



**St. Patrick**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- St. Patrick Parish Ministry News
- Outreach Ministry Giving Tree and Shoe Drive
- Mary Garden Renewal Project
- Online Giving Questions Answered
- Parish Improvements

# Shamrock News

FALL 2013

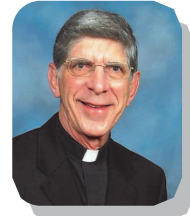
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3



We are called to live the Catholic Faith each and every day. The word Catholic means universal. In other words, Jesus commissioned us to preach the one Gospel around the world since there is only one Lord and Savior. The basis of this teaching is found in the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 16-20; "The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. Jesus came to them and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always.' " All of us here at St. Patrick's are called to respond daily to this Great Commission and live as disciples of Our Lord.

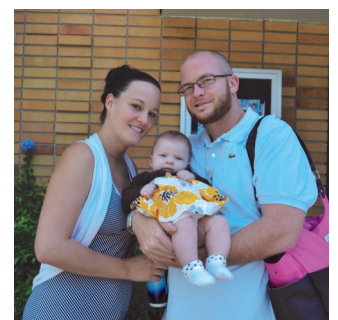
As disciples, the heart of our faith is the Eucharist and gathering every Sunday for Mass. The Mass is the font and summit of the Christian life, where we are nourished and where we worship. The goal is the full, active and conscious participation on the part of all of us. We pray together, hear God's word and receive Our Lord in the Eucharist. We became a part of God's family at Baptism and grow as God's family at Sunday Mass. This is our family where all of us belong. As disciples, we are life long learners as we follow Our Lord.

As disciples, we pray together and grow in our faith and express our faith in loving service. We are blessed with many ministries here at St. Patrick's Parish. Likewise, we love God and his creation. At the Feast of St. Francis, we expressed our love for God's creation by blessing animals. May we continue to grow as disciples by loving God and one another as we live out the Great Commission.



## Notes from the Pastor

by Fr. Jim Angert, T.O.R.



## Elementary Faith Formation by Deacon Ben Hooks

Each week at the end of the session, one of the Faith Formation classes shares its new knowledge with the others and with their parents in Room 24. Our First Grade class told of the "Wonderful Ways that God Cares for Us" in his glorious creations: apples, houses, flowers, hamburgers, pizza and more!

The life of faith for children begins at home in the family environment that is informal, unstructured, and spontaneous. In Faith Formation, we foster their growth in a wider faith community praying with and for fellow Christians in simple celebrations of both spontaneous and formal prayer and in acts of worship that deepen their sense of wonder. These opportunities provide a natural



human foundation for the supernatural life of faith where children can develop a sense of trust, freedom, selflessness, and joyful participation. Cooperating closely with parents, our clergy and catechists move the knowledge of the church and God from the head to the heart to the hands where true Christian discipleship finds its expression in the helping of others.

We thank God for our marvelously blessed children sharing in our Catholic faith and offer our love and praise to him for these beautiful gifts he has given us. The Apostles asked Jesus "to teach us to pray." Here our Second Grade Class does the same for their parents.



## Middle School Youth Ministry by Stephanie Smith

Our sixth, seventh and eighth graders have already had some awesome times this year! We kicked off our program this summer by taking 6 girls to Covecrest Camp in Georgia thanks to many parishioners who helped raise funding for this mountain top experience. In August, our Impact 2-Day Retreat truly brought new life to the Mary's Garden (see page 4)

This year we are focusing on being Disciples in Community with each other. We have talked about topics like respecting and honoring others, forgiveness, and St. Francis of Assisi; our goal is to increase knowledge of the faith while teaching practical ways to exercise our spirituality, and just have fun! We have great times playing games, putting on Family Bingo, having team competitions and just getting to know each other. At the moment we are gearing up for our Overnight Lock-In which is guaranteed to create some fun stories and memories; and hope to schedule time volunteering at Metropolitan Ministries too.

We've been blessed to have many new faces at our events and it is so much fun getting to know new folks! It is never the wrong time to join us on a Friday Night Meeting, just give us a chance to show you how valuable it is to spend time in community with peers who believe. We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays each month from 6pm-8:30pm. Dinner is always provided and Friends are always welcome.

Contact Stephanie Smith at [middleschoolministry@stpaustricktampa.org](mailto:middleschoolministry@stpaustricktampa.org) or visit the parish website [www.StPatrickTampa.org](http://www.StPatrickTampa.org).

## Coffee With The Clergy

by Anne Marie Kearney



As a parent of 3 young children, at any moment in my week I am asked wondering questions about Jesus's teachings. When I do not know the answer myself, it becomes an opportunity for our little family to reach out and learn from our parish community. Each one of us begins to search and pray for the answer and then returns home to share what we have found. We are continuously learning the teachings of our Catholic faith together as a family each day.

