



I would bet that most of you were quite surprised that Mass was indeed celebrated in the Sanctuary last weekend with the new carpet in place and pews re-installed. I can promise you that no one was more surprised than me. After pulling a few strings to make it all happen, everything came together at the last minute. I would like to thank my maintenance staff for their hard work under some brutal conditions the last two weeks. Ray Abele and Randy Harrison were instrumental in ensuring that we met our deadlines! Although somewhat biased, I think the new carpet looks great and will wear much better than what was just replaced.

The remaining supplementary areas were carpeted this past week. Optimistically, by this time next week we should have the new sacristy up and running. As I have stated previously, the current sacristy is moving to the former nursery. The Altar Servers room is moving to the former sacristy and the religious store is moving to the former Altar Servers room. Those wishing to purchase any type of religious article will no longer have to venture to the Claussen Center in order to do so.

I would like to apologize one final time for all of the inconvenience caused with these changes however they are all for the better and change is a good thing, right? We now have a beautifully carpeted church and much more functional ancillary space.

We had 15 more new registrations for Ministry Connection this past week. Thanks to those of you that signed up. I know some of you have had difficulty with the initial login process. If this is the case with you, please contact Anne and she will better explain how to successfully proceed. 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. I have been slightly surprised that so few of you are taking advantage of the recurring credit card contribution or bank draft option. This has been requested to me countless times in the past and now that it is available, a very small percentage of you are using the service. If security is in question, I can assure you that the ministry connection site is a secure site and any credit card or banking information given will be completely safe.

"Family Day" – Observed annually on Sept. 28, is a day set aside for parents to eat dinner with their children because studies show that frequent family dinners do make a difference in combating drug abuse among the young. More than a decade of research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University has consistently found that the more often kids eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. **Family Day** began as a grassroots initiative and has grown to become a nationwide celebration. We hope you celebrate with your family on September 28. For more information please visit www.casafamilyday.org.

A group of St. John the Evangelist parishioners will be attending the Fifth Annual Stewardship Day on September 22nd at St. Thomas Moore Parish in Sarasota (Fr. Henry's current parish). The day begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:55 p.m. Included in the day will be a keynote speaker (Angela A. Liston, Esq.) and two breakout sessions. If you would like to attend, please contact me at 566-1678.

The following paragraph ran several weeks ago however the response was great so I am running it yet again: Have you visited our memorial garden recently? Surrounded by a beautiful and very thick Ficus hedge on the Southwest side of the church, many would not even know this garden exists. Our landscapers have done a magnificent job of creating a delightful environment as the final resting place for our parishioners and their immediate family. It costs only \$1,000.00 to purchase a space in our memorial garden. This is an all inclusive price meaning it includes the opening, closing, granite headstone and bronze nameplate. I can assure you that this is an incredibly competitive price. As a reminder, space is very limited and sale of space in the garden may be terminated without notice. I took over the management of the memorial garden in March and have learned plenty since that time. The most important thing I have learned is that pre-planning is essential. Those couples that plan ahead and purchase space in our memorial garden have one less thing to worry about when a loved one passes away. Conversely, when you pass away, you will leave your family one less thing to worry about.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager