

FROM LAST WEEK

THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY (MASS): The English word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek root meaning “to give thanks.” On Thanksgiving Day this nation takes time to be thankful for all the many blessings we have and enjoy. We will pray the Eucharist (Mass) on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 am. All you non-cooks (and cooks to, if you are organized), please bring the children and as a family come and praise our God on this special day

5:00 PM SATURDAY LITURGY: If you work on Sunday morning and cannot attend Liturgy (Mass) then, please join us on Saturday evening. The Service is quiet and low-key, and about 45 minutes long.

NEW

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION: \$1,450.15. We did a lot better last week, as your generosity to the Community in this collection shows. Please keep up the good work, even in these troubled economic days, and we will survive.

PARISH NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY PLANS CANCELLED; CHRISTMAS DINNER PLANNED: After much further discussion, and after polling a number of parishioners about the feasibility of having our own parish New Year’s Eve celebration, the Parish Pastoral Advisory Council recommended to Father that we cancel our plans for a parish New Year’s Eve party, and instead have a **PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER** on Sunday the 28th of December at Byblos Restaurant, at 7 p.m. The \$65.00 per person ticket will include food, non-alcoholic drinks (soda) and gratuity. There will be a cash bar available. Please mark your calendars for this nice event.

OTHER CHRISTMAS PARTIES: Please note also that there will be as usual a **CHILDREN’S PARTY** (date and time to be announced) as well as a **PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY** (also to be scheduled).

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY, SYRIAC CHURCH: On 31 December 2008 at 8:00 pm there will be a New Year’s Eve Party hosted by the Syriac Church. This event will take place at the Marriott Westshore Hotel, 1001 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33602. The prices are as follows: V.I.P: \$100.00; Adults: \$80.00; Children: \$50.00. This will include food and beverages including a dinner buffet.

BULLETIN PRINTING BY ST. LAWRENCE PARISH: We are blessed and thankful for help from St. Lawrence Church. They have been helping us with printing the weekly bulletins free of charge.

MARRIAGE PREP BROCHURES AVAILABLE: If you are thinking about getting married, you must make arrangements **6 MONTHS AHEAD OF THE WEDDING** and attend some form of Marriage Preparation Class. We received brochures from the Diocese of St. Petersburg for these classes. Please ask Father

about times and schedules.

PARISH ROSTER (LIST) BEING UPDATED: Father has been working on updating our parish roster. Your help is needed. Included in this week's Bulletin is a DATA FORM to be completed by all. We are especially looking for email addresses from all and more data from the wives, more of whom work out of the home. We would also like to get data on grown children in the area and no longer living at home. Please complete the forms and return it as indicated on the form. You may also copy the form and give it to family and friends. Thank you.

WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Our parish web site has been neglected. Father is working with Mike Rathgeber on this update. We hope that the "new look" will appear soon! Thanks, Mike!

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY ANGELS: The Academy of the Holy Names was founded in 1881 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The academy is a Catholic, independent, coeducational elementary School and a college preparatory high school for young women located near downtown Tampa on 19 acres along scenic Bayshore Blvd. the 9th-grade Entrance Exam will be held on Saturday, 6 December 2008 at 8:30 a.m. For an application or for more information, please contact the Admissions Office at 813-839-5371, x307, or visit our web site at www.holynamestpa.org.

HOSPITALIZED: John Ogla is recuperating at Tampa General after a successful surgery this week, and Gabriel Azar has been released from Tampa General. Please pray for them. Call Father Anthony at 813-886-7413 or leave a message if you want him to visit our sick parishioners.

USE THESE IDEAS TO REFLECT ON NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:

THE SUNDAY OF THE VISITATION TO ELIZABETH
Eph 1:1-14 and Lk 1:39-45

As Mother of the Church, one of Mary's everlasting tasks is to present the Savior to his people, who, as the Community of the Saved, rejoice in his presence. This is seen poignantly in the pre-Christmas Feast of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.

If we have become disciples by the Mysteries of Initiation, and thereby hear the Word of the Lord, we may not afford ourselves the luxury of thinking that merely hearing the Word is enough. By our Chrismation the Holy Spirit sends us out on mission to share the Good News of Christ with others. This is called *evangelization*, or, *Gospelling*. Therefore, as Christian disciples we ought to have a good knowledge, a correct interpretation and a deep love of the Holy Scriptures, especially the Gospels. They are, after all, God's Word of salvation to us, as well as the foundation of all that we are and do. So, they should have a very direct and important influence on our lives. We look to

the Word of God not only for inspiration but for true instruction in living God's Way.

We are called to be like Mary, who shares the Word in her womb with her cousin Elizabeth, and like John, who, in his mother Elizabeth's womb, jumps for joy at the coming into his home of the Word. This portrait in Luke's Gospel symbolizes and involves the young and the elderly in a community presentation of and response to God's revelation in Jesus.

By sharing the Word in a gentle, yet powerful and persuasive way, we follow in the steps of Mary, Elizabeth and John the Forerunner, who were, from the beginning of the Christian adventure, teachers and evangelists.

--*Captivated by Your Teachings*, pp. 217-18.