were human—and yet, they made their humanity a song of love to God that enriched and uplifted us. We are blessed by their faithfulness and their love.

That is why, I think, in recent times, the distinction between these two feast days, All Saints Day and All Souls Day, has become somewhat blurred. There are so many who are not publicly proclaimed who were indeed God's Holy Ones. Their holiness is known only to our hearts and their lives will always inspire us. We pray for them on All Souls Day and yet, our deepest consciousness says that surely in God they pray for and guide us.

There is, in this week's celebration, a challenge for our own daily lives—a challenge too often overlooked. How important is Jesus Christ in our lives? How have we embraced the gift of faith given so generously by our special ancestors?

Just as Jesus was counter-cultural in His own times, we, as His followers, are called to speak a witness of inclusive love to our conflicted society. What do our children and young people see in us? What example do we offer? What motivates our choices?

I believe that every one of us is very much a living embodiment of what our ancestors have offered us. Of course, we pick and choose; of course, there are genetic factors. Still, the Christian family has, as Brother and Lord—Jesus Christ, the Son of God who gave up His life so that all might live. He lives in the hearts of those who choose His way of love.

Joy and strength are the gifts of our faithful ancestors, and they are ours to celebrate this week; they are ours to share and live by!

We ask our God to bless this land with wise leadership and inspire all of us to make careful choices in this week's most important election.

Lovingly,
Fr. Jack





St Anne Catholic Community

OUR MISSION

We, a Catholic Christian people rooted by Baptism, take as our challenge the mission of Jesus: to build the Kingdom of God, standing in solidarity with the poor. We are committed to:

- Welcoming* • *Welcoming* all people and providing a sense of belonging to people at every stage of life.
- Creating* • *Creating* a place of enjoyment, excitement and fun for people of all ages.
- Healing* • *Healing, reconciling and reaching out* in caring service to each other.
- Reaching Out* • *Serving* those in need, especially the broken, through generous gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- Serving* • *Gathering* at Eucharist and celebrating the Sacraments of the Church and the sacramental moments of our lives.
- Gathering* • *Telling and sharing* the Living Story of Jesus.

So challenged, we pray that the Holy Spirit fills us and empowers us so that we may become the Living Presence of Jesus in our contemporary world.

Resting in Peace

Marilyn S. Clears, *aunt of Michael Lynch*;
 Gordon S. LaBounty, *husband of Mercedes and father of Karen, Janet, Gordie, Kathy, Ginger, Mary, Mickey and Leslie*;
 Peggy Lewis, *sister of Joseph Sullivan*;
 Delores Wagner;
 Bernadette Wynn, *mother of John and Tom*;

CELEBRATING SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

Ellie Lynne **Armstrong** (Colleen and Patrick)

Weddings

I Laura Meehan and Craig Podolski

Remembering...

Monday, November 3rd

8:15 St. Anne Purgatorial Society
 Frank Caba—*Cindy Caba*
 Edward Badsing—*The Family*

7:30 Liturgy of Remembrance

Tuesday, November 4th

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society
 Major Boggess—*Barbara Klass*

7:00 Women's Club Mass of Remembrance

Wednesday, November 5th (School Mass)

8:30 Santino and Lena Papucci—*The Family*

Thursday, November 6th

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society

Friday, November 7th

8:15 Santino and Lena Papucci—*The Family*
 Lucille M. Anast—*The Walsh Family*

Saturday, November 8th

Mass of Anticipation

5:15 Daniel Leahy, Jr.—*The Leahy Family*

Sunday, November 9th

7:15 People of St. Anne

9:00 Annie's Attic Volunteers

Charles E. Mahlstedt—*Neil Mahlstedt*

John O'Meara—*Irene Pankiw*

Albert Andrew Johnson—*The Weaver Family*

Marietta McFadden—*Gerry and Catherine Barry*

11:00 Santino and Lena Papucci—*The Family*

Marian Poole—*The Leverso Family*

Special Intention, Mass of Thanksgiving

Bernard Stock—*Frank and Diane Loll*

David O'Brien—*The Van der Voort Family*

5:15 Sonya Stevanovich—*Margaret McCarthy*

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly Offering for October 26, 2008

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Adult Offering (458 envelopes)..... | \$28,058.67 |
| Loose Cash | \$1,263.00 |
| Pro-rated "Parish Pay" offering..... | \$8,129.54 |
| (Weekly share of Monthly "Parish Pay") | |
| Youth and Children Offering (0 envelopes)..... | \$0.00 |
| Grand Total | \$37,451.21 |
| Amount needed to meet Operating | \$47,000.00 |
| Expense <u>and</u> Loan Interest Payments | |
| Collection Shortfall | (\$9,548.79) |
| Sharing Contributions (69 envelopes)..... | \$2,594.00 |

Building Debt as of October 27, 2008

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Outstanding Loan Balance..... | \$2,000,000.00 |
| with Archdiocese | |
| Less Pledged Funds | \$1,100,511.00 |
| payable through 2009* | |
| *includes "Complete the Journey" and other pledges | |
| Total long-term Parish Debt..... | \$899,489.00 |
| Monthly Interest Payment (5.92%)..... | \$9,866.66 |
| Monthly Debt-Reduction Collection (green envelope) | |
| Fiscal YTD (17 weeks)..... | \$13,988.00 |

Past 4 weeks:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Average Weekly Offering | \$43,350.25 |
| Average Weekly Shortfall..... | (\$3,649.75) |
| Total Shortfall..... | (\$14,599.00) |
| Fiscal YTD Shortfall (17 weeks)..... | (\$119,158.01) |

All Night Eucharistic Adoration Vigil for Our Election A Day of Prayer for Our Country

Monday, November 3rd, after the 8:15 a.m. Mass
until Tuesday, November 4th, at 8:00 a.m.

An Election Prayer to Mary

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new culture of Life.

Trusting in your most powerful intercession, we pray...Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

3:00 a.m.: Holy Hour, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary
8:00 a.m.: Benediction

To help fill the hours, contact **Stephen Hegarty** at **630.842.6258**
or email hegs@rell.com.

St. Anne Catholic Community

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Everyone Must Pre-register

As many are aware, for the adult session of **Generations of Faith** we had a dynamic speaker, lay theologian Dr. Jose de Mesa. He was so well received that the **Adult Education Ministry** and **Generations of Faith** have arranged for Dr. de Mesa to present a three-session series on the Sacrament of Marriage. The title of this series is **Disciples in Marriage**. Some of the issues Dr. de Mesa will address are:

- How marriage became a second-rate commitment in the Church
- Following Jesus in marriage
- Marriage: An "ordination" to service?
- Family as Church
- Children and the Eucharist

When: Monday, November 3rd, 10th and 17th

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Format: Classroom style – you will have ample opportunity to ask questions as well as discuss the topic with others in attendance

Location: The room will be chosen after we have a count of those who want to attend

Pre-registration for all is mandatory. If you are currently registered for **Generations of Faith**, there will be no charge to attend this series – **but you still need to register**. For all others, the cost will be \$25.00 per person for the three night series. Please register as soon as possible so that we can determine the best location on our campus for this series. A form for your convenience is below, or you can stop in at the Faith Formation office in the Parish Center.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES: DISCIPLES IN MARRIAGE

Please Print:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check one:

- I am currently attending **Generations of Faith**
- I do not attend **Generations of Faith** – \$25.00 payment is enclosed

Make checks payable to: ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH (indicate series)

Please mail to: Generations of Faith, 120 N. Ela Street, Barrington, IL 60010

St. Anne Catholic Community



Get inspired this holiday season!

Adults 50 and better are invited to register for Lafarge Lifelong Learning courses to nurture new talents and interests. Courses meet once a week for six weeks in the St. Anne Senior Center. Small class sizes ensure individual instruction and an enjoyable learning experience for all.

Courses are offered in computer skills, digital photography, watercolor painting, woodcarving and knitting. A nominal fee is charged for materials.

Classes start this week!

For more information or to register, please call **847.381.5799**.

Come join the fun!

No classes will be held during Thanksgiving week, November 24th—28th.

| Class | Day/Dates | Time/Instructor | Fee |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Advanced Beginner Computer | Mondays, 11/3 – 12/15 6 classes | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m./Mike Konie | \$30.00 |
| Knitting | Mondays, 11/3 – 12/15 6 classes | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m./Joan Quinn | \$30.00 |
| Digital Photography | Mondays, 11/3 – 12/15 6 classes | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m./Doug Jones | \$20.00 |
| Navigating the Internet- (Outlook/Email) | Wednesdays, 11/5 – 12/17 6 classes | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m./Mike Konie | \$30.00 |
| Woodcarving | Wednesdays, 11/5 – 12/17 6 classes | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m./Jim Hoffman | \$20.00 |
| Water Color Painting Beginner and Advanced Techniques | Thursdays, 11/6 – 12/18 6 classes | 10:00 – Noon/Jim Kennedy | \$25.00 |



LaFarge Lifelong Learning

Inspiration Through Continuing Education

Presented by the St. Anne Catholic Community

St. Anne Catholic Community

CONNECTIONS

PRESENTS

Giving Thanks!

(featuring a laser show and D.J. music of Woolson Productions)

WHEN: Friday, November 7th

WHERE: St. Anne Parish Center

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

COST: \$10.00 per person

This dance is for 7th and 8th grade students only

(all dress must be appropriate)

- * BMS/SAS I.D.'s are required
- * Electronic devices such as cell phones are not permitted for any reason during the dance
- * Refreshments will be available at an additional cost
- * A parent must pick up students at the end of the dance
- * Students will not be permitted to walk home

Questions? Call the **Hotline** at **847.382.5300 Ext. 400**

or visit **www.stannebarrington.org**

(click Youth Ministry/Middle School/Connections)

WE NEED CHAPERONES!

St. Anne Catholic Community

Food and Coat Drive Annual Collection

The St. Anne Sharing Board will sponsor a food and coat drive for the St. Columbanus food pantry on **Saturday, November 8th** and **Sunday, November 9th**. The food pantry provides vital assistance to those in need on the west side of Chicago. The number of families they help is growing annually with food distributed on average to over 1,000 families per month. Over 2,200 households are registered with the food pantry, 25% of whom live within a five-block radius of St. Columbanus Church. The food pantry distributes from 190-250 cases of food per week to the poor and hungry in their neighborhood. Many recipients are the working poor who must choose between food, heat, medicine and the basic needs of every family.

As we approach Thanksgiving, in what are difficult economic times for everyone, it is a perfect opportunity to share our blessings with the most vulnerable. We know they are often the first to suffer and the last to recover. Without our support, the food pantry will run out of provisions for the many families dependent on their help. They rely on St. Anne Parish to keep operating. Food bags will be distributed after all the Masses **THIS WEEKEND**. Please take a bag and fill it with non-perishable food items, such as canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups and stews, canned meats, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, cereals, juices, etc. Jewel and Dominick's gift certificates are also appreciated. There is also a need for warm coats. Any gently used or new warm outerwear would be greatly appreciated.

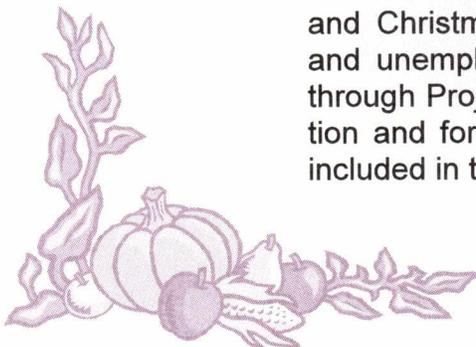
Coats and food bags will be collected on
Saturday, November 8th
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and before and after the 5:15 p.m. Mass
and
Sunday, November 9th
until 12:45 p.m.



Adult volunteers are needed to help load and unload the truck for 1-2 hour shifts before and after the Masses. For more information or to volunteer, call **Pam** at **847.277.1635**.

Hope for the Holidays

The Hope for the Holidays program will begin again soon in order to give special help at both Thanksgiving and Christmas to the hundreds of hungry, homeless, and unemployed people and families who are served through Project Hope's office every day. More information and forms for sponsorships and donations will be included in the next issue of the *Clarion*.



St. Anne Catholic Community

Please Join Us for Our 5th Annual

Holiday Open House

Wednesday, November 12th ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.

Live Music + Free Refreshments + Prize Drawings

Be first to browse a beautiful collection of new and vintage furniture, holiday accents, seasonal clothing and more. Sample wines and gourmet treats in a glittering forest of pre-lit trees. Visit our new TOYLAND, filled with wonderful surprises for kids of all ages. All proceeds from this special night benefit PROJECT HOPE, providing emergency assistance to area families in crisis.

The festivities continue through Saturday, with new merchandise daily, plus refreshments and plenty of holiday spirit. Bring a friend, share the fun and stretch that holiday budget!

Our store will be CLOSED during the day on **Wednesday, November 12th**, in preparation for our evening premiere. Plenty of free parking will be available. Doors open promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Calling all elves!

We are looking for additional 'elves' to help out at House of Hope during the busy holiday season. Flexible hours are available during weekdays and Saturdays. Teens are welcomed to join us and earn community service hours!

Please consider sharing a little of your time and talent in the true spirit of the holidays! Call **Peggy Sobolewski** at **847.382.5150** to sign up.

In store now...

... a great selection of warm winter coats, hats and gloves, cozy sweaters and (dare we say it?!) snow gear. Plus, our pots, pans, platters and plates are almost like having an extra hand to help with the Thanksgiving feast.

And don't forget, all Fall décor items are clearance priced as we prepare for our Open House. **Get a great deal on things you need now!**



House of Hope Resale Shop

Heirlooms & Treasures

**200 N. Hough Street • Downtown Barrington
Wed.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • 847.756.4673**

St. Anne Catholic Community

Church Women United presents
World Community Day
Friday, November 7th, 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Faith Community United Church of Christ,
2023 Rt. 176 at Bayview Beach Road,
Prairie Grove, 815.479.1307



10:45 a.m. worship service followed by agape luncheon
In support of Prison Ministry, please bring donations for women of new underpants in large sizes, new or clean gently used bras in all sizes, and white socks.
Please bring to share for lunch:
a sandwich plus a piece of fruit.
Beverages and dessert will be provided.
For more information, call our CWU representatives,
Carol Laning at 847.842.2418 or
Mindy Hogan at 847.381.6271.

Make Someone's Thanksgiving Special!

Support both Project Hope and St. Anne School by purchasing Market Day pies for families in need this Thanksgiving! All pie orders support the St. Anne Home & School Association and the Eighth Grade Graduation Banquet Account.

The pies will be ordered and delivered to Project Hope—no pick-up is necessary! Orders are due by **Friday, November 14th!** For more information, call **Beth at 847.204.6706.**

THANKSGIVING MARKET DAY PIE DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Apple pie(s) at \$10.00 each

_____ Pumpkin pie(s) at \$10.00 each

NOTE This form is **ONLY** for Project Hope donations.
Checks may be made payable to Market Day.
Donation forms may be dropped off at the school office or mailed to
888 Hampstead Court, Barrington 60010.



St. Anne Catholic Community



ST. ANNE WOMEN'S CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS **SUNDAY GOSPEL BRUNCH**

YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY IS CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND THIS TRULY INSPIRING EVENT!

*A delicious brunch to feed your bodies and
a spiritual choir to feed your souls!*

MUSIC PROVIDED BY HARMONY HOPE & HEALING

*A creative music program offering dignity and spiritual healing to the homeless
and underserved in the Chicago area. www.harmonyhopehealing.org*

Sunday, November 16th

Seatings at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Makray Memorial Golf Club

1010 S. Northwest Highway, Barrington

\$40.00 per person * \$15.00 for children 10 years and younger * Children age 3 and younger are free

R.S.V.P. by Monday, November 10th ~ Limited Seating * Cash Bar

All monies raised at this event will help fund the SAWC's many ministries and philanthropy efforts.

**BOUTIQUE
SHOPPING
and
RAFFLE
DRAWING***

**Winner need not be present.*

- 1st Prize**
Chicago overnight package plus tickets
to the House of Blues Gospel Brunch.
Tickets and accommodations for four [4]
- 2nd Prize**
\$250 Walter E. Smithe Gift Certificate
- 3rd Prize**
Barrington Brunch Flight
Certificates to several spots around town
- 4th Prize**
\$100.00 Cash

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please Print

Seating time choice: ___ 10:00 a.m. ___ 12:00 p.m. [Tables of ten. Indicate seating partners on back of form.]

Number of adult tickets: _____ @ \$40.00 per person

Number of child tickets [age 4 to 10]: _____ @ \$15.00 per person

Number of children under age 3: _____ complimentary [Please note if a high chair or booster is needed.]

Raffle Tickets: _____ 1 for \$5.00*

Raffle Tickets: _____ 5 for \$20.00*

Sorry, cannot attend, please accept my donation: _____

\$ _____ Total [Please make check payable to St. Anne Women's Club.]

**Raffle drawing will take place on November 16th at 12:00 p.m. seating. Winner need not be present.
All tickets purchased via this form will be either entered into drawing by proxy or entered at check-in.*

R.S.V.P. by Monday, November 10th ~ Limited Seating * Cash Bar

Mail to: Eva Kolasinski, Chair SAWC Gospel Brunch, 120 N. Ela Street, Barrington, 60010

St. Anne Catholic Community

CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT '08-'09

Parents of candidates interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation must attend a Parent Enrollment session before any student can begin his/her preparation. Candidates must be in at least 9th grade to begin Confirmation preparation

Parent sessions will be held periodically between now and November, so please plan to attend one of these 45-60 minute meetings to get all the information you need in order to be fully informed about what the parish expects from those who wish to be confirmed.

**FORMS FOR ENROLLMENT CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED BY
ATTENDING A MEETING—FORMS WILL NOT BE AT OUR OFFICE.**

LAST PARENT MEETING DATE:

Sunday, November 16th

10:30-11:30 a.m. ~ Hospitality Room



GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Again our adult session on Monday night was very well received and attended. Attendees described our speaker, Dr. Jerry Galipeau, as “great” and “excellent.” His presentation was an engaging and personal reflection which stressed the importance of *our* transformation as we celebrate Eucharist throughout our lives. ***Christ is really present in the Eucharist so that we may really become the Body of Christ.***

I would like to thank all of the parishioners who participated in the event, but especially those who have joined one of ***Generations of Faith's*** many ministries: the core team, design team, human resources, registration, and implementation team which consists of the masters of ceremonies, meal service, audio visual and session operations, art and environment, catechists, facilitators, liturgy, hospitality, babysitting and maintenance. Your willingness to serve (some in multiple capacities) is a true blessing to St. Anne's.

This session the middle school students formed teams and rewrote the first epiclesis of Eucharistic Prayer II from the Mass (an epiclesis is a prayer of petition asking God to send the Holy Spirit to do something for us). In Eucharistic Prayer II, the priest, acting in the person of Christ, asks God to send the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We asked students if they would allow us to post their prayers on the St. Anne website. Please go to www.stannebarrington.org and click on the ***Generations of Faith Information*** tab to read these prayers. They include the date the student attended the ***Generations of Faith*** session and the initials of the students who wrote the prayers.

The deep faith, kindness and generosity of our faith community are very affirming as we work to “...prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

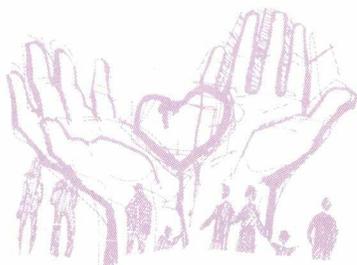
St. Anne Catholic Community

Liturgy of Remembrance

November is the month of All Souls, and the bereavement ministers will remember our loved ones who have died, especially during the past year, at a special liturgy of remembrance on **Monday, November 3rd**, at 7:30 p.m., in the church. As part of the liturgy, candles will be lit for each deceased parishioner. Candles labeled with loved one's names will be on a table in the Gathering Space for you to take into church. When your loved one's name is called during the litany of the saints, go forward to light the candle and then place it on the steps in front of the altar. You may take the candle with you after the liturgy. If you are unable to attend, someone will light the candle for you. Light refreshments will be served in the Gathering Space after the liturgy.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

St. Anne Bereavement Ministers



Shawl Knitting Ministry

The Shawl Ministry welcomes all levels of knitters to join us on the **2nd Monday** of each month, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., in the Parish Center conference room. The next date is **Monday, November 10th**. Knit 3 Purl 3 in honor of the Trinity is the suggested pattern which becomes a long prayer for warmth and comfort to those who receive a shawl. Do you know someone who might like one? For more information, call **Liz** at **847.381.8695** or **Joan** at **847.381.1409**.

Women's Club Service and Mass of Remembrance

On **Tuesday, November 4th**, the Saint Anne Women's Club will be holding its annual Mass of Remembrance in the Chapel starting at 7:00 p.m. This beautiful Mass is open to all women and is a unique time for women of the parish to come together and celebrate who we are and what we do as women of the St. Anne community. We will also pray for those members who have gone before us. If you have a close friend or family member who is in need of prayer, this Mass is a wonderful way for you to take time to offer your prayers for their healing or hope. The Mass will then be followed by a special musical performance by Rory Cooney and Theresa Donohoo in the Gathering Space. This event is not to be missed, as Rory has chosen a special selection of music especially for the Women's Club. Join us!

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Baby bottles which were distributed on the weekend of October 11th-12th should be returned to the Gathering Space after all the Masses on the weekend of **November 15th-16th**. Thank you for your generosity in filling the bottles with coins, currency or checks and returning them. Aid for Women Inc. and The Women's Center are the needy recipients of your donations.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John **Melus**

Rachel and Michael **Sepe** (Isabella)

Sue and Wayne **Sherman**
(Christopher, Maxwell)

St. Anne Catholic Community

Altar Server Training

Altar server training for any students in 6th grade and higher will be held next month. Any interested students should contact **Peggy Hirsch** at peggyhirsch@aol.com to register for the training. For more information, call **847.382.0414**.

Book Sales Benefit St. Anne

International best-selling author Joan Wester Anderson has released her new book, "*Angels and Wonders*." To reserve/pre-order an autographed copy, call **Linda Lopez** at **847.304.0136** or email linda176@sbcglobal.net. A portion of the book sales will be donated back to St. Anne. This book is an ideal gift priced at \$15.00.

Project Hope Requests

- A **treadmill** in good condition is needed for someone whose health needs require it.
- Project Hope is looking for a volunteer **mechanic** to check out donated cars to ensure their viability before giving them to those in need. Call **847.381.5721**.
- If you have a food commitment to your country club, please think about donating it to Project Hope. In the past, some of our families have greatly benefited at Thanksgiving and Christmas from donated meals. Call **Jill** (Project Hope) at **847.381.5721**.
- **Food pantry items.** Cereal, spaghetti sauce, juices and Tuna/Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, etc.
- **Computer.** Good working and complete laptop or desktop. Pentium 3 or 4. Preferably less than 5 years old.
- **Cars, vans and trucks** in safe running condition for families who require transportation to obtain/maintain employment.
- Clean **mattresses, box springs** and **frames** for twin, double and queen size beds.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

St. Anne Women's Club will host Breakfast with St. Nicholas on **Saturday, December 6th**, in the school cafeteria. A breakfast of pancakes, sausages, fruit, donut holes and beverages will be served during two seatings at 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$7.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child, and free for children age 2 and under. Reservations and payment are **REQUIRED** in **ADVANCE** as seating is limited. Registration forms will be available in the *Clarion* starting November 8th-9th. Payment may be sent to St. Anne Women's Club, 112 Wesley Street, Barrington, 60010. Please include seating time, name, address, phone, email, and number of adults and children.



St. Nicholas was born around 260 AD in the village of Patara in what is now Turkey. Traditionally, he is known as a friend of children and a giver of gifts. Legends of his generosity and kindness have closely associated him with Santa Claus and Christmas in the western world and his feast day is celebrated on December 6th. He will be available for children to visit with him, and other entertainment will be provided for this festive, family-centered community event.

Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event, and donations are appreciated. If you can assist with your time (1½-2 hours) or can make a donation (syrup, pancake mix, sausages, cream, etc.), call **847.382.7607** or email fillymom@aol.com.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls), 2008

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (789-2)

- ¹ The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.
² They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
³ and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
⁴ For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
⁵ Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.
⁶ As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
⁹ Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.

Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (790-4)

- ³ Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
⁴ We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.
⁸ If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
⁹ We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

Gospel: John 11: 32-45 (793-14)

- ³² When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became
perturbed and deeply troubled, ³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Sir, come and see."
³⁵ And Jesus wept.
³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."
³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?"
³⁸ So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.
³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now
there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."
⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"
⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for
hearing me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said
this, that they may believe that you sent me."
⁴³ And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
⁴⁴ The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in
a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."
⁴⁵ Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe
in him.

Living Story

The key passage in this pericope is *I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.*

It is couched in what biblical cultural anthropologists call **antilanguage**, which is the peculiar language used by an antisociety. An antisociety is an **in-group** that has formed itself within a larger society as a deliberate and conscious alternative because they find themselves in conflict with the dominant larger society. Antilanguage employs the same words, but they have a particular meaning that only members of the in-group can understand. It develops because this in-group is in direct conflict, maybe even oppressed, and is in need of ways of communicating that protects it. John's gospel has many characteristics denoting antilanguage. It uses many words for the same reality that is of concern to the group;ⁱ it loads new meaning onto existing terms; it puts emphasis on the interpersonal, that is, on the interpersonal relationship between Jesus and the group members (disciples) and of course, between John and his community; it defines sharply the social contrast with the larger society.

Antisociety, in other words, is a defined social structure that is based on interpersonal relationships, on persons and their significance, on mutual trust and group loyalty. It is not a society based on truths; it is little concerned with ideological propositions or statements of doctrine. Their particular language exists only to facilitate interpersonal bonding. The following contrasts, typical of John's gospel, are a vivid example:

| In-group Dimensions (Disciples) | Out-group Dimensions (larger society) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| light | darkness (1:5) |
| born of water/spirit | born of blood/flesh/humans (1:13) |
| above | below (8:23) |
| spirit | flesh (3:6) |
| life | death (3:36) |
| truth | lie (8:44-45) |
| sky | land (earth) (3:31) |
| God | Satan (13:27) |
| Israel | Judeans (1:19, 47) |
| not of this world | this world (= Israelite society) (17:1) |

As antilanguage vocabulary, all of the above take on **in-group** or **out-group** interpersonal qualities that are specific for each group. Each of term refers to persons in their in-group or out-group dimensions. Thus, **in-group** members have hearts full of light. They have been born of God's power, and are Spirit-filled, really alive, truthful, and open to God. They are Israelites but not of Israelite society. In direct contrast, members of the **out-group** have hearts full of darkness. They have been born of human desire, and they are simply human. For all practical purposes they are already dead. They speak only in falsehoods, are tied to earthly experiences, and are deceived by Satan and succumb to his loyalty tests. They are Judeans, devoted to the social symbols located in Judea (Jerusalem and the Temple), forming Israelite society at large.

Antilanguage functions solely to support and cement relationships within the **in-group**. Such group attachment is called *love*, the basic requirement that John unflinchingly depicts Jesus as articulating.ⁱⁱ

In this pericope, Jesus articulates the core motive behind the interpersonal bonding with Jesus in John's in-group. Whoever lives now in John's group and believes in Jesus as God's broker will never die; that is why Jesus himself is resurrection and life. When Jesus asks Martha if she "believes," he is asking if she now understands the language used in his antisociety as well as the group loyalty such understanding implies. Martha acknowledges her belief, indicating that she *is* a member of the group!

So What? With an explanation of what John means by use of all this special language perhaps we can think of ourselves as members of an in-group who know what Jesus means by *I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die*. Describe the comfort there is in what Jesus says and the first and last verses from the Wisdom pericope: *The souls of the just are in the hand of God...and the faithful shall abide with him in love.*

FOOTNOTES:

ⁱ suggests that they conspired (John P. Meier, *Matthew*, p. 256); Matthew's readers would have recalled Ps. 2:2, *and the rulers gathered together against the Lord and his anointed...Malina and Rohrbaugh term this overlexicalization.*

ⁱⁱ Adapted from Bruce J. Malina and Richard L. Rohrbaugh, *Social-Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*

St. Anne Catholic Community

BY SISTER LAURETTA LEIPZIG, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

REFLECTIONS

On the Feast of All Saints

Father Jeffrey Mickler, S.S.P. opened his homily on the feast of All Saints with this statement: "Our hope is that we will all be counted among the countless multitude of the elect, the saints who are alluded to in the Book of Revelation."

Though there can be, at times, a refusal to accept the love offered us in Christ, most human beings are by the grace of God, not in that hardened sinful situation. We live from moment to moment doing the best we can to find happiness and fulfillment with various levels of understanding the ultimate significance of life. We have the advantage of religious faith and, therefore, the gospels provide an outline for living that is clear, coherent and uplifting. We struggle with sin and selfishness, but we can truly be called saints in the making.

While we work at our own spiritual development, we look to the heroes of faith, the great men and women of the Church, for insight into their lives. From the saints we can learn practical lessons in loving and living that will assure us that one day we will be sharing with them an eternity of light.

From one saint we can learn patience, from another self-sacrifice, from another heroic charity. From all the saints, however, we learn that living the Beatitudes is possible and desirable. On a feast like All Saints, we realize that we need help in overcoming all of the faults that afflict our lives, and we need grace to develop any of the virtues that make life worth living.

What was the ultimate goal of the saints? Father Mickler puts it so well. "They were one with God. Wherever they looked, they saw God. These people, when they closed their eyes in this life and opened them in the next, hardly noticed the difference because they already clearly saw God in this life. And when they faced God in the next, they felt immediately at home."

We pray that all of us will become like them and become the type of person that Jesus describes in the Beatitudes. Through our prayer and meditation, we will come to see the value of living the life of discipleship. It is the only way to happiness and the only "way" worth following!



AN INVITATION

If you are looking for a place to belong, a community with whom you can share your questions and beliefs, perhaps you would like to find out a bit more about the Catholic Church. You will be most welcome. Our community of St. Anne has something very special to offer, and we would like to share it with you. To obtain further information, call **Sister Anna Marie Dressler** at **847.381.5793**.

Minister Schedule

Monday, November 3, 8:15 AM

E. Moran Serv (1)
J. Graft Serv (2)

Tuesday, November 4, 8:15 AM

P. Kerstetter Serv (1)
C. Hirsch Serv (2)

Wednesday, November 5, 8:30 AM

E. Liedlich ServCap
L. Delisle Serv (1)
C. Wills Serv (2)

Thursday, November 6, 8:15 AM

B. Gabrielsen Serv (1)
E. Jagmin Serv (2)

Friday, November 7, 8:15 AM

M. Horcher Serv (1)
J. Cardelli Serv (2)

Saturday, November 8, 5:15 PM

S. Doody MC
F. Wroblewski MC
K. Gabrielsen ServCap
M. Tisbo Serv (1)
A. Tisbo Serv (2)
M. O'Neill Serv (3)
T. Huguelet Lec (1)
S. Koch Lec (2)
D. Brown EM
L. Clement EM
K. Huguelet EM
S. Oakley EM
M. Olson EM
P. Sobolewski EM
B. Sobolewski EM
D. Stanchuk EM
E. Trausch EM
D. Trausch EM

Sunday, November 9, 7:15 AM

Sr. Bernadette Badsing MC
J. Gerak ServCap
E. Guarnieri Serv (1)
J. Miseyka Serv (2)
N. Tyndorf Serv (3)
M. Wedinger Lec (1)
J. Rich Lec (2)
E. Diaz-Jimenez EM
J. Doherty EM
F. Garcia EM
A. Guarnieri EM
D. Guarnieri EM
J. Truett EM
D. Tyrpin Intcs

Sunday, November 9, 9:00 AM

Rick Weaver MC
Rita Weaver MC
C. Darch ServCap
K. Holsworth Serv (1)
R. Scardino Serv (2)
C. Seibt Serv (3)
F. Caiazza Lec (1)
B. Bishop Lec (2)
S. Bishop EM
Clare Burke EM
Chris Burke EM
J. Freda EM
L. Galazka EM
K. Goodwin EM
P. Groom EM
S. Gupta EM
D. Huntemann EM
E. Larkin-Leighton EM
T. Skleba EM
M. Stevens EM
K. Tabak EM
D. Trzuskowski EM
H. Wisniewski EM
J. Wisniewski EM

