



This coming Wednesday, November 4th will be the 1st Anniversary of Fr. John's arrival as our pastor. On behalf of our entire parish family, I would like to say "Happy Anniversary." Fr. John has brought a renewed sense of spirituality to our parish. Under his brilliant leadership, St. John the Evangelist will continue to grow and develop into the future. On November 19th, the Knights of Columbus will honor Fr. John for his vocation by hosting their Annual Seminarian Dinner Dance in the Ballroom of the Parish Life Center. This is a great opportunity for our parishioners to congratulate Fr. John on the completion of his first year as our pastor and to say thank you for all he has done for our parish. Tickets for this event may be purchased in the parish office or at the "Keep Christ in Christmas" card table outside of Mass.

An anonymous donor has come forward and donated the remaining funds necessary to purchase the statue of Our Blessed Mother. This very generous donation will also fund the creation of a statue of St. John the Evangelist. Another donor came forward last season and donated the funds in order to purchase a crucifix. We enlisted the services of a very talented sculptor by the name of Timothy P. Schmalz who has been commissioned to design the statue of St. John the Evangelist and the Blessed Mother. The corpus of the crucifix will be cast from an existing mold. Timothy is the same sculptor that created the beautiful Holy Family Sculpture at St. Agnes (see attached picture) entitled "Love's Bond." We are very excited to see what the Holy Spirit leads Timothy to create.

Thank you to everyone that gave so generously to the Jamaica Outreach Program second collection this past weekend. The total collection was just over \$15,000.00. Our parish family has shown that even during tough economic conditions, we are a very giving community that supports those in need at home and around the world. During the last two weeks our parishioners have donated over \$25,000.00 to those less fortunate.

In writing my weekly column, my goal first and foremost it to inform our parishioners of what is going on within our parish. It is my way to communicate with all of you. That being said, I would appreciate some reciprocity if there is something that is of concern to you that is not being addressed. Please don't feel that you are burdening me with something that is not important. As is often the case, if there is a problem (no matter how small) that I am not aware of, then it will most likely not take care of itself. If I am aware, steps will be taken to ensure that it is resolved. My phone number is clearly listed on the front of the bulletin and I may be reached via email at scotts@saintjohntheevangelist.com. I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to discuss something that you feel is important or simply to talk.

In only one weekend, sales in our newly located Religious Gift Shop exceeded that of the entire month of November last year. I feel it safe to say that the old adage of "location, location, location" rings very true in the relocation of the Gift Shop from its former home in the Claussen Center to its current location in the former Altar Servers room, directly across from the men's room. Please stop by before or after Mass on Saturday or Sunday and see what we have to offer. Marianne Brooks has done a magnificent job of stocking the store during the summer, however at this rate she may have to make an emergency order to replenish.

Sweetbay Supermarkets will be joining forces with St. John the Evangelist and several other Southwest Florida churches on November 15th in an effort to feed the hungry in a "Share the Harvest" event. Our parishioners will be invited to go to Sweetbay and donate food needed by Harry Chapin Food Bank, currently feeding 20,000 people each month, up from 12,000 just two years ago. Sweetbay Supermarkets from Naples to Sarasota will stock their store shelves with additional quantities of the foods needed. Sweetbay Supermarkets will contribute an additional 5 percent more than the value of products donated.

Catholic Faith Appeal receipts this week were very plentiful. At present, we are still \$157,000 shy of our goal. Remember that by meeting our goal, we will not have to use funds from our operating revenue in order to satisfy our shortfall and may instead use these funds to make improvements to our facilities and enhance our ministries. In addition, if we exceed our goal, the excess is returned to the parish free of assessment to utilize for the aforementioned uses. Believe it or not, there are 18 parishes in the Diocese of Venice that have already exceeded their CFA goal. I can only continue to thank you wholeheartedly for your never-ending support of the Catholic Faith Appeal. If you are a seasonal resident or visitor, please make your check payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) with St. John the Evangelist in the memo line.

While you are sitting in a comfortable controlled environment enjoying Mass this Sunday, I will be competing in the 40th running of the New York City Marathon. This will be my fourth NYC marathon and 20th marathon overall. I will be thinking of you all as I make the 26.2 mile trek from Staten Island to Central Park in Manhattan. Please keep me in your prayers.

In His work together,
Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager