



# *Church of Saint Ann*

## *Parish Newsletter*

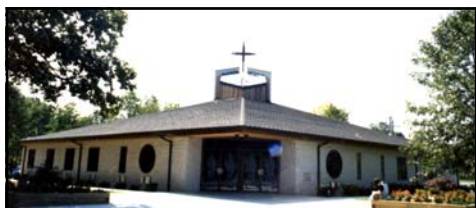
*Parsippany, NJ 07054*

*Spring 2008*

### *The Church of Saint Ann* — *Growth and Expansion* —

The dedication of the Church of Saint Ann on July 26, 1986 was the dream realized; a small family oriented parish. At the time of the dedication there were approximately 300 families registered; half of which were from outside parish boundaries. The growth, from the initial 50 families, was impressive since there was no physical church.

If you were there in this early period you would really appreciate St. Ann as it exists today. The doors into the church today, from the current Atrium, were the original entry doors to the church (below photo). There was no Atrium,



Parish Life Center or educational classrooms. All the facilities were within the inside perimeter of the walls where Mass is now held.

Within the church walls, partitions housed the pastor's office, the parish secretary's office, a small kitchen, a religious education office and an all purpose room (all of 15 feet by 30 feet). And, behind the altar was a very small chapel. Religious education classes were held in the homes of parishioners. Also, it was in 1986 that ground was broken for the rectory which was finally completed in January of 1987; at a whopping cost of \$92K.

At inception, the staff consisted of Fr. Martin, Sr. Frances and the parish secretary, Pat Gurney; who was with St. Ann until her pass-

ing in 1999. As today, the parishioners volunteered to provide the support for the St. Ann family.

As word of the community spread, many came to see for themselves. They must have liked what they saw because there was a steady growth of parishioners in the ensuing years, to approximately 600 families, which reflected a need for expansion. The physical



structure (above photo) that exists today was completed in 1987.

Growth in parishioners has continued and today St Ann has approximately 775 registered families. Others come regularly but fail to enroll formally. Other small improvements have been made from time to time including the stained glass windows in 1999; which represents the abstract presence of God and exudes faith, salvation and joy in our love of Christ.

St. Ann's success is due to the invaluable contributions of time and effort of its parishioners. As we approach the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in July 2008, it is appropriate to thank God for the blessings bestowed on the parish. It is also time to join in the preparation for this glorious event by participating in the planned activities.

This is the third article of a four part series on the history of St. Ann in celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

## *From the Pastor's Desk:*

I am sitting at my desk writing this article and as I look out the window the snow is falling, there is no traffic on Smith Road. How peaceful everything is! Like so many of you I thank God for a quiet, free evening and an opportunity to be still. We all need moments like this – the pause that refreshes. This is what Lent is all about, a time to Stop – Listen and Pray.

When you receive this issue of the Newsletter three weeks of Lent will have gone by. This is a good time to renew our Lenten resolutions. How are we doing?

There are some wonderful opportunities to help us on our Faith Journey – Our Parish Mission – Communal Penance – Stations of the Cross and of course all of the Holy Week Services. Please take note of all the dates and times so that together we can rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Morning.

*Fr. Martin*



## *Editor's Notebook:*

In future issues of the newsletter we will be adding another feature called —

### “Parishioners in the News”

— a way of bringing to our readers happenings in the parish that may be of interest but does not warrant a news article.

As an example, there was much excitement among two families in the parish about their children.....

“Gina Jacobia, daughter of Victor and Joanne, was recently engaged to Paul Scala, son of Jim and Ginny. Wedding is set for November 2008.”

When special happenings occur feel free to email, call or speak to any of the staff for inclusion in the newsletter. We welcome your input, after all the newsletter about you and is for you.

## *Grandma Pat's Cheesecake*

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup of graham cracker crumbs
- 2 pounds of cream cheese
- 1 ½ cups of sugar
- 7 eggs
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons of vanilla
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- 1 pint of heavy cream

### **Directions:**

Grease a spring form pan with butter.  
Spread graham cracker crumbs into greased pan.  
Combine all other ingredients and blend until smooth.  
Bake the mix at 350 degrees for 65 minutes.  
Turn off the oven and leave it in oven for 30 minutes.  
Open oven door and leave it in oven for 30 minutes.  
Take it out of oven and cool.  
When completely cooled refrigerate.

Our family enjoys this dessert at every holiday!  
My grandma has been making it since I was little and it is my favorite dessert!

Enjoy!

Melissa Gannon

**Editor:** John Nardone **Newsletter Staff:** Fr. Martin McDonnell, Sr. Frances Sanzo (Christian Faith), Arleen Christie (Youth Council), Mike Santo, Patricia Neilan and Attracta Kelly.

# 25th Anniversary Celebration Report

The 25th Anniversary planning and activities are well underway. Three of the activities are described below.

**Anniversary Banquet:** Marge Giaquinta and Bunny Spitzer and their committee have wonderful plans for the 25th Anniversary Gala on July 26. The Gala will follow the Anniversary Mass and will be held at The Villa, Route 46 in Mountain Lakes. Reservations are required and the cost is \$75 per person; substantially below the actual cost compliments of the parish.



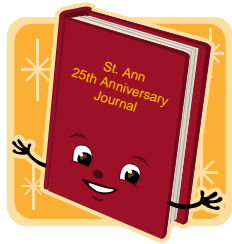
Chris Wilke of Life Touch working on a pose with Mary Murray

**Church Photo Directory:** Thanks to the efforts of Mary Ann Lewis, Elaine Erlich and Sue Kander over 260 parishioner photos were completed. Chrisopher Wilke and Rebekah Hutchison of Life Touch did the photo shoot and ordering, respectively. Photos taken will be mailed shortly and the directory will be available in the Spring.

Many thanks to Louisa Zimmerman and Tom Hudacko and the other 35 volunteers who helped with appointments during the 11 days of photo taking.



The Acree family preparing for their photo with Chris Wilke



**Anniversary Journal:** A special journal is in the process of being developed to commemorate this major milestone at St. Ann. Details for the journal and associated pledges will be initiated in March through a formal mailing. Pledges will vary from the very special Platinum page at \$250 to a patron pledge of \$25. For additional information or questions call Vic or Joanne Jacobia (973-887-4832).

25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary

## Meet Sean Price St. Ann's New Music Director

Meet our new Music Director Sean Price. You have seen Sean during the Christmas season and you will be seeing more of him as he guides the music activities at St. Ann. Sean is completing his education at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton for a Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ.



Sean joyfully at the organ



Sean leading the choir during Mass

He comes to us with over 10 years experience working at St. Frances of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen and the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway. Sean has also held other positions in the tri-state area and remains active as a concert organist and harpsichordist, performing in 23 states throughout the country. He is a member of the elite Westminster Concert Bell Choir and the Chapel Choir. He expects to continue his studies at the Julliard School.

Welcome to the Parish staff of St. Ann.

# CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACTION -- SR. FRANCES

## *Religious Education Update*

*I can't believe it! We are already in the second semester of the school year. We have many events to look back on and many more to look forward to. Special activities included:*

**Advent prayers:** During the season of Advent the students gathered around the Advent Wreath each week in prayer and song. Children prayed that hearts, families and community would be ready to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas "Jesus' Birthday"

**First Penance:** Our second grade students under the excellent guidance of Mary, Mike and Mary G. Szoke prepared for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The boys and girls received their First Penance on Saturday, December 15. Now these same children are working very hard to be ready for First Holy Communion this spring.



*What are we looking forward to and what are we preparing for?*

**Lenten season:** During the Holy Season of Lent students will journey with Jesus when they will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. They will also have an opportunity to meet Father Murray our Mission Director when Father speaks to them about Forgiveness and Gratitude.

**Religion Fair:** The Religion Fair will take place the weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is to celebrate Saint Ann's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*A big THANK YOU to our St. Ann Parish Family for all your efforts!*

## *Parish Mission with Fr. John Murray*

You are especially invited to join Father John Murray who will conduct our Parish Mission and will help us reconnect with God. The mission will be held Sunday through Wednesday, March 2 – 4, at 7:30 in the evening and daily at 12:00 noon. The topics will be:

- Sunday - God of Limitless Forgiveness.
- Monday – Jesus, Lord of the Scriptures
- Tuesday – Jesus, Our Only Redeemer
- Wednesday - Mary, First of the Redeemed

The Parish Mission is the ideal way to journey through Lent. The mission will help you walk more closely with Jesus.

Fr. John Murray is a Redemptorist Priest and resides at Saint Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch. Father's experience has been as an associate pastor as well as pastor. Most of his ministry has been in preaching parish missions and Priest Retreats.

Father is the former editor of **Perpetual Help World** and he continues to write "Dear Padre" columns for Liguori Publications. Come to the mission and meet Fr. John Murray in person.



Leaders: John & Lynn Duff (front)



Leader: Marianne Bridy (third from right)



Leader: Josephine Carolan (left)



## Lenten Study Groups Assemble

This is a special year for the Lenten study groups where they "reflect on ways to live the Gospels in our daily lives". Small groups of parishioners have been meeting during Lent for the 25 years since St. Ann has been in existence.

This year, seven study groups (see photos) have assembled to meet weekly; beginning on Wednesday, February 6 - Ash Wednesday. The group leaders are Len Deo, John and Lynn Duff, Farther Martin, Sr. Frances, Josephine Carolan, Arleen Christie and Marianne Bridy.

Each group is using the Lenten scripture study pamphlet "GATHERED IN HIS NAME" for the seven weeks. It is their way of preparing for the feast of Easter. There still is time to join in one of the groups.



Leader: Arleen Christie (center)



Leader: Fr. Martin



Leader: Len Deo (far right)



Leader: Sr. Frances (standing)

## Christmas 2007 Giving Tree

The Samaritans under the leadership of Laura Nelson, with the support of the parishioners, collected 557 gifts at Christmas which were distributed to:

Hope House, Eric Johnson Home, Battered Women, Several Sources Foundation, Kenmare School, Straight and Narrow, Martin De Pores, Catholic Family Services, Mountain Lakes School for the Deaf, DYFUS, Saint Peter's Village, Greystone and the Veterans Hospital.

**Thanks to all for your generosity, care and concern.**

## Valentine's Day Candy Sale

More than 15 Samaritans participated in the Valentine Chocolates Fund Raiser in February. More than \$650 was collected and the proceeds went to the Fisher House Program and the Angel Tree Program.



Ginny Bissig manning the candy table

Special thanks to those who labored to make the delicious treats — Maria Petinakakis, Ginny Bissig, Rosalie DeNunzio, Finis Galante, Geri Catala and Grace Petinakakis (Maria's daughter).

# YOUTH COUNCIL AT LARGE -- ARLEEN CHRISTIE

## *Christmas Charity Event*

This year, the Youth Council adopted a family, a single father and his 6 year old son from Homeless Solutions. After the shopping was finished and the presents were wrapped, the gifts were sent to the family with a prayer. We also thanked God for our own family.

Alaina Malpere – Community Outreach Specialist – Homeless Solutions accepting the Christmas gifts.



## *Ninth Graders Field Trip*

Last November, our ninth graders were elated when the Vice President of our Youth Council, Kati Hubner, and her friend, Gillian Holmes, presented a film they made about the Arts. That film earned both girls their Gold Award for the Girls Scouts. They answered questions and talked about plays they have been in.

On Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, the ninth graders followed up with a field trip to Parsippany High School to attend a performance of "The Man Who Came to Dinner". Both Kati and Gillian were in the play as well as one of their classmates, Raymond Van Steyn. The play was great, funny, had a good moral ending and was enjoyed by everyone.

## *Birthday Party for Jesus*

Our annual Birthday Party for Jesus held last December 8<sup>th</sup> was hosted by our 9<sup>th</sup> graders. They helped 20 children in attendance make a craft of the Holy Family and served the pizza, juice and cupcakes. There was picture taking with Santa Claus (alias Michael Szoke). Everyone took home a goody bag and a surprised little girl, Sarah Hughes, won a teddy bear. The highlight of the afternoon was when the children sang "Happy Birthday, Jesus". Geri Catala was our photographer and Helene Turner, overseeing the craft room, did her "Let's go on a Bear Hunt" much to everyone's delight. Everyone had a good time and we are sure, Jesus did too.

## *A Workcamp at Home*

Instead of attending the Catholic Workcamp this year, our teens from the Youth Council wanted to do something special in celebration of St Ann's 25th Anniversary.

The decision was made to spend a week working in the Mediation Garden, trimming bushes, planting flowers and sprucing up the Gazebo. They also will offer their services where needed at the 25th celebration in July.

## *Ninth Grade Retreat*

Eleven teens from the Youth Council lead by Mike Nicosia, ran the Ninth Grade Retreat for our 14 ninth graders on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The theme, "Self Esteem" was to help the teens to see themselves as unique individuals and to feel good about who God has made them to be.



The retreat began with participation in the 10:30 am Mass and ending at 4:00 pm with a prayer service in the Chapel.

## *Prayer Corner*

*In prayer, we remember:*

### Our Deceased:

John Picciallo  
Mildred Bezold  
Michael Musto

### Our Sick:

Sister Doris Healy, SC  
Mark Berkowitz  
Anthony La Spina



## *Congratulations to:*

### Our New Christians:

Gregory  
and  
Katelyn  
Ford



*Happy Easter*  
*from the*  
*Newsletter Staff*



## *Plan Ahead for the Following Events*

### *St. Patrick's Dinner Dance*

*March 8, 2008*

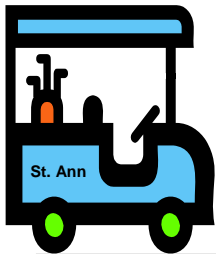
The dinner dance, as always, will be held in the Parish Life Center and is always filled to capacity. Father's Irish coffee is always very popular. If you don't have tickets by now you are too late.



### *Annual Golf Outing*

*May 19, 2008*

Join in on our yearly venture to the greens at the Knoll Country Club during this special 25th year of Saint Ann.



### *25th Anniversary Dates*

*July 26-27, 2008*

*Saturday: Mass - 5:00 p.m.*

*Banquet - 7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday: Family Day - 12-4 p.m.*



## *Lenten & Holy Week Schedule*

### Private Confessions

Saturday, March 15 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

### Daily Mass - 12:00 Noon

### Mission - March 2, 3, 4 and 5

Mission Talk: 7:30 pm

### Palm Sunday - March 16

Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm

Mass: Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am

### Holy Thursday - March 20

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30 pm

Adoration: 9:00 pm – 12:00 midnight

### Good Friday - March 21

Liturgy of the Passion & Death of Jesus: 3:00 pm

Stations and Veneration of the Cross: 7:30 pm

All Night Veneration: 10:00 pm - 7:00 am

### Holy Saturday - March 22

Morning Prayer: 7:00 am

Blessing of Food: 12:00 Noon

Solemn Easter Vigil: 8:00 pm

### Easter Sunday - March 23

Sunrise Mass: 6:00 am

Masses: 8 am, 10:30 am & 12:00 Noon

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***Upcoming Events***

***March***

- 1**      **Cornerstone for Men**
- 2-5**    **Parish Mission**
- 8**      **Saint Patrick's Dinner Dance**

***April***

- 27**    **First Holy Communion (1st Group)**

***May***

- 4**      **First Holy Communion (2nd Group)**
- 19**    **Golf Outing**

***June***

- 8**      **Fr. Martin's 40th Anniversary**
- 23-27** **Vacation Bible School**

***July***

- 26**    **25th Anniversary Banquet**
- 27**    **25th Anniversary Family Day**

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