



With the uneventful passing of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Ida and subsequent cool front, I feel confident that summer is finally behind us. We may now enjoy the remainder of what is left of fall and focus on the beautiful winter weather that awaits us in “paradise.” The crowds at Mass are really beginning to pick up so I will take one more opportunity to welcome our seasonal residents and visitors back to Southwest Florida. This is going to be another great season.

In my 12+ years at St. John the Evangelist, we have never had a Mass filmed for television in our church. This is soon going to change.

The Diocese of Venice will film two Masses in April or June of 2010. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our church and parish with the homebound of our diocese. It is also a fun experience for our parishioners. They will use our clergy, parishioners and music staff for the Mass. The Masses are televised on WFTX-TV - Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and on COMCAST - Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Please see the bulletin for further information during this upcoming year.

Many on our staff and in our parish community now “affectionately” refer to me as “the undertaker” due to my added responsibility of managing the sale of space in our memorial garden. As I become more comfortable in this relatively new role, I am constantly amazed at how many of our long time parishioners have no idea that the memorial garden exists. For those of you that are still unaware, the memorial garden is located immediately outside the front of the church on the Southeast corner. It is shrouded by a massive Ficus hedge which may be the reason many of you have never noticed or ventured inside. The all inclusive price to purchase a space in the garden is \$1,000.00. If you would like to purchase a space, please give me a call to setup an appointment. I have truly enjoyed meeting many of our parishioners I would have otherwise not had the opportunity as a result of this new role. This has also been a great opportunity for the aforementioned parishioners to discuss any parish related questions they may have in a one on one basis.

Our Music Director (Todd Peterson) has asked that I include the following Bio on our new Pastoral Musician, Tom Oram. Todd will provide a more formal announcement prior to Tom’s permanent arrival. Tom will be playing this weekend and next at the vigil Masses on Saturday (3:00 pm and 5:00 pm) and on Sunday at the 7:00 am and 9:00 am Masses. His official start date will be December 1st.

Thomas Ray Oram

Tom Oram, the son of Jonathan and Virginia Oram, grew up in Valparaiso, Indiana (though his grandmother, Mary Oram Reading, is a long-time resident of Naples). He earned his BA at Ohio Wesleyan University with majors in Humanities, Music, and Ancient Studies (and a minor in Theatre). He then received an MA in Musicology from the University of Michigan. After working for four years in parish music & youth ministry, Tom felt “the call” to seminary, studying three years for the Diocese of Gary (IN) in Washington, D.C. at the Catholic University of America. As he worked, learned, and prayed, Tom realized that his call was indeed to serve the Church, but to do so through music: as organist, composer, singer, etc. He is therefore overjoyed to be joining the amazing staff of St. John the Evangelist in order to answer that call. Please feel free to drop by the organ after Mass and introduce yourself!

We have attained an important milestone with regards to the 2009 Catholic Faith Appeal. With just less than two months remaining in the annual appeal, we have broken the 75% threshold. We are currently \$127, 306.71 shy of our goal. Believe it or not, we are slightly ahead of where we were at this time last year however we have an assessment that is \$72,000.00 greater than last year. As I stated several weeks ago, if we do not reach our goal, we will have to use precious funds from our operating revenue to recognize the shortfall. This would severely effect our chances of finishing the fiscal year “in the black” for the first time in many years. With the holidays right around the corner, some of you may want to consider making an end of the year gift to the CFA to assist us in reaching our goal. With many of our seasonal residents and visitors returning, contributions to the CFA have increased dramatically recently, however we could use some substantial one-time gifts to put us over the top. As a reminder, if you are a seasonal resident or visitor, please make your check payable to the CFA with St. John the Evangelist in the memo line.

In His work together,
Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager