

## Scott's Corner

If the emails and comments I received this past weekend are any indication of the thoughts of all our parishioners regarding the new bulletin, then I would say you are quite pleased. With a quick trip to [www.saintjohntheevangelist.com](http://www.saintjohntheevangelist.com), you will notice a recurring theme between the new bulletin and our newly designed website. This is because the website and the bulletin were both designed by our very own Deb Vale. Deb spent several months preparing for the launch of the new website and then the parish bulletin. We are extremely delighted with the bulletin and will continue to make adjustments weekly so that the pertinent information of the parish is in an easy to read format. Thank you very much to those that have made favorable comments.

Some of you may remember my ranting several years ago about the eastbound lanes of 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and the need for an additional turn lane to access northbound US 41. The source of my irritation was that after watching the traffic backup in the single turn lane at the intersection year after year, the decision was made to landscape that particular median rather than address the true issue at hand. And landscape it they did with pricey Royal Palm Trees, Ligustrums, Fox Tail Palms and many other shrubs complete with an irrigation system. During season, it is the norm to sit through at least two cycles of this particular traffic light before making the left hand turn. If you are leaving Mass on the weekend, count on three cycles or more in addition to the fact that the single turn lane fills quickly and then congests the other eastbound lanes. Have you seen the recent developments at the intersection? Much of the landscaping and irrigation has been torn out to accommodate for a new additional turn lane so that more vehicles will be able to access northbound US 41. I am not sure what this escapade cost, but I do know that it is more than it should have been. Obviously the good news is that this new addition should reduce congestion substantially at the intersection.

Did you see the front page of the latest Collier Citizen? There was a beautiful picture of "Indian Princess" Maquinn Havig during a reenactment of the first Thanksgiving at our Early Learning and Childcare Center on Nov. 21st. The students dressed as Pilgrims and Indians to experience what it was like. The Naples Daily News was also present at the Thanksgiving feast and we hope to have had a picture in this past week. Fr. John came down to greet the children and quiz them on their understanding of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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](mailto: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.

Catholic Faith Appeal receipts this week were again very plentiful. At present, we are less than \$70,000 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.

There will be no collection summary this week due to a very early bulletin deadline. In next week's summary, I will include statistics from the last two weekends.

Thank you so much for supporting St. John the Evangelist.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA  
General Manager