

We are in the process of planning a Parade of Ministries to take place on March 20 and 21. This involves a procession (or parade) of all parish ministries and affiliated groups at the beginning of every Mass. Why are we doing this? We want all of our parishioners to see the marvelous programs and ministries that thrive within our parish as a result of your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure. We last had such a parade in 2002 while we were in the midst of a capital campaign. The response was great and the view of the countless banners prominently displayed in the sanctuary was awe inspiring. If you would like to be a part of this parade, please contact Peter Heaney peter@saintjohntheevangelist.com to coordinate your group.

Thank you for your undivided attention while Bill Wright and I spoke about the 2010 Catholic Faith Appeal this past weekend. If you have yet to make a pledge towards our goal in the CFA, please consider doing so. Remember that if we exceed our goal of \$486,000, the excess comes back to the parish free of assessment to be used for whatever parish ministries and programs we choose. Allow me to once again say thank you for all that you do to make our parish the very best that it can be.

Thank you to all that have completed our parish survey. This past Monday an email blast was sent to all of our parish families that provided a valid email address. Included in the email was a direct link to the survey. If you have not completed the survey, we kindly ask that you do so at your earliest convenience. If you did not receive an email, you may find the link at the top right hand corner of the home page on our website www.saintjohntheevangelist.com.

The Lenten Environment

During Lent we are encouraged to simplify our lives, to concentrate more on our prayer time, and to bring into focus the things that matter most. Those are the elements of a good Lenten environment also.

We simplify our spaces bringing into focus the primary elements of the space important during this season. We remove all growing and especially blooming plants. Just as we fast from certain food during lent, we also fast from some of the beauty that we have come to expect. The color purple represents the need for repentance during this Holy Season which leads us to Easter. The Environment and Art team has begun to study and understand the importance of environment, and that it is **Art in the Service of Liturgy**. So everything we do when we set the environment for the seasons has a reason. We will be talking more about these seasons as we progress through the liturgical year.

I wanted to take a few minutes and address the air conditioning in the church. I have had numerous comments regarding the chill within the church during Mass. Due to the massive number of parishioners attending Mass during season, creating a comfortable balance is very difficult. If we do not sufficiently cool the church prior to each Mass, by the time 1,200-1,400 98.6 degree bodies fill the pews, we are unable to reach an ideal temperature. There are five massive units responsible for cooling the church and there are several spots within the sanctuary where the blowers deposit the conditioned air. Due to the fact that cold air “sinks”, some of you may feel a draft as a result. I have had our AC vendor out on numerous occasions to adjust the pulleys and install diffusers so that the draft is minimized, however due to the size of the units and the amount of conditioned air needed to cool the church we have reached a quagmire. May I suggest that if your seat is in the path of a draft that you move a pew or two to the left or right? Short of suggesting that the affected parishioners wear a sweater to mass, I have no practical solution.

I have had several recent inquiries regarding bequests to St. John the Evangelist. I published this information six months ago however many of our seasonal residents had not yet returned. If you are interested in making a bequest to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, here is the legal description to be used for planning purposes. ***Have you remembered St. John the Evangelist in your estate plans?*** The legal wording to include St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in your Will is: “I bequeath the sum of \$ ____ or ____% of the residue of my estate to Bishop Frank J. Dewane (or his successor), Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, a corporation sole, whose principal office is located at 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285, for the benefit of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.” You may further restrict the use of your gift to be used for a ministry, capital improvement, Catholic Charities, etc....

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager