

SJV

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH PULSE



Inside this Issue:

Valentine's	2
Fat Tuesday	2
Tuna Fish Fridays	2
Lenten Dinners	3
Heart & Soul	3
Save the Date	3
About Us	4
PL Group Info	4

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RETURN, RENEW, REJOICE—PARISH MISSION

Starting January 11, we had two Redemptorist Priests, Fr. Arturo Uribe and Fr. Tony Judge, come lead our parish in a 4 day-long Mission. We had increasingly large crowds from day to day and, from the feedback and evaluations, Fr. Tony and Fr.

Arturo did a great job in their preaching. We are most grateful for them being able to lead our parishioners through this spiritual journey. There was a reception following each session, both in the morning and evening. Each day there were volunteers from

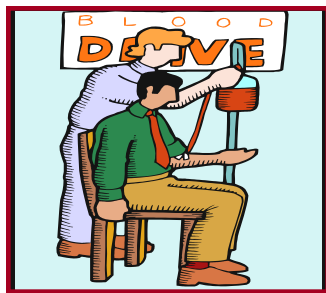
various groups and organizations of the parish who brought food and helped with the receptions. They were of great assistance to this parish-wide event. Special thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this such a wonderful experience!

“TOGETHER WE GIVE, SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE”

Semi-annually our parish holds a blood drive so that healthy men and women can provide their blood to support the community and make a much

needed contribution. The donated blood is transported to MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the participating blood bank receives credit for parishioners needing blood, which can be used at many local hospitals. On January 17, St. John Vianney hosted a blood drive and we had 120 donors give blood! People like Aviva, age 18 and fighting cancer since 2001, will receive countless transfusions as part of their treatment. “I will fight

to survive again, yet I cannot do this alone. Donors such as you are my ‘angels’. Thank you for allowing me to see another day, another sunset, another sunrise.” Sadly only about 3 out of every 100 Americans give blood, and that number is only going to change if people, like you and I, do something about it. For more information on MD Anderson and making a donation, please call (713) 792-7777 or BloodBank@mdanderson.org.



SUPER BOWL OR SUPER PARTY?!

From buffalo hot wings to spaghetti to chocolate cake, our all-you-can-eat buffet is one of the continued favorites at our annual Super Bowl Party. There was over 40 feet of various, delicious foods! We gave away more than 20 door prizes, including iTunes gift cards, restaurant gift

certificates, Super Bowl shirts, free drinks and more. Our Parish Life Committee was there all day helping setup and serve during the event. This year we also had a band, Mellow Riot, perform on the court prior to kickoff. Needless to say, with 165 people in attendance, this year was

our biggest Super Bowl Party ever, and we know next year's event will be even better!



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PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS:

JANET BARRILLEAUX
 CATHERINE CROCHET
 DAWN FRAZIER
 JULIE GRIFFY
 EDDIE & VERONICA GUERRA
 BARBARA HASSIG
 SHARON HENRY
 TAMMY HODGSON
 DOTTIE MORROGH
 DEBBIE NORIEGA
 NUZHA PETRO
 BRENDA REYES
 JENNIFER RIDER
 GREG & ROBYN STOKES
 LAURIE WIGGINS

VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE

As John Paul Young says, "Love is in the air", and needless to say, it surely was! Almost 50 couples came to the church to spend a romantic evening with their sweethearts this Valentine's Day. The Knights of Columbus were the hosts of the evening and some of the members prepared the beef tenderloin dinner

which was served. Many of the couples have been going to the Valentine's Dinner and Dance for years, because they enjoy the event year after year. Maybe it is the wonderful food that is served, or dancing the night away with the person they love? But no matter what the reason, the Valentine's Dinner and Dance was,

once again, a lovely evening for all who attended. Not only did all of the guests enjoy their night out, but the money raised at the event went to the Carmelite Nuns and the Seminarians at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. So looking back at the night, many would have to agree that "love was in the air", especially



for Roy and Dee Johnson (pictured above).

FAT TUESDAY FEAST—MARDI GRAS PARTY!!!



What better way to feast before fasting on Ash Wednesday than with free pancakes, red beans &

rice and sausage & chicken jambalaya? To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, many Christians eat pancakes, and here at St. John Vianney there were more than 200 Catholics eating free flapjacks. At lunch time, the Young Children's Program students had a parade come by the Activity Center. The kids were all singing and clapping, while throwing beads from their

wagon. The festivities continued into the evening, where guests were invited to join the parish for some good old Cajun cooking. Parish Life Committee member and parishioner, Janet Barrilleaux was very pleased with the night: "Everything was beautifully decorated. The food was fantastic! It's very nice to go to our social events

and start recognizing people, getting to know their names, etc. I feel much more connected with my church as a 'family' now." Not only was there good food catered by Ragin Cajun and fellowship among parishioners, but it was a fun time for all. Next year expect an even bigger Mardi Gras Festival on Fat Tuesday!

TUNA FISH FRIDAYS...

