

From Fr. John:

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

We continue to read parts from Pope Benedict's pastoral letter to priests in the Year of the Priest, which began on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday 19 June 2009. To me, this was the most poignant part of his letter. It is St. John Vianney, i.e. The Cure of Ars, teaching on the priesthood. (Cure means priest and Ars is the village where St. John Vianney ministered all his priestly life.) Beloved of God, spend some time praying reading this short catechesis on the priesthood. Reflect on what the priesthood is and how different priests have brought you to God. I am sure you have had many priests in your life that have blessed you. Would not it be a great idea in this Year of the Priest to thank them if they still are alive? We often appreciate people when it is too late - at their funeral. I think God would want us to do it as soon as we could. Tomorrow is not guaranteed- who knows when our last breath will be? If the priest who has blessed you has died, pray for his soul.

Pope Benedict continues his letter:

Here the teaching and example of Saint John Mary Vianney can serve as a significant point of reference for us all. The Curé of Ars was very humble, yet as a priest he was conscious of being an immense gift to his people: "A good shepherd, a pastor after God's heart, is the greatest treasure which the good Lord can grant to a parish, and one of the most precious gifts of divine mercy". He spoke of the priesthood as if incapable of fathoming the grandeur of the *gift* and *task* entrusted to a human creature: "O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die... God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host..." Explaining to his parishioners the importance of the sacraments, he would say: "Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die [as a result of sin], who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest... After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is". These words, welling up from the priestly heart of the holy pastor, might sound excessive. Yet they reveal the high esteem in which he held the sacrament of the priesthood. He seemed overwhelmed by a boundless sense of responsibility: "Were we to fully realize what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love... Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth... What use would be a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its door? The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is he who opens the door: he is the steward of the good Lord; the administrator of his goods ... Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest, and they will end by worshipping the beasts there ... The priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you".



Advent Reconciliation Service on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the church.

Looking for a Christmas gift—Fr. John's new book - "More of You Through Prayer" would be a perfect gift and can be purchased at the Parish Center for \$11.00. The Parish Center is opened Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

+Joe Zygmund

(Julian Paluck)

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

+Blanche Bonneville

(Mary Fromwiller)

Thursday, December 10, 2009

+Dorothy Waite

(Mary Fromwiller)

Friday, December 11, 2009

+Fr. William King, S.J.

Saturday, December 12, 2009

5:00 PM-People of the Parish

Sunday, December 13, 2009

8:30 AM- +Paul Tran

(The Tran Family)

10:30 AM-+Frank &

Anna Sobolewski

(Their Family)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

9:00 AM-Bible Study

11:30 AM-E.M./Lector Training-Ch

Can/Bottle Recycling

Monday, December 7, 2009

10:00 AM-Bible Study-SR

1:00 PM-Bible Study-SR

7:00 PM-KOC Officer's mtg.-Rm. 3

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

8:00 AM Mass Feast of the

Immaculate Conception

10:00 AM-Altar Guild mtg-SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 6

7:00 PM-Choir practice

7:00 PM-KOC mtg-SR

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

6:00 PM-Parish Council mtg-SR

7:00 PM-RCIA-SR

Thursday, December 10, 2009

7:00 PM-Confirmation Class-SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Friday, December 11, 2009

4:00 PM-Homeless Outreach

Deadline for Hats & Scarves is

Sunday, December 13, 2009.

Coffee and Donuts are served in the Social Room after the Sunday morning Masses. Come join us!

Christmas Care Packages for Homebound Parishioners

We are collecting things for the next 2 weeks (December 13th) for homebound parishioners. Help us prepare 'We Care Packages' for our homebound parishioners by contributing socks for 30 mentally ill people in group homes, nuts, candy and/or boxed candy for some of the homebound, grocery gift cards, hand lotion, puzzles and word puzzles, personal care items like lip gloss, calendars, McDonald's coupons, gift cards to Starbucks, Dairy Queen, Fred Meyer, movie tickets and sugar free candy for 15 diabetic people, little things you would enjoy if you were homebound. Requests from the group of 7 mentally ill are a 2x button shirt, a lg button shirt, perfume body wash, Safeguard soap, wool gray or brown socks and a gift card.

The Prayer Chain will meet Tuesday, December 15th from 9:00-10ish in the Social Room. Anyone from the parish is invited to attend and join us as we pray for those who are ill and have requested prayer support. We will continue our new book Let in the Light -facing hard stuff with hope. Don't forget to bring your appreciation book also. If you are new to the parish and would like to join us, please come we share books well.

Winter Memorial Mass - We invite everyone who has suffered the loss of a family member or friend to join us in our Winter Memorial Mass especially dedicated to his or her memory. The Memorial Mass will be on Thursday, December 17th at 10:00AM. There will be a sign up sheet as you come in the door to write the names of those for whom you wish the Mass said. You are invited to continue this community gathering and join together for fellowship and refreshments following Mass.

No 8:00AM Mass on Thursday, December 17th.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 8,086.93

Over/Under: + 1,054.93

Advent Reconciliation Services

St. Rita Church

December 15th at 7:00 PM

St. Therese Church

December 17th at 7:00 PM

St. Henry Church

December 21st at 7:00 PM

Youth Group Schedule

JR HIGH

December 6 Meeting 9:00 AM

December 13 Meeting 9:00 AM

Fleece Frenzy 6:30 PM

SR HIGH

Dec 6 Meeting 7:00 PM

Dec 13 Fleece Frenzy 6:30 PM

Fleece Frenzy

How many hats, scarves and blankets can be made in 2 hours. Come join us as we help PROJECT KEEP WARM

WHEN: Sunday, December 13th

TIME: 6:30-8:30 pm

WHO: Jr & Sr High Youth

SEWING MACHINES NEEDED

Questions: Call Janet at 503-761-8710 x 110.

From the Altar Guild: A big thank you to all who made our annual bazaar such a success. Our next Altar Guild meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th at 10:00 AM. Please bring a wrapped Christmas tree ornament for a silent auction. We will be going to Heidi's for lunch.. All of the ladies of our parish are most welcome - we have a great time!

St. Joseph Christmas Party: The LOOP Group and KOC invite everyone to the annual Christmas Party on December 13th following the 10:30 AM Mass. Enjoy your community with wreaths, crafts, music, songs, snacks and Santa pictures too. Festivities until 3:00 PM. Come join in the family fun.