

Scott's Corner

What do you think of the new formatting in the bulletin? I have had numerous positive comments following last week's launch of the new format. It is much more "readable" and all of the content seems to now have a home. I would like to acknowledge Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker (Director of Communications and Records) for her work in upgrading the bulletin. I would also like to recognize Sam Kojiro for providing his Graphic Design work completely free of charge. Sam recently moved to Naples and saw our ad for a graphic artist and immediately offered up his services. We are truly blessed to have such outstanding parishioners willing to give of their time and talent to enhance the parish.

Beginning next Saturday, we will be offering weekend office hours. What does this mean for you? This means that you will be able to purchase tickets to all parish events before and after Mass on Saturday or Sunday right out of the parish office. Not only will you be able to purchase tickets to your favorite events, you will also be able to purchase Mass cards and much more. Many of you are not able to get to the parish office during the work week. This will be an ideal opportunity for those who fit this category to take care of any business matters within the parish on the weekend. We are optimistic that this new opportunity will alleviate the crowding outside of church during weekend Masses. We are also hopeful that this will alleviate the mad rush on the parish office on Monday mornings. For those who are not aware, the parish office is located in the Parish Life Center immediately behind the church.

By now, you are all aware of my passion for the Catholic Faith Appeal. Not only do your contributions towards the CFA support countless ministries within the Diocese of Venice, they also satisfy a very important component of our annual budget. We are constantly trying to come up with new and innovative ideas to assist us in reaching our annual goal. We are going to host a Reverse Raffle as a fundraiser for the Catholic Faith Appeal. For those who remember, we hosted just such an event last year. Here is a brief explanation of how the raffle works: "What is a Reverse Raffle?" It is exactly what the name implies. Rather than the 1st ticket drawn winning the raffle, the last ticket drawn in a Reverse Raffle is the big winner. In this particular instance, we will be selling 300 tickets for the raffle at a cost of \$100 each. The winning ticket (or the last one drawn) will win \$10,000.00. This is a great return on a \$100 investment. In addition, your \$100 ticket also gains you (and a guest) admission to the party where you will enjoy dinner, entertainment and an open bar. In order to keep everyone's interest throughout the evening, we will also offer cash prizes randomly as the raffle progresses. The 1st ticket drawn will win \$100 as will every 25th ticket drawn for the remainder of the raffle. So in other words, 12 lucky attendees will get their money back and enjoy a great evening of entertainment at no cost. In addition, Tom Oram will be performing before the raffle begins and then playing 30 minute sets after the drawing of every 100 numbers. You need not be present to win, so if you are headed back to your northern residence and unable to attend, you are encouraged to purchase a ticket with the comfort of knowing that we will either send you a check for your winnings or keep your winnings in safekeeping until you return in the fall. If you have never attended a reverse raffle, let me assure you that it is a lot of fun. When the drawing is down to the final ten ticket holders, there is a great deal of excitement in the air creating an "electric" atmosphere. I have hosted several of these events in the past several years and on many occasions, there are multiple winners as the final three to five ticket holders have opted to split the \$10,000.00 grand prize. So allow me to recap....For \$100, you will receive admission for two, a catered meal, an open bar and entertainment by Tom Oram as well as the chance to win \$10,000.00. I can think of no better deal locally for a cost of \$50 per person. The Reverse Raffle will take place on Friday, April 16th at 6:30 pm in the ballroom of the Parish Life Center. Tickets will be available beginning Monday in the parish office. This is a great opportunity for all of us to support the Catholic Faith Appeal while enjoying great entertainment and great camaraderie. **We must sell all 300 tickets in order for the event to take place.**

Depending on which Mass you attend, you have most likely been witness to the light show that takes place in the ceiling of the church. The sanctuary will be perfectly illuminated at one moment and then "who turned the lights out?" comes to mind. Only two months ago, we replaced all of the lights in the ceiling of the church. Unfortunately we did not realize until after the fact that several of the ballasts were bad causing the Metal Halide lamps to shut off at very inopportune times. We are now going to replace all eight ballasts for these lamps so that we will retain a consistent lighting scheme throughout the entirety

of Mass. Please bear with us until these repairs are made and thank you for your understanding as it is very difficult to coordinate a time during Lent to bring a lift into the sanctuary.

We are in the process of planning a Parade of Ministries to take place on March 20 and 21. This involves a procession (or parade) of all parish ministries and affiliated groups at the beginning of every Mass. Why are we doing this? We want all of our parishioners to see the marvelous programs and ministries that thrive within our parish as a result of your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure. We last had such a parade in 2002 while we were in the midst of a capital campaign. The response was great and the view of the countless banners prominently displayed in the sanctuary was awe inspiring. If you would like to be a part of this parade, please contact Peter Heaney peter@saintjohntheevangelist.com to coordinate your group. The foam boards are now available in the parish office to create the banner for your particular ministry. Please stop by and pick one up at your earliest convenience.

Thank you to all that have completed our parish survey. I am sending a final email blast to all of our parish families that provided a valid email address. Included in the email will be a direct link to the survey. If you have not completed the survey, we kindly ask that you do so at your earliest convenience. If you did not receive an email, you may find the link at the top right hand corner of the home page on our website www.saintjohntheevangelist.com. This is the final week that the survey will appear in the bulletin.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager