

# SJV

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### SJV

### PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS:

RICHARD  
ARTZBERGER

JANET BARRILLEAUX  
CATHERINE CROCHET

DAWN FRAZIER

BRENT & JULIE  
GRIFFY

EDDIE & VERONICA  
GUERRA

SHARON HENRY

TAMMY HODGSON

DOTTIE MORROGH

DEBBIE NORIEGA

NUZHA PETRO

BRENDA REYES

JENNIFER RIDER

GREG & ROBYN  
STOKES

# PARISH PULSE



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## PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!!!



Paul Case, Tammy Hodgson and other parishioners dancing the night away.

What better way to celebrate the Easter Season than to gather with good company for fun and fellowship? The

first Friday following Easter, we put together a Party on the Lot, and that is exactly what it sounds like. The back parking lot was filled with hundreds of parishioners, music, dancing and

so much more. The food was catered by Pappas Company and the Parish Life Committee organized the party and

volunteers helped decorate and run the event. Adults were free to socialize and enjoy some cold drinks, while their children were able to watch a movie on the court, bounce around in the moonwalk or play games in the Youth Lounge. People were very pleased with the new social and are already asking if it will be an annual celebration.

## A RAGIN-CAJUN GOOD TIME

From April to June, crawfish is in full swing. A beautiful Saturday on the 1st of May provided SJV with the perfect day to have their first-ever Crawfish Boil. We had over 200 people join us that afternoon for finger-licking crawfish and vegetables catered by Ragin Cajun. We also had volunteers cooking hotdogs for those people who chose not to feast on those spicy, little critters. Live

entertainment was provided by the "Norman Number Band"; they did a great job and we hope to have them perform for us again in the future. Young Adults and Parish Life Committee helped with setting up tables, serving drinks and desserts and much more.

Hopefully, next year, we will have an even better turn out for the shucking and sucking of mudbugs!



Engaged couple, Jen Hassig and Mike Adams, were among the ragin crowd that Saturday afternoon.

## SUMMER CAMP FUN

Summer Camp runs over an eight-week period starting June 5 and ending August 5. The campers' ages vary from 4 to 12 year olds, with college and high school level counselors as their staff. The majority of the employees return from year to year and a lot of them actually started here as campers

themselves. It is a fun program for kids to be a part of during the summer months. They attend prayer services, study the bible, engage in music, make numerous arts & crafts projects, participate in outdoor recreation and the older kids are able to attend a variety of fieldtrips to different places, such as Splash

Town, Houston Museum of Natural Science and Kemah Boardwalk.

If you missed out on registration this year, do not forget to sign up next year. We will have information for the 2011 season around mid-April. Ask any of our campers and staff about the exciting



memories made at SJV Summer Camp. Not only do we focus on faith, but the fun and friendships that are made here will last a lifetime.

## MAYOR KICKS OFF LONG-RUNNING ALPS SEMINARS



Mayor Annise Parker kicked off the Spring 2010 SJV Adult Life Program Seminars on March 30 by describing her first three months in office and answering some pointed questions from a mature and informed crowd of about 200 west Houston residents.

Parker has been here before, as the city's controller. But she may not know the standing ovation that greeted her this time was contrived by John Coad, who helps schedule speakers for the twice-yearly ALPS.

"The word is out this is a nice

place to speak because people are intelligent and friendly," Coad said. "You all need to give her a standing ovation when she gets here. I know Mayor (Bill) White loved it, and he came back two more times after that!"

Barbara Gannon chairs the ALPS committee, which brings in six speakers in the spring and six in the fall for the seminars. Typical attendance at each program is more than 100, but the mayor usually attracts more. "About 40 percent of those who attend are from outside the parish," she said.

The seminars were started 20 years ago. "I've been coming 17 or 18 years, because they're so interesting, and you learn something new every time you come," said Jimmy Dunne.

The audience also asked about Parker's plan to increase health insurance premiums paid by city retirees who are under age 65 by

nearly 50 percent, a move she made without consulting City Council. She said "the city doesn't need to 'incentivize' early retirement. The rate increases reflect the cost to insure city employees who retire early and will save the city about \$7 million annually."

Other questions touched on Metro, the sale of the former Compaq Center to Lakewood Church, recycling, compostable bags and lights on bikes.

After the seminar, Mayor Parker met with a few of the attendees and then took a picture with some of the kids in the Young Children's Program. What a great way to start another year of ALPS! For more information, contact the committee chairman, Barbara Gannon, at (281) 497-0387.

*By Robin Foster, for the Houston Chronicle*

## HEART & SOUL: ALEX PIÑA OFF TO THE SEMINARY

“You are a Priest Forever” read the sign next to Alex Piña, at his cousin’s wedding in May 2007. His mother had taken a picture of Alex doing the reading, and later noticed the spiritual background. This is one of the more obvious “signs” that Alex noticed during his calling to the priesthood. Alex Piña is currently an employee at St. John Vianney and has been working in the Youth Formation Office since August 2007. Up until this point, Alex was in and out of jobs, and had encountered a few life-changing obstacles throughout the past few years. It was then that Alex finally felt “at home” with this job and was truly happy again. Just



three months later, Alex had the opportunity to join other parishioners on a Pilgrimage to Rome for the Consistory of the Cardinal. It was this trip that truly confirmed all of his dreams and desires of joining the priesthood. Much to Alex’s surprise, when they were there, he saw the same sign that was in the background

of that picture, “You are a Priest Forever”. Alex remembered back to his early childhood and could recall the same desires of one day becoming a priest. His mother confirmed his memories; Alex would invite his cousins, “the parishioners”, over and play “church” with him. It was April 16, 2010, when he received the call from Fr. Dat Hoang, the Vocations Director, “Good news, Alex!” After eight long months of interviews, spiritual guidance, psychological testing and much more, Alex had finally been accepted to the seminary. “Everything happens for a reason. When I look back, I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for some of the events in my life. The desire to be a priest was always there.” Alex has been more than just an employee at SJV, he has helped with Adoration, Annual Bazaar, Baptismal Prep, Catechists, FTCM, Knights of Columbus 1st Degree, Men’s ACTS and ushering. He will be heading to the St. Joseph’s Seminary in Covington, LA for his Bachelors in Philosophy, before finishing his studies at St. Mary’s back in Houston. He is very appreciative of the opportunity he was given at St. John Vianney and the chance to become something more, as a priest for the Catholic Church. We wish you well on this journey, Alex!

## ASTROS GAME BUS TRIP

“Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack, I don’t care if I never get back...” The bus pulled out of the SJV parking lot and headed to Minute Maid Park on Friday, April 23 for a baseball game between the Houston Astros and Pittsburgh Pirates. With over 70 attendees,

everyone had their fill of “all-you-can-eat” hotdogs, nachos, popcorn, peanuts and sodas. The crowd was lucky enough to see a winning game, after an unfortunate losing streak. Parishioners and friends of all ages joined in on the fun. Several fans received a free Astros blanket as they entered the park, in celebration of their 45th



Anniversary. In addition to the exciting game and endless food, the park had a spectacular fireworks show. It was like an early 4th of July! This was one event that everyone will be sure to remember.

## AND OUR BEAT GOES ON...



### Coffee & Donuts

1st Sunday after ALL morning Masses  
(Starting in October)

### Monthly Breakfast

3rd Sunday after ALL morning Masses  
(Starting in September)

### Summer Camp

June 7 - August 5

### Feast Day Celebration

August 4

### Blood Drive & Kolache Breakfast

August 15

### Steak & Lobster Dinner

August 27

### Annual Bazaar

October 10

### Monthly Parish Dinners

3rd Thursday of the Month

(Starting in September)

# SJV

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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.”**

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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.



Join our group for the latest info on events and more!  
[St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston, TX](#)



**SJV POLO SHIRTS ON SALE FOR \$25 EACH!!!**

Check out  
**ST. JOHN VIANNEY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
on the web!  
[www.stjohnvianney.org](http://www.stjohnvianney.org)

## PARISH LIFE ORGANIZATIONS

### 50+ Singles

Noel Rando  
[noelrando@sbcglobal.net](mailto:noelrando@sbcglobal.net)

### Blood Drive

John Sullivan  
[jfsers@aol.com](mailto:jfsers@aol.com)

### Boy Scouts

Chuck Minero  
[cminero@comcast.net](mailto:cminero@comcast.net)

### Cub Scouts

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### Honeymooners @ Heart

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### K of C Squires

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### St. Anne's Society

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### Women's Club

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### Young Adults

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### Young Married Couples

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