



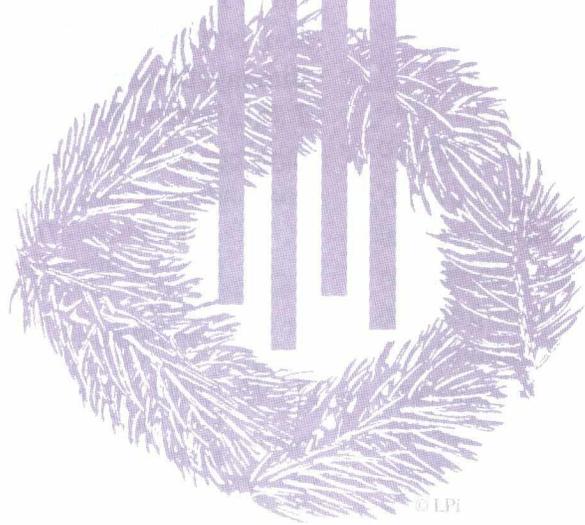
Clarion

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ST. ANNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

LORD

let
your
glory
dawn
to
take
away
our
darkness.

May
we be
revealed
as
children
of the
light
at the
coming
of your
Son.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Volume 6, No. 4 ~ This People is the House of God ~ December 20, 2009



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 others

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

Sharing

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.

CELEBRATING SACRAMENTS

WEDDINGS

I Megan Struebing and Michael Waldron

BAPTISMS

Frannie Jude Drake
(Melissa and Greg)

REMEMBERING...

Monday, December 21st

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society
Daniel Spann—*The McNeela Family*
Donald T. Hayes—*Caroline Hayes*

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:15 Tom Deger—*Dottie Deger*
Mossy Fitzgerald—*The Fitzgerald Family*

Wednesday, December 23rd

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society
Raphael Orozco—*Don and Dorothy Sass*

Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Vigil)

2:30 Gerald and Roselyn Kingsley—*The Kingsley and Van der Voort Families*
4:30 Ann and Harold Gemkow—*JoAnne and Stan Stack*
10:30 Marc Weaver—*The Battle Family*

Friday, December 25th (Christmas)

9:00, 11:00 Intentions of the Priests

Saturday, December 26th

Mass of Anticipation
5:15 Art Cramer—*The Family*
Therese Carrick—*Vincent and Kathleen Giamalva*

Sunday, December 27th

7:15 People of St. Anne
9:00 Jean Pirone—*Karen Goodwin*
Gene Conrad—*The Family*
John Bruce—*The McManus Family*
Dorothy Sherman—*St. Anne Women's Scripture Group*
Gerry Bataille—*Dick and Maribeth Kuhn*
11:00 Arthur Bandur—*The Thomas Family*
Dick McCall—*Beth Carpenter*
Marie Thobe, Special Intention—*Anne and Urban Thobe*
Charles and Gayle Allison—*The Oroni Family*
Nancy Pecoraro—*Nina Pecoraro*
5:15 John Carr—*Catherine Cienkowski*

RESTING IN PEACE

George J. Tarulis,
father of George;

Lydia Magnanenzi,
mother of Jim and Kathy

FROM THE FRIENDLY CONFINES

Dear People of Saint Anne,

As I write this letter, I have just come back from the Christmas Pageant featuring the primary grade children of Saint Anne Parish School. These little ones were dressed in their Christmas finest or in the roles of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, lambs, the wise men and other characters featured in the story of the Nativity.

Before their delightful presentation, there was electricity in the air. I am not sure if the electricity radiated more from the children or from their parents and grandparents who were present for the celebration.

The children could hardly wait for the Pageant to begin. All gathered could feel that we were on the threshold of something marvelous. They did not disappoint. Through word and song, they brought forth the Christmas child of innocence, joy, faith, hope and anticipation to life within all of our hearts.

That threshold of something marvelous – is offered to us in our Scripture readings on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. We hear the story of a young pregnant woman hastening to help an older relative who is also with child. The unborn lives of the children within them recognize each other and, in the ordinary and daily moment of pregnancy, something extraordinary happens between these two women.

Which leads us to the question, why does God choose the ordinary moments of human life to reveal what is radiant, glorious and divine? Might it be that we mistake what is loud, extraordinary and flashy for what is truly marvelous in God's eyes? God's choices recounted in the story of Mary and Elizabeth should encourage all of us. The mystery of the Incarnation – God becoming flesh – comes to ordinary people like ourselves as we live ordinary

lives. All that is required is an openness to do God's will and willingness to respond to God's call.

What Mary and Elizabeth witness to us today is similar to what the Letter to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus himself has done. He has come into the world to do God's will, a more important activity than prayers or sacrifices. The true prayer offered by all Christians is the constant striving to respond to God's will. This is what makes Mary, Elizabeth and all of us blessed – for it is what we as human beings are supposed to be.

I come to do your will. That is not a bad motto or mantra for us as we prepare for the Christmas feast in the days ahead. This is what we have been celebrating in this season of Advent and what we look forward to celebrating with special joy as throngs of people will join us here at Saint Anne in the upcoming feasts of Christmas and the Epiphany.

Just as our primary children at Saint Anne School filled the hearts of all who were gathered with them last Monday with joy; just as Mary's visit filled Elizabeth with elation, so the Lord's encounter with us can do the same thing. Why? Because our living out of the message of Jesus is our way of doing God's will in self-sacrificing love.

As we prepare for the Christmas feast this week, let us pray that we can bring peace, the respect, the reverence and the joy of Mary and Elizabeth's meeting into the lives of all we will encounter in this holiday season. Let us pray that this feast of Christmas will help us to renew and rediscover the unique, purposeful and different ways that we are called to do God's will in the our own God given mission in this life.

With Christmas Anticipation,
Father Bernie Pietrzak

Office of the Pastor

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Offering for December 13th, 2009

Parishioners attending Sunday Liturgy: 2,407	
Sunday Offering Envelopes used: 537	\$41,197.00
Direct Debit/Credit Card Offerings: 227	\$6,500.00
Grand Total for the Week	\$47,697.00
Budget for Operating Expenses	\$42,000.00
Difference	+\$5,697.00

Year to Date Collection vs. Budget

Year to Date Sunday Collection	*\$1,040,005.00
*Includes the Fall Catch-up Collection	
Year to Date Budget	\$1,008,000.00
Difference	+\$32,005.00

Year to Date Extraordinary Collections

Sharing Parishes	\$30,902.00
Archdiocesan Required Collections	\$26,906.00
Complete the Journey/Debt Reduction	\$149,925.00

FALL CATCH-UP COLLECTION **\$74,090.00**

Finance Notes

Our Sunday/Holy Day contributions exceed budget for another week. This is such wonderful news, and if this continues, it will go a long way in helping us to pay off the operating loan from last year, which our Sunday contributions do not cover.

We continue to analyze our expenses and are looking at making more cuts in the month to come in order to stay on top of this situation. We need to reduce the budgeted Sunday figure after the first of the year so that the excess can help us with that operating loan.

With expenses in mind, we will not be sending out a separate Christmas mailing this year. I urge you to read my letter in the bulletin Christmas weekend, and to keep the page in this bulletin so that you have the Christmas schedule. For those of you who do not have an envelope, we will have Christmas envelopes in the back of church if you wish to use one.

Fr. Bernie



Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

2:30 p.m.

(Family Mass, The Living Gospel)

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

10:30 p.m.

(Carols begin at 10:00 p.m.)

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.

(Family Mass, The Living Gospel)

Friday, December 25th

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Generations of Faith

WHO IS WAITING?

One of my three sisters lives in New Hampshire. She and I have been an integral part of each other's faith journey. We both happen to subscribe to different websites that offer daily reflections. Recently, she sent me an Advent reflection that made me look at Advent from a different perspective. The author, Sallie Latkovich, CSJ, said that while Advent is seen as our time of preparing ourselves to celebrate the incredible mystery of the Incarnation as well as a time to prepare for the second coming of Christ, she stated: "I've been thinking that we've got it all wrong. We need not wait for God. God is always present, always with us. That's what the name Emmanuel means: God-with-us. And, that's the primary truth we hear in the Scriptures. God created us and calls us into relationship. God is indeed present with us and especially, in the person of Jesus the Christ. No, this Advent, I've come to see that it's GOD who waits for US. . ." She goes on to describe that God waits for us: to realize that we are created in God's image – and all that implies; to recognize God in our daily lives – in creation as well as in the people with whom we come into contact; to realize that we will remain forever empty until we make God the center of our lives.

This should not have been such a revelation because as we have explored prayer in **Generations of Faith** this year, we know that prayer is a dialogue with God that God initiates. So while we may think that praying to God is *our* idea, in reality it is only because God speaks to us first, that we can pray. When we pray, what is actually happening is that we are responding to God's Spirit that lives in us. God's initiative of love comes first; our own first step is always a response.

Please join me this Advent to alleviate God's waiting by doing some of the following:

- As you are wrapping your Christmas gifts, thank God for the most precious gift of His Son, Jesus.
- Those that we love enjoy hearing the phrase, "I love you." Make sure you tell the people in your life who are important to you that you love and appreciate them.
- Begin each day by praying, "Thank you, God, for loving me." Acknowledging the unconditional love of God in your life will improve a good day and help get you through a difficult day.
- Recognizing that we are all made in God's image makes it easier to offer love to someone from whom you have been estranged. Use this season to reconcile with someone, and unburden yourself of the anxiety that alienation breeds.
- Time is another cherished gift from God. Take the time to celebrate the beauty of the season.
- Thank God for the time you have to celebrate the season with family and friends.
- Choose to make God the center of your life. Open your heart to God with the trust and innocence of a child – it will change your life forever.

Adult Formation

CHRISTMAS

As we look to celebrating the beautiful feast of Christ, I would like today to use some of the material written by Rev. John H. Zupez, SJ. He writes:

For the ancient people, nothing was more certain than the movement of the stars. They referred to the "eternal cycle of the stars" and even worshipped the perfection of the completely predictable behavior of the stars. How amazed, then, were these three astrologers from the East, the wise men, when a star misbehaved! It moved unpredictably across the heavens on a completely unknown course. Truly, this was an event worth following, of divine significance: the babe in the manger.

This babe has also been the inspiration for many artistic renderings over the centuries. One of my favorites is by a Dutch painter who pictures a very busy village at Christmas time: people crowding the roads to town for shopping, hanging festoons and Christmas decorations, rushing about in preparation for the celebration. You have to look at this painting some time before noticing a man picking his way through the crowd leading a donkey on which rides a very pregnant looking young girl. No one notices the Lord when he comes. Even at Christmas, we may miss the reason for the season.

Amidst our preparation for family celebrations, do we take time to reflect and to invite the Lord into our lives in a special way by the grace of this annual celebration? Do we pray that our imaginations might remind us of the family from Nazareth throughout the year when we are tempted to shatter the people within our own family?

May the miracle of God's love, visible in the Holy Family around the crib, work its way into our hearts this Christmas. May this family of Bethlehem help us, not only to long for God's peace, but to do all we can to become better instruments of that peace. May the inspiration we receive before the crib return to us many times during the year, to strengthen us in our efforts to realize in our families the peace that God brings by the miracle of Christmas.

