

January, 2011
Issue 4

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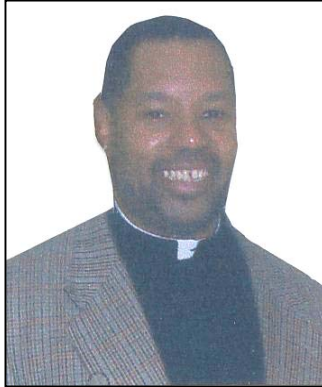
1920 N Martin Luther King Blvd
Las Vegas, NV
702-648-6606

Website: www.sjtac.org

St. James the Apostle Newsletter

Revival Time

Father Chester P. Smith, SVD, (Society of Divine Word) has accepted our invitation to lead us in Revival, Sunday through Tuesday, February 13-15, 2011, 7 PM nightly. This year's theme is "LOVE" as taken from John 15: 9-13, and 17. Fr. Smith preached at St. James in the past and is looking forward to coming back.



He was ordained in 1988 in Chicago along with his twin brother, Fr. Charles A. Smith, Jr. They made African American history by becoming the first African American twin priests to be ordained in the Roman Catholic Church in America.

Fr. Smith is one of three missionary priests that make up the Bowman-Francis Ministry Project in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Bowman-Francis Ministry Project was founded in 1993 by the Society of Divine Word to serve the Black Catholic Diaspora. Fr. Smith is the co-author of "Boyhood to Manhood", a Rite of Passage manual for African American boys (1993) and a manual for the African American family

Kwanzaa celebration: "My Family Our Family" (1995).

Fr. Smith lectures nationally and has made numerous presentations on the use of the adolescent rites of participation with rites groups around the country. The youth in the seven chapters of Ambassadors of the Word have taken cultural exchange trips to West Africa, Caribbean Islands, Belize, Brazil and Trinidad.

The Spiritual Ministry encourages your support to make this event a huge success. Refreshments will be served nightly; donations are needed.

Holiday Outreach

Angie Bigas, chair of the Outreach committee, and the whole committee would like to express their sincerest gratitude for your generosity to our food drive for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Through your contributions of food and monetary donations, we were able to provide approximately 100 food baskets to families who may have otherwise gone without. Angie has been told by some of these families that they are grateful for our help to them and surprised at the quantity and variety of food items they are provided. The food baskets were delivered to nine schools in the surrounding community of St. James and to families who asked for assistance. We would also like to thank Arsenia Eagan (Director of Religious Education) and the Confirmation students for assistance to this worthwhile outreach program. The

students helped in decorating the boxes used for the food baskets and putting the baskets together. Also, to those who assisted in delivering the food baskets to local schools and helped in other ways, **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!**

An "Angel Tree" was also part of the Outreach program for Christmas. On December 16, 2010 the Outreach Committee delivered over 160 Angel tree gifts to the Kindergarten and First Graders of the Charles West Preparatory School. The Parish received wonderful thank you notes from these children. Thanks to the St. James Community for their donations, and to the Confirmation students for wrapping all the gifts.



Angel Tree with Thank You's

Members of the St. James Outreach Committee are: Angie Bigas, Birdie Ray, Norma Savage, Lavonne Lewis, Ed and Sylvia Scott, and Mary Theresa Perez.

During these difficult times, when so many families are struggling with the most basic needs, the Outreach Committee continues its efforts to fill our food pantry. We ask for your

donations of non-perishable food items or cash donation. As always, your generous contributions are always appreciated.

Get Ready, Get Set... GOD

Many Christians say that there is an "On Time God" or that "God has a plan". Sometimes it is difficult to see God's plan. But for our own parishioner, Vivian Jones, that is exactly how she views her life since staying at Sunrise hospital for 33 days which resulted in open heart surgery on June 14, 2010.

Vivian didn't exactly know why but for the last six years, she has been compelled to exercise and eat healthy. During this time, she became physically fit and a Weight Watcher life-timer. She has been a life-timer (a person who has reached her weight goal) for five years. So, why would she think there is an "On Time God" or that "God has a plan?" On May 20, Vivian, a seemingly healthy person, was admitted into the hospital. After being admitted into the hospital with pneumonia, the doctors discovered that she had Mitral Valve Pro-lapse Regurgitation, a disease that causes the Mitral Valve of the heart to fail. She believes the "On time God" that everyone is talking about had a plan for her to survive this rare and unique heart disease. All of her doctors seem to believe that her healthy diet and exercise are reasons for surviving open heart surgery.

Before entering the hospital, Vivian wanted desperately to walk/run the "Las Vegas Rock 'N' Roll" half marathon. In fact, she had already started training for the half marathon before entering the hospital. A month after her open heart surgery, one of her cardiologists asked her if she still planned on the walking/running the half marathon.

This was the furthest thing from her mind. Vivian felt that she was in no condition to even think about the half marathon. In her mind and heart the answer was absolutely "NOT". Her cardiologist continued to tell Vivian to "make it a high goal and if she did not make it, then she did not make it".

It was not until October 2010 that she started self-training for the half marathon again. Her weekly walks in the neighborhood were brutal. After five weeks of walking 13.1 miles in the neighborhood, she felt that she could at least finish the race. Well, she finished the half marathon in less time than she ever finished walking in the neighborhood. On December 5, 2010 she walked/ran the marathon in less than six months after her surgery finishing in 3 hours and 34 minutes. Along with an on time God, diet and exercise, and an enormous amount of prayers and well wishes, she was able to complete one of God's plans with more victory than she had ever imagined.

Vivian feels that heart disease does not define her. What she thinks does define her is not to let her 33 days in the hospital and ultimately having open heart surgery hold her back from doing all the things God intended for her to do. Not to hold herself back because of her illness but to find strength from what happened during and after her stay in hospital.

Vivian says she did not want to end 2010 with only sad memories. For her, 2010 will be remembered with some difficult challenges but she will never forget the triumph she felt when crossing the "Las Vegas Rock 'N' Roll Marathon" finish line.

There is an "On time God" with a plan. So for 2011, get ready, get started, and continue God's plan.

Environment Ministry

The Environment Ministry is a 'sub-committee' of the Liturgy Committee which is also the 'planning team' for all our Liturgies. Chairing the Environment Ministry is Norma Savage; Patricia Bell and Mary Schirling are co-chairs. What makes the Ministry work so well is the vision and mission of its members. The tools needed are the volunteers, banners, flowers, materials, meetings, manpower hours, love, and cooperation. All these tools jointly are needed to form this Ministry and to make it work. The seasons of the church that determine the decor of the church are Ordinary Time, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter time. At St. James the Apostle we have other special events: Black History Month, Martin Luther King Sunday and Kwanzaa when the décor is changed.

Adorning the Church is a blessing to the volunteers as they serve God through making his church beautiful for its congregation and respect to the liturgy. There is a small 'flower budget' that is spent mainly during Ordinary time, however, cash donations are made during the year, and at Christmas and Easter times, poinsettias and lilies are brought to the church by St. James members. Help is always needed, wanted and appreciated. The decorating schedule for 2011 is:

- o February 5: Black History Month
- o March 12: Lent
- o April 16: Palm Sunday
- o April 23: Easter
- o June 11: Pentecost
- o June 18: Ordinary Time
- o November 26: Advent
- o December 24: Christmas

Thank you, Fr. Henry for your support and cooperation. A special **'thank you' to all** – and you know who you are – who have worked several hours making our church pleasing and acceptable in God's

sight for the Christmas season. The many manpower hours were used for hanging of the beautiful 'wreaths' and garland; setting-up the Christmas trees; dusting poinsettia plants; setting up the Nativity Scene; arranging the star studded lobby; decorating the holy water font; shopping for additional decorations; cash donations, and the many, many beautiful poinsettias, etc., etc.



Church Lobby at Christmas

If you want to volunteer and be a part of this loving giving back or make a donation to the Environment Ministry, please call the office any-time.

Building Maintenance

Here are some of the repairs to the St. James building and property recently.

- In October 2010, the Ansel Fire Suppression System, in the kitchen, was inspected and repaired at a cost of \$256.25. Also in October, the ovens in the kitchen were not working. After inspection it was determined that it was actually the

electrical plugs behind the ovens that did not work. Ray Magiera repaired the plugs and also an exhaust fan switch over the stove and burners at no costs.

- In November 2010, Catholic Mutual Insurance Company requested that the church ensure the rear barricade is secured when in the open position. By securing the barricade with a locking device it will ensure only church staff have control of opening and closing the gate. Two posts and lock device were installed to comply with the recommendation. The cost was \$250.00 for the work.
- In December 2010, during the rain, many additional leaks were found in the RCIA room and sanctuary. The Diocese and Korte Construction Company were notified and photos provided of the leaking locations. The repairs of the leaks should be covered by the warranty with the Diocese and the sub-contractor for Korte Company. We are coordinating with both organizations to ensure the repairs are at no cost to the church.

New Parishioners

We welcome the following families into our parish.

October, 2010

Paul & Christina Delao

November, 2010

Lourdez Fernandez
Virgil & Eloisa Hopper
Patricia McBrown
Jeremy & Celeste Verry

December, 2010

Rudolph & Marsha Brewington
Lovie & Remiflor DeMesa

Revised Translation of the Roman Missal

Beginning in Advent, 2011 we will implement the revised translation of the Roman Missal. Over the next few issues of the newsletter, each of the revised texts that we will be using will be published.

The Gloria

Previous Translation

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

New Translation

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated

at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The St. James Gospel Choir CD "I Never Lost My Praise" is on sale at the Church Office.

Religious Education Office

The Religious Education Programs were very busy during the months from October to December:

In November, the CCD classes had their first group celebration where each class shared what they had been learning. The Confirmation students decorated and put together food baskets for those in need.

In December, The CCD classes had their second group celebration where they bought and wrapped socks to be donated to men in our community who have no shelter. The children were following God's call to help those in need. The Confirmation students wrapped the toys that the parishioners donated from our Angel Tree to be given to students in a local elementary school. They also once again decorated and put together food baskets.

Some of the children in our program participated in our annual Christmas Pageant at the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve family Mass. They beautifully told the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Baptisms

We received new members into our faith community through the waters of baptism:

- ❖ Lucas delos Santos Isidro (Parents: Michael and Marilou Isidro) - November 27
- ❖ Gabriel, Breeana, and Luis Garcia (Parent: Cristina Garcia) - November 27
- ❖ Gustavo Perea Jr. (Parent: Maria R. Garcia) - November 27
- ❖ Itati and Karyme McGhee (Parent: Maria Garcia) - November 27
- ❖ Sophia Ysabelle Paragas Gacayan (Parents: Joseph and Ruth Gacayan) - December 4
- ❖ Brandon Allan Smith Jr. (Parent: Marja M. Bigas) - December 5
- ❖ Nora Maree Hopper (Parents: Daniel and Amber Hopper) - December 26

Marriages

Three couples had their marriages validated in the Catholic Church on December 26, 2010, receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony:

- ❖ Daniel and Amber Hopper
- ❖ Jeremy and Celeste Verry
- ❖ Antolin and Daisy Verry

Deaths/Funerals

- ❖ Joseph Rose – December 18

Thank you for your comments regarding this Newsletter. We are always open for comments or suggestions. Any recommendations can be left for the Communications Committee in Parish Council Box in the Church Office.

