

## Pastor's Notes



Last weekend's *installation* at the 11am Mass was a wonderful experience for me. I appreciate deeply your presence and show of affection. Archbishop O'Brien was moved by your expressions of approval. Thank you, too, for your cards, gifts and well wishes. A special ***Thank You*** goes out to all who planned, set-up the altar area and hall, decorated and worked behind the scenes to make the weekend such a success. I am especially conscious that both Carla Berkenkemper (hall reception and rectory open house) and Carlo Stebbings (details of the Mass) worked hard with many of you to make the weekend so enjoyable. My family and friends really enjoyed themselves. I extend a hearty Thank You to you all!

Our next listening session will be held on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and will focus on ***Youth Ministry***. As have done with the last 2 sessions, we will open the doors at 6:30 pm and begin our listening session at 7:00 pm. The night will be complete by 8:30 pm. No matter what age you are, all are welcomed to come and lend their voices as we build our futures together

This week we had 4 trees cut down that were hanging over the rectory garage and whose leaves were contributing to a leaking roof and mold on the brick walls. The trees have been cut and stacked. Any of you who would like the wood to use for your fireplaces are welcomed to go on the pavilion side of the garage and take it.

You can best access the area by driving around the rectory/parish center. I will give parishioners until December 12<sup>th</sup> and then I will offer it to our staff.

***We have a lot of news and upcoming events that I am reminding you of this week. My experience tells me that some folks do not make Mass every weekend, so the need for repetition.***

At the time of my writing this column we stand in hope of celebrating the sacrament of ***Anointing of the Sick*** in the midst of all our weekend Masses. Advent is a wonderful time of healing. With the sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation we the opportunity to experience God's healing in a special way.

On Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual ***Advent Reconciliation Service***. The service will start at 7 pm and all are welcomed! Please mark your calendars accordingly. In case our service is not convenient for you, Mount Carmel will have their Advent Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, is in transition as they await a pastor, so they are not having a service there. If you know any of their parishioners or anyone else in need of this healing sacrament please let them know they are most welcomed to join us for the service.

Remember God loves you and so do I! Have a good week!

**Father Lou**

410-299-6731 (Cell)

**December 6, 2009**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
 Philippians 4:4-7  
 Luke 3:10-18

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

<b>12/7 Monday</b>	8am	Carl Rasmussen
<b>12/8 Tuesday</b>	8am	Lorenzo Schiappacasse
	7pm	Joanna
<b>12/9 Wednesday</b>	8am	Leroy Custer
<b>12/10 Thursday</b>	8am	Communion Service
<b>12/11 Friday</b>	8am	Carl Cunningham
<b>12/12 Saturday</b>	4pm	Saint Clare Parishioners
<b>12/13 Sunday</b>	9am	Antonio Pierorazio
	11am	Katie Brouse

**Prayer List:** One of the most important gifts we give one another as a Christian community is the gift of our prayers. We join in praying for one another's needs, especially for the sick: Joseph H. Bangert, Linda Bonolis, Marie Bray, Joseph Bucci, Michael Bucci, Lorraine Campbell, Jeanette Gleason, Donna Goetz, Ralph E. Greer Sr., William Grzech, James Harper Sr., Maryann Holcomb-Dziennik, Doris Jones, Raymond Jones, Margaret Kalinowski, Gabrella Loprespi, Paul Mosmiller, Shelly Mulkern, Sandra Nuth, Edward & Anna Oldewurtel, William C. Ogden, Matt Paruszewski, Paula Piechocki, Chuck Plansky, Julie Rybczynski, Jacqueline Seitz, Colleen Slifker, Pete Slifker, Charles Szmurlo, Jeff Vilkas, Cynthia Vollmer, Barbara Wancowicz, Louie Wancowicz, Peter Wancowicz, Sandy Wancowicz.

**Prayer Line:** If you or a loved one needs prayers for any situation, including terminal illness, critical surgery, loss of a loved one, severe emotional problems, loss of employment or any other intention, please call any of the following to have your intention added to the prayer line: Maryrose Scism 410-391-6337; Joanne Reiter 410-682-5126 or Betty Sinisi 410-686-9513.

Tuesday, December 8  
 is a Holy Day of Obligation, The Immaculate  
 Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Masses will be held at 8am & 7pm

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

**Thank you for your very generous contributions to our Parish.**

11/22	Envelopes	\$ 7,273
	Loose Money	\$ 1,411
	Children's Coll.	\$ 116
	School Collection	\$ 1,411
	Maintenance	\$ 121
	Catholic Campaign	\$ 841
	Haiti	\$ 4,675
	School	\$ 57
11/29	Envelopes	\$ 5,413
	Loose Money	\$ 1,580
	Children's Coll.	\$ 10
	School Collection	\$ 183
November	Envelopes	\$ 34,904
	Children's Coll.	\$ 371
	Loose	\$ 11,921
	School Collection	\$ 2,229
	Maintenance	\$ 2,273
	Electronic Giving	\$ 1,482
	Haiti	\$ 12,259

**Many Thanks...**

- ❖ To Brenda Ward and the many volunteers who cooked and served dinner for over 400 people on thanksgiving.
- ❖ To Dolores Amrhein and the St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers for their great efforts to make and distribute food baskets to families in need

***For this and other random acts of stewardship, may GOD BLESS YOU!***

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** How can we prepare the way of the Lord?

**Children:** Can you share the story of your Baptism?

**Saint Clare Penance Service**

Monday, December 14  
 7pm

## THE WEEK AHEAD

12/7	Monday	10:00am	Riverview Service
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts - H
		7:30pm	Healing Service - C
12/8	Tuesday		Holy Day of Obligation
			Masses at 8am & 7pm
		6:30pm	Cub Scouts - H
		6:30pm	Girl Scouts - PC
		7:30pm	Spanish Ministry - PC
		7:30pm	Living Water - MC
12/9	Wednesday	6:30pm	Religious Ed
		7:00pm	Adult Conf. Info Mtg - PC
		7:00pm	Youth Group
		7:00pm	Legion Mary - MC
12/10	Thursday	7:00pm	School Christmas Prog. - C
		7:00pm	Girl Scouts - PC
12/11	Friday	4:30pm	Hot Meal - H
		6:30pm	Soccer Ceremony - H
		7:00pm	Family Movie Night - H
12/12	Saturday		Our Lady of Guadalupe
12/13	Sunday	9:00am	Confirmation Mass & Class

## Upcoming Parish Events

.... Mark your calendar



Dec 11	Family Movie Night
Dec 14	Annual Advent Reconciliation Svc
Dec 15	Listening Session – Youth Ministry
Jan 8	Family Movie Night
Jan 16	Alumni Event
Jan 23	Vera Bradley Bingo
Jan 31	Catholic Schools Week Begins
Feb 12	Family Movie Night
Feb 20	Kids' Bingo
Mar 5	Family Movie Night
Mar 13	Annual School Auction
Mar 20	Bunny Lunch
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 9	Family Movie Night
Apr 17	Saint Clare Dance School Recital
Apr 24	First Communion
Apr 30	Spring Play
May 1	Spring Play
May 7	Family Movie Night
May 12-15	Annual Spring Carnival
May 23	Confirmation
June 11	Family Movie Night
June 12	Annual Flew Market
June 21-25	Vacation Bible School



This Week's Altar Flowers  
Are in Loving Memory of  
Patricia LaSpina  
from her family

## Saint Clare Parish to Hold Healing Service



Monday, December 7  
7:30pm

Sponsored by: "Living Water" Prayer Group  
If you have any type of physical ailment or disability or feel depressed or spiritually troubled, you will find peace, comfort and God's healing presence within you. You may go to one of the prayer teams who will offer prayers, lay hands over you, anoint you with blessed oil and ask for God's healing mercy to come upon you.

## Living Will & Testament



**The future of St. Clare Church**  
depends on YOU! Please  
remember your Church in your will.  
Our legal title is St. Clare's Roman  
Catholic Congregation, Inc., 714  
Myrth Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21221

## Response to Child Abuse

Physical and/or sexual child abuse by anyone, especially those in a position of trust within our Church, is never to be tolerated. Please know that as a Church family, our Faith Community stands by you. If you have ever been abused at any time, please confide that in a person you trust – a doctor, counselor, social worker, priest, deacon, or staff member, etc. Please allow us to help you. If you hear of any such abuse, please remember that the law requires that you report it, and that you will be guaranteed anonymity. Call the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, 410-853-3000; the Baltimore-based Catholic Church Hotline, 410-547-5589; or any local city or county police.

**Bringing the abuse to light is the first, courageous step in a long journey toward healing. Your Faith Community supports you in that journey, and holds you in our prayers.**



## Sodality

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our Sodality Mass at 9AM. Please sit in the Sodality section (the left as soon as you walk in the front door). Hope to see you all there. We miss you when you aren't there. Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> after the 7PM Mass, so please try to attend. If you are interested in joining our Sodality, please give me at call at 410-391-6360 or email me at [Kjoyness@yahoo.com](mailto:Kjoyness@yahoo.com).



## School News

***“We are a community  
shining with Christ’s light”***

Thank you to everyone who attended our Lunch with Santa on Saturday, December 5. It was a wonderful event! A special thank you to all of the volunteers who stepped in to make this day a success.

The school Christmas Program, *Shine Jesus Shine*, will be on Thursday, December 10 at 7 p.m. in the Church. We would like to invite you to what we know will be a wonderful way to get in the spirit of Christmas. Please join us if you can.

Each Wednesday, the school will have an Open House for prospective families from 9-11 a.m. If you know a family that is looking for a wonderful school that is shining with Christ’s light, please tell them about Saint Clare. For information regarding enrollment and tuition assistance, please attend an Open House or contact the school office, 410-687-7787.

Mark your calendars for the Annual School Auction which is scheduled for March 13, 2010. The success of the wonderful event is largely dependent on the donations that are received. As you are doing your holiday shopping, please consider making a purchase to donate to the auction, which is tax deductible. Some popular donation items are: tools, electronics, jewelry, gift cards, sports memorabilia/items, small appliances, event tickets, personal services, home décor, and themed gift baskets. Thank you in advance for your support of this event. Tickets will go on sale in January. We are grateful for the continued generosity of the entire Saint Clare community.

### **SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS YOU**

Love Technology? Want to help our School? We are looking for a Tech savvy individual interested in working with the Technology Committee. One evening a month commitment. Please contact Joe DiCara for further information @ [dicara.assoc@comcast.net](mailto:dicara.assoc@comcast.net)

### **CHRISTMAS**

So far we have received calls from 30 families (totaling 60 children) in need of Christmas help. We still have more telephone calls to return. If you can adopt a family, please contact Brenda Ward at 410-256-1907. Thank you for your support.



### **All Are Welcome to Join Our Parish Community**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes Mailed
- Moving Out of Area

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Box or mail to the Parish Center.

### **Save the Date!**

### **Right to Life March in DC**

**January 22**

Who wants to go?

If we have enough people interested in going, we can get our own bus or we can hitch a ride with another church. Check your calendar. Next weekend, we will survey everyone at mass to make a decision.



### Tentative Calendar

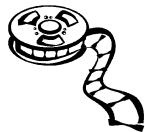
#### December

- 6<sup>th</sup>- Mass, dinner, hang out 5-7pm
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Holy Day of Obligation: *Feast of the Immaculate Conception 7pm Mass meet at 6:30pm in Church for Rosary*
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Youth Room 7-8:30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Parish Movie Night
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Confirmation Class #2, 9am-11:30am (Mass and Class)
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Youth Room 7-8:30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Caroling at a Nursing Home/ Christmas Party 3-5pm?
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Merry Christmas

This Sunday, December 6th, we will have our first youth mass. It will begin at 5pm in the Church. It will be a simple mass, giving us opportunity to share our faith. After mass we will have pizza and elect our Youth Ministry Council Members. Please bring \$3 for pizza. If you are planning to come please email me how many people so I can order the appropriate number of pizzas. This is for youth, family and friends.

### SAINT CLARE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for our Monthly Family Movie Night The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Every Month



**Friday, December 11**  
7pm  
Stallings Hall

**Featuring:** Night at the Museum  
Battle of the Smithsonian **PG**  
USCCB Rating: A-I (All Audiences)

**Admission:** Non-perishable food to benefit SCP Hot Meal & St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries

*Bring your own Lawn Chair or Blanket*  
Pizza & Refreshments will be available for purchase at a nominal fee.

Please note that the soccer closing ceremony will be right before the movie at 6:30 in the hall.

### Help Needed!

St Clare Church staffs three English-speaking masses each week: 4:00PM Saturdays, 9:00AM and 11:00AM Sundays. Currently a number of parishioners have volunteered to fill 6 positions for Eucharistic Minister (2 for distributing Hosts and 4 for distributing the Precious Blood) and 2 positions for Lectors, at each mass. Over the many months, for numerous reasons, the census of volunteers has suffered from attrition; we need some more volunteers, especially for the 11:00AM Sunday masses – in all 3 positions. I would like to ensure that no one is assigned more than twice each month.

I invite anyone who *may* be interested in helping to call me or send an e-mail. Tell me how you think you would like to serve (remember, if your child is a mass server, you might serve at the same mass), and whether you have a mass preference.

Those who volunteer will be trained how to discharge the duties; I will train Lector volunteers. Please help St. Clare Church.

Frank Kernan (410)686-8658/c(410)800-5221  
[frank.kernan@gmail.com](mailto:frank.kernan@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every family experiences challenging times. Parish families are no different. We all know of Catholics separated from the church by some hurt they experienced. Advent is a time to prepare for and welcome the Prince of Peace, our time to be peacemakers.

Thank you for your generous donations of food for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

#### Christmas Schedule:

December 23rd - No Class  
Classes will resume January 6th.

Please remember in the event there is inclement weather we follow Baltimore County school policy. If schools close early we will not have Religious Education.

### Listening Session

Topic – Youth Ministry

Tuesday, Dec. 15  
Doors open at 6:30pm

7:00pm – 8:30pm Listening Session



# **Annual Penance Service**

Monday, Dec. 14 at 7pm in the Church

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# **Christmas Mass Schedule**

December 24

4pm, 7pm & 10pm (Spanish)

December 25

10am

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# **Adult Confirmation Information Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2009**

7pm

Stallings Hall

If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, then please join us for an opportunity to learn about our adult confirmation program.

The program will be 5 classes starting Wednesday, January 6 from 7 – 8pm through February 3.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Carla in the parish center on 410-687-6011, ext. 117 or [cberkenkemper@saintclare.org](mailto:cberkenkemper@saintclare.org).

Parishioners,

Below is the Statement of Income and Expense for the parish for the first four months of the 2010 fiscal year.

We shall be updating you on the parish's financial progress quarterly hereafter in the same format.

**St Clare Parish**  
**Statement of Income and Expense**  
**July to October, 2009, First four months of FY 2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
Offertory - Envelopes, Loose, Maintenance	\$147,495	\$156,113
Donations, Grant Income	12,160	3,672
Benefit Income, Net	3,522	4,100
Religious Ed, Youth, Development	5,835	9,118
Day Care	103,723	120,000
Miscellaneous, interest	250	372
Hall, Votives, Store, Catholic Review, Net	1,723	5,165
Poor Box, St Vincent de Paul, Haiti,	7,666	12,036
Archdiocese collections, Lenten Appeal	7,391	6,700
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>289,765</b>	<b>317,276</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Salaries	148,812	151,632
Employee Benefits and taxes	23,058	24,245
Facilities: Utilities, repairs, insurance, Parish Center, Rectory rehab	69,761	54,196
Administration	11,323	16,698
Worship, including Clergy	5,703	5,736
Religious Ed, Youth, Health Ministry	8,774	14,392
Day Care excluding salary	38,465	46,260
School Tuition Assistance	6,000	6,000
Archdiocese Assessment	26,000	24,396
Poor Box, St Vincent de Paul, Haiti,	6,566	12,036
Archdiocese collections, Lenten Appeal	7,391	5,400
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>351,853</b>	<b>360,991</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b><u>(62,088)</u></b>	<b><u>(43,715)</u></b>

**Notes and Explanations to help you understand the statements:**

- First, please understand that the parish had anticipated a loss of \$43,715 through October is normal. Parishes traditionally receive significant offertory donations in the Christmas and Easter seasons. However, expenses are generally incurred rather consistently throughout the year. Therefore, losses incurred early in the fiscal year are usually offset by surpluses from these two seasons.
- In the first four months of fiscal year 2010, expenses are \$9,000 below what was budgeted. Unfortunately, income was \$27,000 below budget. As a result, the parish is \$18,000 behind its projections. We are looking at ways to both reduce expenses and increase income in the rest of the year.

We welcome any suggestions or questions you may have.

Parishioners,

Below is the Statement of Income and Expense for the parish for the first four months of the 2010 fiscal year.

We shall be updating you on the school's financial progress quarterly hereafter in the same format.

**St Clare School**  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
**July to October, 2009, First four months of FY 2010**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Tuition, Assistance, Fees	\$361,587	\$360,376
Home School Assoc support	5,000	5,000
Parish Support	57,349	48,000
Gifts, Development (net)	3,861	2,582
Library (net), Commissions, Miscell.	4,175	4,789
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>431,972</b>	<b>420,747</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Salaries	137,467	138,230
Employee Benefits & taxes	55,821	52,523
Facilities	34,956	27,478
Instruction & student services	5,776	6,100
Administration	10,970	8,547
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>244,990</b>	<b>232,878</b>
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<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>186,982</b>	<b>187,869</b>

**Notes and Explanations to help you understand the statements:**

- Both expenses and income are \$12,000 above budget meaning that, net, the school is just about on target through the first third of the year.
- The \$187,000 surplus thru October was anticipated. Schools have a unique cash flow timing: over a quarter of a school's tuition is received before the school opens in September; yet teacher salaries and employee benefits, which represent 65% of the school's expenses, are incurred from September to June. Thus, if present trends continue, the surplus will gradually diminish to zero by June.

We welcome any suggestions or questions you may have.