



What a sight we had at the 8:00 a.m. Mass this past Monday morning. Perched atop the cross on the very pinnacle of the roof of the church was an extremely beautiful and stoic American Bald Eagle. Although this was a very rare site, the symbolism of his visit is far reaching. Did you know that the symbol of St. John the Evangelist is the Eagle? Because it soars upward, the eagle is a symbol of the resurrection or ascension of Christ. By extension, the eagle symbolizes baptized Christians, who have symbolically died and risen with Christ. The eagle is the symbol of **John the Evangelist**. The eagle represents John because of his lofty and "soaring" gospel (it is much more theological in nature than the other three). Christian tradition has long connected the authors of the four canonical Gospels

(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) with the four "living creatures" that surround God's throne, as described in Revelation 4:7, in the following pairs: Matthew – Human/Angel, Mark – Lion, Luke – Ox and John – Eagle. Several attempts were made to take pictures of our feathered friend however none of them turned out particularly well. Attached is the best we could find.

Although it was brief and relatively mild, we experienced our first cool front of the season this past week. It is actually rare for a frontal system to make it this far south in late September. As a matter of fact, late October is typically when we see the first legitimate frontal system make its way into Southwest Florida. Nevertheless, the two-day respite from the extreme heat and humidity was quite welcomed and served as a precursor of things to come.

Did you know that the St. John's council of the Knights of Columbus generously donated \$7,000.00 worth of carpet and floor cleaning equipment to the parish? Included in their purchase was a vacuum cleaner that is twice as large as anything that I have ever seen and will cut our labor costs in half. They also purchased a carpet extractor and floor buffer. We spent over \$3,000 last fiscal year in carpet cleaning expenses alone. Thanks very much to all the brother Knights for this generous purchase which will reflect continued savings into the future.

Did you participate in the first Families in Faith program of the year this past Sunday? We had over 400 attendees in the PLC prior to the 11:15 a.m. Mass. While walking around overseeing the festivities, I was amazed at how many young families we have in our parish and even more amazed at how many of them I have never seen before. This was a great start in getting all of our families involved in the life of the parish.

While we were still in the process of installing the new carpet with only one side of the installation complete, I came up to the church following Sunday Mass to help take down the temporary chairs. What I found underneath these chairs was disconcerting at best. Cheerios seemed to be the food of choice although there were fruit loops as well. In carpet only one day old, several different areas had cereal ground into the carpet as well as a handful of undisturbed samples so that I could correctly identify the brand. Considering what we have been through in the past 12 months with regards to the carpet, I would ask parents if at all possible to not bring food into the sanctuary, however if you must, please pick up what you leave behind. As for the adults, please do not bring any food or drink into the sanctuary. The new church carpet was scotch guarded this past week and hopefully will now be protected from any perpetrators.

Anne Rinaldi (Director of Communications) met with a representative from LOGOS this past Friday to begin further development of our Ministry Connection site. To date, we have had over 200 families sign up. As I have stated before, we truly need 100% participation for this module to work properly. If you are a registered parishioner at St. John the Evangelist, all you must do to register for Ministry Connection is send your name and email address to Anne@saintjohntheevangelist.com. Anne will email you an initial password, which you can customize at your discretion. From our website www.saintjohntheevangelist.com you will be able to click on the "My Account" icon where you will logon using your email and initial password. Once you are logged into your Ministry Connection account, you will be able update personal information, view the calendar of events, or make a contribution. We are still building the site and current information is very limited. As we move through the remainder of fall, we plan to greatly enhance the site with ministry info, calendar of events, and much more.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager