

Confirmation 2008



Photos by Bill Coppedge

by Lucille Guzzone

After many weeks of preparation, study and anticipation, fifty-eight of Christ the King's young parishioners received the sacrament of Confirmation. Dressed in white robes and accompanied by their sponsors, the class processed into the church. Evidence of support and love was present as families and friends gathered to witness this joyous occasion.

Bishop John Snyder conferred the sacrament. As a part of his homily he noted that this day, February 2, was the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. He acknowledged what an appropriate day it was. He called it a Feast of Light. He shared with the congregation the highlights from some of the letters which the class wrote to him, mentioning their personal experiences and goals. He then cautioned them about the many evils of the world, and he urged them to make use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit including courage. He told them to look to the future praying that they will carefully choose the right path toward a spiritual and service-filled lives. He even suggested the life of a religious. As he closed his homily, he summed up his message with two important pieces of advice. He told them to choose their friends wisely, friends with the same moral convictions of honor and goodness, and to continue to attend Sunday Mass each week in order to nourish themselves with the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.

At the end of Mass Father Thanh thanked the parents and sponsors who supported the children throughout their journey. He also acknowledged catechists Judy Cass and Joseph Birch as well as Director of Religious Education Lucille Guzzone and school principal Stephanie Chinault.

He invited the congregation to attend the reception in the hall in order to enjoy some refreshments and to have an opportunity to take pictures with the bishop.

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Father Thanh's Message

I really enjoy Christmas here at Christ the King but this year was special because we celebrated our first Christmas in our newly renovated church. The rich earth tones that were chosen for our floors lent themselves well with the Christmas greens and poinsettia reds. Everyone worked very hard to make it a jubilant day to welcome the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We continued our season celebration after heralding the new year with an Epiphany celebration on the first Sunday in January. What a magnificent celebration! All in our community were invited to participate in this celebration both at Mass and at the annual International Dinner after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Our community is very diverse and our community spirit for this event is second to none. We expressed publicly our love for all peoples on that day.

Enthusiasm and anticipation filled the air as our excellent cooks shared their unique culinary delights that are special to their heritage. From the looks of satisfaction on all who tasted the international fare, no one went home hungry. This day was surely a day fit for a King!

At the end of January we had planned a week long mission to nourish our soul, the theme "Road to Emmaus" with guest speakers Deacon & Linda Harmon. Unfortunately Deacon Harmon fell ill so we had to cancel it. We pray for his swift recovery so he can carry on his mission in our Catholic Community.

The kick-off for Catholic Schools week was a great success. The children attended Mass, proudly dressed in their school uniforms. At the 9 a.m. Mass we initiated what we hope will be the beginning of a new tradition at Christ the King, "the Children's Liturgy of the Word". Teachers from our Catholic School and Religious Education for Children are volunteering their own time for this special ministry. I commend them for their hard work and sacrifice. Surely their efforts will bear fruit by helping our children learn more about putting God first in their lives, as the apostles' efforts sowed many seeds in biblical times.

As many of you know, our Catholic School is one of the best in this diocese. It provides not only instruction for the traditional 3-R's (reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic) but it also provides nourishment for their souls and teaches them ethics and morals that will guide them throughout their journey of life with Jesus by their side and will help them stand steadfastly against sin.

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools' Week is "Light the Way." Our school needs our help and commitment if their light is to continue to

shine. We pray that our school continues to grow, and that God continues to bless and help us to face the many challenges in our society.

We have all been called from darkness to come into the light. We are appointed by God to help in His quest to bring all souls to Him so he can show us the Light of the World, His Son, Jesus Christ who became man so we would not be lost to the world of darkness. What is God calling you to do? How can you help to keep God in the center of your life?

Remember, although all are called, not all will respond. Just like the young rich man who chose not to heed God's call, some of us may not give up worldly goods to follow in Jesus' footsteps either. How sad, for they truly know not what they do. To follow Christ brings us true love, true joy. Worldly goods cannot compare with the love of God.

Make time now to answer God's calling. Even though we are several weeks into Lent as this issue is released, you may think that it is too late to do anything but I say it is never too late to put God first...join us at the Friday night fish fry; let's do the Stations of the Cross together; go to confession; make that extra time to sit with God in Adoration. Remember the poor in the Rice Bowl Operation Program and may you have a very blessed Lent and Easter.



Please remember the poor and the hungry during Lent. Rice Bowls will be available after Masses in the first week of Lent. Keep them out and in sight and accessible to receive loose coins often. Monies collected will fund Catholic Relief development projects in agriculture, microfinance, mother and child health, education and HIV and AIDS relief.

Lenten Prayer

Good and Gracious God, You who are full of compassion, Help us to show compassion towards others this Lent. During this Holy Season we: Pray that we may be transformed, Fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, Learn to live with less, and Give so that others may live. May we join in solidarity as one human family and love one another as you love each of us.

Information for Lent and Easter

Church's Laws for Fast and Abstinence

You are reminded of the Church's laws for fast and abstinence during Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fasting**. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are permitted one full meal and two lesser meals per day, with no eating between meals.

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent are days of **abstinence**. Catholics who are 14 years or older should abstain from meat entirely. Soups and gravies made from meat are permitted.

Christ the King Courier

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The mission of *Christ the King Courier* is to provide our Christ The King Family with information and news regarding our faith and parish ministries. The goal is to share information, happenings, and stories that abound within the ministries of our parish in the hope that people can use this information to bring you closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of many of God's gifts, and through *Christ the King Courier* parishioners can share in the joy, love, and fellowship of Christ the King Parish. Our desire is to serve our God, share his message of love and hope with all, and to encourage others to spread the message of the Gospel of Christ the King.

As the official publication of our parish family, *Christ the King Courier* sees the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians as exemplifying the content and character of this publication.

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom He loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body." Colossians 3:12-15.

The *Christ the King Courier* is a quarterly newspaper published by Christ the King Catholic Church. Publisher reserves the right to refuse articles, poetry, advertisements, etc. contrary to paper's policy and standards. The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services and products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media. Political advertising not accepted. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

Letters

Dear Reverend Nguyen:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Catholic Charities, Jacksonville Regional Office, I want to thank you for donating Christmas gifts to Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities offers financial assistance to families in crisis. We provide assistance to those who qualify in the areas of rent, mortgage and utilities along with groceries, household goods, children's clothing, baby items and bus tokens. Experienced case workers help families identify the underlying causes of the financial difficulties. Housing, addictions, maternity, adoption and family counseling services are available to those in need.

We are grateful for your commitment and generosity in choosing to make a difference to those who find themselves in a crisis.

Under Internal Revenue Service Guidelines we are required to state that you received no goods or services for your contribution and therefore it is fully tax deductible.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Laura M. Hickey
Executive Director

2008 Confirmandi



Karla Aguirre
Monica Alvarez
Ashley Anderson
Johnarmon Antolin
Jose Juan Arreguin
Brooke Asher
Taylor Atwell
Corina Helen Cain
John Callanta
Rupert Carpio
Brandon Chin
Maverick Claxton
Cole Collier
Hayden Corbett
Antony DeGeorgio
Jan DeLaCruz
Adam DeVera
Andrew Dinh
Hannah Duncan
Zachary Favre

Patrick Flores
Alberto Joseph Garcia
John Garcia
Tina Gardner
Christina Grodell
Kelsey Hayes
Michael Johnson
Stephanie Joost
Patrick Jordan
Kayla Klinkenberg
Edward Latimer
Paul Longenecker
Katelynn Manns
Miranda McCown
Ashlea McCrone
Emily Mikell
Hilario Morante
Samantha Nagle
Victoria (Halley) Neaves
Wesley Oliver

Raquel O'Neal
Mitch Parker
Liana Marie Pena Ariet
Sarah C. Ramirez
Devin Rhoden
Kyle Ryan
Christopher Saliba
Victoria Salud
Christopher Sandoval
Alexandra Shami
Emily Shaw
Dennis Stoddard
James Sullivan
Louis Therres, III
Alexandra Torres
Charles Wadsworth
Jasmine Waite
David Wallace

Videos of Confirmation

may be ordered through Kevin Wolfe
at 724-4330
Cost \$20

Courier Guidelines Notice

Readers, you may notice in this and other issues of the Courier certain inconsistencies in rules for capitalization regarding God, the Bible, gospel quotes. The reason for this is that, when we use direct quotes from other sources, we cannot make any changes. Therefore, if His, He, Him referring to Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit are not capitalized in the original, we do not "correct" them.

What's Happening



We would like to welcome the following individuals and families to Christ the King Community

Ms. Ellin Iselin
Mr. Timothy McClellan
Ms. Michelle Bonafi
Ms. Linda Schierer
Ms. Sheryl Manalon
Mr. & Mrs. William Granert
Mr. Paul Phan
Ms. Y-Anh Nguyen
Mr. Khai Truong
Ms. The-Duong Nguyen
Jewmellar Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Appleberry

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DeBellis
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Szarkowski
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Swan
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wnorowski,
Ms. Ann Sandoval
Mr. Loren Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Prim
Mr. & Mrs. Miguel Suazo
Trac Le
Mr. & Mrs. John Buttiglieri
Ms. Jean Fries

Marriages:



We would like to acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

Antoine D. Roberts and Kamilia M. Boyce
Joseph Charles Emery and Arlene Nazareno Alamo

Baptisms:



We Would like to announce the following people who were recently baptized into the Catholic Church

Raymond Yamil LeTourneau
Santos Marcel LeTourneau
Jasmyne Alexandria Munaf
Denvir McGehee DeWeese
Cheyenne Nicole Robey
Zackery C. Robey
Hunter Michael Pepper
Brayden Carler Cornwall
Linh Tuyet-Thi Nguyen
Maryse Soleil Vuong
Chloe Monique Paquet
Brittany Michelle Nazario
Anthony Noel Nazario
Danny Phe Ro Phung

Austin James Talley
Alexis Alyzabeth Birch
Kagen David Coyle
Evan Makai Swan
Arianna Marie Manalon
Alexa Palmero Prudhomme
Alezis Janette Quinn
Taylor Yemani Quinn
Mirah Fernandez Flores
Francis Kief Quang Bui
Enxhi Dumit
Geri Dumit
Samuel Karol Szarkowski

Deaths:



The following people are recently deceased members of our parish for whom we offer our special prayers.

Robert Deckert
Jack M. Farah, III
Gerald Louis Sullivan
Emiliano Delgado
Lemon S. Puangco
Patrick Ward
Harold Sneden
Roger Paul Hicks, Sr.
Anna C. Hoffart

Carmencita Aveo Santo
Mary Rose Ward
Albert F. Pastorini
Alicia T. LeTourneau
John (Jay) Ramsey
Adolfo Villas
Georges Y. Dagher
Luna T. Huynh

Farm Ministry Update

by Yolanda Cerqueira

As you know the collection for the annual Farm Workers Food Drive Weekend was held on January 19th and 20th. Each year this very worthy event is chaired by one very dedicated parishioner, Daisy McDonald. She believes very passionately about this cause as she has seen first hand the poor quality of their lives. It is so important that this annual drive be successful as it is a way of showing the farm workers that there are people like you who are concerned about their situation.

Daisy is so very grateful to all of you who so generously contributed to the drive this year. The diapers, canned goods, rice, oil, cornmeal, beans that you donated are staples that go a long way to make life a little bit easier for them.

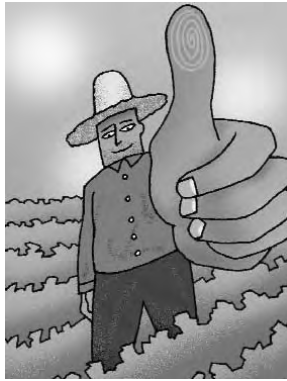
Our diocese here in St. Augustine is very involved in trying to improve the conditions of the farm workers and each year when the Florida legislature meets they send representatives to lobby the cause of the farm workers. Keep in mind that our farm workers are among the poorest in our state and one of the least insured. Their living conditions leave much to be desired as most of the time they find themselves in substandard housing with very few of the niceties that we take for granted.

Daisy has seen the conditions under which they live their daily lives. Many farm workers in Florida live the life of a migrant traveling to wherever there is a need to harvest. The children suffer the most as their education is always being disrupted as the family moves from place to place following the season.

Most of us probably do not even think about what is going on in the lives of these farm workers as the old adage, "out of sight, out of mind," would apply to many of us. But, and this is a big but, it is those very workers who labor in our fields, going from harvest to harvest, that put the food on our table. Daisy hopes that we could find a way to extend ourselves in reaching out to these people as they are the very people who provide the food energy to do what we do.

As you read this, the thought is probably crossing your mind as to what could I possibly do to change this situation. You might say to yourself, "I have no authority as to what goes on in the harvest fields." But you do, when you write to your state representative and demand that there be laws passed to guarantee better working conditions and/or better housing. You do have power and that's the power of the pen.

Pray about this, do some more reading on the subject and then if you feel so moved, act!



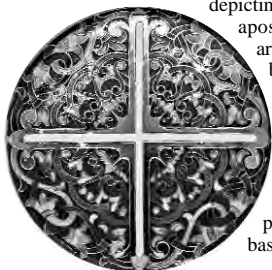
Gift of Chalice and Paten

by Mickey Kenny

I am sure that everyone knows the chalice is the cup in which the wine and water of the Eucharistic Sacrifice are contained and the paten is the vessel of the altar on which the altar-bread is offered in the Holy Sacrifice. Less well known is that Christ the King Church has not had a chalice and paten of its own but has been using Father Thanh's since he has been pastor. During the renovations it was his desire to remedy this situation.

Father Thanh chose a chalice and paten imported from Spain which are outstandingly beautiful and were donated anonymously.

Around the bowl of the chalice is artwork depicting the twelve apostles. The artwork on the base is the symbols for the four



g o s p e l

writers: an eagle, an ox, a lion and a winged lion. This artwork is done with an ancient metalworking technique called cloisonné. The paten has a cross of this same artwork only on its base side.



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I. Jesus is Condemned to Death.

This Nazarene had claimed to be
the Son of God Most High;
The Pharisees resented Him
and sentenced Him to die.

II. Jesus Carries the Cross.

They made a crown of spiny thorns;
they beat and whipped Him, too,
And made Him carry His heavy cross.
How much He suffered through!

III. Jesus Falls the First Time.

He fell beneath the heavy weight,
His body filled with pain;
They pulled at Him to make Him stand
and shoulder His cross again.

IV. Jesus Meets His Mother.

His eyes beheld His mother's face
as she stood aside from the crowd;
Her face expressed her sorrow and pain;
no words could she speak aloud.

V. Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross.

They thought that Jesus would perish too soon,
before He reached the hill;
So Simon was forced to carry the cross;
he helped against his will.

VI. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus.

Blood was streaming from Jesus' head,
down His face so pale;
Veronica wiped His face and received
Its imprint on her veil.

VII. Jesus Falls the Second Time.

The scourging and bleeding had taken their toll
on a body wracked with pain;
His legs were getting weaker now,
and He fell to the road again.

VIII. Jesus Consols the Women of Jerusalem.

Despite His pain and weakness now,
He paused along the road,
Consoling the women from Jerusalem,
then shouldered His heavy load.

IX. Jesus Falls the Third Time.

His arduous journey was nearly through,
but He could walk no more;
He fell to His knees on the stones in the road,
crushed by the weight He bore.

X. Jesus is Stripped of His Garments.

When He reached the place called Golgotha,
His trepidation grew;
They tore the garments from His back,
op'ning His wounds anew.

XI. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

With spikes they nailed His hands and feet
to the cross He had carried there;
Ignoring His screams and moans of pain,
they raised the cross in the air.

XII. Jesus Dies on the Cross.

For three long hours He hung on the cross,
struggling to take each breath;
In mercy and love He prayed for us,
as He awaited His death.

XIII. Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross.

His lifeless body was gently released
and lowered to the ground;
Mary breathed a final goodbye,
her tears and grief unbound.

XIV. Jesus is Laid in the Sepulcher.

His body was laid in the sepulcher,
His pain and suffering done;
He had taken on Himself the effects of our sins,
and our salvation He had won.

—verse by Kathleen L. Purtle

Inside the Eucharistic Ministry

by Katie Knowsitt

Katie recently had the privilege of being a part of the series given by Father Steven Zehler on the new guidelines for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Christ the King Parish. The first part of this series was given in mid-January and will be followed by additional training in February.

It might be of interest to some of our parishioners exactly what the duties and responsibilities of an Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion (EMHC) are.

So with that thought in mind, Katie will give a brief overview of what an EMHC actually does. The guidelines that we follow here at our parish have been approved and recommended by our pastor, Father Thanh Nguyen.

Beginning this year, 2008, an EMHC is appointed for a period of three years by the pastor. It goes without saying that he or she must be a member in good standing with the church as it is such a great privilege and honor to be able to assist in distributing the Precious Body and Blood of our Savior. The EMHC stands before God with a spirit of awe and total dependence.

The reason why there are EMHC is that there are no longer sufficient numbers of priests and deacons to distribute Holy Communion; it is always clearly understood that priests and deacons take precedence in dispersing Holy Communion at any given Mass.

The EMHC is expected to show reverence and respect in the manner that he or she conducts himself/herself when handling the consecrated bread and wine. This carries over also to their mode of dressing which on Sundays should be their best clothing. Katie knows that if any EMHC would receive an invitation to the White House nothing but the finest would do; so it goes without saying that only the finest of the fine should adorn an EMHC when serving the King of Kings!

All EMHC should observe the rule of Sacred Silence and be an example for others.

They do this not only because they are in God's house but because others are watching and an EMHC should strive to be the right example.

Beginning this year, when the EMHC distributes either the Eucharistic Host or the Precious Blood they will no longer use the individual's name, only the words, "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ." The proper and only response by the recipient is always a simple "Amen," which in English means "so be it," or "yes, it is."

It is only the priest, deacon, or acolyte who will purify and cleanse the Sacred Vessel after Communion. There had been an exemption for the Diocese of the United States to allow the laity to clean the vessels for several years; however, this exemption was lifted by Rome in 2006.

Did you know that this was not the only duty of an EMHC? Some EMHC also have the responsibility and great privilege to take Holy Communion to the sick, elderly, and the homebound. These folks are usually possessed with a cheerful heart and a willingness to go the extra mile. One must be especially commissioned to do so. An exception, of course, may be given by the pastor.

Here at Christ the King we have the Visitation of the Sick Ministry and it is usually these people who take Communion to those unable to come to church. Besides distributing Holy Communion they may also bring a church bulletin and any news of good cheer.

You might observe during Mass if you sit toward the front of the church that during the Consecration that in addition to the chalices there might be a pyx on the altar which is also being blessed at the same time as the bread and wine. Then, just before the prayer after Communion is recited, do not be surprised, if one or more EMHC come forward to receive the pyx. A teeny post script is included here for those who do not know what a "pyx" is. It is the small container in which the Sacred Host is carried.

Katie hopes that this very brief synopsis will give you some knowledge as to what an EMHC does. This is something that is worthwhile knowing as perhaps someday soon you will be the person who has the honor of saying "The Body of Christ". Keep in mind that each of us in our own way has an opportunity to show our love for God by serving others as we go about our ordinary lives.

Bishop Baker's Installation

A number of people from the Jacksonville area attended the Installation of Bishop Robert Baker as head of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama on October 2, 2007. We wish him well.



Emmanuel – God with Us!



by Amy Finn-Schultz

Christmas is a joyous time of celebrating family, traditions and most of all, the birth of Christ in the form of an infant child. We remember that Christ is present within all of us and through God's creation. On December 14th, members and friends of L'Arche Harbor House helped us remember that Emmanuel – God is with us – through the re-enactment of the Nativity story.

The 20th annual Living Nativity was held at Christ the King Church, with music, song, and costumes contributed by friends of the Community. A few hundred people from all over Jacksonville and north Florida filled the church sanctuary, joined in song, and left inspired by the beauty and simplicity of the gift of the Core Members, adults who have developmental disabilities. Everyone then enjoyed a festive reception on the lawn of L'Arche Harbor House, with food, music and lights donated by friends and staff.

L'Arche Harbor House extends our warmest thanks to Rev. Thanh Nguyen, Frank Japour, and the staff at Christ the King Catholic Church, and the many parishioners for your very gracious welcome. Your newly renovated church was the perfect setting for our Living Nativity!



Spot Light on History:

y Robert Murphy

Each year at this time we read and hear about the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. And with each discussion we are told that his baptism fulfills various prophecies. In the following article Bob Murphy points out these various prophecies, and explains their importance in the development of the public life of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus at the Jordan is the occasion on which he is invested for his ministry to carry out the will of the Father through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Let us take a closer look at this baptism scene beginning with the role of John the Baptist whose preeminent greatness lies in his function of announcing the imminence of the kingdom of God.

When the angel Gabriel announced to Zachariah that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son who would be called John and who would do great things for God, he also said that John would have the spirit and power of Elijah.

In his gospel, St. Matthew recalls that it was of John the Baptist that Isaiah had spoken when he said, "A voice of one crying out in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, Make straight his paths." And then the very next thing that Matthew mentions is that John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. Of all the things that Matthew could have said about John, why describe what he wore and where else is that ever done in the scriptures. For an answer, we have to look back to Second Kings in the Old Testament because the clothing that Matthew describes recalls the austere dress of the prophet Elijah.

"The King (Ahaziah) asked them, 'What was the man like who came up to you and said those things to you?' 'Wearing a hairy garment,' they replied, 'with a leather girdle about his loins.' 'It is Elijah, the Tishbite!' he exclaimed."

As further described in 2 Kings, Elijah did not die but was taken heavenward in a fiery chariot in a whirlwind. Elijah's return to earth is foretold in the last Book of the Old Testament, the Book of the prophet Malachi. When asked, "Where is the God of justice?", Malachi replies that the day of the Lord is coming, but first the forerunner must come, who will prepare the soil for repentance and true worship. "Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me." "Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day." Jewish tradition interpreted this literally.

The expectation of the return of Elijah from heaven to prepare Israel for the final manifestation of God's kingdom was widespread. Those expectations that the Messiah will soon come, mount when they see John, whose dress recalls that of Elijah, proclaiming the coming of the kingdom and a baptism of repentance. All this takes place at the Jordan, the place from which Elijah was taken up to heaven.

"Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah." (Luke 3:15-16)

Luke 7:24a, 27 "When the messengers of John had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John...; (27) 'This is the one whom scripture says: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, he will prepare your way before you.'" From the footnote to this verse in the New American Bible: Jesus, thereby, reveals the relationship between them: John is the precursor; John is the messenger spoken of in Malachi 3:1, who in Malachi 3:23 is identified as Elijah who prepares the way for the coming of the day of the Lord. Thus, Jesus declares the prophecy of Malachi to be fulfilled in the coming of John the Baptist.

"I [John] am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire."

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?' Jesus said to him in reply, 'Allow it for now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed him."⁹ This dialogue, peculiar to Matthew, reveals John's awareness of Jesus' superiority to him as the mightier one who is coming and who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

"His [John's] reluctance to admit Jesus among the sinners whom he is baptizing with water is overcome by Jesus' response – 'to fulfill all righteousness'. In Matthew's gospel, to fulfill usually refers to fulfillment of prophecy; and righteousness to moral

conduct in conforming with God's will. Here, however, as in 5:6 and 6:33 righteousness seems to mean the saving activity of God. To fulfill all righteousness is to submit to the plan of God for the salvation of the human race. This involves Jesus' identification with sinners, hence the propriety of his accepting John's baptism."

"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold the heavens were opened and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him, and a voice came from the heavens saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"



In the Old Testament, it was the prophets who anointed the Kings of Israel with oil, not of themselves, but in the name of the Lord.

The prophet Samuel anoints Saul as King. "Then from a flask he had with him, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head; he also kissed him saying: 'The Lord anoints you commander over his heritage.'" (1 Samuel 10:1)

In 1 Samuel 16:12b-13a, "The Lord said, 'There – anoint him, for this is he!' 'Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him [David] in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.'"

In Isaiah 45:1 we read, "Thus says the Lord to his anointed Cyrus."

The title "anointed" originally applied only to the kings of Israel, but here it is applied to Cyrus, the King of Persia, because he is the agent of the Lord. Cyrus liberated the Jews and permitted them to return to their homes and to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

In the passage from Matthew above (3:13) recounting the baptism of Jesus, we read, that unlike the anointing of kings with oil, which was a symbol of the holy Spirit, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. We see this affirmed in the Acts of the Apostles where the conversion of Cornelius the Roman centurion is recounted, "What has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power."¹²

The anointing with the Holy Spirit was immediately confirmed by Jesus himself, as Luke describes how, after his baptism, Jesus enters the synagogue at home and proclaims, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me." And Jesus is now ready to reign as king.

"And Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and according to his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read. And the volume of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. And after he opened the volume, he found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me; to bring good news to the poor he has sent me, to proclaim to the captives release, and sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompense.' And closing the volume, he gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were gazing on him. 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'" (Luke 4:16-21; cf. Isaiah 61:1)

The "mountain" (in Luke) or "high mountain" (in Matthew and Mark) of the Transfiguration is often identified as Mount Tabor or Mount Hermon, but perhaps no particular mountain was intended, rather it's

The Baptism of Jesus

probably meant to recall the revelation to Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb) (Exodus 19:16-20) and to Elijah at the same place (I Kings 19:8-14). Moses and Elijah represent respectively law and prophecy in the Old Testament. They now appear with Jesus as witnesses to the fulfillment of the law and prophets taking place in the person of Jesus as he appears in glory.

As they, Jesus, Peter, James and John, came down the mountain after the Transfiguration, "...the disciples asked him, 'why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' He said in reply, 'Elijah will indeed come and restore all things, but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist."¹³

Hearing Jesus speak of the Son of Man suffering at their hands calls to mind what it was the Father spoke at his baptism, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."¹⁴ The Father's words echo the words spoken by God to the suffering servant in Isaiah at the beginning of the servant's mission. "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my Spirit."¹⁵

Isaiah gives us three more messianic songs of the sinless servant of the Lord whose voluntary suffering atones for the sins of his people.¹⁶ This prophecy is perfectly fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

With the anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism, Jesus can now be called the Christ, the Messiah. He emerges from the waters of the Jordan to carry out the mission entrusted to Him by the Father - to lead His people to the new Promised Land, the Kingdom of God, which is nothing less than an invitation to us to share in the divine life beginning here and now on earth and forever in heaven.

¹ Luke 1:17

² Mt 3:3

³ Mt 3:4

⁴ 2 Kings 1:8

⁵ 2 Kings 2:11

⁶ Malachi 3:1a

⁷ 2 Kings 2:6

⁸ Mt 3:11

⁹ Mt 3:13-15

¹⁰ New American Bible footnote; Mt 3:14-15.

¹¹ Mt 3:13-17; also, Cf. Mk 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22

¹² Acts 10:37b-38a

¹³ Cf. Mt 17:1-13; Mk 9:1-13; Lk 9:28-36

¹⁴ Mt 3:13-17

¹⁵ Isaiah 42:1

¹⁶ Cf. Isaiah 49:1f; 50:4f; 52:13-15

Gifts of Love and Service

by Mickey Kenny

The gifts of the panel on the left from the Fil-Am community and the panel on the right from the Vietnamese community are both beautiful and inspirational.

Sister Diane Couture of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Augustine has as her special charism beautiful work in stained glass. The older stained glass pieces on either side of the entrance to the sanctuary, given by the Baldwin family, are part of her work. When our church was being redone the question of what would be best for each side of the altar became very important.

The concept of stained glass art on fabric instead of glass started the process. Sister Diane Couture was chosen to create the artwork, and she also knew of a process of reproducing onto fabric this kind of art which was

being created in Italy. It would be possible for her to create the panels, use exact measurements, computerize the work, and then have the people in Italy apply the art to the fabric. The fabric used is actually organ grill cloth.

Father Thanh chose as the basis of these art pieces service and the last judgement.

On the left panel three gospel readings concerning service are depicted in one magnificently united piece of art. From the top we see Martha in service to others by preparing the table for the Last Supper. Jesus institutes the Eucharist in the service of our redemption; this is in the middle of this piece. Another form of service is depicted at the bottom of the art piece. Mary Magdalene is represented as the woman who bathed Christ's feet with her tears and dried them with her hair in service to our Lord.

The panel on the right depicts Christ the King separating the sheep from the goats as a judgement against those who did nothing to alleviate the suffering of those who had no food to eat, no water to drink, no home in which to live, no clothing, nor the warmth of love for those who were sick or imprisoned. This is taken from the gospel reading for the Feast of Christ the King in cycle A.

These panels will provide years of inspiration and meditation for the people of Christ the King thanks to the generosity of both the Fil-Am and the Vietnamese communities. We thank you.



My Stewardship Talk

by Kevin Wolfe

Several months ago I was approached by Father Thanh to give a talk on stewardship. In previous years I had heard similar talks given by Lucille Guzzone, James Scott and Peter House. Each talk was unique and gave me ideas or a model of what to say.

I began to pray and reflect and started preparing my talk. In October I went to a school meeting. The meeting topic caught me totally off guard. That night we were told of the school's financial bind. I knew right away my talk needed to cover this issue with the Parish. The more I reflected and prayed, the clearer it became that the church was my family and when a family member is in need we must do whatever is possible to help.

I also began to look at images I had photographed and videoed during Masses, school and other church functions. I began to see the comparisons of my two families and how these pictures and videos were all connected. The basic connection was I had two families. The one I was born into and the one I chose to join.

After compiling my history and entrance into the church I began to ponder what I would do to resolve the issues. The first thing was to pray for everyone in my family. The second was to change and then to make whatever sacrifice necessary to make a difference. The third thing was to tell the parish how I felt about them and convey the love and faith needed by everyone to resolve the issues.

We are now into the New Year and I can feel an intensity of family, love, faith and unity which is very much in the air at Christ the King. I believe with prayer all things are possible.

A Tribute to a Great Guy

JERRY SULLIVAN

by Frank Becht

A tribute to a great guy and family man!

In the year of 1999, I joined the Courier staff as a writer and proofreader. It was there that I met the Sullivan family: first Mary Ann who played an integral role in the production of our now popular and well-known church newspaper. After a couple of years of having annual dinners at a local restaurant, the practice was changed to meeting for a social in the home of one of the willing staff.

It was at one such occasion when Betty and I hosted the annual get-together that I met Jerry Sullivan. After a festive evening of wining and dining ourselves, we settled down to some serious discussion with our publisher and Pastor Father Thanh about what we were doing and how to do it better. Mary Ann and Jerry remained after everyone else had left. It was then



that I got to know Jerry and Mary Ann, and a close friendship continues to this day.

Sometime later, Jerry was asked by Father Thanh to help him write a homily for his use at election time to help set the stage for informed voting on Right to Life. Jerry asked me to help and, of

course, I jumped at the chance. Father Thanh did use Jerry's format to a great degree but little of mine. One other popular article by Jerry was **32 Years 9 Months and 4 Days**, published in the May, 2007 issue, about the years of his marriage to his wife Mary Ann.

Since that time Jerry and I have sought each other's counsel on articles on many occasions. While Jerry was not a consistent writer for the Courier, he helped tremendously in the conversion process to the Quark system of production for the newspaper. He has encouraged and supported Mary Ann in her work with the Courier, like few husbands would do, in spite of the serious heart problems he has suffered and his need to have her nearby.

Jerry truly suffered much in the last 3-4 years that made it difficult for both Jerry and Mary Ann to function as a normal family. He had been in and out of the hospital

many times; only Mary Ann knows how many times she rushed him to the hospital as a result of congestive heart failure. This series of events was followed by Jerry being life-flighted twice to Birmingham, Alabama, but even these measures did not solve his serious problem.

Jerry and I often talked on the phone about "things." We also had "mucho" e-mail contact with many frivolous "fwds" which we did not share with our wives. The time finally came November 16, 2007 when I realized I had not heard from Jerry in a few days. I called him on the phone at about 9:30 a.m., as he was about to leave for a doctor's appointment; we chatted and wished each other well. My closing comment to Jerry was "I'll probably die before you." Later that day I heard he died of a massive heart attack in his doctor's office. God had called him!

by Carol-Ann Black

Recently, Jerry Sullivan, one of the Courier's most faithful volunteers passed away. He was the devoted husband of our assistant editor, Mary Ann, and good friend to us all. (You might have read his article about marriage in the May 07 issue of the Courier.) He was a long-time devoted parishioner who participated in several ministries over time. Also over time, his health began to fail, and his activities became more and more

limited to just surviving from day to day. But at no time did he flag in his generosity to the Courier. He never "didn't allow" Mary Ann to work on our paper, because it wasn't convenient or comfortable for him. Without her consistent and faithful efforts, seamless transition to new management of the paper would have been impossible. His generosity of spirit allowed her to keep us moving forward, regardless of his own discomfort. Thank you, Jerry.

Call to Adoration



Act of Adoration

Jesus, My God, I adore You here present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, where You wait day and night to be our comfort, while we await Your unveiled presence in heaven.

Ministry Of Hope

by Frank Becht

The Ministry of Hope is a Christ the King ministry that was formed by Sue Pastorini five years ago to assist those parish members who have had the misfortune of losing loved ones during the past year. Initially, it involved providing a reception for family and friends following the funeral Mass but has expanded to include weekly support sessions for family and friends and an annual memorial service for the deceased parishioners and family members of parishioners.

Liturgically, a memorial service is traditionally held during the month of November, but it was decided that to assist family through the grieving process, they needed to take the time to remember the deceased loved ones in the Christmas season. Consequently, the annual **Christmas Naming Service** was established.

The **Christmas Naming Service** was held at Christ the King Church on Thursday, December 13, 2007 with well over 100 people attending. While most people who attended were remembering a family member who had died

within the past year, several people chose to take advantage of the service to remember loved ones whose deaths occurred prior to this past year. Father Thanh was the Presider at the service with Sue Pastorini as Reader. A personalized Christmas bulb showing name and date of death of the loved one was handmade by several members of the Ministry of Hope before the service. This special bulb was provided to family members to place on the Memorial Tree as their deceased loved one's name was called. Family members and friends who attended were asked to write notes to their loved ones before the service; the ceremony was concluded with burning of the notes and letters at the Christ the King Fountain Shrine. A reception provided by the Ministry of Hope followed in the Shirley David Hall for all those in attendance.



First Coast Pops at Christ the King

by Carol-Ann Black

The First Coast Pops Community Orchestra visited Christ the King on December 8 and performed seasonal music for all to enjoy. Selections ranged from Irving Berlin and George Gershwin to Charles Gounod and G.F. Handel. Most of the music was oriented to approaching Christmas, but *God Bless America* is always a show stopper. Our CTK choir sang wonderfully, and never looked twice when informed by orchestra conductor, Roberta Thieme, that they were expected to sing the Hallelujah Chorus as they had done last year. Ask Bernie Sans how many rehearsals they had had for that selection.

The First Coast Pops Community Orchestra is a remarkable group of amateur musicians who not only gather on a weekly basis for rehearsals, but perform a dozen times (give or take) a year at various places—churches, nursing homes, civic gatherings. Their director, Roberta Thieme, is not only upbeat about what she and her musicians do, but downright exuberant in their performances. How can the audience not sing along?

Kristian Llave, who plays weekly at Mass here at Christ the King, plays violin with the orchestra and acts as its webmaster maintaining contact with members and the public. First Coast Pops will play again at Christ the King in the spring on April 12, at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this fun event.



Life Giving Lessons



This article was submitted by Ligeia Damaso, ARNP, FCP. Ligeia is a Creighton Model Fertility Care Practitioner at Christ the King. For more information or to register for an upcoming Introductory Session call 904-718-1277 or email LDamaso@gmail.com www.creightonmodel.com.

by Evie Day

Natural Family Planning teaches married couples a lesson not only in fertility and God's will for their families, but also a spiritual lesson in how to trust God in every aspect of married life. The times of abstinence teach us the importance of waiting on the Lord in all things and the times of marital embrace allow us to rejoice in God's gift of life to us as a couple. My husband and I conceived our second child this past year and it was not a "planned" event, but it was definitely a choice we made by our actions. We chose to make love during the fertile time and really weren't sure exactly what would result from that choice. But in our hearts we chose to be open to God's plan and His plan was for our new baby boy to come into existence. For us this attitude of **choosing** to trust God with our fertility has flooded into every aspect of our married life. Natural Family Planning has become for us a spiritual exercise that has tilted the soil of our hearts for the many challenges that God has placed in our path.

Recently we went through an unexpected and life altering financial struggle. At the end of the year 2006 my husband's employer lost the ability to pay him regularly and we were without income for nearly 4 months. It was an experience that, looking back on it now, I can hardly believe we survived. It was the choice to use Natural Family Planning, the choice to surrender our fertility and our family to God that gave us the spiritual and emotional tools to surrender these untimely and difficult circumstances to the Lord. I was reminded of the apostles on the boat during the storm and Peter being called to walk on the water to Jesus. I know that it was Christ who pulled us out of the stormy waters of our financial chaos. As our priest said to me during a much needed

confession...God created life out of chaos and from the chaos of our financial stress he will create something new within us and in our lives. And He did...God gave us a new community in Jacksonville, a new job for my husband and a new baby.

Oftentimes the chaos of a new pregnancy at a difficult time can be overwhelming. It was for me. Knowing that we were still struggling financially I had a hard time reconciling the joy in my heart at this new life growing in my womb with the thoughts of our being "irresponsible" for making the choice to make love during the fertile time while our finances were still in disarray. I was worried that my husband would not rejoice in this news since we were still in a great deal of debt after our recent stretch without income. He was, to my surprise, excited and joyful at the news. How silly I was to not believe he would want another child. His love was reassuring. It brought Christ to me in that moment and lovingly soothed the storm in my heart. God has slowly revealed to me that, in choosing to give life, we are choosing Him and He will always be by our side to guide us out of the chaos. I've realized that a choice to make love to my husband is always an action that says within itself "I choose to give life". Whether that life is flowing from us to God or into creating a new little soul for the Kingdom of God...it is, and always will be, a choice that we make with our whole hearts.

What a blessing it is to have a family planning method that not only is extremely effective but that also teaches couples how to trust God with everything. Giving up my fertility to God was the final step for me in learning to "let go and let God." In doing so I've found that God constantly teaches me that being open to Him and His will is a decision I make every moment of my day. Natural Family Planning then becomes a means to understanding how to pray each moment of my life with unadulterated abandon. If I can look up at Heaven and say "Lord I trust you with the part of me that I don't give to anyone but my husband" I then learn that I can trust Him with the everyday little trials and the life changing ordeals that I encounter. As a stay at home mother to a toddler and a newborn; these little trials come at me by the bucketful. I'm daily challenged to live an NFP mindset in each of these smaller bumps in the road. A dirty diaper on a tired and unwilling participant can seem to be an impossible feat for me after a long day, but the "life giving" lessons of NFP have taught me that sacrifice and temperance in even the most simple and mundane of activities can bring life to my family. I feel that I am most true to myself as a woman when I embrace a "life giving" mindset no matter the circumstance at hand. And in this mindset I am able to attempt to always be open to the life God is sharing with me and to share this same life with others.

For the NFP couple the life giving frame of mind is something that is practiced monthly as the couple discerns God's will for their family. It is a time of discerning how God is calling them to give life; either through abstinence or through the marital embrace. It is an exercise that I know has strengthened our ability as a couple to trust God completely. It is a gift to have a method that not only unites us as a couple and teaches us to love one another, to be life giving and to communicate; but that also teaches us to give all of ourselves to God constantly by allowing Him to penetrate every inch of our married love.

Men's Club

by Kevin Wolfe

On December 3rd the Men's Club guest speaker was Commander Mike Holifield. The Commander discussed his two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Commander Holifield is with the Judge Advocate Generals Office.



Commander Holifield told of the many issues involved with setting up the Iraqis' trials. Courtrooms had to be rebuilt and judges trained. Training involved many mock trials to prepare them for Saddam Hussein's trial. There were many judges, each with his own strengths and weaknesses. The biggest problem they faced was the Iraqi legal system as it is completely different from ours. Commander Holifield also had several slides of the city including the many palaces, the Court House and the area known as the Green Zone.

After his talk on Iraq he proceeded to talk about Afghanistan. This country is completely different, with an infrastructure similar to the 1920's. Both Iraq and Afghanistan face huge challenges.

The next meeting of the Men's Club is February 19th at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Tom Moran from WQOP Queen of Peace Radio.



The Church is Like Noah's Arc

Cardinal O'Malley's quote is taken from the weekly bulletin of St. Bridget parish in Philadelphia.

"The Church is like Noah's Ark, a floating zoo. Some people have jumped ship, others are seasick. Some are rowing in one direction and others in another. What we must never lose sight of, is that Jesus Christ is the captain of the ship. And he is summoning us, 'All hands on deck.' Every baptized Catholic must know that we have a personal call to holiness, to a vocation to be part of Christ's mission. 'All hands on deck.' The ark reminds us that we have been reborn in the waters of baptism. Those waters have made us part of Christ's family. But we are truly his brothers and sisters, when we obey the will of the Father...As we reflect on our history, we see that it has never really been easy for Catholics to be a disciple. Our religion is not to be an escape. An exercise in comforting the comfortable. It's rather about discipleship. Taking up the cross each day with the confidence that love lightens the burden. That his yoke is sweet and his burden light..."

Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston

What Are We Passing On To Our Young People?

Submitted by Judy Koziolek
Taken from the Internet

I grew up in the 40s/50s with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it... A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a housedress, lawn mower in one hand, and dishtowel in the other.

It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, a screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress, things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, and re-newing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence didn't it? Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more. Right?

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away... never to return. So... while we have it, isn't it best we love it... and care for it... and fix it when it's broken ... and heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For marriage ... and old cars ... and children with bad report cards ... and dogs with bad hips... and aging parents... and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. What we learn from old things, ideals and people can be very valuable ... more than we can see or understand in the immediate future.

This is something to ponder (think about) in this throw away world we live in. What are our grandchildren learning from their go fast ... highly technical world in which they live? What will they pass on to their children that will hold meaning long past their time on earth?

Faith Sharing Christmas Party



A Faith Sharing Christmas Party was held at the Nick and Natalie Winiewicz home on December 23rd.

It was labeled a Gala since two priests,

Father Thanh and Father Remy Blazskowski, and two Deacons, Andy Blazskowski and Lam Nguyen, were in attendance. All of the group joined in making the event a truly festive occasion.



Something to think about....

Twinkies and Root Beer

author unknown

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Vietnamese Cultural Center



As you can see, the Vietnamese Cultural Center is well on its way to being completed.



Surprise Meeting with Good Friends

A Chance Meeting

by Jean Sell

On a recent trip to Cape Coral, Christine Dudley-Howard and I decided to visit the college and town, Ave Maria. On our way into 12:10 Mass, we met a very excited-to-see-us Richard Pagano. He had spent last summer at Christ the King as a seminarian and had enjoyed being with our parish. Richard will graduate on May 10 and hopes to go on further in his studies for the priesthood. He sent his love to all at Christ the King.

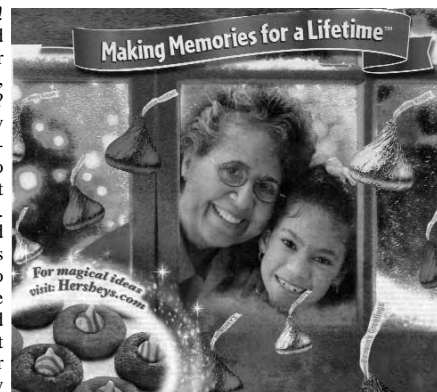


You Just Never Know

by Phyllis Bauman

Surprise! Surprise! I opened the morning paper some weeks ago, and what did I see? A picture of my good friend. I anxiously read on to see what great thing she had done. Lucy is a good friend who has always worked so hard at Christ the King. She worked in the cafeteria at the school for many years. My boys still refer to her as the Lunch Lady. You know, Mom, "The Lunch Lady." I searched for her name but could not find it. They say everyone has a twin somewhere.

No, it was not dear Lucy Hollum. But it very well could have been, for she dearly loved children. Who else could cook and feed a school of children and always have a smile and a greeting for each child. She knew the children by name and she ran a great kitchen along with all the wonderful helpers she had. It just seemed appropriate – her arms around this child and cookies and candy nearby. She still has that same warm, loving smile for anyone she sees, not only children. We love you, Lucy, and can't thank you enough for keeping our children fed and loved with your kindness and love.



The Passing Parade



Advent Tree



Naming Service



Christmas Mass



Simbang Gabi

by Imogene Praxedes



It was truly a fantastic turnout of the Simbang Gabi Masses. The Novena Masses were held at six churches scattered throughout the Diocese of Saint Augustine. This popular Christmas tradition is held every year in the Philippines. It commences on December 16 and concludes on Christmas Eve. This tradition is so ingrained in the Filipino psyche that wherever there is a Filipino community the Simbang Gabi is sure to be adapted and celebrated. Jacksonville is no different.

What started out as a vision has come to fruition. Although there were moments of doubt and misgivings, we found a way to go around that brick wall of hopelessness. It was important to see that this vision become a reality.

The Simbang Gabi Masses is the most anticipated fiesta of the year. We wanted to share this with the community of Jacksonville because it is a time for family, for sharing, and a time for food, fun, and friendship." It is the one event that allows everyone to gain insight into the deeper meaning of Christmas for the Filipinos.

In spite of the late start in planning and organizing the event and many roadblocks along the way, the outcome was very humbling. It was a tribute to everyone who was involved in the process.

Monsignor Rudy Villanueva of the Archdiocese of Cebu graciously accepted the invitation to celebrate the Simbang Gabi Masses. What an honor!! Monsignor is highly regarded in the Philippines. He is a man of many talents – composer, author, director, and playwright. He celebrated the Masses with such ease. In these nine days Monsignor's homilies and presence gave us spiritual sustenance in renewing and rejuvenating our faith and conviction in a loving God.

When the idea of the Simbang Gabi was broached to the Diocese of Saint Augustine it was immediately received with sincerity and enthusiasm.

The pastors of the six churches who allowed us to use their facilities, not only for the Mass but also for the receptions, have demonstrated the openness of this Diocese to embrace the multicultural and diverse nature of its community. We are grateful for their support and understanding.

Father Thanh – Christ the King
 Father Alan – Blessed Trinity
 Father Ananda – Holy Spirit
 Father Meehan – St. John the Baptist
 Father Bodie – St. Catherine, Orange Park
 Father Russo – Mary, Queen of Heaven

We reached out to the Fil-Am communities of the participating parishes for support and assistance. Each Fil-Am community contributed to the success of the Simbang Gabi. By establishing guidelines each parish was encouraged to fuse their Mass celebrations with their own distinct styles.

In keeping with the Filipino Rite of celebration we included a parol bearer to be part of the procession. Parols are Christmas lanterns from the Philippines which are shaped into a star. The inspiration is the star on the Nativity of Jesus that helped guide the Magi to the manger. It is a symbol for Filipinos of hope and goodwill and the victory of light over darkness during the Christmas season. Each night we would display the parols and by the ninth night we had nine parols on display.

One of the Filipino customs we included was the "mano po" The mano po was included to emphasize that we still respect our elders. The readers would approach Monsignor, take his hand and place it on their foreheads before they proceeded to do their reading.



Perhaps the most difficult task that was needed to make this event more meaningful was the formation of a Filipino choir to sing traditional Filipino hymns during Mass. We started out with a few members, and as the word spread others joined. What started out as a group of strangers wanting to sing His praises has now become one big family.

We feel that the Simbang Gabi Masses would be a great starting point to manifest a sincere desire for a joyful celebration of unity. What better

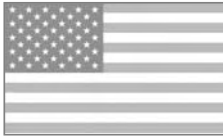


manifestation of humility than that of the Son of God being born in a lowly manger.

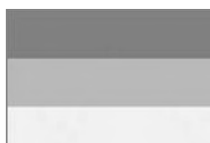
It is our hope that we could lead by example so that our children will learn to build a wall that is strengthened by our Filipino values of family loyalty, religious devotion, respect for elders, and national pride. We believe, if that wall is reinforced day by day through example and deed, our children will have been given a tremendous armor that will deflect undesirable behavior and attitude. Too many times we hear of young people searching for an identity. The Filipino youth will not have to look any further if a united Filipino community will inculcate the values, customs, and tradition of their ancestors.



Epiphany Celebration...



... And Dinner





by Tim McClellan

New Events and Expanded Format for 8th Annual Spring Carnival



The 8th Annual Christ the King Spring Carnival is quickly approaching! The event will take place on April 4th and 5th this year, expanding to a two-day format for the first time, and offering several ways for everyone in the parish to join us for an entertaining event for all ages.

The carnival will get a facelift for 2008 to include new features that will make the parish-wide event more enjoyable for all parishioners. It will offer the parish community an opportunity to come together and to enjoy the vibrant spirit of Christ the King while helping to support the largest and most vital ministry, Christ the King School.

The carnival will kick off on Friday night with a family dinner open to the entire parish. Menu items will include fresh seafood and vegetables, along with hotdogs, hamburgers and assorted side dishes.

Along with the dinner, the opening event will include live entertainment, bingo, and a silent auction featuring several donated items along with baskets created by the students at Christ the King School. Among the prizes that will be available for the auction is a week long vacation at a cabin in Maggie Valley, NC.

On Saturday, the expanded format will be in full swing, including a Country Store. This store will include items donated by parish and school families, along with original arts and crafts items created by students and parishioners, and a bake goods sale.

The Christ the King Men's Club will be hosting bingo. There will be cash and other assorted prizes.

For the kids, Radio Disney will be doing a live remote from the carnival on Saturday providing us with entertainment and prizes from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. They also generously donated a two hour Radio Disney

party which will be an item available at the silent auction on Friday evening.

For mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa, the spring carnival will have a wide variety of food options to pick from, and all sorts of refreshing beverage choices to satisfy any palate. We will also have live entertainment throughout the day.

There will be a raffle on Saturday.

If you are concerned that you might miss a tee time on Saturday, we have you covered. One of the new features that will be unveiled for the carnival this year is a 9-hole miniature golf course. You can work on your putting game and enjoy the community spirit of Christ the King at the same time!

Because the carnival is in the early planning stages, there are plenty of opportunities for members of the parish to get involved. Whether you have household items that you would like to donate for the Country Store, or you are interested in volunteering to help out with the dinner or the carnival, or you just want to make a donation, every little bit helps to make this carnival a huge success.

In an effort to reach out to as many parishioners as possible, all parish ministries are being encouraged to find a way they can offer volunteer support. The more ministries that can be brought on board, the better the entire experience will be for everyone here at Christ the King.

The carnival committee will meet several times between now and April 4th. If you are interested in donating your time, treasure, or talent to the event to make it the most successful in parish history, this is your chance to join with Christ the King School in our walk of faith.

Updates on when meetings will be held, where you can donate, and how you can help will be found weekly in the parish bulletin, and on our website: www.supportctks.com

See you there!

CHRIST THE KING MINISTRIES

LITURGY

Altar Servers

Interested youth 5th grade or older and who have received First Holy Communion. Once trained, they are entered into a rotating schedule for the Masses. Contact Diane Longenecker, 642-5168.

"Extraordinary" Eucharistic Ministers

As an "Extraordinary" minister of the Eucharist during the Mass you would be asked to join the priest at the altar, partake in communion and help the priest distribute communion to the congregation. Candidates are chosen by the Pastor as recommended by the priests and staff members of the parish.. Nancy Chapman, coordinator, 731-5724.

Gift Bearers

Families, Individuals or Parish Ministries who want to bring the gifts to the altar during Mass. Audrey Dodd - 724-2491.

Music Ministry

Any individual who has a talent with music or can play an instrument or just interested in the Singing Choir, Handbell Choir, Funeral Choir, or being a Cantor for Mass, call Bernie, 724-0080.

Readers

A lector does the readings and the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. If you would like to be a reader, call Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617.

Sacristans

We help prepare for the celebration of Mass. For more information on how you can be a Sacristan, call Nick Debs, 744-8749.

Visitation of the Sick

"Extraordinary" ministers bring the Eucharist to the homebound or hospitalized. Debbie House, 725-1097.

HOSPITALITY

Coffee & Donuts

Call Michael & Carol Warwin, 504-7288 to help greet and serve after 7

and 9 AM Masses. Great way to meet newcomers and parishioners.

Mass Greeters

Welcome all who come to Mass. This team may offer the only contact many parishioners have in our faith community. Great opportunity for adults and families. Contact the chief usher at the Mass you are attending for more information.

Ushers

Men and women who commit to attend the same Mass every week. They are requested to wear a navy blue jacket and to assist the celebrant as needed. Howard Sell, 642-5079.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Altar Society

Individuals who care for the vessels, vestments and linens used in the Liturgies. Elaine Calloway, 724-8260.

Art & Environment Planning Committee

Decorating the church and Gathering Area, during different seasons of the Church. Contact Terri Vogelsang, 744-6310, on how you can help.

Beautification Grounds Committee

Individuals and families who want to beautify the church grounds. Meet the third Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon, in the church parking lot by the fountain. Come join us in beautifying His yard. Pam Jones, 722-3638.

Religious Articles Gift Shop

Volunteers staff the gift shop before and after Sunday Masses. Maureen McCook, 642-2725.

Sunday Childcare For 9:00 a.m. Mass

Christ the King Childcare for your 1-4 year-old child in the Child Care Center. Free of charge. Care is provided by parents and those students (13+) who wish to obtain service hours. Must be willing to be fingerprinted. Call Deborah Ethridge, 696-9726.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Daily Eucharistic Adoration

We need people who are willing to sign up for one hour a week so that someone is praying all during the day. Adoration is in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Claretta Lamusga, 743-9998.

Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration

Held on the first Friday of each month from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. There are eight groups who rotate their hour each month. If you would like to join us in this prayer ministry, call Paul Ghiotto, 727-5040.

Prayer Network

One of our most rewarding ministries - praying for others in need - spiritual, health related, and other. Call Peggy Mills, 646-9417.

GENERAL

Advent Tree

A program that puts smiles on faces of people at Christmas. Those who share time and talent in this ministry help put up the Advent Tree with special paper ornaments. Parishioners choose ornaments to take home, purchase the gift, and return the ornament with the gift attached to it. Volunteers are needed to help distribute the gifts to nursing homes, orphanages, etc. call Patty Stamper, 727-6916 & Pat Birch, 521-6883.

Blood Drive

Twice a year Christ the King Church, along with the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance, holds a blood drive, call Karlene Simmons, 642-8319.

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women (CKCCW)

Our board meets monthly, September-June, to guide our eight circles who meet at various times during the month. Our General meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. We welcome new members. Monica Crisp, 721-2754.

Christ the King Clinic

Staffed by doctors, registered nurses, and ancillary support people. They donate their services the fourth Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call Willie Blaquiere, 744-6792.

Christ the King Courier

Interested in publishing a newspaper? We need desktop publishers, typists, proof-readers, reporters, photographers, etc. We meet on Wednesdays in the rectory at 7 p.m. Carol-Ann Black, 221-2642.

Elizabeth Ministry

This ministry deals with the joys, sorrows and challenges of life during the childbearing years and beyond. It includes pregnancy/pregnancy complications, birth, infant/child crisis, special needs, miscarriage, stillbirth and infant or child death. Call Wendi, 724-5579.

Christ the King Fil-Am Ministry

In the spirit of establishing a church with no "walls" the Fil-Am Ministry is inspired to be one of many bridges that will reach across to promote friendship and appreciation among it parishioners without regard to race and language.

We believe that as a ministry we have a great opportunity to share with the community the vast treasure of Filipino values embedded in our traditions, culture and customs.

The Fil-Am Ministry is open to everyone. Our meetings are held every third Saturday of each month. For more information please contact the Imogene Praxedes, 737-4034 or e-mail us at CTKFILAM@comcast.net.

Finance Committee

Committee members selected by the pastor. Their work on the council should be considered a ministry with a commitment to stewardship. Contact Father Thanh Thai Nguyen.

Habitax - Habitat for Humanity

Forms partnerships between those in need and those who are willing to put their faith into action by donating their time, talent, and treasure to construct new homes, call Bill Damato, 998-1417.

Militia of the Immaculata

Men and women who offer their services to their pastor, to aid him in performing spiritual works in the parish. Members may be active or auxiliary (praying). Weekly meetings are held every Monday at 7 p.m. in the rectory. James Scott, 642-0059.

Ministry of Hope

If you have lost a loved one you know the anguish and suffering that goes with that loss. Others have been through this same trauma. The Ministry of Hope brings those who have suffered and those who are suffering together. Call Sue, 221-7143.

M.O.M.S.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is designed to encourage prayer, discussions, and friendships among women of all ages. Debbie Ethridge, 725-1097.

Parish Council

The Parish Council is a consultative body that the pastor can pray and reflect with, and ask for assistance to guide in the overall care/ministry of the Parish and the enhancement of its mission. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Rectory. Call John Klinkenberg, 724-5579. It is made up of representatives (President, Chairperson or Facilitator) from each ministry in the Parish, as well as representatives from the Finance Council, Christ the King School, Christ the King Daycare, Athletic Association, Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, Sponsor Couples, and Wedding Coordinator. Elections are held every three years to elect a President, vice-president, secretary, recording, and secretary-clerical from the body of representatives.

Parish Nurse

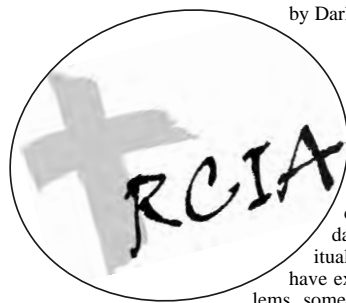
Nurses who belong to Christ the King Parish willing to volunteer their time and talent to support the ministry of health within the parish, call Sharon Lutheran, 398-3925.

Queens and Kings (age 50+)

Our lively senior citizens socialize on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30-4 p.m., September through June. Do come to enjoy! Call William Campbell, 724-3777.

RCIA Update

by Darlene O'Neal



The halfway mark has been reached for the RCIA class of 2008.

After having to move from one meeting room to another, the RCIA class and team have persevered. The class has increased to ten candidates and continues to grow spiritually. Some of the team members have experienced serious health problems, some have missed sessions because of family but still the class goes forward. RCIA director, James Scott, continues on his journey to become a Deacon sometime in June and yet, he has not missed any sessions. This year has been a real test but faith and perseverance have held everything together.

The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome took place on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. On December 22, the annual Christmas party was held for the candidates and their families in the Shirley David Hall.

There have been sessions on Eschatology (the last things) and on the Sacraments of Initiation and Eucharist. The next important step is the Day of Reflection. This is a day to pray, reflect and discern about what has happened thus far in the faith journey. By this time, one should know if he or she is prepared to join the Catholic community at the Easter Vigil.

The Rites of Sending, Election and Calling will take place in February.

James Scott Takes First Step Toward Becoming Permanent Deacon



RCIA Director James Scott after the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for the Permanent Diaconate. Surrounding James are his wife, Jacquelyn and daughter, Jocelyn, as well as members of his RCIA support team: Norma and Berry Landers, Carol and Michael Warwin, Louie and Darlene O'Neal and Mary Rouse. Father Steven Zehler and Deacon Paul Consbruck complete the group. This rite took place on December 01, 2007 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The final rite will take place in June. Congratulations, James.

CHRIST THE KING MINISTRIES

Rectory Office Volunteers

Adults willing to volunteer a morning/afternoon/all day Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.. Different positions available: receptionist, clerical, computer operator. Call the Rectory at 724-0080.

Respect Life

We are a ministry wishing to make a difference in people's lives by supporting the Saint Gerard House, Project Rachel, Respect Life Pilgrimage and the Diocesan Respect Life Program. Sign up at the Time and Talent Fair in November, or contact Carl Ludwig, 724-8485.

St Vincent de Paul Emergency Assistance

We need volunteers to work in the St. Vincent de Paul office in the rectory, providing referrals, and assisting people who need immediate help. Hours are from 10 a.m.- noon, Monday through Friday, call 724-8442.

Sponsor Couples

Married couples needed to help engaged couples discern if marriage is for them. Jim and Mary Ann Middleton, 743-3953.

Stewardship Committee

A committee appointed by the pastor, oversees the Time, Talent and Treasure (TTT) program. Call Peter House at 725-1097.

Vatican Bible School

A week long summer program (usually in July) for children ages 4-11 years to help deepen their faith and involvement in the Christian community. Fun for everyone. Call Jennifer McAnally, 220-9832.

Vincetians

We were founded by people who care about the problems of those around them. We care and would like you to share the care with us. For information on how to become a Vincetian, call 807-7233, ext #1, and leave a message.

Widow/Widowers Support

For those who have lost loved ones. For information contact Claretta Lamusa at 743-9998 or read your bulletin for the next meeting date, place, and time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Education Committee

Committee to develop and implement an Adult Education program for the parish. Program sessions are held twice a year before Faith Sharing Small Groups begin and are meant to enhance faith sharing. Call Betty Wheeler, 724-9662.

Emmaus - Young Adults

Young adults (18-39) coming together in fellowship and to learn more about their faith. Call Jennifer Webster, 564-2378.

Faith Sharing Small Groups

Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings, Scripture and current events that effect our Catholic faith contact Barry Landers, 725-3574.

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Preparing people to enter the Catholic Church through an inquiry and catechetical process. Call James Scott, 642-0059.

Religious Education for Students

Opportunity for students grades 1-8 to learn/experience the Catholic faith with others in their age group. Sessions held August -May in the school on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Sunday Mass attendance required. Certified teachers are always welcome to apply, and volunteers are needed on a regular basis. Call Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts

Troop 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys 6-12th grade. Meet Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., in the Scout Hut, call Fred Gardner, 720-0297

Catholic Scouting Committee

Adult individuals interested in providing youth ministry through the scouting program. Meets four times a year; organizes and implements "Catholic Camporee" for all Scouts once a year; attend spring awards ceremony. Training provided, call Donna, 641-0698/John 744-6573.

Christ the King Athletic Association (CKAA)

Serves children (ages 5-12, boys; 5-15, girls) who believe that youth athletics provide valuable lessons in citizenship/teamwork. Also, if you would like to contribute toward the cost associated with registering a child for a CKAA sport, call Tim Johnson, 727-7487.

Cub Scouts

Pack 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys in grades 1 - 5. Dens meet weekly in the Scout Hut, call Dan Sanford, 696-7646

Cursillo

A Renewal movement of individuals in the Church who want to deepen their faith and enhance their walk with Christ, call Carl, 724 -8485.

Girl Scouts

Girls of different age levels that meet weekly or bi-weekly in one of the church halls after school or in the evenings, call Becky Schroeder, 805-0204.

I. M. Sulzbacher

Individuals who give two hours of their time to 400-500 men, women and children the third Tuesday of each month by saying grace, serving dinner, and cleaning up the kitchen, call Ann and Steve Franklin, 745-0627.

K' Ceas

Organization of Catholic Women, an auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 4727. They help/support the Knights. Meetings are in the Knights of Columbus Hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Call Darlene O'Neal, 724-2857.

Knights of Columbus

Organization of Catholic men and their families dedicated to promoting concepts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. If you are a practicing Catholic man, at least 18 yrs. old, and interested in fellowship with people who share the same beliefs, call Jose Praxedes, 737-4034.

L' Arche Harbor House

Mutual ministry with members and assistants, building community support and awareness to the needs and gifts of the disabled members of the L' Arche Harbor House family, call Amy Schultz, 721-5992.

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

Child Care Center

Adults wanting to share their talents in three different subcommittees: educational, plant facilities, and fund raising, contact Theresa Little, 724-7239.

Christ the King Catholic School

Grades Pre-K thru 8th grade. The principal is Stephanie Chinault. The school has many needs for volunteers on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. The school seeks assistance in the office, cafeteria, library, and clinic. Volunteers are needed as board members and business partners, room mothers, and speakers. Help with the yearly golf tournament is also needed, call 724-2954.

TEEN PROGRAM

LIFE TEEN PROGRAMS, 425-4215

THE EDGE - Pre-Teen

This youth program is designed to minister to boys and girls 6-8 grades of all faiths from uniquely Catholic base. Call Katie, 425-4215.

LIFE TEEN

Youth ministry program with a strong focus on the Eucharist. Meet Sunday for 5:00 p.m. Mass. LIFE Night (fellowship) afterwards. Call Katie, 425-4215.

LIFE TEEN - CORE TEAM & LIFE GOES ON

Over 18, have a love for teens, and are not currently a parent of a teen? Call Katie, 425-4215, for more information on meeting times.

LIFE Support

Any adults, parents, relatives, neighbors, etc. interested in supporting the LIFE TEEN program. Membership is open to all. Activities are creative, fun, exciting, and diverse, call Stephanie Henry, 642-5754

Music for LIFE

Any adult with advanced musical skills who is willing to help put teens' faith, feeling and thoughts about God into words through song and praise. Call Phil, 398-1961.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage Renewal

A program designed to teach married couples how to better communicate, to strengthen and support Christian marriage. Contact Emilio and Theresa Gonzalez-Chavez, 721-0012

Pre Cana/ Engaged Encounter

For information on upcoming workshops and weekends, call 308-7474

Wedding Coordinator

Terri is the one to call to answer questions regarding decorating the church for your wedding. She also assists the priests in wedding rehearsals. Please call Terri Vogelsang, 744-6310 as soon as you set up your date with a priest.

Share your
Time & Talent
Volunteer

A Woman of Character

by Yolanda Cerqueira

Monica Crisp, the new president of the Council of Catholic Women here at Christ the King, is not only a woman of strong character but one who has a great zest for living. You know that immediately by the warmth of her smile and her whole-hearted enthusiasm for her many and varied interests in and for our parish.

Monica came to Jacksonville in 1969 when her parents Jerome and Peg Gallagher were transferred here from Ohio. She is one of five children having three older siblings and one younger brother. It was only she and her younger brother who moved here though as the older children were grown.

She attended Bishop Kenny High School but transferred later to Terry Parker and graduated in 1974. After taking some courses at Florida Junior College, she went to work.

It was not long after that she met her husband, George, and they have now been happily married for 25 years. Their introduction came about because Monica had bought a chair at Levitz (remember that place off the Arlington Expressway?) for her parents' wedding anniversary. She needed someone to help her pick up the chair and when she went to her friend's house to get his assistance, George just happened to be there and the rest is history!

God has blessed them with three children, Tom, Molly, and Tara and they have another young man that they have adopted into the home whose name is Wes. This couple exemplifies the adage, "There's always room for one more."

Monica is a very organized person and she and her husband tried to keep their children on a regular schedule. This worked very well with Sunday Mass when their children were small. Her father, Jerome, was a 7:00 a.m. regular and as a treat for the family he would take everyone out to breakfast after Mass. This became a tradition with them and even today you will see Monica's smiling face at the Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass. All of her children were altar servers and her son, Tom, still carries the cross during Lent on Friday for the Stations.

How did Monica get involved with her many pursuits at Christ the King? Well, her first concern, of course, is her family so when her children attended the parish school it would naturally follow that Monica would be a room mother. From being a room mother she went on to serve on the Christ the King School Board as she cared passionately what happened not only to her own children, but all of the children who have the privilege to attend our school.

Monica laughingly said that if you showed up at a meeting someone was bound to give you a job. She believes that if you want to know what is going on at our parish you go to the horse's mouth!

Along the way she restarted Circle 1 in 1999 for the Catholic Women's Council. Many of the older members had either passed on or moved so she interested a number of women to reform the Circle and it's been going strong ever since.

That was her introduction into the Council and she has been a faithful member ever since. From 2003-05 she took on the job of Treasurer but Monica did not pursue any further office at that time until she was elected to the presidency of the Council in the spring of 2007. Her term of office will run until 2009.

Monica holds very definite viewpoints when it comes to holding office in the Council of Catholic Women. Normally, an individual would be elected to a lower office and then work one's way up to the presidency. It is her contention that when one takes that route, by the time one arrives at the presidency it is difficult to be open to new ideas, as one is always defending the positions of those previous years as one ascended the ladder. As you can see Monica is not afraid to speak her mind and firmly believes in the principle that a new broom sweeps clean. For this very reason all of her people on her executive board save for one are new and she hopes this tradition continues.

Monica, on the other hand, is quick to say that she and all the women owe a big debt of gratitude to the Ladies Guild and a men's club. The Ladies Guild which evolved into the Catholic Women's Council and a men's club were the founding ministries at our parish. All of the other ministries which total now over 40 grew out of these two originating ministries and we must never forget that.

Monica went on to say, "Women didn't work outside the home when these beginning ministries were formed." Now it is the norm and family life has greatly changed in regard to time priorities. There has to be a way to attract younger members if the ministries are going to continue. One of the most promising possibilities is that the MOMS Ministry is considering forming their own Circle which would automatically bring in a host of younger women.

"We can not allow ourselves to hold on to the thought that 'we have always done it this way' but must be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things." Monica feels very fortunate that her board members and



she are basically in mutual agreement as to what they wish to accomplish during her tenancy. She considers it a good mix as they are various ages ranging from their forties all the way up to seventy years of age.

One of the activities going on at the present time is the addition of the rosary to the traditional Saturday Mass which goes all the way back to 1954. Besides the rosary, they also say the divine mercy chaplet; and what better way could there be to start your Saturday activities!

How many of you were privileged to attend the Living Rosary which was celebrated last November? What was different about it this year? For the first time the Living Rosary was open to the entire parish and it turned out to be very successful.

Something new is coming down the pike on April 20th and that will be the first High Tea given by the Council for all the women of the parish. It will be a dress-up affair held in the Shirley David Hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The tables will be beautifully decorated with the finest linens, and fine china will only add to its elegance. There will be the traditional watercress and cucumber sandwiches, and of course, some delicious scones.

If that isn't enough to tempt you Monica is thinking about having a contest for the "best or most original hat" worn by one of you. Doesn't this sound like a most wonderful event that should lift us high into the spirit of spring!

Well, you heard a lot about Monica so let me tell you something about her husband, George. It is he who did that beautiful ornate screen that you see high above the altar. It is actually a wooden screen for the speakers and is 24 feet long and 4 feet tall. This lovely screen took over 200 hours to make and George worked on it in the evenings and weekends. He saw a picture in a magazine of the pattern that he used and he was able to copy it. He was able to accomplish all this by only using a jig saw, a two-bit drill, a compass and a pencil! What a labor of love!

Now that you have heard about Monica and her husband, George, it would not be complete without speaking of their three greatest accomplishments: their children. All three are in school; Tara, who is 21, works at our Child Care Center and is majoring in Sports Management; Molly, 22, is a senior in college and majoring in Political Science and Broadcasting; and Tom, 24, having made a miraculous recovery from an auto accident several years ago, just completed his AA degree from FCCJ and will enroll at North Florida in the fall.

This is a family that is totally involved in their parish and in making contributions to the community that they live in. Do not be surprised if there are many new ideas and ways of thinking coming to our parish. With people like Monica and others that share her philosophy, Christ the King parish should be moving ahead full steam into the 21st century!

Direct from Ireland ...Irish Variety Show
Sunday, March 9, 2008 Starting at 1:00 p.m.
Christ the King Kingdome
727 Arlington Rd.
Donation ... \$15.00
Ticket/ Reservations call
Jean Sell: 642-5079 Teresa Little: 724-7239
All Funds raised will aid
Christ the King Day Care Center

K'Cees Christmas Charity Ball



by Darlene O'Neal

The K'Cees annual Christmas dinner and dance took place on December 8, 2007. The Knights of Columbus hall was festive with lots of green and red decorations to set the Christmas mood.

There were many door prizes which included a money tree and a money wreath that was decorated by Shirley Mosley. Among the other prizes were two lovely lap blankets crocheted by Carol Coseo. Raffle ticket sales reached a record high with a large portion of that money going to help needy families and some of the residents of Hurley Manor. Thanks to Betty Wheeler for making the raffle tickets and getting them out to all the K'Cee members either by mail or hand delivery. The winner of the money tree was Frank Prescott, who said he gave the money to his wife Helen and even turned on the tree for her!

The highlight of the evening was when Santa George and his helper Debi paid a visit to all the ladies and gave each one a gift. Note: Santa still has a bounce in his boots!

Caterer Glen and his assistant served a wonderful meal of beef tips and chicken with all the trimmings to about 60 guests. A variety of music including Christmas, rock n' roll, line dance and the chicken dance was played by DJ, Ryan Praxedes, who sported a Santa cap the entire night.



THANK YOU to all the K'Cees who helped to make this event a fun night and a big success. We look forward to the next K'Cees Christmas Charity Ball in 2008.

Faith In Action

by Frank Becht, PGK

The Knights of Columbus are in the midst of celebrating 125 years of **Faith in Action**. This celebration is the direct result of the faith and action of our founder, Father Michael McGivney.

Father McGivney was only 38 years old when he died on August 14, 1890. He formed the Knights of Columbus only eight years

earlier in 1882. The formation was not an easy one due to the economy of the times in the northeastern United States and the prevailing practices of the area. His social concern for the poor of the time, rooted in faith, prompted him to create the fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus, designed to serve the poor and needy and assist them in their quest for salvation. His work and effort were not just for the social concern of families but for their faith and spiritual well being. The Knights of Columbus has come to be known as the "**Greatest Defender of the Church**" or the "**Right Arm of the Church**."

His work and efforts for the well-being of people has been recognized by the Church, which is now considering him for sainthood. Several incidents have led church leaders to push his cause of canonization. His popularity has continued to grow to the point that he has been dubbed "**A Man of the Church**."

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the second ranking official at the Vatican, told members of the Knights of Columbus at the 125th Celebration in Nashville, Tennessee that he is taking a personal interest in the beatification process. It is felt that "sainthood" for one of their own will be a tremendous moral booster for fellow priests.

Come join the Knights of Columbus! There are several reasons you should:

To become a better Catholic

To help the Church and community

To help the poor and needy through the K of C programs

To become an example of **Faith in Action**.



Religious Education Holds Its Annual Christmas Songfest



by Lucille Guzzone

The children in grades 1-4 entertained their families and fellow classmates with this year's Christmas program entitled, "The Nativity." The carols which were presented reflected the story line of the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph placed the Baby in a manger. Shepherds who were watching their flocks and angels from on high came to honor Him. Three Wise Men came from the East bearing gifts. And the chorus, dressed in red shirts and colorful and sparkling crowns, sang in exultation. The audience, which played the part of the general citizenry, sang gloriously, as well. It was truly a scene from ancient Bethlehem. The true spirit of the holy night was experienced by all.



CTKS Sharpens Focus on Growth Opportunities

by Timothy McClellan

Strategic Planning



In early December, the Christ the King School faculty, school administrators and staff, the school advisory board, parish administrative staff, our pastor, Father Thanh, parents, and parishioners came together to begin the process of identifying ways to bring new life and energy into the school and the parish.

One of the key areas of concern is the need to do a better job of communicating information to everyone in the parish community. It was determined that we need to increase the level and quality of information being communicated in order to promote a sense of community. Each of us has a vested interest in the future of our parish and school. The better informed all parishioners are, the more effective our solutions will be.

As a result, three committees were formed to improve the level and quality of communication between the school, parish, and families of Christ the King. These three committees are: Strategic Planning, Marketing, Fundraising.

Volunteer members of the school advisory board accepted the challenge of leading the effort in coordination with the parish and school administrators.

Since the initial brainstorming sessions in December, a core group of volunteers has been working diligently on each of these committees to develop a long-term plan for the school that will allow the largest parish ministry to continue to thrive and grow. By focusing on increasing enrollment at the school, the ultimate goal is to build the foundation for the long-term health of the school and the parish.

Many valuable ideas were generated in these sessions. The suggestions were prioritized by each committee, and the items that were considered highest on the list were given intense focus. This process is ongoing, and advancing quickly toward a formalized plan that will help both the school and parish find new ways to use the assets of the community to put us on a more secure footing, focused on growth and opportunity. Some items have already been set into motion.

In the spirit of improved communication, the three committees will be providing periodic updates to give all parishioners details on their progress. This will be the first status report as we work through this process.

The Strategic Planning Committee determines where an organization is going over the next year or more and how it is going to get there.

The purpose of the Strategic Long Range Plan is to give direction to Christ the King Catholic School in the future. The plan will identify things that Christ the King School does well, as well as those that need improvement. The plan will be referred to constantly and revised annually as certain tasks are accomplished and new issues arise.

A sub-committee was formed following the meeting in early December to analyze data from several areas including: school budget, demographics, enrollment data, and academic competitiveness.

Several recommendations are forthcoming from the Marketing and Fundraising Committees. While only 80% complete, the final recommendations should prove a valuable tool for the school administration.

Following the data analysis, the faculty, parents and students will have an opportunity to complete a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) survey.

The Strategic Planning Committee will review and discuss all the findings to develop the Strategic Plan, which will be presented for final approval to the School Advisory Board, as well as school and parish administrators. This plan will offer a blueprint for sustaining the future of Catholic Education at Christ the King School.

Marketing Committee



The Marketing Committee identified three critical areas as high priority items for the school to act upon immediately. These are: increasing enrollment, retaining current students, identifying and implementing a marketing strategy for the school.

Whether it is by reaching out to area childcare facilities or by advertising to entice people to consider Christ the King, the main goal of any marketing effort is to find ways of increasing enrollment at the school.

One of the first steps is to update and improve the marketing

material on hand. New brochures have been created, and will be made available to local day care facilities, or parents requesting information about the school. It was determined that providing more timely updates to the parish and school websites is also considered critical to the process of improving the lines of communication between the separate entities.

A newly created website, www.supportctks.com, will provide real-time updates on the progress of the committees, as well as a vehicle through which parents and parishioners can communicate with the parish, the school, and members of the advisory school board. It also provides a portal for people to access the school, parish, and childcare websites.

Fundraising Committee



The first goal of the Fundraising Committee was to determine how effective the current group of fundraisers has been for the school. Any efforts that were not seen as highly beneficial were evaluated to determine whether they could be modified to improve performance, or replaced all together.

The current fundraising activities were prioritized based on the amount of revenue that they brought to the school. The most beneficial of these were: carnival, candy sales, Readers Digest, Christmas Boutique, and SCRIP. For these fundraisers, no changes or only minor adjustments have been identified to make them more profitable and cost effective for the school.

The most visible changes that will be seen will incorporate expanding the format of the annual spring carnival, and adding a fall event to the calendar. The expanded carnival format will now include a silent auction, a kickoff dinner event, bingo, and assorted new features for all ages to enjoy.

A second area where some adjustments will be made to improve the earning capability is with regard to SCRIP.

What is SCRIP?



SCRIP is "a certificate whose value is recognized by the payer



and payee." SCRIP is a program that provides gift cards from hundreds of vendors at a discounted rate. Each vendor (e.g. Dillard's, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Sears, Home Depot, Mudville Grille, Wal-Mart) agree to give a percentage of every dollar spent on their gift cards back to Christ the King School.

It is the closest thing to free money available.

Christ the King School has been running the SCRIP program for five years now, and during that period of time, nearly \$20,000 has been raised.

All SCRIP requires from participants is a little advance planning. Orders are placed on a Monday, (or Tuesday if school is closed on Monday) and you receive your cards that same week. Making this process even easier for Christ the King parents and parishioners is the fact that SCRIP is now available on-line.

Place orders via the internet at www.ShopWithScrip.com. The enrollment code for Christ the King is C14CA3534L79. You set up an email account, then go online and shop, turn in your printed order form and payment (cash or check, no credit cards) to the Christ the King office on Monday morning. Part of the effort with SCRIP is to demonstrate how easy it is to use, and how beneficial it would be for the school if more people are involved. We are identifying a coordinator for the parish so that all members of the Christ the King community can participate and generate funds for the school.

One final target area is the formation of an official alumni association. Much data was collected during the recent 50th anniversary celebration for the school. Through the Christ the King Alumni Association, the school will find a new source of potential revenue and fundraising capability.

The culmination of the efforts of these three committees will continue to focus on finding new and creative ways to promote the school, church, and childcare facility. We will look for opportunities to generate new sources of income to reduce the level of financial support required from the parish. Finally, the committees will work to formulate a long-term plan that will allow the school to become more efficient, and effective in utilizing resources.

Our goal is a simple one: Christ the King School recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is our intention to be certain that over the course of the next 50 years we will see continued growth and success for both the school, and the parish community as a whole.

The Pickett Family

Gem

by Frank Becht

William E. Pickett, Jr. is better known as Bill Pickett to friends, family, and Christ the King Community. He is the son of William Pickett, Sr. (name was changed from Prikovits), who was born in Germany and Essie Barkowski, who was born in the Mandarin area of Florida. The Pickett and Barkowski families owned a considerable amount of land in the Mandarin area, much of which was donated to the St. Joseph's Church and helped to increase the impact of the Church in the community with a larger church, school, etc. Bill and his six brothers and sisters grew up in Mandarin and he served as an altar boy at St. Joseph's. He met his future wife in high school at Landon in Southside. They were married in St. Joseph's Church on May 10, 1942. Bill had enlisted in the United States Navy on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941.

Bill's wife, Ruth Carolyn Prosser, known as Carolyn, was born of James and Mary Howard Prosser of Quintan, Georgia, and raised in the Southside area of Jacksonville. She was a graduate of Landon high school. Her brother, John owned and operated The Prosser Press in Jacksonville from 1945 until 1987.

Upon release from the service Bill and Carolyn lived on Ontario St. in Woodstock Park on the Westside and attended Our Lady of the Angels Church nearby. Bill worked at Haverty's Furniture Company and the Sears and Roebuck Department Store. He took advantage of educational benefits earned by service in the Navy, and he learned the television and radio repair business. He purchased a local television and radio repair business, Seaboard TV & Radio. The business moved to Cesery Boulevard when he and Carolyn moved to Glynlea Road in the Southside/Arlington area in 1952, and is still a family business operated by their youngest son, Alan.

In moving to Southside/Arlington, they became founding members of Christ the King Church, newly founded by Father W. Thomas Larkin



(later Bishop Larkin) in 1954. As members of Christ the King, they became very involved in helping to establish Christ the King in a rapidly growing area. Bill was involved in fund raising, the Holy Name Society, bingo, bazaars for school functions, and school sport activities. He had joined the Knights of Columbus Southside Council #1951 in September 1942, but transferred membership to Arlington Council #4727 (now Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council) at the time of its formation in January 1959, becoming a founding member. Bill has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 65 years. As a member of Christ the King and Arlington Knights of Columbus, he was coach of many Little League teams for Duval County and the Knights of

Columbus. Several plaques and certificates of award are displayed proudly on the walls of his home as evidence. Bill remembers helping Al Rucci develop the baseball diamond at Christ the King where many teams continue to perform today.

Carolyn was a housewife and mother of six very involved children who all attended Christ the King School. She was heavily involved in the many sports and school activities her family participated in. She was also involved in various women's organizations, such as the Ladies' Guilds.



Bill and Carolyn are the proud parents of six children and 10 grandchildren. Karen Pickett Vanetti is married with two children, lives in Jacksonville, attended Christ the King, and graduated from Bishop Kenny. William E. Pickett, III, deceased, had one child, graduated from Christ the King and Englewood High School. George Pickett is married with no children, lives in Jacksonville, graduated from Christ the King and Englewood High School. Theresa Pickett Eason is married with two children, lives in Jacksonville, graduated from Christ the King and Bishop Kenny High School. Rose Pickett Marvel is married with two children, lives out of state, and graduated from Christ the King and Sandalwood High School. Alan Pickett is married with three children, lives in Jacksonville, graduated from Christ the King and Sandalwood High School.

Bill and Carolyn even in their late 80's try to attend Mass regularly, watch Mass on EWTN television daily, and are visited regularly by Christ the King Eucharistic ministers and members of the Knights of Columbus Brotherly Care team.

We at Christ the King have been so lucky to have such long-time dedicated and hardworking members of Christ the King Parish and the Knights of Columbus. Please keep them in your prayers.



**Thank you God
for all you have
given me.**

**Thank you God
for all you have
taken from me.**

**Thank you God
for all you
have left me.**

Amen

What is CKCCW?

by Carol-Ann Black

And why would you want to know? Let me tell you what the council is; its purpose and what it has to offer you as a Catholic woman. CCW, Council of Catholic Women, is a national organization that was founded in March of 1920 under the auspices of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops. Their aim was to unify the multitude of individual groups of Catholic women to make their work more effective. The bishops took notice of the important work done by Catholic women's organizations during WWI. In my words—they wanted to capitalize on the intelligence and energy of US Catholic women.

The goals of the council were established at that first meeting: to give Catholic women of the country a common voice and an instrument for united action, to ensure proper Catholic representation in national committees and movements, and to stimulate the work of existing Catholic organizations to greater service in meeting the needs of the times.

Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Toledo, challenged the newly united group of Catholic women at the time—get this—“... to take on the girl problem; take on the child welfare problem; take on the problem of public health, of public morality...the thousands and thousands (who seek) the protection of the Stars and Stripes.” The girl problem?—what was he thinking. I still haven't been able to figure that one out. How different our frame of reference is today. The fact is, however, that national CCW and CKCCW do in fact work hard and successfully in the fields of public health and for the good of our brothers and sisters beyond our borders as well as the immigrants within the United States.

CKCCW's efforts this year include gifts for the children of migrant workers at holiday times here in Florida; financial assistance for the new moms at the home at St. Joseph's in Mandarin, gifts of clothing and/or school supplies for a local Arlington elementary school, and gifts of clothing for an orphanage for girls in Ecuador. This is a particularly clever cooperative effort between ourselves and students from JU, who go to Ecuador to work at this orphanage in the spring. They carry as personal baggage the donated gently used clothing for these girls. Therefore, there is no handling or shipping charge involved.

As you can see, National Council of Catholic Women is a service organization. But at Christ the King we are making a strong effort to invigorate the spiritual mission for our members. We attend Saturday morning Masses and lead the rosary for those who wish to participate. We opened up to the parish our Christmas Living Rosary; we prayed and then shared a covered dish dinner. A great way to begin the Advent season. Organized on the basis of “circles”, these small groups have formed around different activities—MOMS, small faith-sharing groups, etc. Some are purely social. Some more spiritual. Currently we have eight circles active.

CKCCW is working hard this year to reach out to those parish women who would like to share their interests and goals for Catholic women and for Christ the King. We invite you to join a circle or at-large. Check the bulletin for phone numbers and activities as they come up on the calendar.

CKCCW Chat

by Willie Blaquiere

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women is an active ministry with over one hundred members. Monica Crisp as president is working to increase membership. Many of our members have attended circle meetings for over fifty years. They have enjoyed the spiritual support, the companionship, and working side by side for the good of the ministry and our church community. The lasting friendships and memories are invaluable for these women. We have money-making projects, social activities and business meetings; all can be fun.

The annual Living Rosary and Christmas party was November 30. This year family members and members of the parish were invited. We had a good turnout, wonderful food, and a lovely rosary. The new addition this year was electric candles (no more wax dripping on hands and worries about flames). The rosary is especially dramatic with the lights out and the candle glow showing the faces of those participating. Christ the King has the best cooks in the city; we look forward to next year. Thanks to all members of the parish, the bake sale and raffle on December 15-16 was a great success. LeRoss Hulcher won first prize of \$400 in gift cards. Second prize gift basket went to Audrey Dodd, third prize gift basket to Mari Taylor. Coming events: card party and luncheon on February 16 and High Tea on April 20. Watch for an announcement in the Bulletin concerning details.

IN THE SPIRIT OF SHARING: Jane Mead's grandson, Brian Corrigan, left on January 14 to attend University College in Dublin, Ireland, for the next semester. It is indeed a small world. Brian has an open invitation to visit Monica Crisp's niece, Colleen, at her farmhouse home in nearby County Cavan. Natalie and Nick Winiewicz enjoyed a five-day visit with son, Nick Jr., and his wife, Darcie, over Christmas. They came to the sunny south from Waterford, Michigan. Virginia and Stanley Moore's grandson, David Pelt Jr., has returned to Iraq for his second tour of duty as a member of the US Army. Our prayers are with David and all of the dedicated people who are serving with him. Anna Mary Riley celebrated a birthday in October with her daughter, Sharon, and many friends. Sharon is an officer in the US Army currently stationed in the US. She has been all over the world and served a year in Iraq. Dylan Michelle Smith was born November 7, first great grandchild of Willie Blaquiere.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Jane Mead and her husband, Jim, married November 26, 1955. They are natives of Pennsylvania, have three children and five grandchildren. Their children, Nancy, Jim Jr., and Sally, are graduates of Christ the King School. Jim and Jane lived in Jacksonville from 1963 to 1974 and came back in 1980. Jane has been a member of CKCCW since 1982.

Rita and Dan Wendel married June 19, 1954. They have three children and six grandchildren. Rita is a retired registered nurse and has been a member of CKCCW for seven years.

Dolly Casterlin and her husband, Cass, married on November 11, 1950, in St. Teresa's Church in Linden, New Jersey. They are blessed to have their daughter, Linda, and granddaughter, Christine, living in Jacksonville. Dolly and Cass have been members of Christ the King since 1973. Dolly has been a member of CKCCW since 1974.

Marge and Harry Burke married April 11, 1953, in Bloomington, Illinois. They moved to Jacksonville and became members of Christ the King in 1954. They were married forty-six years and parents to five children. Marge has eight grandchildren. She has been a member of CKCCW since 1954.

Claretta Lamusga and Harry, both natives of Minnesota, married in 1949 in Browerville, Minnesota and were married for forty-nine years. They met while in high school and were both members of large families, Claretta a family of twelve children, Harry a family of eight children. They followed in their family footsteps and had eight children of their own; there are now twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren. The family moved to Jacksonville and became members of Christ the King Church in 1986. Claretta joined CKCCW shortly after coming to Christ the King.

Peggy and Norman Mills were married in Newark, New Jersey, at Sacred Heart Church on August 12, 1956. They celebrated their fifty-first anniversary last year. Shortly after moving to Jacksonville in 1957, they became members of Christ the King Church. They have four children and ten grandchildren. Peggy has been a member of CKCCW since 1964.

Thank you CKCCW members who have submitted information for this column. Let us hear from you for the next *Courier* publication.

Catch The Spirit ... Catch The Fun

CATCH THE 19TH ANNUAL APARTMENT ASSOCIATION'S CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

To Benefit L'Arche Harbor House

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16 2:00 PM
CHRIST THE KING BALLFIELD**

**CATCH US ROUNDING THE BASES
TO THE DELIGHT
AND CHEERS OF THE CROWD!**

Kindness is the universal language that all people understand.

Alonzo S. Jake Gaither



Catholic Schools
Week

The Passing Parade



CTKS
Christmas Play



This is YOUR school



Celebrate
Catholic Schools



This is YOUR school

Christmas Songs Composed

Jesus Our Savior

(to the tune of 'Frosty the Snowman')

by Megan Schroder, Cassidy Lewis, Drew Milkell,
and Cody McEleveen

Jesus, our Savior, was a brave and jolly soul,
He was born in a manger, but He's no stranger
to anyone on earth. Mary and Joseph had to
walk many miles, but when Jesus was born an
angel blew a horn and they had many smiles.
There must have been a message in that great
big star they saw, and when the Wise Men
reached Jesus they stared at him in awe. O
Jesus Emmanuel was alive as he could be, he's
still here today, but not in a way that anyone
can see. Steppety step step, Steppety step step,
there goes Jesus there He goes. Steppety step
step, Steppety step step over the desert
snow!!!!!!!!!!

Jesus' Birth

(Up on the Rooftop)

by Julia Eason, Helen Vu, Rachel Leshner, and Michael Urbizu

Up in heaven Jesus lies,
On the throne of faith and pride.
Jesus is born in Bethlehem,
In a manger near the Inn.
Who, Who, Who, Who is born?
Who, Who, Who, Who is born?
Up in heaven Jesus lies,
On the throne of faith and pride.
Jesus has the greatest birth,
He will come at the end of the earth.

Jesus Is The Reason

Jesus the Savior

('Frosty the Snowman')

by Jeff Dela Cruz, Ricky Boyette, Janel Palomo, and Larissa Ogin

Jesus the Savior, He was born on Christmas
Day

He woke up in a manger in Bethlehem,
And so quietly He lay.

Jesus the Savior, is the Lord of the land,
He died for us,
Without a fuss,
Then He rose to God's right hand.

He must have been the Savior,
For the angels sang His praise,
And a bright star lit the sky,
And the shepherds were amazed.

Christ Is Here

(to the tune of Jingle Bells)

by Rachel House, Bradley Harralson, Yasmeen Chan

Riding to Bethlehem,
Jesus Christ is here,
Kings are waiting peacefully
For Jesus Christ to come

Everyone will praise Him,
When He comes to Earth,
Laying in a manger
Christmas day's His birth
Oh!

Chorus:
Christ is here! Christ is here!
He is born today
Oh what fun it is to pray
On the holy Christmas Day x2
Hurray!

by the Fifth Grade Students

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

by Liz McGovern and Carla Chin

Fifth grade students took traditional Christmas songs and used the melodies to create new songs to reflect the real meaning of Christmas. The students worked in groups of twos and threes to create this original music and then sang them in front of the class. It is a fun and uplifting activity, and as you read the lyrics you will appreciate their creativeness and knowledge of Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Jesus Is The Reason

Jesus is the King

(Tune of Jingle Bells)

by Ashlinne Hickox 8, Mathew Lynch 14, George Assi 2, John Ashley 1

God is looking down at all of us today.
He is watching us celebrate his name.

Jesus is, Jesus is, Jesus is the King.
He will come down one day with angels singing
praise!
Hey!

He watches us sing! He watches us pray!
He watches us in everyway and every single day!

Jesus is, Jesus is, Jesus is the King.
He will come down one day with angels singing
praise!
Hey!

Jesus Christ

Tune: Jingle Bells

by Madison, Danny, Winston, and Josh

Born in Bethlehem
The angels told the sheperds
Three wise men brought him gifts, oh

(Main)
Jesus Christ
Jesus Christ
Savior of the world
Jesus Christ is God's only son
He was born in a manger

Rocking Around Jesus Christ

(Tune: Rocking Around The Christmas Tree)

by Paola, Hailey, and Camille

Chorus: Rocking around Jesus Christ have a happy Christmas day everyone praying
joyfully for the coming of Christ's birthday

Chorus 2: You will get a joyful feeling when you hear Jesus calling let's be happy
DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF JOLLY has a happy Christmas Day everyone
Dancing joyfully in the new old fashioned way

Repeat Chorus
Repeat Chorus 2
Repeat Chorus

Christ the King School Honors Veterans

By Christ the King students

Each year on Veterans Day, Americans unite to honor military men and women who have faithfully served our country. We recognize those who have bravely defended the supreme value of freedom. The observance came a week early at Christ the King School, as the faculty and student body welcomed the Blessed Trinity 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. The Knights looked on as seventh grader Peter House led the assembly in singing "Proud to Be an American." Students waved American flags donated in memory of Robert Knutson, a fellow Knight and veteran. Patriotic bracelets were donned by all as part of the "Our Great Democracy" program sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America. The morning's observance culminated with a flag retiring ceremony. The school community stood by as the Knights solemnly burned the old flag and presented Principal Stephanie Chinault with a brand new flag. The ceremony was marked with sadness for those who have lost their lives, but more so with pride for our veterans, our flag, and for the great nation it represents.



Student's responses:

"Everyone watched in awe as the flag was retired. The memories of our veterans live on."

Kelsey Hayes, grade 8

"I hope everyone who looks at our flag will remember those who gave their lives."

Andrew Dinh, grade 8

"The flag retiring ceremony was an amazing and exciting way to begin the day."

Mallorie Lesher, grade 7

"The flag burning ceremony was a great experience and reminded all of us of our citizenship and what being American really means. The reverence for the symbol of our country, the American flag, shows how great our nation truly is. The passion for one's country comes out when the flag is raised."

Jan Dela Cruz, grade 8

Catholic High School Honor Roll

Bishop Kenny High School Second Quarter 2007 – 2008

Joshua Alvarez
Darian Azar
Hannah Christian
Alexander DeLoach
Mallory Frye
Christina Gagnon
Christine Grochmal
Jason Infante
Jennifer Jones
Jaaziel Juego
Jordan Kierce
Jonathan Koch
Sara Koch
Clayton Ludwig
Allison Lynch

Melissa Mitchell
James Mollenhour
Zachary Neaves
Amanda Niesen
Megan Raesemann
Trenton Raesemann
Grazielle Ramirez
Timothy Vergenz
Tyler Wildes
Richard Williamson
Emily Wolfe
Robert Yarborough
Dena Yazji
Rebecca Yount

Bishop John Synder H.S.. Second Quarter 2007 - 2008

Taylor Hull
Jessica Stamper
Eryn Coyle

Math Field Day



by Carol-Ann Black

"Small school holds its own with bigger schools in math." That was the headline in the local Arlington Sun insert for the *Times Union* of January 19. Principal Stephanie Chinault called it a David and Goliath match. The six members of the math team, coached by teacher Susie Cooney, pulled off a second place finish in the competition with ten other private and public middle schools of Duval County. They finished second to Darnell Cookman, with its 1,173 students - behind by only two points. The students competed in timed events dealing with integers, calculators, fractions, computation, estimations and geometry. Christ the King team members were William Morgan, Royce Reyes, Christian Chan, Stephanie Grochmal, Jan Dela Cruz and Andrew Dinh. Congratulations to you all.

Christ the King Child Care Celebrates Thanksgiving



It was Thanksgiving time and our children dressed as pilgrims and Indians and had their own feast. We had a parade of two-year-old pilgrims and Indians and, yes, even the teachers dressed the part.



New LIFE TEEN Director



Hi! My name is Katie Szarkowski, and I am the new Director of LIFE TEEN and EDGE Ministries here at Christ the King. I am so excited about the amazing ministry opportunities here with teens, and I hope we can continue to build our Middle School and High School Youth Ministry Programs.

So, a little about myself. I grew up here in Jacksonville, but I left in 2001 for Franciscan University to pursue a degree in Theology and Religious Education. I spent my first year of college at Flagler in St. Augustine studying Deaf Education, but after volunteering with

the youth ministry program at Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, I realized that what I really wanted to do was youth ministry. During my time in Steubenville, I worked with the Franciscan University Youth Conferences with their Young Apostle Leadership Training program, speaking at women's sessions, and playing crazy characters! It was through those experiences that I truly fell in love with speaking about the amazing love God has for us, and the plan he has for our lives. I was also very involved in Franciscan Missions of Peace, and spent time doing mission work in southern Florida, Jamaica, and Honduras.

I stayed at Franciscan University an extra year to finish my double major, and at the beginning of that year, I met a guy who people had been telling me about for years! We shared a lot of the same friends, and worked the same conferences, but just never had a chance to meet. Dewey and I began dating that semester, and six months later we were engaged. We were married on December 30th, 2005, at St. Joseph's Church in Mandarin. About a month after our first anniversary, we were excited to find out that we were pregnant with our first child! Samuel (Sam) Karol Szarkowski was born on October 17th, 2007, weighing a whopping 9 lbs. We were living in Pittsburgh, PA at the time Sam was born. I was a Youth Minister at a parish, and Dewey was doing Campus Ministry at the local Catholic High School. The day before Sam was born, we received a call from the St. Augustine Diocesan Office offering Dewey the position of the Director of Youth Ministry. Less than six weeks after Sam was born, we packed up, headed south, and here we are today!

After looking back on my life over the last seven years since leaving Jacksonville, I find myself feeling blessed and in awe of everything God has done in my life. He has been so faithful to me, and I know he will continue to show his faithfulness and love. It is so nice to be back here, out of the snowy abyss that is Pittsburgh, and I am excited about the Youth Ministry Program here at Christ the King.

If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to call me, 425-4215, or email lifeteen@ctkcatholic.com. I would love to hear from you.

LIFE TEEN Spring Retreat

**Our Spring Retreat
"LIFE TEEN King Quest"
is right around the corner.
April 11 – 13 at Camp Cherry Lake
Eighth graders are invited.
Call Katie in the youth ministry office
(425-4215) for more information**



The Sulzbacher Center

"offering hope and opportunity on the pathway home"
611 E. Adams Street • Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Second Annual

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes 2008

Don't miss this great opportunity to take a step in the right direction to support Jacksonville's homeless men, women and children!

Who: Churches, Businesses, Civic Organizations, Students, Teachers, Families, Sports Teams, Clubs and Youth Groups

What: A one-mile walk to raise awareness of the issues facing homeless men, women and children in our community

When: Saturday, March 15, 2008 - 10:00 AM

Where: The Sulzbacher Center, 611 E. Adams Street

Why: Walk a Mile in Their Shoes participants will:

- learn about the everyday struggles of the homeless in Jacksonville
- learn about the resources available to the homeless in our community
- learn how to offer real help to those in need
- learn how they can make a difference as volunteers.

Registration (suggested):	Student	\$10
	Adult	\$15
	Family	\$25

Event Sponsorships:	Partnership	\$150
	Community	\$500
	Renaissance	\$1,000

T-shirts:	Youth and Adult Sizes	\$5
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To register for this event, become a sponsor or purchase t-shirts visit our Web site: www.sulzbachercenter.org

Questions? Please call 904.394.8084 or e-mail marieg@tscjax.org

Recipe Corner



**If you have a recipe that
you would like to share
with your Christ the King
family, please submit it to:
CKCourier@hotmail.com**

Pumpkin Cake

Submitted by Natalie Winiewicz

1 pkg. yellow cake mix (reserve 1 cup cake mix)

1/2 cup margarine, melted

1 egg

Mix all the above and press in bottom of greased 9 x 13 inch pan

3 cup (1 lb. 14 oz.) Libby Pumpkin

2/3 cup sugar

2 eggs

2/3 cup evaporated milk

1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Mix until smooth and pour over crust.

1 cup reserved cake mix

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup margarine (not melted)

Cut this with a fork and sprinkle over filling.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 45 to 50 minutes.

Frost with cool whip or whipped cream.

Deacon Lam Nguyen

by Frank Becht

Deacon Lam Ngoc Nguyen, "Lam" as we know him, was born of Giao Ngoc Nguyen and Luu Ngoc Pham in Thai Binh, North Vietnam on December 26, 1952, a Christmas gift to his parents. Lam (pronounced Lum) was the third of a family of eight, five sons and three daughters.

Lam's father has one brother and one sister. Both of the families are living in Houston, Texas. Lam's mother has four sisters and only one brother. This brother, named Luong, was killed by the Communists when they took over the Vietnamese government in 1948. Lam's mother died on October 24, 2003. Her older sister died November 3, 2006 in Louisiana. Lam's other two aunts are still alive in Vietnam.

Lam's parents were married in North Vietnam, but in 1954, when Viet Nam was divided, Lam's family evacuated to South Vietnam as they did not wish to live under Communist rule. The family lived in a small town, Phu-Tho, where Lam completed his elementary education. At the age of eleven, his parents sent him to St. Dominic Seminary High School in Go Vap City where he lived and studied for five years. Lam's religious life was interrupted at the age of 16 when he fell in love with the girl next door. He decided to leave the seminary and complete high school at Nguyen-Ba-Tong, a Catholic High School in Saigon City in 1967 (with Baccalaureate Part I) and at Van Hoc High School in 1968 (with Baccalaureate Part II).

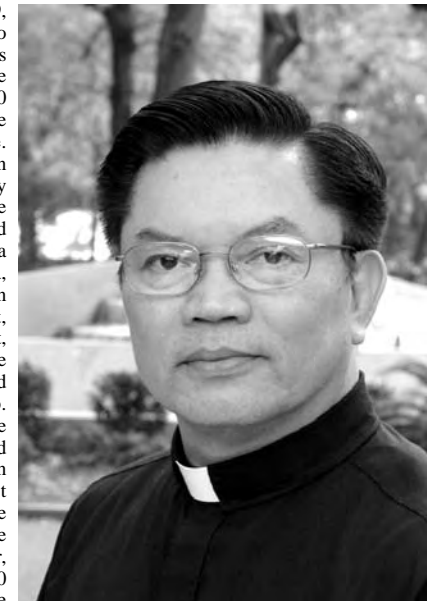
After high school, he spent 3 years studying to become a Postmaster at the Communication Officer's Academy. After graduation from the Post Office Academy, he was called into the Army where he spent one year in the Thu Duc Military Officer Academy from which he graduated as a Lieutenant. Since the Vietnam War was a Civil War and Lam opposed killing fellow Vietnamese, he was allowed to join the Tran Ngoc Minh Military Officer Medical College. He stayed only 1½ years at the medical college since the Communists (North Vietnam) won the Civil War.

In 1975, the Nguyen family fled Vietnam for the United States. His oldest brother, Son Ngoc Nguyen, who was a priest, stayed behind. Today his brother is the secretary to Cardinal Man Minh Nguyen and is in charge of Caritas, an International Catholic Charities type organization.

The family was able to leave Vietnam on the last day (April 29, 1975) before the South Viet Nam president surrendered to the Communists on April 30, 1975. Lam and his relatives fortunately flew out of Vietnam by the last American military airplanes to Guam and then to Fort Chafee,

In January 1979, the family moved to Houston, Texas where there were over 70,000 Vietnamese people living at the time. They decided to open a grocery store; they rented a large building, remodeled it and opened a Vietnamese Plaza, which included an Oriental Market, Vietnam Restaurant, Hair Salon, Chinese Herb Store, and Oriental Gift Shop. Five years later the family bought land closer to downtown Houston and built phase I of the Vietnamese Shopping Center, which includes 10 retail shops. The following year phase II was built with 16 more shops. Success prompted Lam to buy more land and buildings, which he remodeled and rented or resold to Vietnamese and Chinese people. By early 1998, Lam became tired of business life. He found no joyful fulfillment, so he sold his business properties. God had gotten to him again through his reading of some spiritual books.

In the fall of 1998, he enrolled again in St. Joseph Seminary College where he studied for one year in the St. Benedict Abbey to become a monk. He became a Novice of the Benedictine Order where he learned to pray, to meditate, to be humble, to work together, and to discipline himself. But Lam wasn't happy. He felt lonely and depressed.



In December 1999, Lam joined Holy Spirit Congregation for general college studies, but was encouraged to become a religious brother. By agreement with his sponsor, the Superior of the Holy Spirit, Lam entered in Sacred Heart School of Theology (SHST) in Hales Corner, Wisconsin and began to study both philosophy and theology. There he met Father Richard Perko and Father Joe McDonald who were seminarians in the same school with Lam at that time. And then, on their recommendation, Lam met Father John Tetlow, Vocation Director for the Diocese of St. Augustine and applied to the Diocese of St. Augustine for the diocesan priesthood in December 2001 and continued to pursue the priestly academics at SHST. Lam studied at Sacred Heart School of Theology for 6 years.

Lam spent a year at the Cathedral in St. Augustine for his Pastoral Year. He became a Deacon on November 17, 2007. He finished his priestly education and graduated on December 6, 2007 whereupon he was assigned to Christ the King for pastoral training until May 10, 2008, when he will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

It has been a long journey for Deacon Lam. He has had many distractions and difficult hurdles to overcome on his journey: flight to safety in America, a girl friend to divert his goal temporarily, family survival, business success that he rejected, attempt to route him to brotherhood, and the language barrier that he has fought the whole way.

Lam is a survivor who does not give up! The Church needs more survivors like him. The Christ the King Community salutes you, Lam, and prays for your continued success.



Clockwise from top left: Son, Mother, Father, Hai, Ha, Hung, Huong, Thanh and Lam

Arkansas. They stayed there three months. Finally, a doctor in Opelousas, LA sponsored a move for the family to Louisiana, where Lam helped his father build a house for the family. His father and his second older brother worked as carpenters' helpers at very low wages, though his father had been a developer in Vietnam.

In the fall of 1976, Lam enrolled in St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, Louisiana but was only able to stay one semester because his father was laid off and his brother was unable to support his family alone. He worked long hours for Bean Corporation for two years to help support the family of 10 people, including his grandmother. It just wasn't the Lord's timing for Lam to become a priest yet!