

Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ann Catholic Church

3635 Park Road Charlotte, NC 28209

Office Hours: - Horario de Oficina:

M-F /L-V: 9:00am-4:00pm

Phone –Tel 704-523-4641 Fax 704-527-8671

www.stanncharlotte.org

stanncharlotte@charlottediocese.org

Here to Serve You

Pastor:

Fr. Timothy S. Reid 704-523-4641 #222

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. George Szalony 704-541-3296

Faith Formation/SSJ Pastoral Associate:

Sr. Judy Monahan, SSJ 704-521-9589

Stewardship Coordinator:

Sr. Helene Nagle, SSJ 704-523-4641 #233

Bookkeeper:

Terry Alderman 704-523-4641 #224

Facilities/Scheduling:

Charlie Nesto 704-523-4641 #227

Maintenance:

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Parish Secretary:

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Marcy Rothe 704-523-4641

Brian Williams 704-847-7311

Ellen Wentz 704-342-3262

Your Stewardship of Treasure
736 registered families

The week ending November 22, 2009

Sunday Offering 193 envelopes	7,723.01
Children's Offering 8 envelopes	16.00
Sunday Offering loose cash	1,395.45
Total:	9,134.46

Priest Retirement Assessed:	20,097.00
Received:	16,316.50
Due:	7,463.91

Fr. Reid's homilies are on the website:
www.stanncharlotte.org

Please keep all of our servicemen and servicewomen in your daily prayers. LT Michael P. Bernard, Jr., USN, Louis Cragg, US Navy, Todd MacDonald 1st class Petty Officer, US Navy, Ted MacDonald Sgt. US Marines, Richard Beard A.F. National Guard Master Sergeant, Austin Timm Montana National Guard, Sergeant Justin David Schoonover, US Marines.

The Men's Club will meet on tonight, December 6th at 6:30pm for dinner. All men of the parish are invited to attend.

Bulletin Deadlines are 12noon:

Sunday, December 13th is due Tuesday, December 8th.

Sunday, December 20th is due Tuesday, December 15th.

Sunday, December 27th is due Friday, December 18th.

Sunday, January 3rd is due Monday, December 28th.

Baptismal Class is Sunday, January 11th at 9:00am in the Allen Center. Please call the church office to sign-up.

December 6, 2009



Dear Parishioners,

Once again we have entered into the beautiful season of Advent, our time of watchfulness and joyful expectation, and the particular time of the year in which we are called to meditate more deeply on the mysteries of our Lord's incarnation and His second coming. As Advent is a very theologically rich season within our liturgical year, we set it aside with its own customs and rituals, such as the use of the color violet and the lighting of the advent wreath. We also distinguish it with our musical selections and even the type of music we use.

In particular you'll notice that once again this year we are incorporating a little more Latin into the liturgy during Advent. While recent liturgical documents direct that all Catholics be familiar with at least some of the Mass parts in Latin, the use of this ancient and venerable language is particularly appropriate during this season of the year in which we recall both the origin and final hope of our Christian faith. And as Latin is our mother tongue as Catholics, using it is a great way for us to unify ourselves with the universal Church. You can find the Latin Mass parts on the gray sheets in the pew racks.

As this month progresses there are a few important dates that I want you to keep in mind. The first is this Tuesday, 08 December, which is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is a holy day of obligation, so all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass that day. We will have Masses here at St. Ann's at 7 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 7 p.m. In addition to Mass on Tuesday evening, we will also have our annual National Night of Prayer for Life. The prayer vigil will begin with Adoration at 8 p.m. and continue until midnight. From 11 p.m. until midnight there will be a Holy Hour of Reparation. Please plan to join us!

The second important date for you to remember is Sunday, 13 December. We will have our Advent Penance Service that afternoon at 4 p.m. As we have done in the past, we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the penance service and will end with benediction.

Lastly, please remember Tuesday, 22 December. That is the day that our seminarian, Lucas Rossi, will be ordained as a deacon! The ordination will take place at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's. Our entire parish is invited to attend this beautiful event. Please be sure to pray for Lucas as he prepares to take this important last step toward the priesthood!

Be assured of my prayerful best wishes during this Advent Season,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Fr. Reid" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Reid

Capital Campaign Committee

Todd Wilson, Capital Campaign, Chairman 704-361-2366 todd.wilson@cbi-nc.com

Tom Mathis, Building Committee Chairman 704-541-0858 tmathis3@carolina.rr.com

Cheryl Sutton, Prayer Team 704-375-5482 Rsutton4@carolina.rr.com

Through the intercession of St. Ann we humbly place our plans for the building of a new church before our Lord: seeking unity within our diversity, the increase of faith within our fears, the blessing of wisdom in our deliberations, and the mind of God in our decisions.

Immigrant Window Update. In memory of all of our immigrants that dedicated their lives serving and working in this country. For those who have pledged, thank you for your financial contribution! If you have not participated yet, please consider your financial support to honor our immigrants, ancestors, friends, and/or loved ones that have given their lives serving in this country, frequently working in the most life threatening of physically demanding jobs, helping to build this great country. Might the Lord open the gates of heaven for them! Mark your checks on the memo line “immigrant window” and send to the church office.

(Received: 16,899.75 – as of 11/22/09).



“Be generous, sharing what you have.”(1 Timothy 6:18)

It is our pleasure to announce that a Mini-grant of \$500.00 has been awarded to Saint Ann Parish for continued support of humanitarian aid to those in need in Kampala, Uganda. We are most grateful to the CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: OPERATION RICE BOWL under the auspices of the CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE for this generous grant.

To complete the process, this grant must be matched by fundraising from Saint Ann's for the same cause. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Community that alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in more than 100 countries without regard to race, religion, or nationality.

Thank you to the Parishioners who are now volunteering at Samaritan House. May it be a rewarding experience for you. Anyone else who is interested, please call Sister Helene at the Church Office. Presently Samaritan House is in need of paper goods, (all kinds), cleaning supplies, and pillow cases. You can either bring them to the Church Office or directly to Samaritan House, which is in front of the YWCA on Park Road.

Prelude chant: Advent

RORATE CAELI

Send the Just One like a dew,
you heavens,
And let the clouds rain him down.

Be not angry, Lord,
Remember no longer our iniquity:
Behold, your holy city has been
abandoned:
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem made desolate:
Your holy and glorious dwelling,
Where our fathers praised you.

We have sinned,
We have become unclean.
We have all fallen like leaves
And our iniquities
Have carried us away like the wind:
You have hidden your face from us
And you have let us suffer
In the hand of our iniquity.

See, Lord, the affliction of your people,
And send he whom you are going to
send:

The Lamb, the Ruler of the earth,
From the rock of the desert
To the mountain of the daughter of
Sion
That he might take up the yolk
Of our captivity.

Be consoled, be consoled, my people,
Quickly will come your salvation:
Why are you consumed by grief,
So that your sorrow transforms you?
I will save you, do not be afraid,
For I am the Lord your God,
Your holy redeemer of Israel.

Show us your mercy, Lord.
And grant us your salvation.

The text of this hymn is frequently used in the Mass and Divine Office during Advent. It is a plea of the Prophets, the Patriarchs, and the entire Church, all of whom long for the coming of the Messiah. As dew comes down from the sky and quenches the dry earth, only to evaporate back, so too will the Messiah come to save his people and return to heaven. We recall our past offenses and sins and seek forgiveness as we await the birth of Christ for our redemption, a redemption that will bring the waters of life to desolate Jerusalem (*Ierusalem desolata est*).

“The Advent Season, the preparation for this commemoration, has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar and Ceremonial of Bishops*).

Cantate et Jubilate Deo – A Devotional and Liturgical Hymnal

Published by: Scepter Publishers, Midwest Theological Forum, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division.

Volunteers Needed to Help Clean Church:

Calling all Marthas! We are in need of volunteers who are willing to help clean the church building on a regular basis. Now that we have such a beautiful new church, let's be sure to take good care of it. For more information please contact Carol Kuhn at 704-527-5277. Thank you!

All are invited to join us at 9:0am-10:00am in the café for our **Adult Education** a different topic each week.

To book a room in the Allen Center call Charlie Nesto at 704-523-4641#227 on Tuesdays or Thursdays 9:00am to 12noon.

The Allen Center Schedule

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Capital Needs Collection
Snacks for the Cancer Kids at Presbyterian Hospital
9:00am Bible Study-library
9:00am Father Reid's class-café
10:00am Hispanic-cl 1 and 2
10:30am reception-café/gym
3:00pm Brownies-scout room
3:00pm Hmong-church
6:30pm Men's Club-café
7:00pm CSS-cl 1 and 2

Monday, December 7, 2009

6:00pm dance group-gym
6:00pm AA-cl 1 and 2
7:00pm RCIA-café
7:30pm World Rosary-church

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Immaculate Conception
9:00am ceramics
6:30pm reception-café/kitchen

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

5:00pm Holy Hour-church
St. Ann Christmas Show-gym
7:00pm Boy Scouts-scout room
7:00pm library in use
7:15pm Night of Prayer-church
7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting-cl 1

Thursday, December 10, 2009

10:00am Cry Room in church-in use
3:00pm SAAA-gym
7:00pm Bingo
7:00pm Choir

Friday, December 11, 2009

3:00pm SAAA-gym
6:00pm Novena-church
6:30pm dance-cl 1 and 2
7:00pm Spanish Rosary

Saturday, December 12, 2009

8:00am Carmelites-church
8:00am SAAA-gym
9:00am ceramics
9:00am AA/NA-cl 1 and 2
2:00pm Baptism-church
2:00pm Blue Knights-cl 1 and 2
2:00pm library in use
3:00pm Confessions-church
Book Sale for the Catholic Book Store

Sunday, December 13, 2009

2nd collection for the Religious Retirement
Book Sale after all Masses
9:00am Bible Study-library
9:00am Fr. Reid's class-café
9:00am Ms. Brown-gym
10:00am Hispanic Group-cl 1 and 2
3:30pm Brownies-scout room
4:00pm Parish Penance Service-church
6:00pm CCWG-church
7:00pm CSS-cl 1 and 2

Monday, December 14, 2009

10:00am Cry Room in use-church
4:15pm practice with David Liberto-church
6:00pm AA-cl 1 and 2
6:00pm dance group-gym
7:00pm RCIA-café
7:30pm World Rosary-church

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

9:00am Ceramics
3:00pm SAAA-gym
6:30pm dance-cl 1 and 2

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

5:00pm Holy Hour-church
5:00pm SAAA-gym
7:00pm Boy Scouts-scout room
7:00pm library in use

Thursday, December 17, 2009

10:00am Cry Room in use-church
3:00pm SAAA-gym
7:00pm choir-church
7:00pm Bingo-café

Join one or all three... be a witness to human sanctity! March for Life 2010 Charlotte, Raleigh and Washington DC.

Charlotte-March for Life will be on January 15, 2010 will march at 12:00pm from the parking lot on the corners of W. Palmer and S. Church streets across from the Catholic Center. For more information go to www.marchforlifefcharlotte.org
Raleigh-March for Life will be on January 16, 2010 will march at 1:00pm from the corner of Hargett and McDowell streets. For more information on prayer breakfast and march go to www.ncrtl.org or call 1-800-392-6275. *Washington DC*-March for Life will be on January 22, 2010. There will be an awesome overnight pilgrimage to Washington DC on a bus leaving from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on January 21st. Only \$40.00 per person. For more details call Marie Leclair 704-341-5961 or e-mail marie.teacher@hotmail.com

March for Life Charlotte!! January 15, 2010.

Please join others to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies lives. There were 10,444 babies killed in Mecklenburg County alone last year!! We will gather at the Catholic Diocese parking lot at the corner of W. Palmer and Church Street across from 1123 South Church Street at 11:00am. We will have signs available to carry and we will march from there at 12:00pm to Trade and Tryon to pray and continue on to the court house at 401 W. Trade Street where we will pray a Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. There may be some parking available at the parking lot, but please expect to find parking on your own uptown if necessary. Please encourage others to come to this extremely important event. Any questions call Tina at 704-846-7361. www.marchforlifefcharlotte.org.

For information on the Creighton Model **Fertility Care System** please call Trisha Brown, Diocese of Charleston FCPI, at 803-554-6569.

Join us to pray the Rosary to stop abortions at the Hebron Abortion Clinic off South Blvd. Every Saturday at 9:45am.

The Annual National Night of Prayer for Life, uniting The Feast of the Immaculate Conception with The Feast of St. Juan Diego will be held Tuesday, December 8th from 8:00pm-12midnight here at St. Ann. This is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of The Blessed Sacrament along with a Holy Hour of Reparation from 11:00pm-12midnight. Please come to watch and pray with Our Lord for any time during the evening. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at tmathis3@carolina.rr.com

Healing after Abortion: There is hope and healing after abortion. Men and women are invited to begin their healing journey at our next Rachel's Vineyard retreat, January 29th-31st, 2010. For further information, please call the Respect Life Office: 704-370-3229 or visit: Rachelsvineyard.org. (Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte.)

Despite its hardships, its hidden mysteries, its sufferings and its inevitable frailty, this mortal life is a most beautiful thing, a marvel ever new and moving, an event worthy of being exalted in joy and glory. –Pope Paul VI, Evangelium Vitae, 84

Petition to Help Pregnant Women Choose Life: Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Jugis need your help in convincing our state legislators to allow the Choose Life license plate to be made available in NC. An online petition has been created by the Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship and can be found at

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/ncchooselife/>
IMPORTANT: If you prefer not to receive further notifications from this petition website, please be sure to remove the green check from the box that appears above the "Sign Petition" box. Please consider signing the petition and let your friends know about the petition as well. Without your help, the Choose Life license plate will never be passed by our Legislature.

World Rosary, Monday, December 7th at 7:30pm in the church. Ann Layman at 704-525-3519.



St. Ann's Women's Society. Mission: Catholic women providing a light to our parish and surrounding community by service, prayer and fellowship. *"lighting up the community one hand at a time."* For questions please call or email Kimberlee Shukes at 704-643-2956 or shukesk@bellsouth.net.

Christmas at Kimberlee Shukes Sunday, December 13th.

The St. Ann's Women's Society and the Circle of Hope are collecting food for the pantry of the Presbyterian Children's Hospital. They are in need of individually wrapped snacks for the children and their families such as chips, crackers and cookies.

Help Wanted: During these difficult economic times, some members of our parish family have lost their jobs. If you or anyone you know is looking to hire, please consider those within our church family first. Contact Marcy in the office for names and numbers of those currently searching for employment. We would like to set up a service of support. A list on which you could include your company, your hobby or your service. We hope to have an "Angie's List" of people and companies such as lawn service or planting flowers, plumbers of the parish and all the others occupations. Call the church office.

Saint Ann Parish is starting a... YOUNG ADULT GROUP. All are welcome: single, married, families - please bring your kids along! St. Ann Young Adult Group is welcome to all adults in the 20s & 30s - especially married couples & families. Our activities will be kid-friendly and/or have babysitting provided! Visit "Saint Ann's Young Adult Group" Facebook page or contact Lauren Rugar

704-900-8903 lauren.rugar@yahoo.com
<http://www.facebook.com/lauren.rugar>

Area Penance Service

St. Vincent de Paul, Wednesday, December 9th, 7:00pm

St. Ann Sunday, December 13th, 4:00pm

St. Mark, Wednesday, December 16th, 7:00pm

St. John Neumann, Thursday, December 17th, 7:00pm

St. Thomas Aquinas, Monday, December 21st, 7:00pm

St. Matthew has penance on the Saturdays of Advent 4:00-5:00pm and Wednesdays 6:30-7:15pm.

Family Rosary...here at St. Ann. Please join us for a family potluck and Rosary on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00pm. We will have a potluck dinner in the cafeteria and then proceed to the Church to say the Rosary. This is a beautiful way to enjoy the season of Advent with your family. Last names that begin with A-H, please bring a main dish, I-P, a side dish and Q-Z, a dessert. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Judy Townsend at 704-321-9695 or email at jtowndsend1993@msn.com. This event is sponsored by the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group.

2009-2010 IFBL Information:

www.sportability.com. Season Dates:

3rd grade- December 12th 19th, January 9th, 16th, 24th.

4th-8th grade- December 12th, 19th, January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, February 6th.

Playoffs February 8th -14th.

9th-12th grade-December 13th 20th, January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st. February 7th, 14th, Playoffs week of February 15th.



They're here! New Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs have arrived and are in the kiosk. Stop by the wooden stand after Mass and select CDs from our newest shipment. Donation of just \$3.00 or more per CD is appreciated.

Atria Merrywood Call 704-523-4949 for details.
www.atriamerrywood.com

Masses: Sunday, December 6, 2009

Capital Campaign and Capital Needs Collections
8:00am Mass +Margaret Brickner
by the Alderman family
10:30am Mass +Blanche Wilson
by the Rothe family
12:30pm Mass-Fr. Hanson
Intentions of our parish family

Monday, December 7, 2009

7:00am Mass Intentions of Elizabeth DeHority
by Lisa Tobin

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00am Mass
12:10pm Mass +Dorothy Bougault
by the Coulombe family
7:00pm Mass Intentions of Father Reid

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

5:00pm Holy Hour
6:00pm Latin Mass +Dina Guethlein
by Larry Guethlein

Thursday, December 10, 2009

7:00am Mass Intentions of Catherine Curtiss
by the Trumm family

Friday, December 11, 2009

8:30am Mass Intentions of Veronica and
Leonardo Cortes
by Michael and Gina Reinhardt and family

Saturday, December 12, 2009

3:00pm Confessions
4:30pm Mass Intentions of Victoria Borin
by Abi and Dale Purvis

Sunday, December 13, 2009

2nd collection for the Religious Retirement
8:00am Mass Intentions for
Margaret and Richard Kennedy and family
by the Grayson family
10:30am Mass Intentions of Brenda Eckmair
by Abi and Dale Purvis
12:30pm Mass Intentions of our parish family

Monday, December 14, 2009

7:00am Mass Intentions of Elizabeth DeHority
by Lisa Tobin

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

7:00am Mass

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

5:00pm Holy Hour
6:00pm Latin Mass Intentions of Veronica
and Leonardo Cortes
by Gina and Michael Reinhardt and family