Sunday, November 9, 11:00 AM

J. Walker MC
D. Walker MC
R. Heck ServCap
S. Bessonny Serv (1)
S. Nordgren Serv (2)
N. Divito Serv (3)
P. Kolasinski Lec (1)
R. Matre Lec (2)
K. Bessonny EM
M. Degner EM
R. Diak-Witek EM
P. Fasano EM
M. Hamill EM
J. Huynh EM
C. Jakubec EM
B. Kesler EM
K. Lynam EM
J. Morkes EM
A. Nordgren EM
K. Phillips EM
E. Quinn EM
L. Riordan EM
D. Rogers EM
P. Sonnicksen EM

Sunday, November 9, 5:15 PM

R. Abbate MC
J. Abbate MC
A. Heider ServCap
E. Donoghue Serv (1)
R. Wolf Serv (2)
T. Bolger Serv (3)
K. Horcher Lec (1)
A. Hirsch EM
P. Hirsch EM
C. Lovett EM
B. Reed EM
J. Schutter EM
A. Sibley EM
Jan Sibley EM
Jeff Sibley EM
Ken Wink EM
Kelly Wink EM
L. Wolf EM
C. Condill Intcs

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Philippians 2:1-4/Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday: Philippians 2:5-11/Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday: Philippians 2:12-18/Luke 14:25-33
Thursday: Philippians 3:3-8a/Luke 15:1-10
Friday: Philippians 3:17-4:1/Luke 16:1-8
Saturday: Philippians 4:10-19/Luke 16:9-15
Sunday: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16 17/John 2:13-22

Other Happenings

High School Open Houses

Open houses will be held at Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, on **Sunday, November 2nd**, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and at St. Viator High School, Arlington Heights, on **Sunday, November 2nd**, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Church Women United

Church Women United will celebrate World Community Day on **Friday, November 7th**, at Faith Community United Church of Christ, Prairie Grove. For more information, call **Carol** at **847.842.2418**.

Fashion, Food, Fitness and Fun

BACOA will host speakers and lunch at the Garlands on **Friday, November 7th**, at 11:00 a.m. For more information, call **847.381.5030** or bacoa.org.

President's Dinner

Loyola Academy's 51st Annual President's Dinner will be held on **Friday, November 7th**, at the Palmer House Hotel. For more information, visit goramblers.org/Parents and President's Dinner.

Craft Fair and Bake Sale

St. Thomas More School, Elgin, will host a craft fair and bake sale on **Saturday, November 8th**, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Holiday Bazaar and Raffle

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, Palatine, will host a bazaar, raffles and bistro on **Saturday, November 8th**, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call **847.358.5700**.

Fashion Show and Luncheon

St. Viator Parents' Club presents this event on **Sunday, November 9th**, at the Stonegate Conference Center, Hoffman Estates. Call **847.392.4050**.

Catholic Charities LOSS Meetings

The Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide program will host a meeting on **Thursday, November 13th**, at 7:00 p.m., at Carmel High School, Mundelein. For more information, call **312.655.7283**.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next weekend dates are scheduled for **Friday-Sunday, November 14th-16th**. For more information, visit www.wmchicago-gary.org.

Joyful Again! Retreat

Widowed men and women are invited to a retreat on **Saturday-Sunday, November 15th-16th**, at St. Charles Retreat Center, Romeoville. For more information, call **708.354.7211**.

Amish/Mennonite Quilt Auction

Christ Community Mennonite Church, Schaumburg, will host a quilt auction on **Saturday, November 15th**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call **847.895.3676**.

Life's Healing Weekend Retreat

A retreat is offered on **Friday-Sunday, November 21st-23rd**, at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford. For more information, call **630.892.2371**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Carmel Catholic High School is looking for volunteer classroom proctors to act as substitutes. For more information, call **847.566.3000**.

Support FISH, a volunteer organization that provides a very personal, door-to-door transportation service for people in our community in need, by shopping at Jewel-Osco. The Shop & Share days for FISH of Barrington are **Mondays-Wednesdays, November 3rd-5th, and November 10th-12th**. Items purchased at both Jewel and Osco will be included. Both the identification slip (below) and register receipt are needed to apply fundraising credit.



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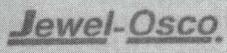
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Your Shop and Share Days: Oct. 27-29 & Nov. 3-5 & 10-12, 2008

Signature _____

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Community Offerings/Needs

Please note: St. Anne prints these offerings/needs as a service to its parishioners, and does not endorse them or accept responsibility for the information presented.

Town home for rent. Very private 2br/2ba in Barrington village. Attached garage, terrace, fireplace, kitchen. All newly remodeled. \$1,900.00/mo. Call **Barbara** at **847.651.6206** or email breed368@aol.com.

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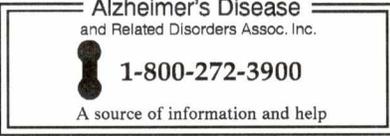
Job needed. Unemployed Barrington mom needs work. Babysitting, animal care, errands, household help and bookkeeping. Call **Lisa** at **847.713.2441**.

Sorters needed. People are needed to help sort donations on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Call **Project Hope** at **847.381.5721** to help.

Caregiver available. Skilled care/hospice companion available 3:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m., M-F. Call **224.305.1604**.

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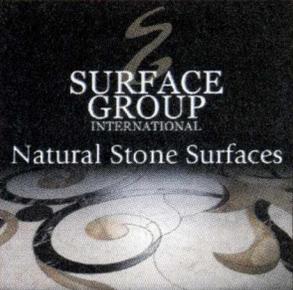
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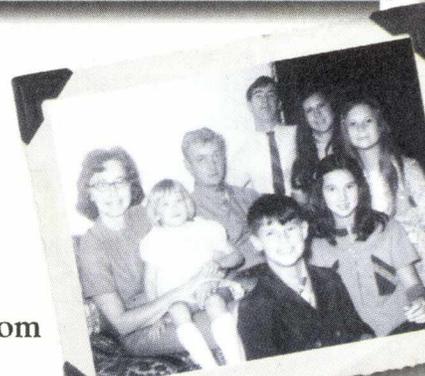


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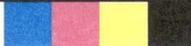
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Mass of Anticipation: 5:15 p.m.

Reconciliation: 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday: 7:15, 9:00*, 11:00* a.m., 5:15 p.m.

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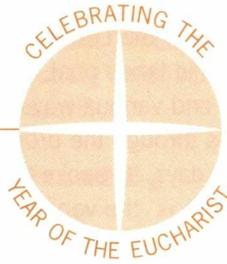
Marriage: A son or daughter of a registered parishioner or a registered and active parishioner will need to schedule an interview with a parish staff person to set a date and start the marriage process. Please call 847.382.5300.

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation: These sacraments are celebrated in the second grade. Candidates must complete the preparation program which is coordinated through the REP program. Please call the REP office at 847.620.3068.

Confirmation: This sacrament is celebrated in high school. Candidates must be registered parishioners and complete a 2 year preparation program including large and small group involvement. Please call 847.620.3072.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. and by appointment.

Registration: Please do not assume you are registered if you have been attending Mass here or have children in St. Anne School or our REP program. Registration includes meeting with one of our welcoming team members and filling out an official form for our parish records. To register, please call 847.382.5300.



Eucharist Jesus With Us

The First and Greatest Sacrament

by Father Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M., S.T.D.

Fasten your seatbelts for a really quick trip through history, Scripture and theology because in these few pages I want to explain the meaning of life! But before we begin this overly ambitious adventure, please complete the following sentence: "The Eucharist is..."

Typical of the responses I receive when I ask this question are: "The Eucharist is *Sunday Mass*." "The Eucharist is *the sacrifice of Calvary*." "The Eucharist is *Holy Communion*." These are all accurate statements. But the issue I want to treat in this article is this: Can you fit all the various correct responses together so that when you think about the Eucharist the multiple meanings of this mystery come together into a unified, consistent vision? That's what I want this article to help you accomplish.

Creation as God's work of art

Let's start at the beginning—the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth. Now, as we know, God didn't *have to* create anything. God created freely *out of love*. God, who is the very essence of love (see 1 Jn 4:16), planned from day one to share the love, harmony, communication and unity of God's own inner Trinitarian life with the persons and things that God would create. After all, isn't that what love does? It wants to propagate itself.

Just as an artist is always embodied in his or her work of art—we can look at a painting



In the Eucharist we find the meaning of life. In the Eucharist we come into contact with the *mysterious plan* of God. In the Eucharist we become Church.

and say “that’s a Monet” or hear a piece of music and say “that’s Mozart”—the Divine Artist is embodied in the beautiful universe we see around us. And of all God’s works of art, God’s masterpiece is Jesus! If God’s inner Trinitarian life and love spill over into creation, nowhere is this more evident than in Jesus Christ, who is “the refulgence of [God’s] glory” (Heb 1:3).

God’s plan for creation

Usually when we make something, we have some kind of plan in mind. For example, imagine you are building a house and you begin to measure the land, dig the foundation and pour the footings. If someone were to ask you, “What are you doing?” you wouldn’t say, “Well, I don’t know yet; I’m just pouring concrete. We’ll see what happens.” No, from the very beginning, your mind’s eye is on the finished project: “I’m building a house.”

Similarly, God had a *plan* for all of creation. Little by little that plan was revealed in the history of God’s people.

As we read in the Letter to the Hebrews: “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son...who is the very imprint of [God’s] being” (1:1-3). When the time was ripe, God’s plan was revealed in all its wonderful mystery in the birth, life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The plan God had in mind from the very beginning was Jesus Christ!

Jesus: sacrament of God’s plan

When the inspired authors of the New Testament describe this amazing plan of God for the world, the word they use for “plan” (they were writing in Greek) is *mysterion* (“mystery” in English). They tell how this *mystery*, this wondrous plan of God for the world, is “summed up” in Christ. They share the plan with others so that “their hearts may be encouraged as they are brought together in love...for the knowledge of the

mystery of God, Christ, in whom are hidden *all* the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col 2:2-3, italics added).

When the Greek New Testament was translated into Latin, the Greek word *mysterion* was often translated into the Latin word *sacramentum* (“sacrament” in English). St. Augustine taught that a sacrament is a “visible sign of invisible grace.”

Today, when we Catholics think of sacraments we usually think of the seven sacraments—but in Augustine’s broader understanding of sacrament, we see that of all the visible signs we have of who God is, the best, the most complete “visible sign” (sacrament) is Jesus himself. For Jesus “is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation” (Col 1:15).

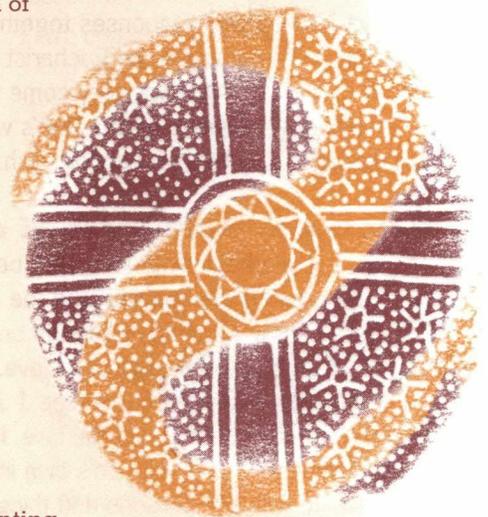
In Jesus “we see our God made visible and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see” (*Mass of Christmas*, Preface I). It is in this sense that we can speak of Jesus himself as a “sacrament.”

Did You Know? The Last Supper

The meal at which Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist has captured the attention of artists throughout the centuries. Of all the depictions, Leonardo da Vinci’s “Last Supper” is considered the masterpiece. Today it remains in the same location where Leonardo climbed the scaffold from 1495 to 1498 to put his graceful brush to work: in the refectory of the Dominican convent of Santa Maria della Grazie in Milan, Italy.

While some artists have highlighted the institution of the Eucharist, Leonardo’s work concentrates on the moment in which Jesus announces Judas’ betrayal. An incredible drama unfolds, with the disciples reflecting a range of emotions including anxiety, surprise, shame. Existing drawings attributed to Leonardo reveal in detail what the master was seeking in the posture and expressions of each person at the table. These preparatory drawings show the excruciating detail in his work: the full face of James the Greater, the left hand of Bartholomew, the head of Simon, the arm of Peter, the right foot of Christ.

Nature and history have not been kind to Leonardo’s “Last Supper.” Humidity, dust, gases and mildew began doing their damage almost immediately. The painting fell victim to war in the 1800s and again in 1943. There have been eight documented restorations over the years, the most recent in 1997.



Unity of mind and heart

At Mass we pray: "You sent Jesus Christ your Son among us as redeemer and Lord. He was moved with compassion for the poor and the powerless, for the sick and the sinner; he made himself neighbor to the oppressed. By his words and actions he proclaimed to the world that you care for us as a father cares for his children" (*Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions*, IV).

