



# St. Mary Family Newsletter

September 11, 2009

## Calendar of Events

### September

- 19 & 20 Bake Sale
- 20 Religious Ed Begins
- 28 Undy Sunday starts for School

### October

- 3 CCW Fall Coffee  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 3 & 4 Undy Sunday
- 4 Donut Sunday
- 11 CCW Meeting  
after 9:00 Mass
- 12 Columbus Day  
No School
- 25 All Souls Book of  
Remembrance
- 25 Night at the Races
- 31 Appetizer Pot  
Luck after 4:15 Mass  
for Father Tri Instal-  
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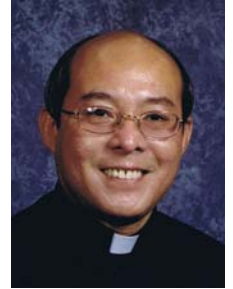
### November

- 1 All Saints Day  
Donut Sunday
- 2 All Souls Day
- 7 Harvest Festival  
& Craft Fair
- 10 Parent Teacher  
Conferences

## Get To Know the New Pastor...

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Three months ago Bishop J. Peter Sartain appointed me as the seventh pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Park Forest. I introduced myself at all the Masses on the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. I feel that many people still don't know much about me, so I will introduce myself to you again in this newsletter.



I was born in South Vietnam during the war. I grew up foreseeing no future for all of the young boys, and seeing many dead bodies being carried through the village, I thought to myself that sooner or later I will end up like these soldiers. I will most likely be drafted, sent out to the battlefield and die, so I decided that life is too short and I should just have fun. More interested in having fun, I did not pay much attention to education.

In 1975, when the communists from North Vietnam took over South Vietnam, they closed all the schools and churches, and sent all the priests and former soldiers to re-education camps. I became a fisherman, working with my father to help with my family's income. Fishing in Vietnam is a hard job, not a sport.

As I was sleeping on the front section of my father's boat out in middle of the sea on the night of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, I heard the sound of an engine getting louder and louder. When I heard the people on the other boat begging for supplies, my instincts told me that this boat is escaping the country to find freedom. Without a second thought, I jumped over to the other boat and hid in front section of the boat. When morning came, many people in that boat were surprised because they did not know where I had come from, but it was too late to send me back.

There were 37 people on that boat, including women and children. We were at sea for 3 days and 4 nights, and we faced many challenges during those days. Finally, we were rescued by a cargo ship from England, and they brought us to an island southeast of Malaysia called Brunei. I lived there for 7 months and was then adopted by a family from De Pere, Wisconsin. I lived with them for 6 months, and then moved to Glendale Heights, Illinois to be near the Vietnamese community. I went to school while working part-time so I could help my family in Vietnam.

I graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology with an engineering degree and worked for several companies. During this time, I sponsored my family to come to the United States and it took about 13 years to get my family to this country. They came in the winter of 1995.

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## Get To Know the New Pastor...Continued

In 1998, I made a phone call to the vocation office (still today I ask myself why I made that phone call to become a priest, when I had a good job and a girlfriend). I guess that this is the plan that God has for me.



I quit my job, and, saying goodbye to my family and my girlfriend, I headed to Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corner, Wisconsin. It took me 4 years in formation, but finally I was ordained as a priest by Bishop Imesch in June, 2002. My first assignment was at St. Mary of Gostyn in Downers Grove as a parochial vicar. I was there for 5 years, and then I was transferred to St. Isidore in Bloomingdale for 2 years. Last June, Bishop Sartain appointed me to be the seventh pastor of St. Mary Parish in Park Forest. I still consider myself to be a rookie as a priest and a pastor, so I feel that I have a lot of things to learn. I ask you for your prayers and your patience.

As your new pastor, I would like to invite all the baptized to come together to worship the Lord. God grants us many blessings in our daily lives, and in return we need to sing His glory in praise and thanksgiving. My focus in this parish is to bring spiritual life to everyone who proclaims to believe in God. I would love to see you every weekend at Mass. May God Bless you all. Peace in Christ,

Fr. Tri

### Homebound Helpers Ministry

Helpers are available to assist those parishioners who are temporarily homebound perhaps due to an illness or injury. One may need assistance with light chores, running errands, etc. If you or someone you know would benefit from this type of assistance, please call Tony or Bonny Vallone at 747-3877.



### School News

St. Mary School opened its doors for the 2009-2010 school year on August 27. After much planning and reorganization, the school has moved to split levels at the first through eighth grades. Pre-school and Kindergarten remain as individual classes. As of this writing, our school enrollment is at 126. We look forward to a productive and challenging school year.

### Religious Education

Religious education classes for grades 1-8 for the 2009-2010 academic year will begin on September 20<sup>th</sup> and will take place from 10:00-10:55 on Sunday mornings. Registration forms are in the vestibule.

My hope is that this year of catechetical instruction will be one which "enlightens and strengthens the faith, nourishes life according to the spirit of Christ, leads to intelligent and active participation in the liturgical mystery and gives motivation for apostolic activity," (#4 Declaration on Christian Education, Vatican II). I look forward to working with the volunteer teachers and students as we pursue these goals, making the Church's faith and liturgy more meaningful for our children.

Aaron Canty



# Music Ministry



God gives each of us a unique call to serve in the world, and each one of us is called to pray with dedication at Mass: "...the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs...And at the proper times all should observe a reverent silence." (#30 *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II*) I thank God as I hear the voices lifted in song each week at the Saturday Vigil; I especially commend everyone for so quickly picking up the new Mass parts. The times of silence at Mass also help us to meditate more on the Scriptures, Father Tri's good words, God's gift of the Eucharist, and what God is calling us to do as we go out into the world.

If you enjoy singing during Mass, perhaps you are called to help lead song along with the many dedicated singers at St. Mary's, or to fill in for them during times that they are ill or out of town. I encourage you to ask God if He is calling you to help lead song at Mass, either by cantoring or in a choir. If you would like to help but have concerns, please bring them up. You could talk with any of the musicians after weekend Mass, or call me at 228-5592.

Fr. Tri also has requested that musicians help those mourning at funerals: by simply being present, by helping them to pray the Mass, and by leading hymns. Many requested hymns are traditional melodies that many people know. Humming tunes to new songs we've recently heard also can bring joy. Please contact me if you are interested in serving in this way as your schedule allows.

Karen Canty

## Education Committee

The Education Committee met on August 18, 2009 to review the 2009 - 2010 school budget with regards to the current enrollment status at St. Mary School. The numbers are promising; however, the committee agreed that several criteria must be met in order for the school to operate on a sound fiscal basis for the year.

1. The more students enrolled the greater the amount of tuition revenue that will come in. Recruitment is essential even after the school year begins.

2. The school needs an increase in students in the pre school program and grades K - 2, particularly in preschool and kindergarten as these grades help to introduce students and their families into our school.

3. A minimum of \$65,000.00 must be raised for the general fund through various fund raising means during the 2009 - 2010 school year. This does not include any fund raisers operated for athletics, student council or the parish unless otherwise indicated, (i.e. Partners in Education). It should be noted that within its own budget the Parish gives \$13,000.00 per month to the school to help defray a portion of the operating expenses.

Since the number of students has continued to increase since the August 18 meeting, there will be a joint School Board and Education Committee meeting held in September to reassess the status of the budget and enrollment. Information from that meeting will be included in the next newsletter.





**COME JOIN US**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**"ST. MARY, A NIGHT AT THE RACES"**

**BALMORAL RACE TRACK**

**DINNER: 5:30 pm RACING STARTS: 6:30 pm**

**\$20.00 PER PERSON.....FREE PARKING**

**FOR TICKETS: CALL SCHOOL OFFICE AT 708-748-6686**

**AFTER MASS- TICKETS AT FUNDABILITY TABLE  
CALL- ALAN BARTELS AT 708-672-5935**



## St. Mary Parish & School Auction

Fr Tri and John Prevost would like to have our third auction to raise money for the school. The last auction raised over \$40,000. The date has not been selected, but we are looking at either March or April of 2010. In order for this to be successful we need volunteers. There are four committees:

A committee to secure the auction items - We need about fifteen volunteers  
Dinner committee - We need about five volunteers  
Raffle ticket committee - We need about three volunteers  
Advertising committee - We need two or three volunteers.

The responsibilities of the solicitation committee are:

Mail out letters and follow up with a phone call  
Pick up the items  
Store them until auction  
Combine the items to be used in silent auction  
Prepare the booklet with the items listed and numbered  
Prepare the bid sheets  
Set up the afternoon of the auction  
Provide cashiers the night of the auctions.

Raffle Committee:

Order & keep track of ticket sales  
Host the drawing the night of the auction

Dinner Committee:

Locate Site (Able to accommodate about 175 people along with tables for auction items  
Invitations- mail out and keep track of reservations -arrange table seating  
Decorations  
Assign paddle numbers-  
Handle balloon sale  
Auctioneer for live items

Advertising:

Advertise the auction to the Parish, School and Community



We will be holding a meeting the last week of September to firm up the details. If you would like to be part of the auction, please contact Alan Bartels at 708-672-6644 or 708-672-5935. We need your help.