

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2015

A newsletter for the faith community of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church

A Dedication

This issue of The Messenger is being dedicated to Frank H. Callaham, Jr., or "Frank" as all of us at Blessed Sacrament knew him. It was his vision, dedication, and talent that conceived of this newsletter in 2005 to be an important medium through which to communicate parish happenings and other news important to our Catholic community. I remember several years ago, after Frank's accident, when Father Joe asked me to take over as editor from Frank, as it was getting to be a bit overwhelming for him. I said, "Father Joe, are you serious? Frank is a newspaper guru. I could not begin to meet the high standards he has set for The Messenger." However, with Frank's help and encouragement, we were able to make the transition.

We are so very grateful for Frank's sharing of his time and extensive talents to establish The Messenger as an eagerly anticipated newsletter four times a year. He saw it as a way to share the spiritual, social, outreach and financial news of our parish.

These words from his obituary say it all: "Frank was a kind, generous soul who loved and was loved by his family and friends. His sense of fairness and decency were at the heart of who he was and how he lived. He always found ways to contribute his time and talents..."

Thank you, Frank.

Spiritually Speaking...

From Father Joe

By Debbie Alberti

Father Joe began our conversation underscoring his excitement about our upcoming mission, **The Holy Year of Mercy**. "We are so excited about these three evenings with Father Andy O' Reilly. On Monday, 30 November, from 7 pm - 8 pm he will focus on accepting the gift of God's mercy. On Tuesday, 1 December, from 7 pm - 8 pm, the session is entitled, 'Sharing the Gift of God's Mercy' and on Wednesday, 2 December, from 6:20 pm - 7:20 pm, the focus is living the gift of God's mercy. (Details for each session can be found on the flyer found in the newsletter.) As a preface to the mission, Fr. Andy will preach at all Masses, presided over by me, on the first weekend of Advent, 28-29 November. "

"On another spiritual note, based on an overwhelming consensus of parishioners taken a few years ago, we will continue celebrating our Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday, 24 November, at 6:00 pm. With the Advent season upon us, parishioners will have three opportunities to participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 pm, Benediction at 5:45 pm, and Sung Evening prayer (Vespers) from 6:00 pm - 6:20 pm, Wednesday, 2 & 9 December, and Thursday, 17 December."

"Of course," Father continued, "Advent also means an opportunity to serve our homeless brothers and sisters in the NEST program, scheduled for Wednesday, 2 December, through Wednesday, 9 December. Volunteers are needed for hospitality, greeting at the bus stop, serving breakfast, and for contributing toiletries, gloves, stocking caps, backpacks, new and gently used."

Other Important Masses for December:

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, 8 December

8:00 am, Church

12:00 pm, The Barry Robinson Center Chapel

(Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo, presider, at Father Joe's invitation)

CHRISTMAS

Thursday, 24 December

4:00 pm, Church and Social Hall

6:00 pm, Church

9:00 pm, Lessons and Carols in the Church

10:00 pm, Church

Friday, 25 December

9:00 am, Church

Friday, 1 January

10:00 am, Church

Social Ministry Speaking...

Father next addressed the social ministry activity, "Instead of a food-based project for Advent, especially in light of the parish's overwhelming response to the summer need for food at the Southeastern Virginian Food Bank, we are asking parishioners to donate new or gently used stocking caps, socks and gloves, some of which will be used for NEST and some for the poor and homeless in Southwest Virginia. In addition, the Angel Trees will be up the weekend of 21-22 November; 450 deserving FOR KIDS young people will benefit from our efforts.

"Our new parishioner reception will be held THIS Wednesday, 18 November, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm in the Social Hall."

Financially Speaking...

In terms of financial matters, Father continued, "I want to reiterate my gratitude to everyone who pledged in the diocesan Living Our Mission campaign, recently completed. Our parish goal of \$511,000 was far exceeded by \$730,000 in pledges. Your commitment to fulfilling your pledge is greatly appreciated. Also, our annual golf tournament to benefit the Youth Ministry experienced the best year ever, building upon the strong base of the seven previous years. What a fantastic job coordinated by Rachel Pressler and her committee! Mark your calendars for 2016, 20 October, another Thursday for our next golf tournament. According to the golfers, Thursday is a much better day for the tournament than Friday."

A Personal Journey - Part 2

By James McGough

(One of our parishioners, James McGough, kindly consented to write about his recent discernment to enter the monastery. This is Part 2 of a three-part installment.)

Over the next few months, I explored other abbeys –looking for those without age restrictions and hoping for some place that would accommodate me. Then one day I found a column called ‘Questions most asked of the Abbot’ and started reading. While many were questions like, ‘How often do you pray each day?’, there was one which caught my attention: ‘I am a 57 year old man who has many sins that I wish to atone for and feel a calling from God to a contemplative life. I keep being told that I am too old to join. Are there any Abbeys that do not have such age restriction?’ The abbot suggested three, Guadalupe, Assumption, and Mepkin.

Guadalupe is on the north-west coast and had no appeal to me, Assumption has an age limit, but Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina hit the spot. It is beautiful and in a warm climate (being from Michigan, this is good in my book!) So after a lot of hesitation –once bitten twice shy- I sent an e-mail of interest in their entry program. I got a call several days later and was soon booked for a weeklong visit –but this time as a guest of the monastery! I was enthused again.

Late last August, I arrived for my first of what became three visits to the Abbey. I met the Prior and Novice Director, who showed me my place in the choir stalls, my room and toured me around the extensive grounds of the monastery. At Berryville, I had only met one brother, there was no involvement in the Liturgy of the Hours and I never saw where they lived, worked or ate. Yet, here I was a part of the community from the start. I met all of the brothers and fathers (there are about eight priests in the community) saw where they lived, where they worked and what they did, and even ate with them. I learned more in that first day about life at Mepkin Abbey than in a week and a half at Berryville. And I thought ‘this I could do’!

Over that week, I met with the Prior several times. During my visit, I spent most of my time exploring the grounds with its gardens, three cemeteries, labyrinth, library, church, and retreat center, coupled with reflection and prayer for guidance in this discernment process. In the end the Prior asked whether I thought, “this is nice –thank you but no thank you”, or “thank you very much –I’d like to come back and learn more!” I told him the latter and decided to visit again for a week in December. But this time I wanted to live as the other brothers do –pray, work, live in community. And this I did last December. I spent many hours in the Church, which I think is one of the loveliest I have seen. It is simple, but gorgeous in structure and design. I worked on their mushroom farm, ate, prayed and lived like any brother in the community.

Incidentally, if the idea of growing mushrooms brings to mind images of robed monks with watering cans, hoes and darkened rooms, you are mistaken. Think more of farm machines, men in jeans and t-shirts sweating over a conveyor belt or loading dozens of composite logs into large barrels for soaking, or picking hundreds of pounds of mushrooms in one work shift, and you will have a better idea of what really goes on there. Imagine assembling dozens of shipping boxes, weighing crates of picked mushrooms, cutting and drying mushrooms, misting logs with water, spraying for mold, cleaning gnat catchers, or hauling out logs that no longer produce to be ground up into mulch,- and again –reality! But at the end of the day, the work is very gratifying and you sleep well!

By the end of that week, I was ready to come for a ‘long visit’ and so were they. Wow! This was really paying off, maybe I wasn’t wrong after all, maybe this is where God is calling me! So I booked a five-week visit from early June to early July this year. And again, I lived the life of a brother at Mepkin Abbey and loved every minute of it. I rarely thought about the time I was there. I missed very little of my regular life and thought of it infrequently. I got to know and really get involved in the community at the abbey. I participated in the daily work schedules, read for Vigils, lectured at Eucharist, and helped out in any way I was asked. In doing so, I made a start on many great friendships with the monks. The newer guys, with

whom I worked at the mushroom farm, became immediate buddies and we had a lot of great times together. Many of the older monks, likewise, blossomed into good friends. I had a jump-start with a few who knew our Fr. Joe and my spiritual director, Fr. Robert Ruth. By the end of this visit, I felt like I went from being an only child to a kid with 15 close brothers!

Somewhere in the middle of the visit, I decided to formally apply with what is known as “The Long Form”. This is essentially a questionnaire designed to establish the true calling of an individual to the monastic life. It is 48 questions long, deeply personal and really gets you to look into your heart and reflect on the depth of your desire to join this close knit community. It took me ten days to complete and resulted in eighteen typed pages. I turned it in and awaited my interviews with a three-member committee: the Abbot, the Prior (also Novice Director) and a third Brother.

Peanut Butter & Jesus **From Sister Regina**



This group meets weekly on Tuesdays at lunch with Sr. Regina. We are studying the Infancy Narratives of Luke and Matthew. This is especially relevant to the Advent Season. All are welcome.



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

RCIA

We meet every Tuesday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Social Hall. The topics during the fall semester include Prayer, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mass Explained and Catholic Social Teaching. The Rite of Acceptance took place on Sunday, 25 October, at the 8:00 am Mass. Please continue to pray for our participants as they journey forward. Our newly ordained deacon, Rev. Mr. Derek Turrietta, coordinates this program, along with Sue Levy and John Clark, our team.

Unsung Heroes

Mark White has been helping almost daily with the maintenance of our buildings and grounds, often assisted by Jim Pressler. This is a vast undertaking of time and talent! In addition, Bob Gangewere has been trimming our trees and John Temm takes care of our Daily Mass Chapel. We appreciate them and all who help provide a safe and pleasant environment here at Blessed Sacrament.


*For unto us
a child is born*

NEST

It is never too late to sign-up to help with our NEST (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team) program. Our dates are 2 - 9 December. We provide hospitality, toiletries, dinner, and a place to sleep and breakfast. Consequently, we need to staff the registration table, provide for bus duty, night duty and breakfast service. Our Youth Group and Young Adults are assisting with dinner prep and service. If you are able to help, please call Sr. Regina 423-8305, Monday through Thursday.



K – 5 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

By Lisa Diaz

We are off to a great year! Thanks to all the families who are dedicated to enriching the spiritual lives of their children and allowing them to prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of our Catholic faith. We have 152 registered in our Kindergarten through 5th grade and children’s RCIA programs. This year again, we have quite a few children getting ready to celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion- a total

of 39 students are preparing for these Sacraments! We also have five students committed to our children's RCIA program who will be received into the church at the Easter Vigil, where they will be Baptized, Confirmed, and receive their First Holy Communion.

As in previous years, each class will have a chance to lead us in our 9:00 am morning prayer. We began in October and end before Lent. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to share a prayer that they consider special and to practice speaking in front of others. Parents are always welcome to attend our brief morning session and listen to the class prayers.

Don't forget our annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, 13 December at 9:30 am in the Church! The ever-so-talented Glennon family will direct the pageant. They are always looking for people to help so please contact Lisa Diaz at ldiaz@blessed-sacrament.com. If you are interested, there is no experience needed! The children put a lot of effort into the program and I encourage all our parishioners to attend.

I would like to give a great big THANK YOU to all of our teachers and assistants who are committed to bringing the love of God to our children. Not only do they encourage the children to learn their faith, but they try to make it fun for them as well. I encourage you all to show your appreciation this year by saying "thank you" to our teachers.



Health Ministry Team

By Mary Ann Fussell

Thank you to Nancy Cronin for arranging for the flu shots that were administered on Sunday, 20 September. Fifteen of our parishioners received their shots that day.

Thank you to Nancy Cronin, Patrice Hage, Claudia Lovo and Mary Ann Fussell for covering the blood pressure screenings in October. Special shout out to Claudia because one of the parishioners spoke only Spanish and Claudia did a great job of answering all her questions.

Next blood pressure screenings will be 21-22 November after all of the Masses.

Mark Your Calendars...

Tuesday, 19 January, noon at the church, there will be a presentation on Hospice and Palliative Care presented by the Hospice Team of Bon Secour. Thank you to Heather Detmer of Bon Secour for setting this up for us. More information to follow in our bulletin.



EDGE and Life Teen

By Rachel Pressler

First, I would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all who were involved in the Golf Tournament this year. I could never thank you enough! I am very humbled by the support I have received this year with the tournament and could not have made it as successful as it was without the help of the committee: Rosa Diring, Hervey Trimyer, and Larry Dotolo. Thank you to all of our golfers, without whom this tournament would not have been successful. Also thank you to our sponsors who are providing our teens a tremendous amount of support. THANK YOU to Ron and Jarrett Zoby, The Barry Robinson Center, and the St. Remy Family for their generous donations of \$1,000 or more! I especially appreciate all of the help from the volunteers on the day of the tournament. We are back into routine here at Blessed Sacrament in Youth Ministry and we have grown. I am happy to say that we have over 30 middle schoolers in our EDGE (grades 6-8) program and over 30 high

schoolers in our Life Teen (grades 9-12) program. We kicked off the year in EDGE with a day capturing our audience, playing a competitive game of capture the flag and an intense game of "What Time Is It Pope Francis?" Our Life Teen kick off was just as much fun, as our teens rotated through different "glow in the dark" games. There was a smile on everyone's face as they left the church. This year, in EDGE (grades 6-8); we are learning about Scripture and how to live the Corporal Works of Mercy. We have made Teddy Bears for children at CHKD and donated socks to our NEST sock drive. In Life Teen (grades 9-12), we are talking about the foundation of our faith with our Church. Each week we have talked about one of the different "Marks of the Catholic Church". Do not be fooled by all of this learning. We have included some fun into our semester. In October, we hosted a Halloween EDGESTravaganza on Friday, 23 October, where we played Halloween-themed games and hosted a costume contest. It was a fun night to see all of our middle schoolers dressed as creepy ghouls and cute foxes and everything in between. Life Teen also received a respite from learning with another night of "glow in the dark" games. We are especially looking forward to some fun nights in December. Wednesday, 9 December, we will attend Adoration, Benediction, and Vespers and then go Christmas Caroling with the youth group from St. Pius X. Friday, 18 December, we will host a Youth Ministry trip to Busch Gardens Christmas Town. Fr. Joe and I are both excited to attend such a festive event with the youth of our Parish.



Confirmation

Confirmation classes have begun. This year we have 30 teens who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Core Team and I are happy to have such a large class, and we are excited to help them with their faith journey. We will host St. Pius X and the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception at the Confirmation Mass on Sunday, 17 April, at 2:00 pm. Please pray for our teens as they continue to learn more deeply about their faith and the choice they are making.

Young Adult

I am happy to say that our Young Adult group (ages 21-35) is quite a success. We have hosted two events each month, a social event and a service event. Each event has been well attended. In September, we made dinner for the residents of the Ronald McDonald house on Colley Ave. in Norfolk, VA. On Thursday, 8 October, we had a social and service night at Blessed Sacrament during which we made sandwiches for the Catholic Worker, then roasted marshmallows, and made S'mores as we enjoyed each other's company. This month we will prepare lunch for residents at the Ronald McDonald House on Saturday, 7 November, and on Thursday, 19 November, at 6:00 pm we will meet at Mermaid Winery for a social night before the Thanksgiving holiday. All parishioners age 21 – 35 are welcome to attend any Young Adult event! Please join us and bring your friends!

50 & BETTER

50 and Better

By Sue Davis & Carole Van Aalten

The "50 & Better" Senior group has enjoyed a variety of experiences the past two months. In October, we welcomed Sister Mary Joyce to our covered dish luncheon. She is a Franciscan Sister of St. Joseph and serves at both St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Nursing Home. Sister Mary Joyce shared the story of her journey from Kenya, where she was born, to the Diocese of Richmond, and to us here in Norfolk. Sister often worships with us here at Blessed Sacrament. In November, our group took a little field trip to "Savor the Olive", an olive oil boutique on 21st Street. What a treat to discover this wonderful little shop, receive a short tour, and sample the delicious oils and balsamics! The group enjoyed lunch at Bangkok Thai restaurant afterwards. We are looking forward to our Wednesday, 2 December "Christmas Party" covered dish lunch & gift exchange. Watch the bulletin for

details. If you haven't joined our group yet, please call the office, 423-8305, for information.



Parish Community Life (PCL)

By Chris Hilovsky

PCL was off to a very busy and successful fall, starting with a well-attended, well-enjoyed ice cream social with lots of ice cream for all. We then resumed our weekly coffee and donuts, providing fellowship and treats for all after 10:30 am Mass. We have hosted two receptions for our church's concert series on Sunday afternoons, and have an upcoming reception for the **FREE concert TODAY at 4:00 pm, Bellissima!**

At the time of this writing, we have completed a very successful fall harvest bazaar. We are very grateful for all the generous donations we received and for all who gave their time, pricing, sorting, baking and working the sale!! We thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to this event.

We just hosted Blessed Sacrament's first-ever Veterans Day Breakfast on Wednesday, 11 November, a token of our appreciation to our veterans and their families.

We are in need of a team leader for one of the coffee and donut teams, please contact the parish office if you are interested.

Justice and Peace

By Chris Hilovsky

Justice & Peace is very busy with its ongoing casserole program for St. Mary's, its tutoring program, and a very successful Red Cross Blood Drive held here at the church in October. The Angel Tree ministry will begin on 22 November, helping the For Kids organization provide low cost Christmas toys to families in need. Currently our Hat, Glove and Scarf drive for our homeless brothers and sisters is underway, donations accepted though 29 November. Please consider donating a gently used or new hat, glove, or scarf!! Boxes are located right outside the office door. Our food drive will resume in the spring.

We are in need of a chairman for the Justice & Peace Committee. Please consider this, and if you are interested, contact the Parish Office.



RCIA

By Deacon Derek Turrietta

RCIA completed its fall semester with a total of 8 adults seriously inquiring about the Rites of Christian Initiation. **ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...**

- has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in



the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For information, please contact Deacon Derek Turrietta at dturrietta@stackhouselaw.net or through the parish office.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE to join this group. The Parish RCIA team meets most Tuesday Nights at 7:00 pm in the Parish Social Hall.



Adult Faith Formation - Spirituality Uncorked **By Deacon Derek Turrietta**

Spirituality Uncorked, a parish faith formation offering coordinated by the Blessed Sacrament Adult Faith Formation Committee, began with a bang. Approximately 50 parishioners have attended 9 weekly Wednesday sessions featuring fellowship, libations, and discussion of developing a healthy Catholic Spirituality as described by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser's book, The Holy Longing. Our semester also featured a guest speaker—Dr. James T. Cross of St. Leo University.

Join Spirituality Uncorked Wednesday, 20 January 2016 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Parish Social Hall.

This offering will continue the Parish's participation in the Jubilee of Mercy declared by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and as featured in our Blessed Sacrament Parish Retreat. Over an additional 8 Wednesdays, this one-hour group will examine ways of living out our Catholic Faith with Mercy, inspired by Divine Mercy and practiced sacramentally, liturgically, and with social justice. All are welcome. For more on the Jubilee of Mercy:

<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

ST. MARTHA'S CIRCLE

The October meeting of St. Martha's Circle consisted of a delightful shower for our new Mother, Emily Garvin. Precious Katherine Rosa was born Thursday, 29 October to the delight of her fourteen new "grandmothers"!

Our ministry continues in the care of the linens, altar server's albs, and sanctuary care. Please come join us the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am for socializing and refreshments.

Ushers

By Glenda Gant and Bill Hull

Thanks to all who served and offered assistance during the previous months. Additional thanks to all who signed up during the Ministries Fair. The Advent season is now upon us. Please be sure to sign up for the Masses and liturgies. The lists will be posted in the Flower Room. Thank you.



“Music, Music, Music”

By Gregg Marino, Director of Music Ministries
gmarino@blessed-sacrament.com

Our Music Ministry is having a great season so far. The Youth Choir and Young Musicians have provided the music for two Masses so far this year, most recently on All Saints Day, 1 November. We are blessed with a good number of voices and some new instruments as well. We currently have violins, a flute, a trumpet, a percussionist and now alto saxes! Working with these groups brings me indescribable joy – we are now looking forward to Christmas Eve.

The Adult Choir is doing well too, with some new members and some former members returning. And on Sunday, 8 November, our new “folk group” made its debut at the 10:30 am Mass. What a wonderful experience! Father Joe heard such a group when he was at the lake this past summer and asked me to form a folk group here at Blessed Sacrament. We currently have several guitars, clarinet and piano. Anyone else interested, please contact me. It really is a lot of fun!

Our concert series is also moving along well, with even better attendance than in past years. We hosted “A Little Bit of Swing” in September and “The Mosaic Steel Orchestra” in October. On 15 November, “Bellissima!” will fill the church with song, and an annual favorite, “The Strolling Silver Strings” return for a holiday concert on 13 December. Each concert is at 4:00 pm and is followed by a nice reception in the Social Hall. I encourage all parishioners to take advantage of these opportunities for cultural enrichment and a good time!

As a reminder, if anyone is interested in joining the Adult Choir or serving as a Cantor (one who leads singing at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday or the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday) we would love to have you! The same invitation is extended to the youth of the parish – the Youth Choir and the Young Musicians would love to have you as well. Please contact me – my contact information is in the bulletin and on the parish website, www.blessed-sacrament.com.

All the members of the Music Ministry give many hours of their time and talent in service of the parish. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry **By Pat Yeiser**

The farming season has come to a close and most migrant workers and their families have left the area. Fr. Michael Imperial, Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle in Chincoteague, held a wrap -up conference on Monday, 2 November to evaluate this past summer’s activities. He noted that more churches than ever were participating and communication even more important. There is a need for more bi-lingual volunteers to help immigrants with such issue as helping children with homework, helping immigrants open bank accounts, and collecting information from the migrants. One of the greatest needs is helping to prepare children and adults for the sacraments. With limited time and access to transportation, even attending Mass is difficult for most workers.

Blessed Sacrament participated by joining with other local parishes to collect and distribute clothing, toiletries, sports equipment and religious items as well as joining in the Baptismal Celebration and Mass for 24 children. Jeanne Johnson from St. Pius coordinated these efforts.

For more information on this ministry, follow the Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry page on Facebook.



Mary’s Joy **Eleventh Year Anniversary** **At Blessed Sacrament Parish** **By Kathryn Forrester-Thro, Obl. S.B., Foundress**

NEW LIAISONS AND EXPANSION! Mary’s Joy now has ten official liaisons for the charities we serve, a true testament to Our Lady and Her Holy Son, Jesus’ boundless and ever-expanding love for the poor and disenfranchised. In addition, we are blessed with over sixty members on our membership email circle and over a dozen who faithfully attend and support our Wrap Party events. We gather together to sort and gift-wrap all the lovely donations given to us by our parish and private sponsors.

THANK YOU, FR. JOE! Thanks to the generosity of our beloved pastor, Fr. Joseph H. Metzger III, our compassionate staff and the entire parish, we are able to offer gifts to visiting nurses, social services agencies, our Catholic Worker House and area hospital and nursing homes, privately-referred individuals and a “sister” parish in South Dakota.

STREET BAGS We are excited about this new part of our ministry! New Mary’s Joy “Street Bags”

filled with emergency items have been going out to people suffering homelessness.

BABY SHOWER IN A BAG GIFT BAGS - Our beautiful Mary's Joy "Baby Shower in a Bag" gift bags continue to delight new mothers who would otherwise have little or no gifts to welcome their new-borns into an often cruel world. With Christmas approaching, we look forward to receiving your compassionate donations. Please spread the joy!

CELEBRATION! We are now joyfully celebrating the eleventh year of our ministry that helps alleviate needs not only locally to new mothers and the homeless, but also at an Indian reservation in South Dakota. Since 2004, beginning with the little Mary's Joy shoeboxes, we have collected all manner of items which are presented to local shelters, outreach charities, visiting nurses and many others in need of assistance.

WHERE ARE WE LOCATED IN THE PARISH? If you haven't stopped by our Mary's Joy Room, please do so. We're next to the "Great Hall" in the glassed-in area, that was the former Daily Mass Chapel. At the far wall, you'll see our table, where donations flow in. There are shoeboxes to adopt and new grocery bags that also contain our "Wish Lists" for most-needed items for infants and also for our new Street Ministry. Mary's Joy is a year 'round ministry; that means we need your donations to flow in constantly. With Christmas approaching, we pray that the joy in your heart will inspire a special generosity at a time of year where many people find themselves in heartbreaking circumstances.

WE WISH YOU JOY! Real joy is found not in what we have, but in what we are able to share with others. Our Lady's Joy and ours is her Holy Son, Jesus Christ. Together, they entreat us to share what we can with others in need. This is our Mary's Joy upon you as you join us in the greatest joy there is that of giving to others most in need. We are one family in Christ, all around the world. If one of us suffers, the Body suffers. How blessed we are to work in the fields of our precious Jesus and The Blessed Virgin Mary's, in recognizing the bonds of love which have sustained us all.

motto! Joyful donations can include anything from dropping off some canned vegetables in the Mary's Joy kitchen basket to crocheting a hand-made baby blanket. You can also find some lovely, free greeting cards and small gifts right next to the white basket in the parish kitchen, if you want to take something to a family member or friend in the hospital or nursing home, or if you hear of someone needing a bit of cheer.

CAN YOU HELP? Our most-needed items this joyful season and year 'round can be found on the Wish Lists attached to each collection bag or Mary's Joy Shoebox. Please adopt a bag or box from our table and return it filled with some of these items. Join us! The lovely feeling of joy we all feel near Christmas time is present all year in our Mary's Joy Ministry. Baby layette gifts are sorted and beautiful wrapped. Personal care items for those hungry and homeless on the streets are placed in Ziploc bags and distributed to those most in need. The Catholic Worker House appreciates almost any items you would find in your own home, from non-perishable food item "staples" such as pasta, peanut butter and jelly, canned goods, bread, coffee, paper supplies/tissue, etc. We support two other charities that house battered women. Do you have new, personal care items for both ladies and gentlemen? One of our beloved groups is Samaritan House, which provides an underground "railroad" of safe houses for women and families fleeing domestic abuse. Any items you yourself would need in your home would be greatly appreciated.

BLESSINGS TO YOU: In our eleventh year of ministry, we pause and reflect upon our gratitude for our pastor, Fr. Joe, our Sister Regina (Super Nun), Deacon Derek Turrietta, as well as Barbara, Lisa, Rachel, and Gregg, and our parish and all who prayerfully support Mary's Joy. We may never know the names of each of you who have blessed us, but we know Our Lady and Her Holy Son smile

November is National Adoption Month!
Have you been considering adoption and want to learn more? Join Catholic Charities THIS Monday, 16 November to learn more

about domestic and international adoption. Please call Rebekah Hall at 757-456-2366 x1019 for more information and to RSVP.

**Have you lost someone recently?
Sr. Regina will hold a Bereavement
Group Meeting on Friday, 11
December at noon at St. Pius
Convent on Little Creek & Halprin
Drive. If you would like to attend,
please call her at 423-8305 to
register.
Thank you and God Bless You.**

LARCUM

By Debbie Alberti

The LARCUM Churches of Sterling, Virginia invite you to join them at the annual State LARCUM Conference on Friday and Saturday, 4-5 December 2015.

As A LARCUM community, we must prepare for and plan to observe the 500th anniversary of the ideas and insights of Martin Luther beginning in 1517 that launched the dramatic events we call the "Reformation." How do we turn from an observance of division and take this opportunity to turn to one another and grow stronger in unity?

Dr. Gerald Christianson, dynamic lecturer and Emeritus Professor of Church History at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, will guide help view this event through the lens of the 1500 years leading up to it: "Ecclesia semper reformanda: The Church, Always Reforming."

- Post-Apostolic Challenges
- Medieval Renewal
Alternatives and Reforms
- Early Modern Movements

- The 16th Century
Reformations

Conference fee is \$35. If interested, please contact me no later than Friday, 20 November at piazzadeb@cox.net for registration and hotel information.

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic
Church welcomed 28 new
families to our community
from 9 September through
10 November 2015. They are:**

M/D Christopher Chagnon & family

M/M Ronnie Ciampoli & family

Kelleigh Cunningham & family

M/M Vincent Dalessandro & family

M/M Hubert de Quievrecourt & family

M/M James Dickinson & family

Jeffrey Dorsogna

M/M Jeremy Estes & family

M/M Lawrence Farrell

Barry Fitzgibbons

Jennifer Fuschetti

M/M Stephane Giglio & family

M/M Stephen Gegick & family

Emily Hartley

M/M Robert Hayden

Maureen Hayes

M/M Gregory Herrod & family

M/M James Jackson & family

Salomey Amuzu-Koyah & family

Claudia Lovo-Alvarez

Sarah Murphy

LCdr. /M David Oechslein

Lisa Pecil

M/M Antonio Robles & family

M/M Juan Tristan & family

Austin Tyler

M/M Davidsaid Velasquez & family

Clayton Wood

M/M Ronald Woods



ANGEL TREES 2015

To Benefit:

ForKids, Inc.

Don't forget to pick up your Angel from our giving tree next weekend. Please return the unwrapped gift, with receipt attached, for the child on your angel. Please no toy weapons. **All gifts must be returned by Sunday, 13 December**

Thank you!

Angel Tree Drive Wish List

Deadline for drop off is Sunday, 13 December 2015

New, unwrapped toys with price tags attached, if possible.

NO TOY WEAPONS/WEAPON ACCESSORIES, SQUIRT GUNS, SWORDS, MACHINE GUNS or NINJA SETS

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Aqua Doodle
Mozart Effect:
DVD's CD's
Baby Einstein:
DVD's CD's
Bristle Blocks
Counting Toys
Fisher-Price Toys
(especially snap and lock beads)
Little Tikes
Magna Doodle
Mr. & Mrs. Potato-Head
Musical Instruments
Wooden Puzzles
Snap Toys
Scooting Toys
Tool Sets
Tonka Trucks
Trikes
Tupperware Shape-O-Toy Wagon
V-Electronics

BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5-8

Arts and Crafts
Dolls--Multicultural
Board Games (Connect Four, Twister, Pictionary, Jr. Monopoly)
Books
Diva Dolls
Bristle Blocks
Dora the Explorer
Diego Items
Dress-ups
Flash Cards
Girls Nail Decorating Kit
Harry Potter Items

Hello Kitty Items
I-Dog
Kitchen Play
Magna Doodle
Phonics Games
Puzzles
Rescue Rangers Figurines
Super Hero Items
V-Stuff

BOYS AND GIRLS 9 AND UP

Arts and Craft Sets
Baking Sets
Books
Cameras
Diaries (electronic)
Dolls- Culturally Diverse (i.e. African American, Latina)
Dinosaurs
Hair Accessories
Imaginext Items
Leap Frog Items
Lincoln Logs
Match Box Sets and cars
Musical Instruments
Neopets
Nerf Toys
Polly Pockets
Remote Control Cars
Science Sets
Scooters and Helmets
Sports Equipment- Soccer Balls, Basket Balls, Footballs
Star Wars Items
Tonka trucks
Transformers
Webkins

BOYS AND GIRLS TEENAGER

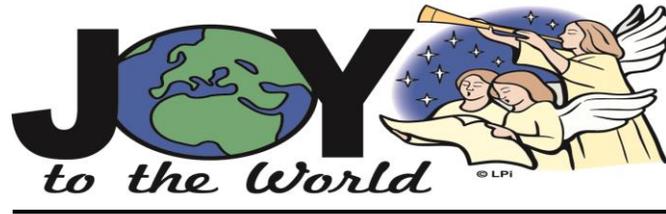
\$10-\$15 Gift Cards (Target or Wal-Mart)
Art Supplies – Sketch Pads, Pastels, Paints, Pencils, Charcoals
Teen Books
Handheld Games
CD Walkman
CD's
Computer Games-NON VIOLENT
Diaries and Journals
Watches and Jewelry
Cameras
Skateboards, Roller Blades with Helmets, Scooters with Helmets
Walkie-Talkies
Accessories, purses, belts
DVDs & Players
Cell Phone Minutes

KIDS & TEEN BOOKS

Twilight Series
Chronicles of Narnia
Hunger Games
Diary of A Wimpy Kid
Harry Potter

Gift wrap and batteries are also greatly appreciated.





ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Wednesday, 2 December
5:00 pm
Wednesday, 9 December
5:00 pm
*Thursday, 17 December
5:00 pm

**SUNG EVENING PRAYER
(VESPERS)**

Wednesday, 2 December
6:00 pm
Wednesday, 9 December
6:00 pm
*Thursday, 17 December
6:00 pm

**MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF MARY**

Tuesday, 8 December
8:00 am

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses:
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, &
10:00 pm
Lessons & Carols:
9:00 pm
Christmas Day Masses:
9:00 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Mass:

10:00 am

***BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH
2015-2016 CONCERT SERIES
All Concerts Are Sundays At 4:00 pm***

*Sunday, 13 December 2015
The Strolling Silver Strings*

*Sunday, 31 January 2016
The F. Ludwig Diehn Chorale (Old Dominion University)*

*Sunday, 17 April 2016
The Boys Choir of Hampton Roads*

Parish Mission at Blessed Sacrament

“The Holy Year of Mercy” ...three evenings with Father Andy O’Reilly

Monday, 30 November

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Accepting the Gift of God’s Mercy

- ❖ God’s personal love for each person
- ❖ Removing the Barriers to accepting God’s love
- ❖ The never ending forgiveness of God
- ❖ The all-inclusive mercy of God

Tuesday, 1 December

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sharing the Gift of God’s Mercy

- ❖ The freeing power of forgiveness
- ❖ Letting go of life’s hurts
- ❖ The Challenge of reconciliation
- ❖ Empowered to forgive by God

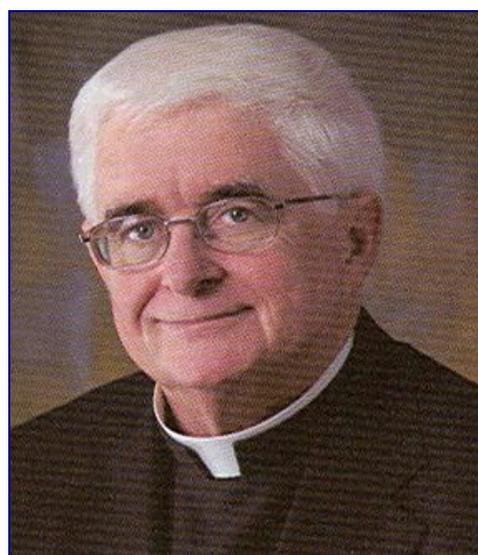
Wednesday, 2 December

6:20 PM – 7:20 PM

(note time change)

Living the Gift of God’s Mercy

- ❖ Being living signs of God’s Mercy
- ❖ Being the compassionate Body of Christ
- ❖ Compassion as gratitude for God’s mercy
- ❖ Our Mission to make the Kingdom of God alive



Fr. Andy O’Reilly, C.P.P.S.

M.Div. from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Studied at Graduate Theological Union, Berkely, California. Popular preacher with experience as seminary formation director and nearly 25 years as pastor of parishes throughout the country.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH
6400 NEWPORT AVENUE
NORFOLK, VA 23505
757-423-8305

WWW.BLESSED-SACRAMENT.COM



PLEASE INVITE THOSE
YOU KNOW WHO LEFT
THE CHURCH. THEY
ARE WELCOME TO
COME HOME.