Last year was the start of our Tuna Fish Fridays, and it was definitely the start of yet another successful tradition here at St. John Vianney. It began with the hopes of accommodating business men and women to be able to attend 12:10 pm Mass and get something to eat during their allotted lunch break. Yet we were happy to see people of all ages enjoying the weekly event. With this Mass, followed by Stations of the Cross, people were able to stop by and grab a sack lunch to-go or dine in and enjoy the food and fellowship. Since last year our crowd continued to grow, and our weekly attendance

averaged at about 200 people. We also had the addition of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the children. Various St. Anne's members donated those as an alternative to the tuna fish. We are lucky to have had such an enthusiastic group of volunteers that committed their Friday mornings to helping prepare the tuna sandwiches and serve lunches for those six weeks during Lent. Some of those people include Janet Barrilleaux, Frank & Theresa Bramanti, Maria Brichford, Anna Diano, Brent & Julie Griffy, Paola Lancione, Nanette Nicol, Mary Royston and her daughter Rose,



Teresa Steffens and more. The lunches could not have been as successful without their generous assistance. An extended thank you to all who have participated in the lunches and we look forward to bigger and better Fridays next year!

LENTEN DINNERS

Wow!!! What a success this year's dinners have been? We have definitely made some improvements from the past. A couple years ago, parishioners may remember that we had fried or grilled fish every Friday throughout Lent. This year, we decided to continue with the same approach from last year; we had some meals that were free and others were prepared and catered by John Marion Carrabba, parishioner and owner of Piatto Ristorante. We have strived to make these dinners first-class, by making various changes such as the addition of linens and the use of real china. The time was also extended to 8:30 pm, so that guests could enjoy not only the good food, but fellowship as well. The attendance continued to grow to record highs of over 600 people at one dinner! As a parish, there was a tremendous amount of joy in seeing so many people come together. We look forward to upcoming events, with hopes of seeing just as many parishioners involved, if not more. Thank you to all who helped with the food and serving, including ACTS Retreat Team, Cub Scouts,

HEART & SOUL: FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Booker T. Washington once said, "Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." Julie and Brent Griffy were both raised to love, share and care for others, and began volunteering at a very young age. They eventually moved to Houston in 2003, where they began to raise their children, Elizabeth, Katherine and Garrick. With three children of her own, Julie devoted all of her time raising them, while Brent worked to support the family. She wanted to ensure her kids appreciated what they had and knew to always go out of their way for those less fortunate. "Can I join you today?" The kids will enthusiastically ask, on days they know she is going to be helping with Meals on Wheels or Tuna Fish Fridays. They look forward to helping their grandmother, "Mimi", in the Food Pantry, and considering they are all between the ages of five and nine, I would say they are definitely on the right path.



They quickly adapted to St. John Vianney, a much larger parish than they were used to, and searched for ways to be more engaged with the church. In September 2006, Julie and a couple other individuals wanted to start a program here at the church for guests with dementia, Alzheimer's and other disabilities. Julie unfortunately had lost her grandmother, June Steffens, to Alzheimer's, after spending much time along with her family, and the assisted living center she stayed at, taking care of her. She was familiar with the illness and wanted to do more for the sick & elderly, caregivers and her parish, and with that, The Gathering Place was founded. In addition to helping with The Gathering Place once a month, she helps with Meals on Wheels and is a member of the Parish Life Committee. Her husband and children love to help as often as their schedules allow. The children were once part of the Young Children's Program and now they attend CCE classes regularly, and Brent, who has been attending the Catholic Church with his wife and children for the past ten years, has made the decision to profess his faith and officially become Catholic. He has been attending the RCIA classes and will be confirmed in the Catholic Faith at this year's Easter Vigil Mass. Julie and Brent have also recently announced they will be the Co-Chairmen over the 2010 Fall Bazaar.

"We have really enjoyed the wonderful dinners and the chance to visit with people we know and to meet others in SJV parish. It is so well organized; we really appreciate your extra work and all of the volunteers."

~Pegge Healy

"It is really important to help others in the community and it is great meeting so many new people. Getting your children involved with the church at a young age is also very important." Julie, Brent, Elizabeth, Katherine and Garrick all enjoy giving some of their time to "lift someone else up", and they think that other parishioners should be able to experience the same joy they do. There is information on the website about various organizations and people can always call the office to inquire about ways to give of their time, talent and treasures, just as the Griffy Family so graciously does. Needless to say, they are definitely five extraordinary people we are lucky to have here at St. John Vianney!

AND OUR BEAT GOES ON...



Coffee & Donuts

1st Sunday after ALL morning Masses
Activity Center

Monthly Breakfast

3rd Sunday after ALL morning Masses
Activity Center

Party on the Lot

Friday, April 9, 7-11 pm

Houston Astros Game Bus Trip

Friday, April 23

Crawfish Boil

Saturday, May 1
Activity Center Backyard

Summer Day Camp

June 7 - August 5
Registration by appointment Starting April 6

Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

September 15-23
Registration deadline: June 1

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**“One Purpose.
One Life.
Parish Life.”**

**Newsletter
brought to you
by the Parish Life
Department**

Editor: Jaime Hassig

“One Purpose. One Life. Parish Life.”

Page 4



The role of the Parish Life Ministry is to welcome, connect and provide fellowship through special events, fundraisers, receptions and so much more. Our goal is to encourage involvement not only within the parish community but beyond our liturgies. It includes small monthly committee meetings to our well-known annual

Fall Bazaar. Parishioners who would like to get involved in parish life activities or offer new ideas can contact the Parish Life Office.

SJV POLO SHIRTS GO ON SALE APRIL 9!!!

Check out
**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
on the web!

www.stjohnvianney.org

facebook

Join our group on Facebook for the latest information on upcoming events and more!

[St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston, TX](#)

PARISH LIFE ORGANIZATIONS

50+ Singles

Annette Matherne
almatherne@comcast.net

Blood Drive

John Sullivan
jfsers@aol.com

Boy Scouts

Chuck Minero
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Cub Scouts

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Honeymooners @ Heart

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