

Faith & Ale is a once a month gathering of men from across the diocese. They gather for food, drink and camaraderie, followed by an inspirational speaker and ample time for questions and answers. One such very inspirational speaker will be joining us in the ballroom on December 16th at 6:00 pm. **The Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice** will be the featured speaker at the next meeting. All men are invited – the saints, the sinners and everyone in between. If you are interested in the implications of our faith and morality on our daily lives, families and society, please join us! The mission statement of Faith & Ale is as follows: Faith & Ale strives to encourage, exhort and equip men to be spiritual leaders in their homes, workplaces and parishes. Please see the insert in this bulletin for further details.

On behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, I would like to thank those that gave so generously this past Thanksgiving at the 9:00 am Mass. The total collection was \$11,660.00. As a reminder, the entire collection from Thanksgiving Day Mass was allocated to the St. Vincent De Paul Society so that they may assist needy families in our area. The only sources of income for our local chapter are the collections on Thanksgiving Day and St. Patrick's Day as well as donations made through the poor box. Thank you once again for your generosity! \$1,113.00 of this total collection was the result of donations made through our Families in Faith program.

Our new pastoral musician and organist, Tom Oram, will officially begin his tenure here at St. John the Evangelist this weekend. We are very excited to bring Tom on board and we are confident that you will appreciate all of the many talents he brings to the table.

Do you like the continually improving appearance of our parish bulletin? Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker (Director of Communications) has worked tirelessly, enduring constant training sessions in an effort to enhance our weekly bulletin. While there is much more to be done, Anne has made countless improvements so that our major source of communication with you is engaging and fresh every week.

What do you think of the altar decorations for Advent? I have already received numerous positive comments one of which I am going to share with you. The following is an email sent to Fr. John from one of our long time parishioners:

Good Morning Father,

We just wanted to comment on the lovely job that was done to decorate our altar for the Advent Season. Please pass on our best wishes to the liturgical committee who was responsible for transforming the altar area.

The Religious Gift Shop is really starting to generate some serious revenue. By moving the shop from the Claussen Center to the Church, sales have increased dramatically. For the month of November, Sales are up nearly 200% over the same period last year. November gross sales amounted to \$2,572.00. Thank you again to Marianne Brooks for her creative and clever staging of merchandise and for her diligent work in managing the shop. Thank you also to the many volunteers that give of their time and talent to work in the shop.

As of this weekend, we have approximately five weeks remaining to reach our goal for the 2009 Catholic Faith Appeal. Just this past week, we broke another very important threshold. Our remaining balance is now less than \$100,000.00. Although this is an important milestone, we still have a lot of work left to do. If you have the wherewithal to do so, would you consider making a one time year end gift to the CFA so that we may reach our goal? Gifts may be made in the form of stock by calling Deborah at the Development office at the Diocese of Venice (941) 484-9543. Please let Deborah know that your gift is for the benefit of St. John the Evangelist to meet our 2009 CFA goal. You may also send a check directly to the Diocese of Venice, drop it by the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. There is also a link on the DOV website where you may make a CFA contribution via credit card without having to first contact the Diocese. The Diocese of Venice website is www.dioceseofvenice.org. Simply choose the donations tab and then choose Catholic Faith Appeal. As I have said on more than one occasion, the CFA is the single most important component of our annual budget. By reaching our goal with regards to the CFA, we look to have a very successful fiscal year. As a continual reminder, if you are a seasonal resident or visitor, please make your check payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal with St. John the Evangelist in the memo line. Thank you once again for your continued support of the Catholic Faith Appeal.

In His work together,
Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager