

# The Good News

of St. Rose of Lima Church

950 W. Market St., York, PA 17401

Spring 2009

## News and notes

Did you notice? We used biodegradable take-out containers and drinking cups at the Lenten Seafood Dinners. They are made from sugar cane, a renewable resource. The products are 100% compostable and will disintegrate in 30 to 45 days.

A special thanks to the Strathmeyer family for initiating our Christmas tree voucher program. St. Rose realized a profit of \$380.31 from people buying trees and wreaths at one of the Strathmeyer outlets.

Thanks to all those who cleaned out their jewelry boxes for our Cash For Gold program. St. Rose received \$616.74 for your efforts. Small efforts reap big rewards.

Our Christmas Festival in November was an overwhelming success. Thanks to all who attended and helped to raise more than \$6,000 for our Building for the Future project. Bingo and the silent tree auction were extremely popular.

A special thanks to Karen Toren and Kim Ferguson for chairing this event and to all who helped to make it a success.

Did you know that St. Rose has an active prayer chain? It is coordinated by Sally Brady with Charlotte Valenti assisting. To become part of the chain or to add a name for prayer, contact Charlotte at 764-3917.

## Wired and almost ready at St. Rose

The idea for St. Rose of Lima School's technology campaign was Norm Basso's. Although Norm's children are out of St. Rose School, Norm and his wife, Tina, St. Rose School's music teacher, knew that the school computer system was outdated and not able to meet the daily needs of the children, teachers and staff.

After a professional assessment of the school's technology, upgrades were estimated at \$25,000. Volunteers were sought to form a committee. The Wired for Success name was chosen by students. In December, the committee began setting goals for fundraising and securing hardware, software and infrastructure for the computer lab.

Financial contributions to the project by the parish community, school families and St. Rose students total \$20,011.48 as of March 31.

"I thought it would take two years to raise the \$25,000, and here we are four months into it at \$20,000. That's the wow factor for me!" Norm said.

Wendy Brauer, the fundraising chairperson, recognized students in pre-k through sixth grade who have collected change that helped put the total above \$20,000. "We wanted the children from the school to participate in raising funds for the upgrade of their own computer lab," Wendy noted.

About 25 people make up the WfS committee. Michelle Legacy heads the Technology Committee and reports on what the computer lab currently has. Two committee members, both new St. Rose School parents, climbed into the school's rafters to find where the wiring leads. Two committee members who are Microsoft employees have used their company contacts to acquire Microsoft matching funds toward the purchase of Microsoft products.

A committee project team has interviewed

staff and teachers such as computer teacher and committee member Pete McGowan to determine the best educational software for students and collaborative applications for teachers and administrators. Installation of all hardware and software is expected this spring. The new server, computer imaging and internet security system will be complete before the end of the school year. Students will be able to use the computer lab for class work while the system upgrade is under way.

The committee thanks the parish and school community for giving generously of their time, talents and resources to Wired for Success, which will have a major impact on the school's future. Norm Basso first credits the dedication of the WfS committee.

"They got it done, and went to the next level. Secondly, I am really excited about the response to the project from the church community and the parents and students of St. Rose School," he said.

A WfS fundraiser, the "Wired For Murder" mystery dinner, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the parish center. Contact Wendy Brauer at 767-1588 or [wendybrauer@comcast.net](mailto:wendybrauer@comcast.net) to get involved.

If your employer offers matching funds, or for more information about Wired for Success, please contact St. Rose of Lima School at 792-0889 or email [prizzuto@stroseschoolpa.org](mailto:prizzuto@stroseschoolpa.org) or call Norm Basso at 764-1312. Donation checks should be made payable to St. Rose of Lima School and include a note in the memo line indicating Wired for Success. Contributions can be sent to the school at 115 N. Biesecker Road, Thomasville, PA 17364.

*Shari Gordon*

# Communion prep links pupils and church

On April 18, 55 young people from St. Rose received their First Eucharist in a parish celebration. Ten others took part in the Easter vigil.

Ellen Burns, a second-grader at St. Rose School, had been walking up the aisle with her parents and older brother and sister for six years, waiting for her turn. Now she looked forward to receiving Jesus' body and blood herself.

"She feels closer to us and closer to the parish," said her father, John, before Ellen's first Communion. "We are so excited for Ellen."

Having started at St. Rose School in preschool and learning her prayers early, Ellen said she feels an appreciation for her religion and school.

Madison Deller, a second-grader at Trimmer Elementary School in West York, also looked forward to joining her parents and sister as they all received Communion.

"She is excited about being able to participate more in the Mass," said her mother, Carol. As part of the religious education program, Madison attended classes in the parish center on Wednesday evenings.

The Burns and Deller families participated in the retreat days for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. There, the St. Rose School and public school students came together for shared activities and prayer.

Carol Deller said the retreat days were a good chance for discussions with her daughter. There also were weekly homework assignments.

"It was a nice day, and Madison said



Ellen Burns and her parents, John and Tammy, participate in the First Reconciliation retreat at St. Rose.

she had fun," Carol noted.

Many parents face challenges in getting their children engaged in Mass. As they begin to participate in the sacramental life of the church, their preparation for Communion makes it more interesting and helps children learn more about their faith.

Second-graders also begin to participate in the Mass as readers, which provides them with a valuable opportunity. As a catechist for the kindergarten class on Sunday mornings, Carol Deller said it is important for her daughters to see her helping, too.

"Hopefully, this will start them on the

right path now so they will continue to be involved," she said.

Both families agree that the process this year has allowed them to identify more strongly with the parish.

"It has enriched our life," John Burns said. "It gives us a sense of community, of friends and time spent with others."

As these young people take this next step into the church with their families by their side, the St. Rose parish family will continue to pray for them and welcome them into Communion with us.

*Tricia Manning and Kathy Carlisle*

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## E-tithing: a new way to support the church

Electronic tithing (e-tithing) is an electronic transfer of money from your bank account directly to the church's account. It works the same as other electronic payments you might have set up to be paid from your checking or savings account.

Automatic giving helps the church to better plan for expenses and to budget accordingly. This method of giving allows you to support the church and its programs even when you are on vacation or cannot attend Masses.

Nineteen families now use e-tithing. The process is simple. Fill out an e-tithing form from the parish office. Indicate the amount to be deducted and whether you want weekly or monthly deductions. Return the form to the office or drop it in the offertory basket, along with either a voided check or savings deposit slip with your account number.

Within two weeks the process is in place. Your tithing amount can be changed by re-submitting an e-tithing form.

We recognize that parishioners might wish to indicate their stewardship through the regular Sunday offering. Therefore, the church will continue to send weekly offering envelopes to homes.

If you have questions about e-tithing, please call Cathy Hartzell at the parish office, 846-4935.

*Anita Webb*

# Joining church at Easter proves special

Steve Grove looked forward to the Easter vigil. He and 15 other candidates from St. Rose of Lima entered into full communion with the Catholic Church at that time. Steve can relate to the experience because he came through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in 2005.

"Easter is a beautiful time," he said as he reflected on the vigil and the preparation that led up to it. He especially enjoys the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election held at the Cathedral Parish in Harrisburg with Bishop Kevin Rhoades.

"There were 500 people at the Rite of Election this year. That is great," he said.

During the Rite of Enrollment, typically celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, each candidate publicly expresses his or her conversion of heart, mind and spirit to the Christian teachings of faith and charity. We also celebrate a Rite of Sending as the candidates go to the bishop for their admission to the final period of preparation for the Sacraments.

After this step, candidates are known as "the elect."

Since entering the church, Steve has become an active parishioner at St. Rose.

"Everything really opened up from there," he said. Steve enjoys doing things around the church. He has joined the Knights of Columbus and remains active with the RCIA process.

"I've been a sponsor a couple of times," he explained. "Being a sponsor, you grow with the person you are sponsoring. There are different things you pick up with the same presentation you hear many times."

RCIA classes are held on Wednesday evenings from September through April. Steve said he thinks many parishioners would enjoy the classes — especially "cradle Catholics" — because they are a chance to have a spiritual awakening as an adult. He also would like to see more people willing to be sponsors for those who enter the process but might not know anyone at church.

"Most people think they are not worthy, but that is not an excuse," he said. He welcomes parishioners to contact him if they are interested in serving in this capacity.

"I have to thank my wife, Alexa, for all of this," Steve said. Calling spouses the "best recruiters," Steve said that by

watching Alexa, he grew to realize he was missing something and maybe should look into joining the church. "The Spirit used her to get to me," he said.

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St. Rose also welcomes these adults into the church this Easter season: Jennifer Akattor, Charles Annand, Darryl Bates, Shonda Billet, Everett Bryant, Darlene Channell, Adrian Clayton, Carol Cousins, Judy DeVore, David Keiser, John Kohl, Sherrie Lang, Tracey Lawruk, Jeff Lowe and David Miller. Four young people also will be welcomed through the RCIA for children: Cordell Cassup-Armstrong, Seth Keiser, Skylar Keiser and Mark Prusakowski.

*Kathy Carlisle*

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# Sister Jane finds fulfillment in sharing gifts

Sister Jane Keller SSJ joined the St. Rose Parish staff in July 1994. She is a native of Gettysburg and a graduate of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown.

She has taught in the Allentown, Harrisburg and Wilmington, Del., dioceses and the Philadelphia and Washington archdioceses.

The Sisters of St. Joseph were among her favorite teachers and role models throughout her early years. No wonder then that she should so readily answer God's call to join them in ministry and mission more than four decades ago.

Sister Jane's greatest joy is to experience Christian community while attending to her ministry. Living with her SSJ sisters enhances that desire on a daily



basis. Together they live out their charism of unity and reconciliation to the best of their ability and invite associates to join them in their efforts.

Sister Jane said she can't begin to imagine a more fulfilling, viable or rewarding lifestyle in company with others who share a vision while desiring to share their gifts and talents for the sake of the Gospel.

Sister Jane said she considers it a privi-

lege to be in ministry at St. Rose. The generosity and goodness of the people of St. Rose continue to inspire her.

Walking with our youth and their families through faith formation and Sacrament preparation and celebration renews her. Co-laboring with catechists, team members and volunteers energizes her.

The image of a bouquet of flowers being given and received holds significant meaning for Sister Jane as she paradoxically wonders so often who is giving and who is receiving.

*Becky Caldwell*

# Pat Drawbaugh remains an inspiration through award

Pat Drawbaugh was Sister Jane Keller's predecessor as director of religious education at St. Rose of Lima Church. Pat was born in 1951 in Uniontown and graduated from California University of Pennsylvania.

She moved to York after she and Rod Drawbaugh married. They raised two daughters.

After being hired at St. Rose in the 1980s, Pat dedicated herself to preparing children and their parents for the Sacraments. She was hard-working and so full of life. Parish historian Damian Deller said that Pat fervently believed that the foundation of faith was stronger than any physical foundation supporting any structure.

Pat served the parish for more than 15 years before succumbing to breast cancer. A memorial scholarship was started

so that she could continue to serve God and the members of our parish.

The Patricia Drawbaugh Memorial Scholarship was established in 1996. Nearly 100 students have been recipients of this scholarship in the hope that they will become thriving, contributing members of their church and community.

The scholarship is co-sponsored by our Knights of Columbus chapter. Many of the recipients have continued to be integral parts of the St. Rose community.

Pat Drawbaugh's dedication to service has been instilled into many of us. Her legacy lives on as we look back on her teachings and the many ways she influenced members of the church.

*Deb Clineburg*

## Mark your Calendar

**May 2 - 11:30 a.m.**

St. Rose School Open House followed by Steven Courtney Band family concert at noon (free/goodwill offering) and pizza lunch

**May 3 - 4 p.m.**

St. Rose Athletic Association Sports Banquet. RSVP Laura Nattans, 767-9912 or 891-1858

**May 28 - 11 a.m.**

Pre-K Moving-On ceremony  
**6 p.m.** Kindergarten Moving-On ceremony. Both at St. Rose of Lima School

**June 4 - Sixth-grade Moving-On ceremony at St. Rose of Lima Church**

**June 5 - Last day of classes at St. Rose School**

### St. Rose of Lima Communications Committee

Becky Caldwell  
Kathy Carlisle  
Deb Clineburg  
Jane Dennis  
Shari Gordon  
Robin Lookinbill  
Tricia Manning  
Deb Wagner  
Anita Webb  
Father Thomas Hoke