



In and Around OUR PARISH

A Newsletter for the Parish Family of The Church of St. Philip & St. James
430 South Main Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
(908) 454-0112

Visit our Parish website at: www.spsj.org

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2005

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

A woman bought a beautiful, old porcelain pitcher. It was cream colored with red and blue flowers painted delicately on its surface. It soon became one of her cherished possessions.

One day someone dropped the pitcher, breaking it into many pieces. The woman gathered the pieces together, sorted them out, and began to glue them together.

As she worked over the pitcher, she thought of how God labors over broken members of the human family. The people we write off as hopeless, God labors to restore and make beautiful again. What God does, we should do, too. Jesus tells us to watch over those who are entrusted to our care.

May our lives be one with His.

*"Be holy;
for I, the Lord,
your God,
am holy."*

Lev. 21:7

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

Reprinted from the 1989 Book from the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church

On December 1, 1886, the Sisters of Mercy from North Plainfield expressed their interest in purchasing the O'Gorman property at 518 South Main Street, which was offered for sale at \$6,000.00. Fr. (Robert Emmett) Burke was quite interested in the purchase, for he envisioned reopening the Parochial School building and staffing it with Sisters of Mercy. In 1889, St. Catherine's Academy and school were presided over by sixteen Sisters of Mercy.

St. Catherine's Academy had to be closed in 1900 due to the small number of students attending. It opened its doors once again to high school students in 1906, and classes were held there until the High School addition was added.

On the fifteenth of June, 1920, Fr. (Edward) Egan, who shortly before had been named Dean by Bishop Walsh of Trenton, was authorized to purchase for the Church Corp, the land and building adjoining the old parochial school. The Hawk property, as it was then known, was bought by Msgr. Egan for \$6,100.00 to make possible the building of a new High School and Parochial School Auditorium.

On the 15th of May, 1922, a contract calling for the renovation of the old parochial grammar school and construction of a new high school wing was awarded to Benjamin Ryman of Phillipsburg for \$115,765.00. The plans and specifications were drawn by Robert J. Reilly, architect. Construction was begun and the cornerstone laid the same year. In September 1923, the new High School with its ten new classrooms, science laboratory, and ample auditorium was ready for occupancy. From that time on, St. Catherine's Academy ceased to function as a private school.

In 1925, the parish purchased St. Catherine's Academy from the Sisters of Mercy for \$25,000.00. After extensive repairs and alterations to its interior to provide housing for the increasing number of Sisters, the double brick building at 518 South Main Street became known as St. Catherine's Convent Phillipsburg Board of Education.

Parish Mission Statement

*To love God and neighbor
by sharing our belief in
Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
through prayerful
celebration of His Sacraments,
ministering to all in need,
protecting life,
and welcoming all who come to us.*

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

Catholic Daughters year ended on June 13th when we honored the Priests of the Parish with a covered dish supper to say thank you to them for all they do for us. Let us all remember to keep Msgr. Michael, Father Chen, Father Joey, and Father Ed in our prayers.

We will be back in September for a new exciting year. All new members are welcome.



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY COMMITTEE

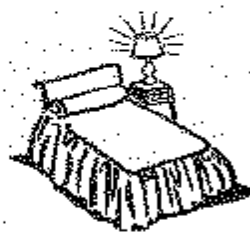
During these summer months the vacation season, let us not forget about the hungry of our community. We may be going away from this area, but the hungry remain behind. In the past, the summer collections fall way off because we all leave for a week or so for vacation. If you are going to be away on the first weekend of the month, you can bring your offerings to the Church the following week. You can leave your offerings in the bins in the vestibule of the Church. We have committee members check the bins, and they will bring the food down to Catholic Charities.



The Food for the Needy Committee will be starting to ramp up for the Thanksgiving Food Drive shortly. If anyone would like to help out with this year's food drive, you can contact Lisa Hummell at (908) 859-4374. We are in constant need of **BROWN PAPER BAGS**, so if you have any of those you can bring them in with your monthly offerings. If you have **PLASTIC BAGS**, they can be of use as well. We double bag the food, first with the brown bag and then the plastic. So whatever you have would be greatly appreciated.

If anyone has a contact as far as food donations, we would greatly appreciate it if they can contact us as far as donating food for the Thanksgiving food drive. In the past we have had the bread donated, but last year the bread company pulled out and will no longer donate. That was a big disappointment to us. We can get most of the milk donated, and we even have had shelf stable milk donated in the past. So whatever the item is, it would be greatly appreciated. Last year we had 400 families for Thanksgiving. Mercy Hall cannot accommodate anymore than that. If you have the opportunity to stop in at Thanksgiving, you can see the process that we go through to make it a nice Thanksgiving for the less fortunate.

Eva Bellfy wishes to thank all who have donated sheets, blankets, comforters and pillowcases which are distributed to the needy in the area. Freshly laundered used sheets (need not match), should be placed in plastic bags and labeled according to size (twin and full are the size most needed). Also, new pillows are needed (please leave them in the plastic bags). These items may be dropped off anytime at 534 John Mitchell Ave., Phillipsburg (rear porch) or call Eva at (908) 859-0667.



GETTING TO KNOW... Deacon John Flynn by Bill Casey

By now most of us at St. Philip & St. James, as well as other Parishes throughout the Diocese, understand and appreciate the important ministry performed by our Deacons. It also seems that this ministry has been part of our Catholic heritage and happily embraced by the church hierarchy forever. Not so, explains Deacon John Flynn. The office of Deacon, dormant for centuries, was renewed as part of the Vatican II initiatives. Shortly after the announcement of the Deaconate program, John contacted the Trenton Diocese (our diocese at the time) to inquire about candidate requirements. Slow to embrace this program or initiate a formal study process, a joint effort was launched by the Newark and Trenton Diocese in 1972. Deacon John even had to overcome some initial Parish resistance to sponsorship, eventually being sponsored by former Associate Pastor, Rev. Vince Ingleterra and Monsignor Sheehan. He became part of the initial study class, one year ahead of Deacon Jack Sheridan.

Immediately after his ordination on May 14, 1974, Deacon John took on several important assignments in addition to his Parish duties, which included being our Parish representative to the now defunct Phillipsburg Area Council of Churches, promoting ecumenical programs, coordinating the high school baccalaureate and establishing the Catholic Charities food pantry. In addition, he faithfully performed Parish duties, which included baptisms, marriage ceremonies, funerals and one of his favorite assignments, teaching the RCIA program.

Born and raised in Phillipsburg, John has three brothers and three sisters all of whom attended St. Philip & St. James Elementary and High School, where he graduated in 1954. Although he thought about becoming a priest, he entered the Navy after graduation. After completing two years of peacetime duty, he returned home and started working as a cook for legendary caterer, Art Tron. In 1959 he married his wife Florence, and they are now blessed with three sons (Edward, Thomas and Brian) and seven grandchildren.

Shortly thereafter, John joined Ingersoll Rand and was employed there in the heat treat department from 1960 till 1983. During his tenure, he was an active union representative and instrumental in the formation of the IRCO credit union, serving on its Board of Directors and loan committee for many years.

John said that the Deaconate has allowed him to enjoy raising a family and still serve the Lord in a higher capacity. "Early on it was quite a sacrifice to work full time, raise a family, take care of a household and fulfill the obligations of the ministry." He said, "It's been a humbling experience serving the Parish as Deacon because I've met and helped numerous loving and compassionate people." He added "I've always enjoyed helping and caring for other people. In some small way my ministry is the hand of the Lord at work to buffer the needs of the church today."

John's vision of the deaconate is that it will continue to grow in importance in the future, as fewer priests are ordained. "With fewer priests available, deacons, along with other lay people, may someday be required to run Parishes on a day-to-day basis, perhaps similar to the early pioneer days when priests visited Parishes once a week just to say Mass." He concluded that, "All Parishioners will need to take on more responsibilities out of necessity."

Our "teacher-preacher" and trailblazing first permanent deacon at St. Philip & St. James concluded by saying, "I've thoroughly enjoyed working with our Pastor, Monsignor Corona, watching him transform our liturgy with his innovative leadership." I'm sure that all our Parishioners are thankful for the deaconate program and, in particular, the good example Deacon Flynn shows us all as he goes about being a true servant of Jesus.



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SCHOOL

SAINTS Philip & James Elementary School

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Although physically located a few miles from the Church, SAINTS Philip & James Catholic Elementary School or SSPJ is just a prayer away from the Parish site proper and always grateful for the strong family heritage.

So what's new and exciting in the halls of SSPJ for the 2005-06 school year?

After an outstanding year of academic scoring on our Terra Nova Standardized tests in which the children achieved advanced proficiency and proficiency in multiple subject areas, we will continue to offer our strong core curriculum, plus, Physical Education, Technology, Music and Art. Our faculty and staff consist of dedicated lay people and caring Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Each year we add a new focus or dimension to our curriculum and/or teaching methodologies. Education is an on going discovery of how best to prepare our children for the evolving world in which they need to function. The world is dynamic and through Christ, we must be dynamic within it!

Here are some examples:

- In various grades, our student's have an opportunity to choose between two languages, German and Spanish and learn in a well-equipped language lab
- Junior High Students (grades 6-8) may choose, twice a week, electives – Algebra, Dance/aerobic, Advanced Music, German, Yearbook, Reading Circle, Practice Math, Practice Language Arts, Spanish, 3D Art, Scientific Forensics and Public Speaking.
- Our computer lab has planned six distance-learning experiences, i.e. virtual field trips, for the 2005-06 school year.
- Our award-winning enrichment program supports a revival of geography that has brought diversity and peace projects to our school community through the experience of Africa, the Pacific Rim; the Southern Hemisphere; South America and for this year, Western Europe. Our children, faculty and staff have learned so many life lessons from these extensive travels.
- We are bringing the **National Junior Honor Society** to our 6th, 7th and 8th graders this year so that the importance of leadership continues to grow for these young adults.
- *PowerSchool* is here!! Although much of our records and information has been computerized over the last years, we have now switched to *PowerSchool* which will give us tremendous computer capability and interactive status. *PowerSchool* is a Power House!!!!
- Our library is going to be aligned with our technological rebirth in *PowerSchool*.
- Writing has become a subject of tremendous magnitude. It is critical in the application of information and the sharing of personalized information.
- We have added writing classes to our repertoire of classroom assignments in which the children will extend their regular classroom lessons to enhance their writing ability.

We are passionate about our faith, our educational processes and our life long learners. And we are so fortunate to be a thriving part of the Parish of St. Philip and St. James

NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SCHOOL
SAINTS Philip & James Elementary School



SSPJ GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER... SCRIP !



We will be starting our Parish Scrip Program the second weekend of September. The program is the opportunity for Parish members to purchase gift cards to several different grocery, retail stores, and restaurants the second and fourth weekend of the month after each Mass. Participating in the program does not cost anything extra for the Parish member and just a moment of your time serves towards an excellent SSPJ student fundraiser.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help sell Scrip after one Mass for 20 minutes. If you are interested, please contact Monika Hilliard at (610) 923.0626.


**80 YEARS OF COMBINED DEDICATED SERVICE
 IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

Retiring after many years of teaching and teaching assistance at SSPJ:

Mrs. Carol Borden Mrs. Diana Fitzmaurice Mrs. Nancy Sciascia

We thank you for your years of caring and sharing with our Catholic School children. Your consistent love, professionalism and friendship, with us and Christ, resulted in the riches of learning and memories. We salute your efforts and hope you enjoy your retirement! **GOD BLESS YOU!**

SSPJ will be holding a Barnes & Noble Fundraiser in the Fall. Please watch the Church bulletin for more information and help support our Catholic elementary school!



JOIN US FOR OUR BASKET BONANZA!

Mark your calendars for Friday night, October 29th, for an evening of fun, tricky trays, raffles and bingo games!



SAINTS Philip & James School will be holding their 3rd annual Basket Bonanza in the gym at the Roseberry Street campus. Come out with a group of friends and try your luck at winning a basket or two! Over 30 Longaberger® baskets will be awarded as part of the evening's bingo games, tricky tray and raffles. Watch for more information on this upcoming event!



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

As the summer heats up, we look back on the spring... the Knights raised over \$3,000 for the Warren County ARC and other programs for the developmentally disabled during the annual "Tootsie Roll" drive this past April. The Knights also continue to support two Soldiers in Iraq through the "Adopt a Soldier" program through which packages of needed items such as batteries and sun block are collected and shipped to the Troops. The Knights are actively supporting the Pro-Life efforts of Life Choices, Inc and the Parish Celebrate Life Committee through active participation in renovations at Life Choices and praying the Rosary at the abortion clinic.

The Knights participated in Phillipsburg's annual Olde Towne Festival by selling sausage sandwiches and in Lopatcong Day by selling sausage sandwiches and hot dogs as fundraisers. Please plan on coming to the annual Pancake Breakfast on September 12, 2005, from 7:30am to 11:30am. Proceeds from the breakfast fund the Parish bus to the Right to Life March in January.

The Knights are always looking for good men to join our efforts. For further information, call Ed Hickey at (908) 213-1523.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Parish hosts Bingo Games in Mercy Hall each week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Volunteers are needed for shifts that average 3 to 3.5 hours between 6:00 and 10:00pm once every four weeks for positions such as kitchen duty, call back, pay master and game caller.



Parishioners, Alumni, school families, grandparents and even teams of friends are encouraged to come out together to volunteer. There is specific need for volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with a few Saturday positions also open. 'On the job' training is available!

For more information on any of these volunteer opportunities... please call Jann at the Church Office (908) 454-0112.

THE OVER 50'S CLUB

The Over 50's Club had a very busy Spring and lots more coming during the Summer season.

We went to Lily Langtry in March, King Henry's at the Fernwood resort in the Poconos in April, Doolan's at Spring Lake in May and also had a Mass and luncheon in memory of our deceased members.

In June, we went to the American Music Theater at Hershey.

On July 21 we went to The Tides in North Haledon, NJ for a Bob Hope tribute - "Thanks for the Memories." Our annual picnic was held on July 27 at Flynn's on the Hill Pavilion with lots of food, games, and prizes.

On August 31 we will go to the Wayne Manor in Wayne, New Jersey for a "Tribute to Mario Lanza."

On September 15 we will go to Erie Trackside Manor to see "Legendary Performers."

In October we are scheduled for an overnight trip to Atlantic City and much more before the year is out.

Thanks so much to Rose Bladies and Ann Pizzari for all the work they do arranging all these wonderful shows, dinners and trips.

We are in the process of assigning a new membership officer, but in the meantime, you can contact Betty Dugan at (908) 454-6520 if you are interested in joining the Over 50's Club.

"Meals-On-Us" SOUP KITCHEN



The Soup Kitchen is relocating to Mercy Hall! Contractors are in the process of renovating the kitchen to bring everything up to code so we can serve the less fortunate in our community in need food.

There will be a notice in the Church bulletin when the kitchen reopens. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie Stefano at (908) 859-6580.

SPOTLIGHT ON: SPSJ Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

The Church of Saint Philip and Saint James is the sponsor and home to Unit 50 of the Boy Scouts of America. Unit 50 consists of Boy Scout Troop 50 and Cub Scout Pack 50.

CUB SCOUTS Pack 50 is a group of fun loving Cub Scouts and their parents and Den Leaders who learn valuable skills and lessons in areas such as safety, citizenship and camping and who participate in many fun events year-round. This year's Cub Pack 50 events included summer day camp, summer overnight camping, a summer picnic, official on the field color guard at the Somerset Patriots baseball game, visit to a pumpkin patch and overnight camping at Lehigh University with tickets to the Lehigh Mountainhawks football game. Community projects include Scouting for Food, where scouts help collect food from area residents, Christmas caroling at our area nursing homes, and book collection where Scouts turn in gently used books for area children. Cub Scouts also participated in flag ceremonies honoring Veterans Day and Memorial Day and marched in the Memorial Day Parade. Other fun events include the annual Raingutter Regatta where Scouts make their own boats to race in a track made from a raingutter, the Pinewood Derby where Scouts make race cars to race down a super fast track and the Yukon Gold Rush where scouts have an outdoor field day in the cold weather of January!

Cub Scout Pack 50 also holds a grand celebration every year called the Blue & Gold where they celebrate their achievements and graduate older Webelos Scouts from Pack 50 into the Boy Scouts of Troop 50 or the Troop of their choice. Cub Pack 50 Scouts are organized into Dens. First graders are Tiger Cubs, second graders are Wolves, third graders are Bears, fourth graders are first year Webelos and fifth graders are second year Webelos. Dens meet several times per month and work on fun activities together. The entire Pack comes together on the first Tuesday of the month for a fun-filled meeting.

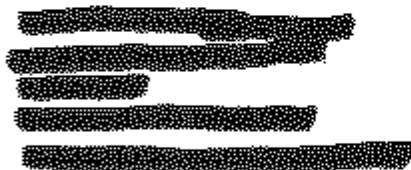
For more information on the Cub Scouts, please contact Ed Socci, Cubmaster of Cub Pack 50, at (908) 859-6064.

BOY SCOUTS The SPSJ Troop 50 Boy Scouts have had a great year. The Troop is growing significantly, with a roster of roughly 20 Scouts, and we have a new Eagle Scout (the highest Achievement in Scouting!). We are a very active camping Troop, with camping & hiking outings every month. We are also active in the local SSPJ area with several community service projects such as "SSPJ Carnival Cleanup" & "Phillipsburg's Movies in the Park". This summer, the senior Scouts are headed to the Adirondacks for a very exciting week of camping near Lake Placid, Fort Ticonderoga, & Ausable Chasm (really beautiful locations!). The newer Boy Scouts are headed to Settler's Scout Camp in the Poconos, where they will also have a fun-filled week of outdoor activities such as archery, fishing & boating. Look for our recruitment effort at the start of the school year!



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IN AND AROUND OUR PARISH

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SPSJ OLDTIMERS' SOFTBALL LEAGUE



This summer celebrates the 30th season of the Oldtimers Softball League.
It is hard to believe that... 30 years ago the league was formed
and is still going strong today!



The regular season began on July 5th and runs through August 19th. The play-offs will run the week of August 22nd and conclude with the Championship Game on August 28th at 2:00 PM on the SSPJ upper field.

I would like to take this opportunity to "Thank" Monsignor Corona and the Parish of St. Philip & St. James for their continued support and use of the Parish fields. I would like to thank all past captains and commissioners over the past 30 years for their hard work in making the league what it is today. I would also like everyone to know that we will be holding a special ceremony prior to the start of the Championship Game to honor the original captains and also all past commissioners of the league. I will be contacting each of you by phone to give you the details. If you would like more information on the league, please do not hesitate to call me, John O'Neil, at (610) 250-6403.

All games are played Monday through Thursday evenings during the months of July and August on the grounds of SAINTS Philip & James Catholic Elementary School on Roseberry Street. Please feel free to stop by and watch a night of softball!