St. Patrick parish provides a wonderful and unique opportunity for parents to spend time learning and growing in our faith while our children are doing the same. The priests share lessons and are available to assist in helping answer questions. This program provides an opportunity for us to grow as Disciples of Christ and lead our children in the path of Discipleship. Please take a moment to stop in and join in this opportunity. Parents may join us on Sundays at 10:15am in Room 24 for our excellent "Coffee with the Clergy" series.





## High School Youth Ministry

by Theresa Franks



St. Patrick high school teens are actively growing in faith, discipleship, and community.

You will find some serving at Mass as altar servers, readers or in the choir. You may see them Sunday mornings helping Deacon Ben in the faith formation program for the young children. They take ample time for teen faith formation and Scripture Study. They participate in outreach and service in the parish such as providing hospitality at our senior citizen Valentine Lunch, leading VBS and helping with the Children's Advent program. To the wider community, they serve at different times such as helping with food collections, serving at Metropolitan Ministries, or participating in life issues events. This past year they advocated for life by a march for life, prayer and a candle light vigil for immigration reform.

Maybe you see them fundraising for summer trips or weekend retreats. Other times you might find them having a ping pong tournament in the Upper Room, or enjoying at Celebration Station or at the bowling alley.

Whenever you see them, at Mass or out and about, remind them how thankful you are that they are here! If you are a teen please join us!



## Music Ministry by Marcia Seheult

Our Music Ministry Choral Concert in April was a wonderful event, celebrating my 25 years as an employee of St. Patrick Parish. Our parish musicians and musicians from throughout the Diocese of St. Petersburg joined together in song.

Since returning from summer vacation, our adult choir has been hard at work – not only in preparation for each weekly liturgy, but also for our upcoming Christmas Concert titled “The Gift Goes On”, which we will present on Saturday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. This concert will be in the church beginning at 7:30 PM. Our 9 AM Youth Choir will also be a part of our program, singing many of your favorite Christmas Carols, and musicians from our 6PM Band will join with us to celebrate this beautiful season of Christmas.

Our Youth Choir leads us in song on Sunday morning at the 9 AM Mass. Children ages 6 and older are invited and encouraged to join us. Many of your children's favorite pop stars began their singing careers by singing in a church choir. This is a wonderful experience that can help them learn to read music and form good vocal sound.

Adults are always invited and encouraged to join in the Adult Choir which ministers weekly at the 11 AM Bilingual Mass. As we grow in our knowledge and understanding of stewardship, many of us may feel called to use our gift of talent. Please consider becoming a part of our music ministry. Vocalists and instrumentalists are always welcome to join us.

During the month of November, we honor those of our parish who have died in the past year. You will see a visual display honoring them, as well as a scroll with all the names inscribed. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

## Ministry Showcase





# Mary Garden Renewal

by St. Patrick Catholic Youth Ministry



## IMPACT RETREAT

On August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, our youth ministry program, together with some dedicated volunteers spent two days experiencing how Disciples work together to make a difference. We prayed and laughed and worked up a storm to revive the Mary's Garden for our parish. Because of generous donors, and hard-working teens, planters were built, statues were cleaned and painted, and new landscaping and irrigation was installed. Mary's Garden was re-dedicated on August 18<sup>th</sup> and is truly a beautiful place to honor our Mother Mary.

## BEFORE





# The Giving Tree

by Carmelo Meletiche



Everywhere I go around Tampa I am pleasantly surprised by the number and variety of trees. I see mango trees, avocado trees, grapefruit trees and many other kinds of shade trees. It so happens that I have several papaya trees in a very small area in the back of my house, which are very productive and give me delightful fruits. I am especially fond of the trees which provide shade during the hot summer days here. They are a beautiful manifestation of God's presence in nature.

When we read the Sacred Scriptures we find that, in the beginning of Creation, there were all sorts of trees there to provide fruits and comfort for man and that there was a tree in the middle of the garden whose fruits our fore parents were specifically prohibited from eating - The Tree of Life and in the story of Abraham, the father of all religions, we find that he met the Three Messengers from God under a tree.

Throughout the Old Testament trees, like angels, are ever present.

Are there not also many trees in many of Christ's parables and who can forget that The Lord himself saw Nathaniel under a sycamore tree? And what about the tree

which Zaccheus climbed in order to see Jesus? The people to whom many of the teachings were addressed were indeed familiar with agricultural concepts as the geographic area in which they lived was dependent on agriculture for its daily subsistence. For us Catholics the most important tree is the tree upon which our sins were deposited in the person of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Trees and greenery have taken a greater significance in recent years in relation to our stewardship of the environment and how we are caring for our planet. As all of us know trees take an even more exalted place in the world during the season of Advent and certainly during



Christmas week. So much so that Christmas Trees sales as well as the required decorations are a major part of the profits expected by many stores as well as individual smaller companies.

I have heard many people comment that the Catholic Community of St. Patrick is more unique and different than many of our other catholic communities. One example of that uniqueness is what we as a community have done for at least the last three years in our desire to bring the face of Christ to others, especially during Christmas time. We have taken a simple tree and placed some "Special Decoration Tags" on it; the decorations are

handmade and each one has a name written on it. The names, sex, age and "desired" gift on the decorations are gathered from some of the migrant labor communities, from some of the needy members of our own St. Patrick Family, from residents from Patrician Arms I and II, children from Blessed Sacrament Parish, and others who are identified as needy. The number of "tags" on the tree ranges from 350 to 375. The parish community members would take a tag and become "A Christmas Angel" for someone by getting a gift and returning it to the tree so that the person whose name was on the "Tag" would receive a gift for Christmas.

Why do this? Simply because without our "Giving Tree", someone may not have gotten a gift this Christmas at all and may not be able to receive the joy so many of us share as we celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

The great joy comes at the time of the distribution of the "gifts" received. We collect the gifts from the Giving Tree and our home and our garage become "the place where the Magi brought the gifts to the New Born King". And then, together with some members of our community, we go to the various places to bring the love of our parish to others.

There we were in the middle of a trailer park in a small community around St. Cloud Avenue. All residents are Mexican migrant workers, who have their children with them

[Story continued on page 6]





The Giving Tree Article  
[continued from Page 5]

and labor under some questionable conditions. There was a silent breeze and the sun was a bit opaque but the radiance on the faces of the children provided all the warmth we needed at the time. The joy reflected on those little ones made me think of the joy felt in Bethlehem at the Birth of the Messiah. We can never truly share our feelings on that morning out there with our fellow Catholics of Mexican descent nor can we describe the expressions of gratitude and surprise shown by our other Brothers and Sisters when we came bringing them "the fruits of our Giving Tree". To see the little ones dance to the tune of Feliz Navidad with an expression of glee in their face, was the greatest gift of all. And the senior ladies and gentlemen, residents of Patrician Arms I and II, who received gifts, were delighted that our community had not forgotten them.

There were a great deal of trials and tribulations in making the "Giving Tree Project" a reality. The community was generous and ever joyful in participating but the Spirit of Christmas was evident in the results.

Trees, trees, trees... to remind us of The Cross - The Tree where the Sacrifice of Salvation was offered for all of us children of God.



## Men's Group Parish Breakfast & Dinner



St. Patrick Parish Men's Group is famous for their amazing Breakfasts, Roast Pork and Shepard's Pie Dinners and their prize winning Fish Fry.

Our wonderful Men's group hosts a monthly Parish Breakfast on the first Sunday of every month and a Parish Dinner on the third Wednesday of each month. All the proceeds from our events go directly to the parish. Please come and enjoy!



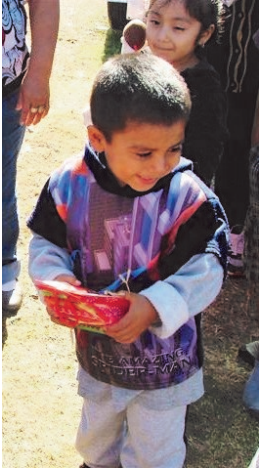
## That Man Is You! By Deacon Ben Hooks

Our Diocese is setting records for attendance for this men's leadership program offered throughout the nation. At one local church, over 270 men showed up at 5:45 AM on a Tuesday morning to experience it! That Man is You! is transforming men, families and society as it presents the vision of men who are fully alive and who can become better fathers, husbands and leaders in their community and workplace. Combining the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format, That Man is You! places this vision within the grasp of every man.

Seventeen parishes in our Diocese are conducting the program. The sessions in the first year, entitled "Becoming a Man after God's own Heart," develop the vision of authentic male leadership based on the four leadership roles entrusted to men. The statistics showing the results of the failure of men to accept their roles are stunning. It is never too late to join and see for yourself what the program can offer you.



## Shoe and Sock Drive by Hiram Rodriguez



I once complained that I did not have shoes, until I met someone who had no feet.

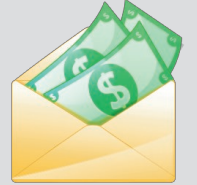
We all take shoes for granted, but in the case of underprivileged children, new shoes not only cover bare feet, but they go a long way towards building personal self-esteem.

We know that there are many children in our community who wear worn and tattered shoes and some have no shoes at all. You have all been so generous in the past years with your donations, and we truly thank you for your support. We are collecting new shoes and socks, and also used shoes that are in good shape.

Remember that each pair you donate will bring a smile to a child that may not have much to smile about.

Thank you for your Donation.

Sincerely, Hiram Rodriguez, Outreach Minister



## Online Giving... What Does it Mean for Us and Our Parish?

by Francis "Buzz" Bruno, OFS, Director of Operations

The traditional method of giving back a portion of our treasure regularly to our parish has been through the use of Envelopes. This method will continue. In 2007, we began to offer parishioners the opportunity to give using credit/debit cards. To do this you completed a paper form, which needed to be kept on file in the Parish Office.

Since that time, many companies, including Our Sunday Visitor (OSV), the largest printer of Catholic Church envelopes in the world (and the company we use here), have developed Web-based Online Giving systems where a parishioner sets up a personal account in a secure and safe paperless system linked to the Parish Website. This eliminates the need for the Parish Office to store and secure your credit/debit card numbers written on paper, and places you in direct control of your giving account. Over 900 Parishes around the country are currently using OSV's Online Giving system in the same manner we are now doing, including most of our neighboring local parishes. In many ways this is similar to the extremely popular "electronic banking", eliminating the need to carry cash or bring checks to church. I don't know about you, but Susan was lovingly "but rather strongly" advising me to not hit any potholes or bumps in the road while driving to Mass with her scrambling to write the checks...

There are many benefits to using OSV Online Giving for both parishioners and our Parish:

Establishing an online giving account is simple by visiting [www.StPatrickTampa.org](http://www.StPatrickTampa.org), reading the instructions, and determining how much and when you choose to give.

1. You then have the option to make a pledge, a recurring gift, or a one-time gift, as appropriate to each of several familiar accounts, Offertory, Church Improvement Fund, etc. Or if you prefer to use an Envelope simply check "I Give Online" and drop it in!!!
2. Your personal email address becomes the key and you are notified whenever a withdrawal is made from your account for your records.
3. You can link your giving to your checking or savings account (best for our Parish) or to your credit/debit card, whichever you prefer.
4. Just as in our homes, our churches' bills continue to come in when we are away and can't be here. Online Giving helps our Parish by ensuring that your gift continues even if you are unable to be here.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT!!! Nilda de la Cruz is our primary contact if you need assistance to set up your account, access to a computer in the Parish Office, or have any other questions. Anne Marie Kearney is Nilda's back-up person. Both are trained in use of the system and have access to OSV, just as you do directly, should any questions ever pop up.

**PLEASE HELP ST. PATRICK PARISH AND SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING NOW!!!**

SHAMROCK NEWS



**Your Account**



**St. Patrick  
Bank Account**



**Securely Transferred**

In the last few months we successfully completed a couple projects to both improve our facilities and make them more family friendly!

For the parish cooks and anyone who uses the kitchen or rear of our social hall (serving area, etc.) things were getting a bit heated... when the 15 ton A/C unit cooling this area decided to retire after a lengthy career here at St. Pat's. As is often the case, the replacement with a new Carrier unit was not without a few "Unexpected Things". First we found termites in the rafters above the air handler which needed to be eradicated by our friends at Terminix using our re-treat contract. Next we had to ensure that the support system in the ceiling could hold the weight of the new air handler. After onsite consultations with a general contractor and a structural engineer... and many engineering calculations... we were assured the structure was sound... and the A/C installers were able to proceed and restore cool to our kitchen!

Needless to say after all of this work was done the kitchen was a dirty mess. Corky and George (with lots of help from Mel) then took on the task of cleaning the entire kitchen; washing the walls, scrubbing all pots and pans, cleaning the stainless steel counter tops, and machine scrubbing, bleaching and sanitizing the floor. Great job!!!

For the toddlers, Room 20, for several years a storage facility for everything no one wanted, was converted into a kindergarten classroom for religious education. A great deal of effort went in to emptying the room, prepping it after being a lab for many years, painting it, replacing the baseboard, and putting kid-friendly carpet squares on the floor. The youngsters in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, under the guidance of Ms. Dianna Portsche, can now roll around on the floor and have some fun as they begin their faith journeys. A side benefit of having this new room available now allows all of the younger children to be on the first floor for religious education. God is good!!!

By Francis "Buzz" Bruno, OFS, Director of Operations



## Welcome



## New Parishioner Interest Form

We are glad you attend Mass here. How can we serve you?

- ☐ I am new to the community and would like information on St. Patrick Catholic Church.
- ☐ I am interested in information about entering the Catholic Church through R.C.I.A.
- ☐ I have been separated from the Church and would like information on returning to the Church.

Please Circle One: 1. Mr. 2. Mrs. 3. Mr. and Mrs. 4. Miss

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

St \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly place in the collection basket or return to parish office. Upon receipt of this application registration forms will be sent to you.