

Parish Newsletter



A New Beginning in Christ's Love!

In response to a recommendation from our Parish Pastoral Council, I have scheduled a **Parish Mission** for November which will be led by **Bill Wegner**, an internationally respected Catholic Lay Evangelist and president of Good News International.

What is a Parish Mission? Think of it as a "Sabbath", that is, a deliberate breaking from our normal schedule in order to rest, renew our relationships with God, our own soul, our families and fellow members of our parish.

The theme of our Mission will be "**A New Beginning in Christ's Love!**" and the main talk will be given in Chapel at 7:00 PM starting Sunday, November 12 and concluding Wednesday November 15. In addition, Bill will offer a briefer talk in Chapel after the 9:00 AM Mass each of these days.

I hope and pray that you will schedule your life so as to participate fully in this grace-filled event and join me in asking the Lord to re-boot not only our friendship with Christ but also our desire to live as his disciples in service of His Mission. May the Lord bless us—individually and as a community—with a New Beginning in Christ's Love! *Fr. Newns*

Prayer For Our Parish Mission

God our Father, we offer You praise and thanksgiving for all the many gifts You have given us. We thank You especially for the gift of our Parish Mission. Quiet our minds and open our hearts to receive the gift of Your Truth. Grant that our coming Mission will be a time of Grace for all. A time of Growth for our young; A time of Refreshment for our Old; A time of Renewal for our Families; A time of Healing for the Broken; A time of Joy for the Sorrowing;

A time of Challenge for the complacent; A time of Grace for the Sinner; A time of Strength for the Holy; A time of Homecoming for those who have been away. Grant, most loving Father, that the Mission may bring down Your richest Blessings on one and all! We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, and all our patron saints in the name of Jesus Christ Who is Lord of all. Amen.

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Special points of interest

- How much do you know about Pope Francis?
- Are you coming to the Parish Picnic?
- Say "hello" to our new Deacon.
- AC in the Church! Wahoo!!



Facts About Francis

Let's be honest - Pope Francis is a cool guy. Somebody who talks the talk AND walks the walk of the Christian life is someone worth learning about! Here are a few facts for you...

#1 - The Pope of Firsts: Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope and the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere

#2 - Pope Francis's favorite saint is St. Therese of Lisieux. Who is your favorite saint?

#3 - Pope Francis gets homesick easily. He's said, "I always try to avoid traveling, because I'm a homebody."

#4 - Francis chooses to live in the Domus Sancta Marta, a Vatican guest house, instead of the papal apartments.

#5 - Pope Francis once said, "The sin that repulses me most is pride." Let's always pray for our own humility.

#6 - On love, the Pope says, "Make room for others with a gentle approach. I always ask God for a meek heart."

Physical Plant Update

Last winter we were blessed to receive a bequest in the amount of \$128,000. After discussing the stewardship of these funds with our Parish Finance Council and staff, I decided to use the money to install air-conditioning in St. Ann Church and to improve St. Ann Church Hall (kitchen; lavatories; etc.). As we went through the normal good practices of getting bids for the work, we were informed that our original boiler in Church was about done. With this information we reallocated the funds and decided to install a new HVAC system for the 117 year old building and work on this project is underway as I

write this column.

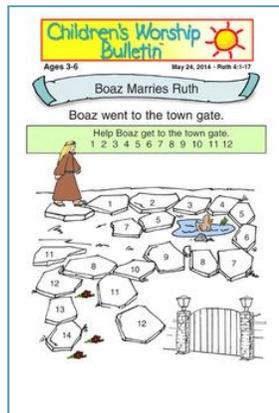
What about the new kitchen, improved lavatories, and a general "sprucing up" in our Church Hall? We have preliminary drawings worked up and are beginning to solicit bids for the work which—God willing—will take place next summer. Any excess funds received for our new HVAC system will be used to renovate the Church Hall.

Thank you for your support of our parish which has enabled us to use this unexpected bequest to improve our heavily used parish facilities.
Fr. Newns

Hot Off The Press – Children's Worship Bulletin

"Here's a great way to involve children in worship."

We are excited to announce that a weekly worship bulletin will be available for children ages 3-6 starting Sunday, September 10. Each bulletin will engage kids with fun activities that connect them to the Sunday's Gospel reading. The bulletins are designed for pre-readers and readers and are packed with games, puzzles, pictures, seek-and-finds, dot-to-dots and many more activities to provide pleasurable and biblically sound learning.



In addition to the games within the bulletin, there's a code on the front of the bulletin that

unlocks hours of fun learning at home. This code is unique to St. Ann's and allows SAFE and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week. You can continue Bible learning and discussion at home. The games are geared toward all age levels, so everyone can join in the fun!

Look for the Children's Worship Bulletins in all three worship sites.



An Interview with Deacon Mark Szewczak

On June 10, St. Ann's parishioner, Mark Szewczak was ordained a Permanent Deacon after 8 years of formation. Before Archbishop Chaput gave Deacon Mark his assignment, there was talk that he might be assigned here. In case you haven't heard, Deacon Mark is our new Deacon. Please join me in welcoming him!

Madelyn: Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

Deacon Mark: I am 64 years old and just recently retired from a career in pharmaceutical research. Nancy and I have been married for 42 years and we have 3 grown children and a granddaughter. I am a native of Philadelphia and my home parish was Our Lady Help of Christians in Port Richmond. We lived in Northwest New Jersey for 21 years after we were married and in 1999, we moved to Phoenixville.

Madelyn: Some famous Roman Catholic deacons include the early martyr St. Lawrence, who died roasted on a gridiron, and St. Francis of Assisi, perhaps the most popular Catholic saint, whom many might not realize was a celibate deacon rather than a priest. Who inspires you the most in your own diaconal ministry and why?

Deacon Mark: St. Lawrence, whose ministry included the welfare of the poor and widowed Christians in Rome, has been a particular inspiration for me. He was a deacon who lived in the mid 200s AD and was responsible for ensuring that the material possessions of the Church were used properly to help those in need. These were very practical tasks and similar to what a deacon does today. The story of his wit during his arrest and martyrdom appeals to me. It seems that he didn't take himself too seriously even facing a horrible end. He was anchored to Christ and knew he was going home.

Madelyn: Where do you find God in your diaconal ministry?

Deacon Mark: For me, I am most aware of God's living presence in his Church during distribution of Holy Communion. Here the Body of Christ is visible in his people processing to receive the Lord in Communion. I find him also during my morning and evening Liturgy of the Hours. He speaks to me as I pray to him.

Madelyn: How has being a deacon influenced your Catholic faith?

Deacon Mark: Diaconal formation has helped me develop a better discipline of prayer and the course of studies enriched my understanding of the deposit of Faith. But most of all I have experienced God's actions in my formation with enough clarity that I am certain I will be directed to do what the Lord needs from me. I find a great deal of peace in his service.

Madelyn: Do you have a favorite book in the bible? Why?

Deacon Mark: The Gospel of John. It is the beautifully written story of how much God loves us.

Pre-K Sunday School

Join us for fun and learning at St. Ann's Sunday School!

Sunday school is for children who are 3 or 4 years old. Sunday school will be offered weekly during the 9:30 AM Mass, beginning October 15th through May 13th.

Your child will enjoy learning the Gospel on their level through the Pflaum curriculum. Each class is filled with activities and crafts, as well as singing!

Sadie D'Ercole, the Lead Teacher, holds PA K-6 Teaching Certification and all the staff has required clearances and has attended required trainings.

Children need to be potty-trained by the first class.

For registration information, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-639-0923 or stannadulted@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!



“Being an Altar Server is an amazing gift that you can give back to God, and all of His people.”

Help Wanted - Youth Altar Servers

We currently need Altar Servers at all of the Masses.

Boys and girls in grades 5th through 12th can serve the holy people of God during Mass by being an Altar Server. Altar Servers assist the whole church to pray. They carry the crucifix and candles at Mass. They prepare the Altar so that bread and wine can become the Body and Blood of Christ - the greatest gift that God has given to us!



The priests and the other ministers who help us celebrate the Mass rely on the Altar Servers so that we can all receive Christ through the Word of God and through the Eucharist. Servers help the celebration flow smoothly and help minimize distractions.

Servers are trained and also receive follow-up training. After being trained, servers are included on the Altar Server schedule.

Training will begin in the fall.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-639-0923 or stannadulted@gmail.com.



Save the Date!!

When: Sunday,
September 17, 1:00 to
3:00 PM

Where: Parish Lawn

Bring a side dish or
dessert to share.

Invite your friends.