Thursday, December 17, 2009

7:00am Mass Intentions of Ellen Muise
by Stephen Muise

Friday, December 18, 2009

8:30am Mass Intentions of Veronica
and Leonardo Cortes
by Gina and Michael Reinhardt and family

Saturday, December 19, 2009

3:00pm Confessions
4:30pm Mass +Maria Barbara and
Vincent Antonio Urrego
by Mable Urrego

Sunday, December 20, 2009

8:00am Mass Intentions of our parish family
10:30am Mass +Nicholas Baker
by the family
12:30pm Mass Intentions of
Roy and Mandy Masser
by Jack MacDonagh

Monday, December 21, 2009

7:00am Mass Intentions of Dorothy Storer
and Dolores Rothe
by the Rothe family

Come to a **Night of Prayer** at 7:15pm. Our
prayer night is directly after the Latin Mass. It will
be held in the cry room. Wednesday, December 9th.
Please contact Carolyn Franks for further
information. 704-544-3153 or
carolynfranks1@netzero.net.



St. Ann's School News

Visit the website at
www.stannscatholicschool.com

Christmas Holiday is
December 21st-31st, 2009

January 4th classes resume
January 18th no school
January 19th no school
January 21st report cards
January 31st Catholic Schools week

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Admissions welcomes all interested parents and students. Please check out www.charlottediocese.org or call 704-370-3273. Early admissions begins on January 4, 2010.

Living Waters Catholic Reflections Center is offering retreats and special renewals for weekend and week long settings in Maggie Valley, NC. Please call 828-926-3833 for more details.
lwrc@bellsout.net

Register for the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! The weekend centers entirely on your relationship and is a positive, private experience between you and your spouse that revitalizes marriage. Sign up now for the Valentine's Day weekend February 12th-14th, 2010 being held in Charlotte, NC. www.wwme-nc.info. You may also contact Tom and Emilie Sandin for more information @ emilieandtom@yahoo.com or 336-274-4424.

The Catholic Church assists the financial needs of elderly religious through the national appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Today 5,500 women and men religious need skilled nursing care that costs an average of \$55,200 each. Please be generous next weekend.

The Charlotte Catholic Women's Group is an inter-parish organization with its mission to foster in women a greater desire to know, love and serve Jesus Christ and His Church. CCWG is having a Christmas Coffee on Monday, December 7th, at 10:00am at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Father Timothy Reid, Pastor of St. Ann's, will be the speaker. Please join us for refreshments, fellowship, and a beautiful, spiritual beginning to the holidays. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Franks at 704-544-3153 or carolynfranks1@netzero.net.

Iconography Retreat will take place Wednesday, February 3rd to Sunday, February 7th, 2010 at The Oratory in Rock Hill, SC. For four days you will pray, study and learn the traditional method of egg-tempera icon writing/painting. All materials are included in the tuition and the schedule is flexible. The enrollment is limited to twelve participants. Call The Oratory at 803-327-2097 for details.

St. Gerard's Club. Missions: To pray for women who are pregnant or seeking to become pregnant. To provide free meals (cooked by parish volunteers) for women who have recently given birth. If you wish to receive prayers concerning pregnancy or to receive meals when you give birth, or if you are available to cook meals occasionally throughout the year, please contact Katherine Lauer at 704-447-7322 or katherinetlauer@gmail.com.
Good St. Gerard, powerful intercessor before the throne of God, pray for us.

Habitat Critical Home Repair (HCHR) began in 2007 as a division of **Habitat for Humanity**. It is for person who can't afford to make the necessary repairs on their houses themselves. If you are interested in helping please call 704-716-5639 or Homerepair@habitatcharlotte.org

Continue to collect. Men's socks, underwear and gloves (all new) for the Men's Shelter of Charlotte. Our Boys Scout Troop 162 is collecting and serving meals at the Statesville Avenue facility. Please bring your donation to the Allen Center lobby at the box mark for donations. Thank you

Dr. George Raad and the Metrolina Medical Research would like to invite you to volunteer in one of the Clinical Research Studies: Arthritis, urinary incontinence, over active bladder, Diabetes, Diabetic Neuropathy, High Blood Pressure, Osteoporosis, Menstrual Migraine and flu vaccine for ages 65 and older. Call 704-527-6672
www.pmg-research.com

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation. The Catholic bishops of the United States strongly support genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all, from the moment of conception until natural death. However, all current bills are seriously deficient on abortion and conscience rights, and do not yet provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bishops have asked for our swift action and the commitment of our prayers for this critical effort. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will be about saving lives, not destroying them.

The Eastern European Christmas Eve Tradition of sharing the Oplatek or **Christmas Wafer** at your Christmas Eve Wigilia, Villia, Kucios, "Feliz Navidad" or dinner can be rekindled. Traditionally, breaking and sharing the Christmas wafer with family and friends is accompanied with best wishes and expressions of forgiveness, helping us to bring joy and happiness to our hearts and homes. Orders for the wafers will be taken till December 21st. Cost will be .50¢ per wafer. Please call Helen Collins at 704-365-1161 or e-mail order request to: helencollins@carolina.rr.com. Proceeds will go to Catholic Social Services to help a needy family this holiday season.

Shining Stars Adult Day Respite is a not-for-profit organization helping families dealing with memory loss. They provide relief for the caregiver and activities and friendship for the care receivers. Meeting times are Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00am at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00am at Sardis Presbyterian Church. They provide support groups for caregivers dealing with a memory loss family member. They are free and open to the public. Meeting times are: The last Monday of each month at 10:00am at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, Room E in the Ministry Center.

The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm at Sardis Presbyterian Church. Bereavement Group now meets the last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm at St. Gabriel Catholic Church Room, E in the Ministry Center. Shining Stars Adult Day Respite is in need of volunteers. They meet from 10:00am –3:00pm at St. Gabriel on Mondays and Wednesdays. Also Tuesdays and Thursdays at Sardis Presbyterian Church. Call Suzanne Bach at 704-376-4135.

Young adults in their 20s and 30s interested in meeting others in our community come and check out our growing young adult group. **Activities: Adoration (5:00pm) and Latin Mass (6:00pm) Wednesday, December 9th** at St. Ann's with dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. Join us for all or any part of the evening's activities. We will be having a Vinny's DOC **Pre-Christmas (Advent) Party on Sunday, December 20th!** Check Facebook for event details or contact Steven at bremersm@gmail.com. For more information or to join please contact Christina Hinton at christina.hinton@gmail.com or check our group out on Facebook, Vinny's DOC.

Please keep in mind as you come in to the church we have several parishioners and visitors with walkers and canes that would like to sit in the back of the church by the baptismal font so the walk from their cars is not too far! Thank you.

Please pray for: (in our parish): Don Millard, Bob Brewer, Maggie Bernard, Gladys Cavallone, Elizabeth DeHority, Scott Wheeler and Catherine Silverthorne;

And among our relatives and friends: Terri Benton (daughter of Pat and Bob Brewer), Jack Broxterman, Katie Balman (daughter of Cecilia and Ashley Balman).

Please pray for our friends who are incarcerated: Walter F. Sanders, Jr.

Please pray for the soul of John Haigh brother of Jane Ertel, who died last month.

Critical Need: The Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services is in critical need of bunk beds, especially since they are anticipating the arrival of several large families. Bunk beds make it possible to house these families by making the best use of often small bedrooms. If you have bunk beds to donate, pickup is available. Contact: Mary Jane Bruton at 704-370-3283 or mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

Pro-Life Career Opportunities in Charlotte
Room At The Inn is a Catholic maternity and after care program that provides long term housing, professional counseling, spiritual support and material assistance to single moms in need. Currently there are two rewarding positions available: **Part Time Bilingual Counselor** (Must be a licensed counselor and fluent in English/Spanish) and **Full Time Program Support Specialist** (Entry level position, must be fluent in English/Spanish.) For information or to submit a resume, contact Debbie Capen: 704-525-4673 x14 (debbiecapen@rati.org).

Days of Prayer at Maggie Valley, Living Waters Catholic Reflections. The days will consist of a morning session, time for prayer, lunch, discussion and quiet medication time. 9:30am-3:00pm. The cost is \$20.00.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Shepherd's Center of Charlotte has just the computer class for you. Our computer classes are designed especially for the older adult. Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet/E-Mail, Digital Imaging Management & Editing and E-Bay classes meet for three hours, three days a week. Cost is only \$25! Please call 704-365-1995.

“Tin Yeu Hoan Ca-Mu Hong” which can be translated to “Joyful Singing-Joyful Season” will be Saturday, December 19th from 8:00am-10:00pm the address is 4929 Sandy Porter Road. Call 704-504-0907 for details. Light refreshments will be served. All are invited to all the performances.

Attention Polish speaking parishioners: St. Matthew Catholic Church will have a Polish Mass on Sunday, December 20th, 2009 at 3:00pm. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available beforehand starting 2:00pm. Please call Elizabeth Spytkowski at 704-948-1678.

Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew's invites you to every third Monday of the month (the next one is Monday, December 21st) at 7:30pm in the chapel. Questions to CHLT5NC@aol.com

For all those suffering from cancer and other serious diseases, St. Matthew Catholic Church for a solemn prayer service and blessing with a relic of St. Peregrine. Please note that the Prayer Service will be the second Thursday of the month, December (10th).



On behalf of those who benefit from the DSA, thank you for your generosity. Remember the words of Jesus, “Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.”

Backgrounder: Retirement Fund for Religious: In 1988, Catholic bishops in the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic nuns, brothers, and priests in religious orders. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), formerly the Tri-Conference Retirement Office, was established to coordinate the annual collection and to distribute the proceeds of this collection to religious institutes in need.

Traditionally, women and men religious worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. There were no retirement plans or pensions, and care for elderly members was provided largely by younger members. Over the last few decades, however, elderly religious have begun to outnumber younger religious, and the income of those engaged in compensated ministry can no longer keep pace with the growing cost of elder care. Moreover, the number of wage earners is projected to decrease sharply over the next 10 years, resulting in significantly less income available to support senior religious.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which is taken up each December in most U.S. Catholic parishes, provides vital support to religious institutes in meeting current and future retirement needs. Since 1989, the National Religious Retirement Office has distributed over \$557 million to religious institutes across the nation, including more than \$493 million to help underwrite the direct care of elderly religious. Almost \$64 million has supported efforts by religious institutes to stabilize retirement savings and to develop comprehensive retirement strategies.

Religious are careful stewards of the funds received through the RFR and strive to maintain a low cost of care. For example, the October 2008 Metlife Market Survey of Nursing Home and Assisted Living Costs reported that the national average rate for a semi-private nursing home room was \$69,715. By comparison, the cost of skilled care for a religious in 2008 was just over \$55,000. In addition to sponsoring the annual appeal, the National Religious Retirement Office offers assessment tools, educational programming, services, and resources that enable religious institutes to evaluate and prepare for long-term needs. For more information, visit www.retiredreligious.org. **Contact:** Beth Kennedy 919-414-4007 bethkennedy@retiredreligious.org.

Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos: En 1988, los obispos católicos en los Estados Unidos pusieron en marcha el Fondo de Jubilación de Religiosos (RFR) para abordar la significativa falta de fondos para el retiro de monjas católicas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas. La Oficina Nacional de Jubilación de Religiosos (NRRO) llamada anteriormente la Oficina de la Tri-Conferencia de jubilación, se estableció para coordinar la recaudación anual de fondos y la distribución de los ingresos procedentes de esta colección a los institutos religiosos que lo necesitan.

Tradicionalmente, las mujeres y los hombres religiosos trabajaban por pequeñas subvenciones que proporcionaban solamente lo básico para vivir día a día. No había planes de jubilación o de pensiones, y la atención de los miembros de edad avanzada era proporcionada en gran parte por los miembros más jóvenes. Sin embargo, durante las últimas décadas, los religiosos ancianos han empezado a superar el número de religiosos jóvenes, y los sueldos de las personas involucradas en el ministerio de compensación ya no puede mantenerse a la par con el costo creciente del cuidado de ancianos. Además, se prevé que el número de asalariados va a disminuir considerablemente durante los próximos 10 años, resultando en una significativa baja en los ingresos disponibles para la asistencia de religiosos ancianos.

La petición anual para el Fondo de Jubilación de Religiosos, que se recoge cada mes de diciembre en la mayoría de las parroquias católicas EE.UU., ofrece un apoyo vital a los institutos religiosos para satisfacer las necesidades de jubilación ahora y en el futuro. Desde 1989, la Oficina Nacional de Jubilación de Religiosos ha distribuido más de \$ 557 millones a los institutos religiosos en todo el país, incluyendo más de \$ 493 millones para ayudar a financiar la atención directa de los religiosos ancianos. Casi \$ 64 millones han servido para apoyar los esfuerzos de los institutos religiosos para estabilizar los ahorros de jubilación y desarrollar estrategias completas de jubilación.

Religiosos son cuidadosos administradores de los fondos recibidos a través de la RFR y se esfuerzan por mantener un bajo costo de atención. Por ejemplo, en octubre del 2008 la encuesta de Mercado realizada por Metlife sobre el costo de asilo de ancianos y hogares de Vida asistida informó que la tasa promedio nacional de un cuarto semi-privado, de asilo para ancianos fue \$ 69,715. En comparación, el costo del cuidado especializado para los religiosos en 2008 fue de poco más de \$ 55.000. Además de patrocinar este llamamiento anual, la Comisión Nacional de Jubilación de Religiosos ofrece herramientas de evaluación, programas educativos, servicios y recursos que permiten a los institutos religiosos evaluar y prepararse para las necesidades a largo plazo. Para obtener más información, visite www.retiredreligious.org. También puede contactar: Beth Kennedy 919-414-4007 bethkennedy@retiredreligious.org.

Servicio Bilingue: Domingos a las 12:30pm

La Ventana Del Inmigrante Contribuciones

Recibidas Hasta La Fecha (Dinero en efectivo/Ofrecimientos: \$16,899.75) Nuestra meta es de : **\$25,000**). En memoria de los inmigrantes, que han dedicado sus vidas sirviendo y trabajando en este pais. Para quienes han participado, gracias por su contribucion financiera. Si no ha participado todavia, por favor considere el hacer una contribucion economica para honrar nuestros inmigrantes, ancestros, amigos y/o seres queridos que han muerto sirviendo en este pais, frecuentemente trabajando en los trabajos mas peligrosos y/o de mayor esfuerzo fisico, contribuyendo para la construccion de este pais grandioso. !Que Dios los tenga en su seno! Por favor, entregue su donacion u ofrecimiento en la oficina de la iglesia.

Preguntas/Inquietudes acerca de nuestros planes de construcción:

Todd Wilson, Capital Campaign, Chairman

704-361-2366 todd.wilson@cbi-nc.com

Tom Mathis, Building Committee Chairman

704-541-0858 tmathis3@carolina.rr.com

Cheryl Sutton, Prayer Team 704-375-5482

Rsutton4@carolina.rr.com

Si tiene algo que quiere anunciar en Español por el boletín, favor de mandarlo a Robin Davis por correo electrónico meandmygirlies@windstream.net. Comunidad Hispana! Celebraremos el Carnaval de Santa Ana el 31 Octubre. La tradicion es que la comunidad hispana patrocina una zona donde vendimos comida hispana para ayudar recojer fondos. Necesitamos que cada persona participe! Pongase en contacto con Robin Davis 704-806-2434 o con Hilda Pimentel 704-606-7970 para participar en una labor!!

Buscando Ayuda: Durante este tiempos economicos dificiles, unos parroquianos nuestros han perdido sus empleos. Si Ustd o alguien que Ustd cConoce esta buscando empleados, favor de considerar darle la oportunidad a los miembros desempleados de nuestra familia parroquial. En St ana estamos iniciando un servicio de apoyo. En este servicio se puede comunicar su necesidad, sea empleado o sea emplearse. Queremos mantener una lista de negocios, habilidades, servicios que tienen nuestros parroquianos. Si quiere estar en la lista... Comunicarse con la oficina de la iglesia o con Robin Davis meandmygirlies@windstream.net

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Is 35:1-10; Lc 5:17-26

Martes: Gén 3:9-15, 20; Ef 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lc 1:26-38

Miércoles: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Jueves: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Viernes: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Sábado: Zac 2:14-17 o Apo 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab; Lc 1:26-38 or Lc 1:39-47 707-712

Domingo: Sof 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
Fil 4:4-7; Lc 3:10-18

Su iglesia y la comunidad, ofrece muchas oportunidades para usar su tiempo y talento al servicio de Dios. Si tiene interes en servir en la misa como monaguillo, ministro de la Eucaristía, lector, etc. favor de llamar a Robin Davis 704-806-2434.

Puedes practicar leer, pronunciar, y entender ingles por leer la Biblia! Reunanse con la Hermana Helene. Ella va a dirigir un grupo cada miercoles a las 6:30pm en el centro de actividades. Empezando 7 Oct. Para inscribirse llame a la oficina de la iglesia o a Robin Davis 704-806-2434.

Por favor, considere sinceramente la posibilidad de tomar parte en nuestra misa bilingüe. Se necesitan muchos voluntarios para celebrar la misa adecuadamente. Estamos buscando a aquellos que están interesados en leer la palabra, recibir a los asistentes, y también estamos necesitando de jóvenes para servir en el altar. Por favor, deje su nombre y su información de contacto en la oficina de la iglesia si están interesados en ser voluntario en uno de estos ministerios.

Parroquiano de Santa Ana, el Doctor Raad, invita a las personas hispanas que necesitan servicios medicos. Llamar a Park Road Medical Clinic 704 523 2565 con Angela Gamarra (habla Espanol). Tambien el Doctor Raad tiene el placer de invitar a voluntarios en uno de los estudios clinicos de investigacion: gerd(acid reflux), diabetes, alta presion, osteoporosis, arthritis, problemas de vejiga. Tambien se ofrece vacuna para FLU (65 anos o mas) Llamar a 704-527-6672.

Han llegado! Los nuevos CD's de Lighthouse Catholic Media están aquí en el exhibidor del vestibulo de la iglesia. Detengase por un momento y seleccione estos nuevos CD's de nuestra mas reciente adquisición. !Su donación de \$3.00 o más por CD será bienvenida!