The love that is the inner Trinitarian life of God is revealed in everything that Jesus said and did, but nowhere is this love so clearly expressed as in his passion, death and resurrection. Jesus Christ empties himself on the cross to be in perfect union with the will of his Father through the Holy Spirit.

Perfect union of mind and heart! This is the goal, the purpose of sacrifice: joyful union with God. Nothing could separate Jesus from the love of God, not even death. Victorious over death itself, Jesus "rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures." This is Christ's paschal victory!

Christ's reconciling sacrifice

The events of the days we have come to call Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are at the very heart of God's mysterious plan to embody his own Trinitarian love and harmony in creation. This plan is perfectly accomplished in the self-offering of Jesus through which he reconciled all things to himself.

And while Jesus accomplished this reconciliation *once and for all* on the cross, his sacrifice is not something that *only* happened in the past—as is the case with ordinary past events that happened once and now are over and done with. By means of the sacred meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples before he died, we are enabled to participate in, and indeed to be *mysteriously present to*, Christ's offering. The Eucharist is the

sacramental "door" through which we can personally enter into Christ's reconciling sacrifice.

Transformed by the Spirit

Each time we gather for the Lord's Supper we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to transform our bread and wine into that sacrament of reconciliation, communion and love which is Christ himself. And that same Holy Spirit comes upon us who eat and drink and takes us up into the sacrifice of Christ. "Lord, look upon this sacrifice which you have given to your Church; and by your Holy Spirit, gather all who share this one bread and one cup into the one body of Christ, a living sacrifice of praise" (*Eucharistic Prayer*, IV).

This Holy Spirit—the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of right judgment and courage, of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of wonder and awe, which the prophet Isaiah said would be the hallmark of the Messiah (the Christ) —permeated and sealed the life of Jesus of Nazareth. It is this same Spirit which Christ gives to us. After his resurrection, Jesus said to the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He then breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20:21-22).

Eucharist makes Church

We receive that Spirit in Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Through these sacraments Christ commissions us to continue his work. Christ, through the Holy Spirit, has "given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor 5:18). We are to free creation from slavery by working to improve the quality of life for all, to alleviate hunger and disease, injustice and conflict. We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation until that perfect union of Creator and creation, which was planned by God from the beginning of the world and achieved by Christ on the cross, extends to the ends of the earth.

Living Bread Paul Caruso

At the rate he's going, Paul Caruso's used Dodge Grand Caravan is sure to hit 200,000 miles by year's end. But the 61-year-old eucharistic minister, who lives outside Atlanta, isn't about to change his ways. His mission is far more important than worrying about the 600-800 miles he puts on his aging car each month.

It's also important to the hundreds of men and women Mr. Caruso has befriended through his regular visits to Georgia state prisons and county jails over the past two decades. "Christ's delivery boy," as he calls himself, doesn't know the meaning of cutting corners, slowing down or saying no. He also plays the role of catechist and counselor.

But the Eucharist always comes first. "It's the key to the Catholic faith. That's who we are," Mr. Caruso tells the prisoners who find solace and strength in the sacrament that nourishes him as well. After the Communion services end he offers instructions in the faith, teaches the rosary or other prayers and provides a listening ear to the "children of God" he encounters behind bars. He goes where he's asked, including solitary confinement, where he listens and speaks to prisoners through the food flap in the door.

Several years ago Mr. Caruso founded St. Joseph Cafasso Prison Ministries, named after the patron saint of prisoners. While he often works alone, he welcomes support and interest from anyone, anywhere. Funding for his full-time ministry includes a small stipend from his parish and other area churches plus individual donations.

"The prisoners love me when I visit," says Mr. Caruso, "but the reason I'm there is to bring the Eucharist, to bring Christ."

We cannot accomplish this alone; we cannot accomplish this divine plan together with the help of other people, even thousands of other people. We can only carry on the mission of Christ together *with Christ*. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we become Christ's Body; we become Church. The Eucharist makes the Church. That is why the Church is so much more than merely the sum total of its members.

The Church itself is a sacrament, "a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, #1). And that sacrament which is the Church is never more visible than when we are celebrating the Eucharist. The Eucharist "is the outstanding means whereby the faithful may express in their lives, and manifest to others, the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, #2).

One unified vision

I have friends who returned from a visit to Russia with a set of those Russian nesting dolls (*matryoshka*). I always enjoy watching the amazement on the faces of their grandchildren as they open the doll to find another slightly smaller doll inside, and another inside that, and so on until all 10 are displayed on the table. Perhaps this can serve as an image for an integrated vision of the Eucharist.

Picture the dolls as being transparent so that you can see through the outer one to the next and the next and the next. Look at the Eucharist and see not only the consecrated host but also your own mystery and the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ. See Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost. See the mystery of Christ, the sacrament of God, God's plan for the world and the Trinitarian love of God's very self. All of this is really present in the Eucharist.

When we view the Eucharist as the embodiment of the whole mysterious plan of God for the universe, then we can understand why the Eucharist is the first and greatest sacrament, indeed, the "Sacrament of sacraments" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1211).

The meaning of life

Many years ago when I was a high school religion teacher, I used to tell the sophomores that in order to find the meaning of life you have to answer three questions:

- 1) *Who is God?*
- 2) *Who am I?*
- 3) *What am I going to do about it (that is, questions 1 and 2)?*

These are the three questions that will be on the final examination. I refer to the *very final* examination when we stand before the throne of God in judgment.

The Eucharist is the key to the answers to these questions.

- 1) *In the Eucharist we experience the presence of Christ, who reveals to us who God is.*
- 2) *In the Eucharist we are incorporated more and more into the Body of Christ, and in that Body we find our true identity.*
- 3) *Through the Eucharist the Holy Spirit empowers us, as Church, to continue the mission of Christ. We become ambassadors of reconciliation, ministers of healing, sacraments of God's love.*

In the Eucharist we find the meaning of life. In the Eucharist we come into contact with the *mysterious plan* of God. In the Eucharist we become Church. This is why the Eucharist, as Pope John Paul II has proclaimed, is the "source and summit of the life and mission of the Church." ✚

Next: **The Community Gathers**

Question Corner

Before reading this article, how would you have completed the sentence, "The Eucharist is..."? How has your answer changed since reading it?

Through the Eucharist we are empowered to continue Christ's mission of reconciliation and healing and to be sacraments of God's love. Are you taking your mission seriously?

The main article says that the Eucharist is the first and greatest sacrament. How does your participation in Sunday Mass need to change to better reflect how important the Eucharist is in your life and in the life of the Church?

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