

Scott's Corner



The size of our parish bulletin has been reduced by eight pages. The parish survey will no longer appear in hard copy but is still available online. You may access the survey through our website at www.saintjohntheevangelist.com by clicking on the "parish survey" link in the upper right hand corner of the main page. To date we have received 615 surveys however we would like to have over 1,000 for an adequate sample in which to analyze data. If you have completed the survey, thank you! If you have not, please take the time (less than ten minutes depending on your comments) to complete the survey no later than March 17th. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important undertaking.

As you can imagine, we receive numerous emails regarding our parish. Occasionally I will print an excerpt so that our parishioners may see the perception of others within our parish community. Below is one such email excerpt (addressed to Fr. John) from a seasonal resident that seems to echo the essence of our parish.

" . . . I spent the months of January and February in your beautiful city of Naples residing in Palm River off of Immokalee. My cousin and I (she being Lutheran) I being Catholic decided to attend St John the Evangelist while visiting the area. We were truly impressed with your church. It had been quite some time that I felt as renewed in my faith as I did upon leaving your church. Your music program is outstanding; the people are open and friendly and participate fully in the service, and your services very inspirational. We both looked forward to our weekly Mass at your church. We also looked forward to your being the priest for the weekly service. We were lucky to have you preside over all Masses we attended, being Saturday or Sunday. If I were a resident of Naples there would be no hesitation, I would become a member of your parish. I also feel that being a member I would want to become involved with the churches ministries. You

truly have a parish to be proud of. I hope someday to return once again as a visitor to your beautiful congregation. . . ."

I have received numerous emails, calls and comments about the new policy of distributing parish bulletins at the end of Mass rather than at the beginning. Some of you feel that this change is being put in place as some strange form of punishment. This is obviously not the case. First and foremost, many in our congregation are reading the bulletin during Mass and even during the consecration. Following receipt of the Eucharist, some are also using this time of prayer as an opportunity to catch up on current events. Finally, following Mass, the church is littered with bulletins left behind in the pews. I am aware that many of you (especially during season) arrive upwards of an hour prior to Mass in order to secure a good seat and use this time to read the bulletin. St. John the Evangelist is the only Catholic parish that I am aware of that has distributed bulletins at the beginning of Mass. Please understand the rationale behind this decision and understand that it is not meant to cause any inconvenience.

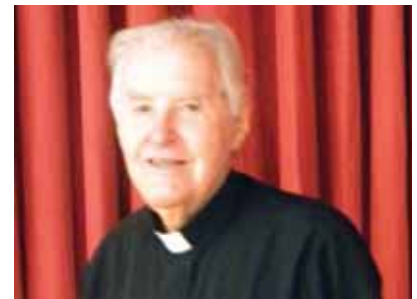
Although the Reverse Raffle is still one month away I feel it prudent to explain the importance of selling all of the 300 tickets allotted. This is much different than the typical "dinner dances" we host throughout the course of the year where tickets are sold to those that wish to attend. In order for the Reverse Raffle to take place, ALL of the tickets must be sold! That being said, this is an incredible deal for \$100.00 per couple. As I stated before, this is a great way to support the Catholic Faith Appeal while enjoying a great evening out with entertainment by Tom Oram, a magnificent meal by Cappelli's and the chance to win \$10,000.00. All this for only \$100.00 and that includes admission for two! Someone is going to win, so why shouldn't it be you. Please remember that you have the option of purchasing a side board ticket on the evening of the event for \$5 or \$10 and winning \$750 or \$1,500 respectively. In addition, every 25th ticket drawn will win \$100.00. This will allow some twelve lucky attendees a free night of entertainment. If you have not yet purchased your ticket, please consider doing so soon. We don't want anyone to be left out. Tickets are available in the parish office during business hours. Thank you for your support of the Catholic Faith Appeal.

On Tuesday March 23, we will be taping a

Mass for television. The taping will begin at 1:00 pm and we ask that parishioners wishing to participate arrive at 12:30 pm for instructions. The Masses will be televised on May 30th and June 27th. This is a great opportunity to showcase our parish and we ask that you show your support and attend the taping. This will be the first time in the history of our parish that we have participated in a Mass for television. We are confident that your presence will certainly enrich the presentation of the Mass for our homebound viewers. If you are able to participate, please RSVP to me via email at scotts@saintjohntheevangelist.com.

Contributions to the CFA continue to increase as we enter the heart of "season." We have nearly reached 22% (\$105,825.00) of our goal of \$486,000.00. Thank you to those who have given so generously in order for us to meet with success for the second year in a row. As a reminder to those seasonal residents and visitors that are with us in paradise, please make your check payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal with St. John the Evangelist in the memo line.

Did you know that on March 25th, Fr. Al McPartland will celebrate the 63rd anniversary of his ordination? This is an



amazing accomplishment! To think that this man has been serving the kingdom of God since 1947 is truly astonishing! When you see Fr. Al in the next week or so, don't forget to thank him for giving of himself for the past 63 years.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA

General Manager