BY SISTER LAURETTA LEIPZIG, ASSOCIATE/DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Worship



A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

We shall become Christians on that day
when sunshine means more to us
than a further acquisition.

We shall become Christians on that day
when the children of the world excite us
at least as much as its rulers.

We shall become Christians on that day
when we use our hearts to measure
the worth of a human being.

We shall become Christians on that day
when love leads us into friendships,
not greed or pride.

We shall become Christians on that day
when we are joyful
because so many people are in love,
rather than because so many people are affluent.

We shall become Christians
when we learn to make love and peace,
to make Jesus human,
and to make ourselves as human as he was.

We shall become Christians
when we allow Jesus to speak to us
by his values as well as by his words.

We shall become Christians on that morning
when we laugh and sing for all the right reasons
and when we weep,
not because we have lost something,
but because we were given so much.

*May the joy, the peace and the light of this season
fill you and your families
with the hope of the Christmas season.*

Fr. Tom Bishop

LIVING CHRISTMAS GOSPEL—REHEARSAL

Children in the 2nd through 4th grade are invited to take part in the "Living Christmas Gospel" at the 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve (**Thursday, December 24th**) Masses. Anyone who wishes to participate is required to attend a rehearsal this **Tuesday afternoon, December 22nd**, in the Gathering Space.

Rehearsal for the 2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be on
Tuesday, December 22nd, at 1:00 p.m. in the Church.

Rehearsal for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be on
Tuesday, December 22nd, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church.

Because these are the only rehearsals, those who wish to take part **must** attend.

USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED

On **Thursday, December 24th**, and **Friday, December 25th**, *extra volunteer ushers and greeters are needed* to accommodate the expected increase in attendance at these Masses.

To volunteer for a Mass choice listed below, please sign up in the ushers' room, located adjacent to the Gathering Space, or call **Chuck Brenneman** (to be an *usher*) at **847.304.1925**, or **Darrell Medley** (to be a *greeter*) at **847.726.8842**.

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
2:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

God,
we sometimes forget
that you are always with us.
We make believe during Advent
that you are not here yet
and will show up on Christmas.

Gabriel said to Mary:
"The Lord is with you."
Like Mary, we are perplexed
by what this means.

You are present everywhere,
in fact, most profoundly
in the people all around us,
and your spirit is within them
and in our encounters with
them.

Help us look for you
not only in the seasons and
feasts we celebrate
but in the lives and gifts
of our brothers and sisters.

As Mary conceived in her womb
the child named Jesus,
may we nurture to birth
the Christ within us
and share that gift
with everyone.

Thank you for making yourself
known to us
in all things great and small.
Amen.

David Haas

From "Praying with the Word"

The Human Person... The Heart of Peace..



4th Sunday of Advent 2009

The Village of Nkokwe...in the Parish
of Rugari...in the Diocese of Goma...in
the Democratic Republic of Congo...
on the Continent of Africa

Stands on the threshold

with the Community of St. Anne...in the
Village of Barrington...in the Archdiocese
of Chicago...in the State of Illinois...in the
United States of America...on the Conti-
nent of North America.

"Lord, come. Do not delay."

In Advent, we prepare for an event
that is already a reality: God with us.
Emmanuel! The people [in the parish
of Rugari] find God's love breaking
through the harshness of daily life,
shining forth in this world. Glimpses
of that love give Congolese hope that this
love will touch the hearts of those who
are hardened. So we say this Advent,
2009, "Lord Jesus, come. Do not de-
lay."

When God came to Bethlehem, to one
human family, in one culture, God
made possible his coming into every
culture, every human family. Our
Christian faith is not American, or
European, or African or Middle Eastern
or any one culture, but rather the being
[indwelling] of Christ in all cultures and
in all people. Christ came to bring us a
fullness of life in which we are all his
sons and daughters.

To be open and to recognize God's
love, here and now, requires us to risk
fully. And what does it mean to risk
fully? The first week of Advent we be-
held the word of our Lord Jesus: "Do
not be afraid." We must set aside our
fears, for they take too much energy
and keep us from living as brothers
and sisters. We must speak truth and

be ready for what reconciliation asks of
us. We must stay careful and attend
to our daily tasks, because God works
in the common [everyday] parts of our
lives.

We stand on the threshold of God's
love being born in each of us anew.
We pray in the Psalm today, "Lord,
make us turn to you; let us see your
face and we shall be saved."

Abbe Romain, Pastor of Rugari Parish
Translated by Joseph Rizinde Gambere

*Abbe Romain is the newly named pastor
of Rugari Parish. His secretary, Joseph
Gambere, speaks English, French and
Swahili, which will make our future commu-
nications a little easier. Joseph is married
and has two sons. He is going to school
and working on his English. Jackie Griffin
helped him with the translation of Abbe
Romain's Advent reflection.*

Parishes in Congo

Parishes in Congo are very large and
named after the town where the main
church is located, hence, Rugari. Rugari is
about the size of the Archdiocese of Chi-
cago, the Diocese being about the size of
the state of Illinois. Rugari operates 12
satellite churches, including the one in
Nkokwe, which is called Notre Dame du
Rosaire (Our Lady of the Rosary). There
are also 27 primary schools, 5 secondary
schools, and a clinic within the parish. St.
Anne's HPx2 program helped the parish to
build two cisterns at the clinic, which is
located in Rugari, and we continue to work
on the primary school in Nkokwe.

Abbe Romain has two associates. The
three men share a diocesan vehicle for
getting around to see their parishioners.
As you might imagine, parishioners in each
of the satellite church communities work
tirelessly to bring the Gospel to the people.

Worship

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Time	Presider	Mass Coordinators and Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers
December 24/25				
2:30 p.m.	Fr. Bernie	<u>Schnepf, P., Schnepf, C.</u> Broderick, D., Broderick, A., Corwin, P., Giamalva, V., Kantarski, M., Larkin-Leighton, E., Lesniak, M., Magnanenzi, K., Marshall, G., Slack, C., Slack, D., Wood, L., Zgonina, S., Zgonina, J. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (2)	Marshall, N.	Gerak, J., Gerak, C., Tyndorf, N., McManus, J.
4:30 p.m.	Fr. Fred	MASS COORDINATORS NEEDED (2) Boutillier, S., DeJesu, D., Hamill, M., Hamilton, Claire, Hamilton, Charlotte, Hirsch, P., Hirsch, Amanda, Hirsch, D., Leverso, B., Lovett, C., Moran, K., Quinn, E., Reed, B., Schneider, P., Schneider, M., Sprehe, D., Sprehe, L.	Condill, C.	Hirsch, C., Hirsch, E., Liedlich, E., Tracy, E.
10:30 p.m.	Frs. Bernie, Fred, Tom, and Jack	<u>Bessonny, R., Weaver, Rick</u> Bessonny, K., Corwin, P., Dwyer, Carly, Dwyer, Cathy, Gillespie, K., Kuhn, R., Levin, P., Mikosz, J., Oefelein, C., Sibley, Jeff, Sibley, Jan, Sibley, A., Stevens, M., Tabak, K., Walker, D., Walker, J., Wisniewski, H., Wisniewski, J.	Cooney, D., Tyrpin, D. LECTOR NEEDED (Int.)	Bessonny, S., Burny, G., Burny, J., Hoppe, Mason
9:00 a.m.	Fr. Fred	<u>Doody, S., Wroblecki, F.</u> Abbate, R., Abbate, J., Albanese, M., Albanese, J., Carlson, S., Dehn, R., Kantroski, L., Kurowski, M., Nelson, Judy, Oakley, S., Schuh, A. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (2)	Dehn, M., Rich, J.	Tisbo, M., Tisbo, A. SERVERS NEEDED (2)
11:00 a.m.	Fr. Tom	<u>LeMonier, E., LeMonier, M.</u> Brenneman, V., Corwin, P., Kendal-Ward, E., Kendal-Ward, M., Magnanenzi, K., Morkes, J., Mulvihill, D., Skleba, T., Trzuskowski, D., Van der Voort, J., Wolf, L., Wolf, T. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (4)	Corwin, M., Daluga, J.	Duffy, A., Gabrielsen, K., Guarnieri, E., Graft, W.
December 26/27				
5:15 p.m.	Fr. Fred	<u>Doody, S., Wroblecki, F.</u> Schneider, P., Schneider, M. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (8)	LECTORS NEEDED (2)	CAPTAIN NEEDED Rolecek, G. SERVERS NEEDED (2)
7:15 a.m.	Fr. Fred	MASS COORDINATOR NEEDED Dehn, R., Oefelein, C., Polnow, M. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (3)	Dehn, M., Rich, J. LECTOR NEEDED (Int.)	CAPTAIN NEEDED Resch, K. SERVERS NEEDED (2)
9:00 a.m.	Fr. Bernie	<u>Weaver, Rick, Weaver, Rita</u> Albanese, M., Albanese, J., Galazka, L., Gillespie, K., Goodwin, K., Hirsch, D., Hirsch, P., Hirsch, Amanda, Kantarski, M., Kurowski, M., Oakley, S., Quinn, E., Skleba, T., Stevens, M., Jennings-Lenz, C. (CLOTW) EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (2)	LECTORS NEEDED (2)	Hirsch, E., Hirsch, Addie, Hirsch, C., Krout, K.
11:00 a.m.	Fr. Tom	<u>Walker, D., Walker, J.</u> Baggio, C., Brenneman, V., Carlson, S., Corwin, P., Dwyer, Carly, Mulvihill, D., Brauch, H. (CLOTW) EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (10)	Moran, M., Corwin, M.	Liedlich, E., Liedlich, A., Carens, M., Miller, C.
5:15 p.m.	Fr. Bernie	<u>Farman, G., Bessonny, R.</u> Bessonny, K., Schnepf, C., Schnepf, P. EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED (10)	LECTOR NEEDED LECTOR NEEDED (Int.)	Bessonny, S., Burns, L., Burns, P. SERVER NEEDED

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Song of Songs 2:8-14/Luke 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/Luke 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Luke 1:57-66
 Thursday: Isaiah 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Matthew 1:1-25
 Friday: Isaiah 9:1-6/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14
 Isaiah 62:11-12/Titus 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20
 Isaiah 52:7-10/Hebrews 1:1-6/John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Sunday: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14/Colossians 3:12-21/Luke 2:41-52

Faith and Justice

The Greatest Gift of All!

You have given the greatest gift of all – **the gift of hope** – to hundreds of less fortunate families this year through your ongoing support of Project Hope and House of Hope Resale. We thank you and wish you a blessed and merry Christmas!

Project Hope Holiday Hours

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. thru Tuesday, December 22nd
Closed December 23rd thru January 1st
Reopening Monday, January 4th at 9:00 a.m.



House of Hope Resale Holiday Hours

Open Wednesday, December 23rd (Boxing Day Sale Begins!)
Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Open Saturday, December 26th
Closing 1:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve
Closed New Year's Day

**75% off Christmas items plus 50% off selected furniture,
paintings, art prints and frames
starting Wednesday, December 23rd!**



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



*Mark your
calendars!*

*Exciting Social Events –
in the works!*

Spring Gala - May 22nd, 2010

Fall Golf Classic - September 2010

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Spring Gala—contact Courtney Murtaugh
via email at murtaughs@ameritech.net.

Fall Golf Classic—contact Colleen Stevanovich
via email at cstevanovich@yahoo.com.

Stay tuned for more details!

LADIES' LUNCHEON

The St. Anne Women's Club is pleased to announce its upcoming event, a **Ladies' Luncheon** on **Tuesday, January 12th**. The luncheon will take place at **Chessie's/111 Grille** located in the Ice House Mall, Barrington. The afternoon will feature lunch and a special noon-time activity. Babysitting will also be available. Look for more information in future *Clarions* and in the Women's Club newsletter.

ADVENT PREPARATION

The Environment and Art Committee will setup for the holy season of Christmas on **Wednesday, December 23rd** at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to help decorate the Church for the holidays.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The St. Anne Women's Club is hosting a Day of Reflection, "Faith in Today's Ever Changing World," on **Tuesday, February 9th, 2010**. All are welcome to attend the presentation by Traci Matheu, author of "*A Survivor from the Lost Generation of Catholics*" who will speak on the virtues of strong Catholic beliefs and family values. The event will take place at St. Anne's, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will include continental breakfast, presentations, Mass and a luncheon. For more information, call **Liz** at **847.381.8695**.

CARMEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

The Entrance Exam for the Carmel High School Class of 2014 will take place on **Saturday, January 9th**, at 8:00 a.m. The fee is \$25.00 (checks payable to Carmel Catholic High School). In addition to the fee, eighth graders should also bring several #2 pencils. It is not necessary to pre-register for the test. Free bus transportation is available from area parishes and schools. Families are encouraged to visit our website, www.carmelhs.org for additional information regarding the Entrance Exam, including the bus schedule. Once on our website, click on the Admissions Tab. For more information, call **Brian Stith** at **847.388.3320** or bstith@carmelhs.org.

LOYOLA ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAM

The Entrance Exam for Loyola Academy will take place on **Saturday, January 9th**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students should bring two #2 pencils and a \$25.00 testing fee. No registration is necessary. Students who wish to attend Loyola Academy must take the entrance exam at Loyola Academy. Parents are invited to come to Loyola on the morning of the exam for a presentation on the academic program and placement for the year starting at 8:30 a.m. in the East Gym.

SHARING PARISH NEED

St. Frances of Rome needs a four-wheel drive vehicle in order to continue to plow its own enormous parking lots this winter. Doing it themselves saves a minimum of \$300.00 per snowfall. The 1987 Chevrolet Silverado they have been using for the last eight winters has given up the ghost. If anyone at St. Anne is downsizing to a smaller vehicle, they would be happy to take the old one off your hands - along with a tax letter. Their contact number is on the back page of the *Clarion*.

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

St. Francis, Lake Zurich, offers *The Forever in Our Hearts* group, a non-denominational self-help support group for grieving parents who have lost children during pregnancy, infancy, childhood or adulthood. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month in the Church Gathering Space at 7:30 p.m. Members have the opportunity, if they wish, to express feelings of grief, learn about the process of grieving and, in time, grow to move on with living again. For more information, call **Linda Engle**, Director of Care Ministries, at **847.726.4783**.

ST. VIATOR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

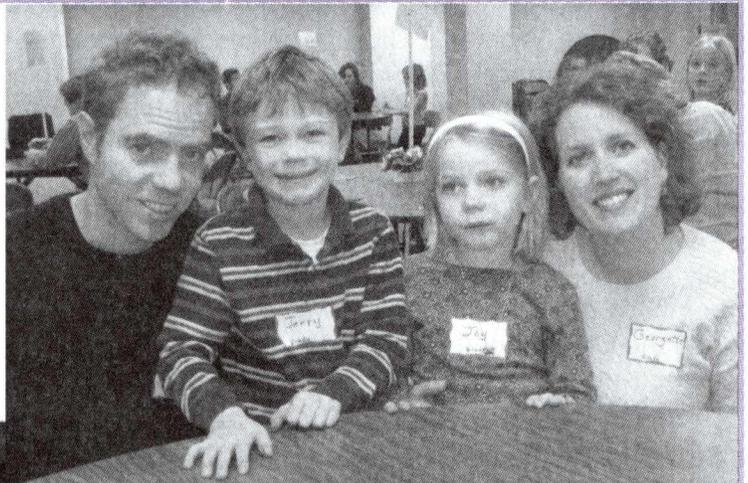
The entrance exam will be given on **Saturday, January 9th**, at 8:00 a.m. Interested students should arrive by 7:45 a.m. at the North entrance of the school and bring two #2 pencils along with a \$25.00 check (payable to SVHS). The test will conclude between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Saint Viator is located at 1213 E. Oakton Street, Arlington Heights.

TUITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR

A tuition assistance seminar will be held on **Wednesday, January 6th**, at 7:00 p.m. to review the application process for tuition assistance with prospective parents. All perspective families are invited to attend this seminar in the Jeuck Auditorium. The seminar will be conducted by Fr. Mick Egan, President, and Mrs. Nora Boka, Controller. This year over \$1 million of tuition assistance was awarded to 26% of our students.

Family Retreat

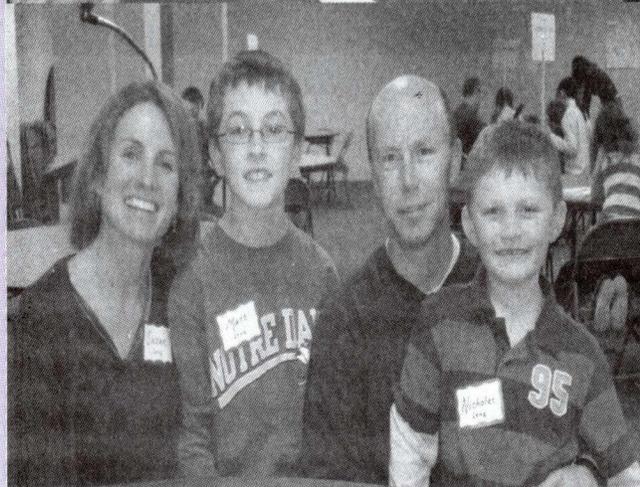
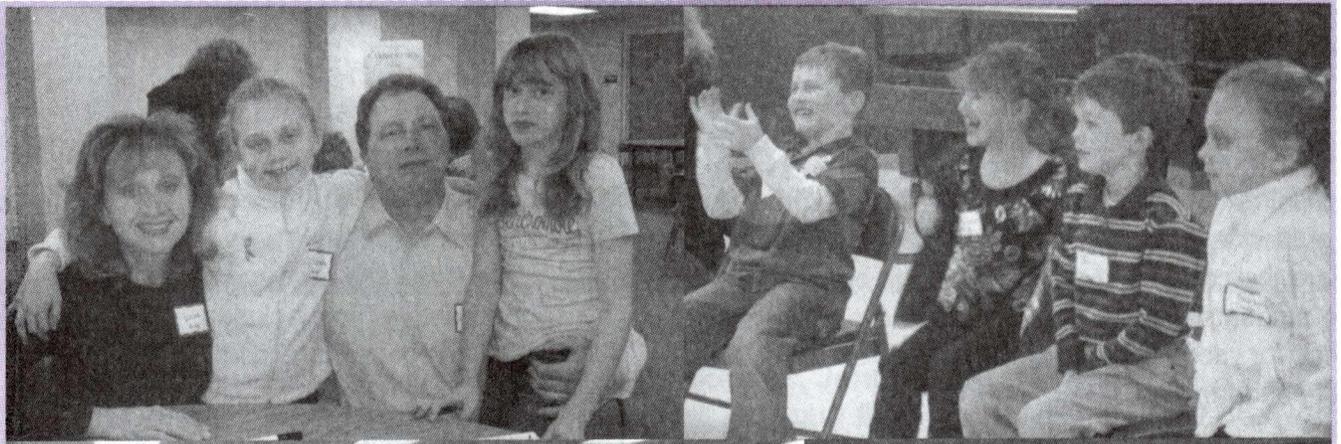
**God bless
all
the
families ...**



**... who
attended
the Advent
Family
Retreat**



Family Retreat



November 21st, 2009



Youth Formation

SAS BAND SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

December 2009

Red shirts flew down the hallway Thursday morning as students scurried to get to the last band practice before the concerts that were going to be performed. The students of St. Anne School had practiced diligently for months to put on a holiday show for their peers and families.



Mr. Case, the band director, was full of enthusiasm as the show began. He shared with the audience the stories of how hard the students had been working and how little time there was for the students to practice all together as an entire band.



The junior band, which includes the fourth graders, played some fun holiday songs. The songs included *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and *Jingle Bells*.

The senior band, which includes fifth through eighth grade, played some more difficult songs and medleys.

The concert began with the students playing the *Star Spangled Banner*, which really got the crowd enthused for the rest of the show. Throughout the concert, the audience sang along and truly enjoyed the holiday sensations in the air.



There was even a special surprise new band member. Mr. Olsen, 7th grade teacher, played along with the band and was a great addition. Thank you, Mr. Olsen, for being a part of the children's lives.

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- Collect Tyson Project A+ labels on chicken products.
- Visit www.escrip.com and download AutoEARN.



Adult Formation



LaFarge Lifelong Learning

Inspiration Through Continuing Education

Presented by the St. Anne Catholic Community

Adults 50 years and better are urged to discover new skills in the New Year with St. Anne's LaFarge Lifelong Learning Program. Courses meet once per week for six weeks and are held in the St. Anne Senior Center. Instruction is paced to the individual needs of each participant to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding learning experience for all.

Registration will be held **Monday, January 4th**
through **Wednesday, January 6th**,
from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
in the Parish Center.

Classes start the week of January 11th.

For more information, please contact the LaFarge office at **847.381.5799**.

Winter 2010 LaFarge Course Offerings

Class	Day/Dates	Time/Instructor	Fee
Beginner Computer Skills 6 classes	Mondays 1/11 – 2/15	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Mike Konie	\$30.00
Digital Photography 6 classes	Mondays 1/11 – 2/15	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Doug Jones	\$20.00
Woodcarving 6 classes	Wednesdays 1/13 – 2/17	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Jim Hoffman	\$20.00
Microsoft Outlook Email 6 classes	Wednesdays 1/13 – 2/17	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Mike Konie	\$30.00
Beginner and Advanced Watercolor Painting 6 classes	Thursdays 1/14 – 2/18	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Jim Kennedy	\$25.00

Suggest a course or share your talent!

LaFarge classes are taught by volunteers with expertise in their area of instruction, either as hobbyists or through their professional careers. If you have a talent you would like to share with others or a suggestion for a course you would like to see offered, please call us at **847.381.5799**.

Sharing the Living Story

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 2009 (12C)

Micah 5:1-4a

Thus says the Lord:

- ¹ You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.
- ² Therefore the Lord will give them up,
until the time when she who is to give birth has borne,
and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel.
- ³ He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth;
⁴ he shall be peace.

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. *LORD let us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

- ² O Shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- ³ Rouse your power and come to save us. **R.**
- ¹⁵ Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
- ¹⁶ and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **R.**
- ¹⁸ May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
- ¹⁹ Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. **R.**

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters:

- ⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said:
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶ in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.
⁷ Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.' "
- ⁸ First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings,
you neither desired nor delighted in."
These are offered according to the law.
- ⁹ Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will."
He takes away the first to establish the second.
- ¹⁰ By this "will," we have been consecrated
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45

- ³⁹ Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah,
⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit,
⁴² cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
⁴³ And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
⁴⁴ For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
⁴⁵ Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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Sharing the Living Story

When listened to from the perspective of Luke's audience, the sense of the incarnation, of the God-who-is-with-us, presses upon us from all four scriptures for this Sunday; in other words, hear as though you were listening to readers in Luke's community reading what he had written around the time just after the Roman destruction of the Temple in 70 CE.¹ You would have heard many times the words of Micah and the Psalms. Yet, perhaps it is not so much about the Jesus who is about to be born as it is about The Christ who is already among us and to whom we need but turn. Again, the psalm refrain punctuates the meaning for us:

*Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face
and we shall be saved!*

The prophet Micah uses **restoration** language to announce that out of little Bethlehem,² there will come a great One who will shepherd Israel back to the status it enjoyed before being exiled by the gentiles in 7th century BCE.³ The terms strongly remind a Hebrew ear of its history: Jesse, David's father, is an Ephrathite⁴ from Bethlehem, the town where the prophet Samuel anoints David as God's chosen (1 Samuel 16:1-13). In this tiny geographic place, almost too small to be remembered as the ancestral lands of Ephraim (one of the twelve tribes of Israel), there will be born one who will be God's anointed. Like David, he would be born in this town of David and, like David, he would shepherd God's people, Israel, by God's own strength. Israel will live secure since this One will not only bring peace, this One will **be** peace. He will be shalom – the proclamation of the existence of right relationship, the proclamation of God's justice!

Today's psalm response also uses **restoration** language to pick up the shepherd theme, calling upon God, the Shepherd, to come and save us, to tend us as he did Israel, that vine that he planted, to save us, to restore us, to shine upon us, to revive us. We sing of our longing to see God's face; to know this psalm interiorly is to know that we **will** be saved.

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that it is God's plan, God's will, that we will be restored by the return of the Anointed One (the one anointed King, just like David). It is through Jesus' flesh – the body prepared for God – that the face of God will shine upon us. This One is the obedient One, who came among us (was incarnated) to do God's will, to die in order to rise. This is the stuff of internal attitude and not that of external sacrifice unaccompanied by correct disposition toward God's call to justice. (Recall my comments last week about the insistence of John the Baptist that people must show external evidence of interior change.)

There is another more compelling aspect to the Luke passage other than the obvious exchange between two happy women reveling in their pregnancy or the stature of the ones to be born. Is it not an account of the first proclamation of the Good News: the coming of the One who is to be Savior? Mary's greeting elicits in Elizabeth an astounding response: John the Baptist leaps in her womb enervated by the Holy Spirit. *Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit* acclaims Mary as blessed and acknowledges Mary's child as her Lord. What an astounding thing! But Elizabeth is acknowledging what Luke described before at vv. 26-38; Mary was to bear *the Son of the Most High*, the keeper of David throne, the anticipated ruler of a kingdom without end. Luke's community hears the story read again: God had come among us, had taken flesh in the body of Mary. It is the incarnation; Jesus had arrived to restore us by his obedience to God's will.

It is difficult to relate to our children Luke's transition from the promises in the Hebrew Scriptures to its fulfillment in Jesus. After four weeks, how *do* we approach the meaning of Advent, of the coming of our God? It's comforting to stay with an historical approach. Yet, the Psalm refrain calls to us:

*Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face
and we shall be saved!*

So What?? Why not stay with a recounting of "what happened?"
Why not just keep the joy of the birth of Jesus so many years ago?

FOOTNOTES:

¹ CE = the **Common Era**—the era that began with the birth of Jesus; formerly, AD

² Bethlehem (Hebrew = House of Bread!)

³ **Before the Common Era**, i.e., before the birth of Jesus; formerly, BC

⁴ A person from Ephrathah (Hebrew = field of fruit!)

The Weekly Article from Ronald Rolheiser

CHASTITY AND CHRISTMAS

Scripture and Christian tradition emphasize that Jesus could only be born out of a chaste womb, just as Christian Spirituality emphasizes he can only come to full bloom inside of a chaste heart. Why? Why this emphasis on chastity?

Chastity needs to be properly understood. For too long, we have had an overly narrow and mostly false concept of chastity. Chastity is too commonly identified with sexual abstinence, and sexuality is then seen as something that, in itself, militates against chastity and spirituality. But chastity is not the same thing as celibacy; indeed it is not even, first and foremost, a sexual concept. Someone can be chaste but not celibate, just as someone can be celibate but not chaste. My parents were not celibate; they gave birth to a large family, but they were wonderfully chaste persons. The reverse can also be true. Someone can be celibate but far from chaste.

What is chastity? We are chaste when we stand before the world, others, and God in a way which allows them to be fully themselves without letting our own impatience, selfishness, or unwillingness to remain in tension violate their reality and their natural unfolding. What is meant by that?

Allow me to present three images for this:

- In her book, *Holy The Firm*, Annie Dillard shares this story: One evening, alone in her cabin, she was watching a moth slowly emerge from its cocoon. The process was fascinating but interminably slow. At a point she lost patience and needed to get on to other things, so she picked up a candle and applied a little heat to the process. It worked. The added heat sped up the process, and the moth emerged more quickly from its cocoon, but, since a natural process had been interfered with and unnaturally rushed, the moth emerged with ill-formed wings which didn't allow it to fly properly. A fault in chastity led to stunted growth.
- The movie, *Sense and Sensibility*, based on Jane Austen's classic novel, presents its leading character, a woman played by Emma Thompson, as someone who is asked to carry an extremely painful tension for a long time, one having to do with unrequited and unconsummated love. She has no one with whom she can really share her pain, and her circumstance requires her to carry on as if she was not carrying this pain. She carries that tension for a long time, sublimating her pain into a graciousness that she extends even

to the very persons who are the source of her tension. Only after a long time is the tension finally resolved, and her forbearance in not forcing an earlier, premature resolution, her willingness to carry the tension to term helps bring about deeper life for everyone, not least for herself. This is the essence of chastity.

- After the Italian spiritual writer, Carlo Carretto, had spent a number of years living as a hermit in the Sahara desert, he was asked what message he would give to the world if someone asked him the question: What, in your solitude and prayer, do you hear God saying to those of us who are living active lives in the world? Carretto replied, God is saying learn to wait; learn to wait for everything – for love, for fulfillment, for consummation, for God! Learning to wait, giving God and life the space to unfold as they need to, is the very essence of chastity.

In a number of his books, Nikos Kazantzakis, both fondly and bitterly, makes this assertion: *God, it seems, is never in a hurry, while we are always in a hurry.* He's right: Life unfolds according to its own innate rhythms which try our patience, and it will not let themselves be rushed, except at a cost. Life and love demand both the time and the space within which to unfold according to their own internal dictates. Whenever, because of impatience, selfishness, or our unwillingness to stay inside a tension, we short-circuit that process, we, in slight or deep ways, violate their reality.

Chastity is the virtue that invites us to live in patience, to wait, to respect what's other, and to carry tension long enough so that the other can truly be other, and gift can unfold precisely as gift.

The word *sublime* takes its root in the word *sublimation*. Nothing can be sublime unless there is first sublimation. Nobody gives birth to a baby without a long period of gestation; nobody writes a doctoral thesis in two hours; nobody creates an artistic masterpiece without long hours of sweat and labor, and nobody becomes a heroic individual without carrying unbearable tension. Cinderella only got to go to the ball after she had spent sufficient time in the ashes. Jesus only got to the glory and freedom of Easter Sunday by first sweating blood in the garden.

That is why the Messiah can only be born from a chaste womb and come to life fully only inside of a chaste heart. Christmas allows for no shortcuts.

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. His weekly column is carried by more than sixty newspapers worldwide. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com.

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.

Snow plowing. Residential and commercial. Dependable and reasonable. References available. Call **Don** at **847.269.4915**.

Office assistant wanted. Part-time, 3-6 hours a week, doing organization in office, filing, basic computer work. Flexible days and hours. Perfect for mom with school age children. Call **Carol** at **847.304.6993**.

Parishioner seeks tenant. 1 bdrm corner unit (900 sq. ft.) for rent in Gold Coast 60611). Must have solid references/finances. Call **847.894.2688** or email slberner19@hotmail.com for photos. Rent: \$1,450 (firm)/sec. dep./credit check.

Reading tutor available. December reading 'boost' camp for ages 5-12. Min. 3 hrs./wk., \$25.00/hr., in Barrington. Weekend tutoring during school year. Call **Clara** at **224.688.9367** to reserve space.

Nanny wanted. For parish family. Part-time, 2-3 mornings a week in Barrington home. Refer./exper. required. Call **Amy** at **847.382.9693**.

Home preschool/daycare available in Barrington. Infant to school age, after school care for Roslyn students. Parishioner with experience and references. Call **Diane** at **847.277.0877**.

Condo for rent. Two bdrm + den. 4 years new. Washer/dryer in unit. Underground garage space with storage. Walk to church, train and town. \$1,400/month. Call parishioner at **847.602.3250**.

Tutor available. Experienced college instructor offers tutoring for elementary/high school students. Call **Tim** at **847.713.2428**.

Help wanted. Female parishioner with Down Syndrome. Babysitting, driving to medical visits. Call **Alexia** at Clearbrook at **847.385.5308**.

Project Hope need. Good used cars and trucks needed. Call **Project Hope** at **847.381.5721**.

Caregiver available. Meals, errands, light cleaning, companionship. Flexible hours. Call **Holly** at **847.382.5789**.

Cleaning lady available. Local woman with references. Weekly, bi-weekly, flexible hours. Call **847.381.7524**.

Experienced handyman available. Carpentry, drywall, painting, yard work. \$15.00/hour. Call **847.304.4323**.

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Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Saturday: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Sunday: 9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

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Liturgy Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:15 a.m.

Saturday: First Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

Mass of Anticipation: 5:15 p.m.

Reconciliation: 9:15 a.m. until all are heard

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

*Babysitting is available.

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Visitation of the Sick: If you or a family member are in a local hospital or are homebound, and would like a visit from a minister of care or a priest, please call Mary Hoffing at 847.382.2148.

We believe that the celebration of the sacraments ranks among the most important gifts that we have. We look forward to sharing these celebrations with those who, in some way, are part of our community. Therefore, please note the following:

Baptism: Our Baptismal ministry is pleased to help your family prepare for the special event of your child's entrance into our faith community. For those parents who are baptizing their first child, please allow 2 to 3 months in order to attend 2 required Baptism sessions *before* setting the Baptism date. For a subsequent child's baptism, an interview session must be scheduled prior to setting the date. All schedules are done in the parish office. Please call 847.382.5300.

Marriage: If you are planning to be married at St. Anne, your preparation process should begin seven months to one year prior to your wedding date. Please call the parish office to secure a date as soon as possible. Membership at St. Anne is *not* a requirement. We look forward to helping you during this time of engagement and preparation for the vocation of Christian marriage.

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation: These sacraments are celebrated in the second grade. Candidates must complete the required preparation 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 the required preparation program. Please call 847.620.3072.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9:15 a.m. until all are heard.

Registration: To enter into our faith community as a member of St. Anne parish, please call the parish office to schedule a meeting with one of our welcoming team members and update our parish records.

Gospel Champions Code: E2KG5FC4A