

October 11, 2009

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997  
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

[www.stjohnvianneyparish.org](http://www.stjohnvianneyparish.org)

## Hand Shaking

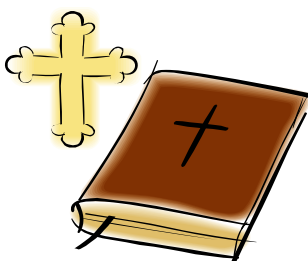
We recently held an Usher meeting and the topic of hand shaking by the Ushers was raised. The main concern was about how we handle the threat with the Swine Flu and other contagious diseases. I believed we may have been approaching this issue from the wrong side. I recommended to all the Ushers to shake hands but ultimately to follow their own conscience in this matter.

Really the issue of contagious diseases should be handled by the parishioners. If you believe you are sick, going to be sick or been sick recently please do not shake hands. By shaking hands with the Ushers you are making them carriers of your disease. If you are worried for your own health then follow this same practice of not shaking hands. During this discussion I like the recommendation of one of our wiser Ushers, "Use common sense!!" During the time that you are contagious just keep your germs to yourself. If you desire to shake hands and are not certain on your status, simply use sanitizer wipes before and after shaking hands.

My personal preference is to shake hands and let God sort it out. I do not want to imagine a world in which we are afraid to touch our fellow parishioners. A world in which each person lives in their own bubble for the sake of prolonging their physical life while corrupting their religious life. The worst that can happen is that we die and does not that happen to us all in the end? But for short periods or if dictated by the church I will refrain from hand shaking to allow for the general health of all parishioners during outbreaks of contagious diseases.

This same guideline extends to the saying of "Our Father" and giving peace. No one will be offended if you keep your hands to yourself and simply offer the sign of peace during your sickness. God Bless. Go forth and be healthy.

Carl E Beyer



### Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

### Holy Masses

Saturday .....4:00PM

Sunday.....8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

### Sacrament of Confession

Saturday ..... 3:00-3:45PM

### Upcoming Events

1st Sunday of every month..... Food Collection for St. Felix Pantry

## St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Distribution, Saturday, November 21, 2009

Once again, SVdP, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, is relying on your help to make this project the success it has always been. On Saturday, October 17, SVdP will begin collecting non-perishable food items for this event. Suggestions include stuffing mix, instant potatoes, gravy mix, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables and canned pumpkin. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity. If you can volunteer to help or need more information, please call the SVdP office at 892-0526.



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One Sunday, a priest decided to skip church and go hunting in the neighboring forest. So while he was hunting he saw a gigantic grizzly bear that had stopped to get honey from a beehive. The priest thought the bear was good game, so he clumsily shot at it, and he missed. The bear, startled by the shot, jumped up and started charging at the priest. The priest used his only option: he dropped to his knees and prayed. "Dear God," he said, "Please let this bear be a good christian, a better one than I was." As the bear drew closer, it dropped to its knees and said, "Dear God, thank you for this meal I am about to receive."

## Job Corner

Who	Skill Description	Phone	eMail
Marty Aragon	Light Hauling, Yard Work, Exterior Auto Detail, Some Interior and Exterior Engine, Forklift Driver, Some Hazmat Knowledge. (10/04)	239-9553	fjpmga@cableone.net

### Rules for posting

- ◆ Listing needs to resubmitted each month.
- ◆ Keep Skill Description to two short sentences.
- ◆ No business listing, that what the back page ads are for.
- ◆ Only for St. John Vianney Parish Member not a friend of a friend of a friend.
- ◆ Send your job needs to [bulletin@sjvnm.org](mailto:bulletin@sjvnm.org).

### [The Buzzard, The Bat, and the Bumblebee](#)

If you put a buzzard in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A Bumblebee if dropped into an open tumbler will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat and the bee. They are struggling about with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that the answer is right there above them.

## **Arts and Crafts Fair**

Being held at St. John Vianney

Saturday December 5th 8am-1pm

Benefit for: **Caring 4 Kids and SJV Building Fund**

There will be a variety of over 60 crafters!

Booths range from \$15-\$20

For information call 999-6132 or 261-1488

Thank you for reading our bulletin.

Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to [bulletin@sjvnm.org](mailto:bulletin@sjvnm.org).

We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

### [Asylum](#)

A psychiatrist gets a new job at an insane asylum, and he's making his rounds for the first time. "What's your name?" he asks the first patient he meets. "I am Napoleon!" the patient replies. "How do you know that?" asks the doctor. "God told me so." "I did not!" yells a patient sitting nearby.

## Amazing Grace by Carl E Beyer

John Newton wrote *Amazing Grace* in 1772 in Britain after turning his life around from slave trader to preacher. I would like to further explore this song with you because this is my favorite. I personally consider this more than just a song; it should be a reflection our life's path. I am not sure when this song first struck my heart, but I know it was brought to my attention by my mother. Oh how sweet, some of you are saying, but it was actually a paradox. My Mom had given explicit instructions that at her funeral there was to be no preacher. That made me think that she was not a believer. But she also had instructions that *Amazing Grace* was to be sung at the grave site. I was informed by one of my sisters that when they cleaned out my mother's apartment they found a well worn bible. I pray for my mother's soul. I cannot understand how, wanting *Amazing Grace* to be sung, she could have possibly not believed.

There are some people who can hear a song and memorize it but that is not a talent of mine. I know only one song, only four stanzas of it and of course, it is *Amazing Grace*. So let us start with the definition of grace from Wikipedia. *In Christianity, grace is "unmerited favor" from God. Divine grace is a description of the character of God, which is displayed by God's gifts to humanity. Grace describes the means by which humans are granted salvation (and to some, saved from original sin). Grace is of central importance in the theology of Christianity, as well as one of the most contentious issues in Christian sectarianism. The principle of grace is considered as fundamental to Christianity as justice is to Law. The terms "salvation" and "grace" therefore become "virtually synonymous."*

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.* I am not sure how anyone can go to church and not understand how amazing Grace is. It is only by Grace that we stand a chance as sinners to pass into heaven. I know some people may have led a charmed life but I have been a wretch. It is overwhelming that God's Grace could save a wretch like me. *I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see.* When I think back to my childhood and college years I really was blind. If we could only open everyone's eyes to God's Grace so they could see; what a world this would be.

*T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*

*T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved.* At first these two sentences seem contradictory but let us take one sentence at a time. We should have a certain amount of fear for God. Fear of God keeps us on the straight and narrow. The second sentence is telling us that grace can relieve our fears by believing and living our life for God. *How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed.* Yes how precious. What could possibly be more precious than the gift of Grace that allows us to enter heaven.

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*Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far  
and Grace will lead me home.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come.* And how many more dangers, toils and snares do we have before us? *'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.* We know the evil-one plants these dangers, toils and snares in front of us and we need God's Grace to leads us home to Him. Grace will allow us to face our dangers, toils and snares knowing we are all on God's winning team.

*When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun.  
'Tis no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.*

*When we've been here ten thousand years bright shining as the sun.* This reminds us that the battle for good and evil is a long battle but we as Roman Catholics can be that shining example to our fellow man. *'Tis no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.* "'Tis no less days" reminds us that this is a continuous battle; a battle that we need to continue to fight. We need to fight with our dying breath to help save as many souls as possible by teaching everyone about God's grace.

Upon reflection I may have not done justice to the song. This song is really self explanatory in it stanzas. It explains God's Grace better than I could ever do. I believe that John Newton's life, from beginning to end, was God's preparation for his gift to the Church. Can you image having the privilege of writing a song that would impact people throughout the ages. A song which in 1999 would be requested to be sung at a grave site and would give a son hope that his Mom's soul might be saved. This song will never fail to touch my heart. I am sure countless other hearts whose life-paths begins with being a wretch and later realize God's Grace will also cherish this song.

I will finish with the two stanzas I am still learning so that you have the six stanzas of this song. When I am dedicating my time to learning these stanzas I will be reflecting on their deeper meaning.

*The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.*

Go forth and sing. Raise up your voice to the heavens so God's ears are filled with the joy of Song. Sing loudly and sing often and if you are like me sing this song of *Amazing Grace* at every opportunity. I sing it to my grandchild, I sing it on my walks, I sing it in my car and whenever God's Grace strikes me. Otherwise I spare those human ears of my wretched singing but with God's Grace I know he enjoys hearing.

God Bless you all. And God Bless our volunteers who lead us in singing God's praises.

## On Gluttony by Saint John Vianney

Gluttony is an inordinate love of eating and drinking.

We are gluttonous, my children, when we take food in excess, more than is required for the support of our poor body; when we drink beyond what is necessary, so as even to lose our senses and our reason. . . . Oh, how shameful is this vice! How it degrades us! See, it puts us below the brutes: the animals never drink more than to satisfy their thirst: they content themselves with eating enough; and we, when we have satisfied our appetite, when our body can bear no more, we still have recourse to all sorts of little delicacies; we take wine and liquors to repletion! Is it not pitiful? We can no longer keep upon our legs; we fall, we roll into the ditch and into the mud, we become the laughing stock of everyone, even the sport of little children. . . .



If death were to surprise us in this state, my children, we should not have time to recollect ourselves; we should fall in that state into the hands of the good God. What a misfortune, my children! How would our soul be surprised! How would it be astonished! We should shudder with horror at seeing the lost who are in Hell. . . . Do not let us be led by our appetite; we shall ruin our health, we shall lose our soul. . . . See, my children, intemperance and debauchery are the support of doctors; that lets them live, and gives them a great deal of practice. . . . We hear every day, such a one was drunk, and falling down he broke his leg; another, passing a river on a plank, fell into the water and was drowned. . . . Intemperance and drunkenness are the companions of the wicked rich man. . . . A moment of pleasure in this world will cost us very dear in the other. There they will be tormented by a raging hunger and a devouring thirst; they will not even have a drop of water to refresh themselves; their tongue and their body will be consumed by the flames for a whole eternity. . . .

O my children! we do not think about it; and yet that will not fail to happen to some amongst us, perhaps even before the end of the year! Saint Paul said that those who give themselves to excess in eating and drinking shall not possess the kingdom of God. Let us reflect on these words! Look at the saints: they pass their life in penance, and we would pass ours in the midst of enjoyments and pleasures. Saint Elizabeth, Queen of Portugal, fasted all Advent, and also from Saint John Baptist's day to the Assumption. Soon after, she began another Lent, which lasted till the feast of Saint Michael. She lived upon bread and water only on Fridays and Saturdays, and on the vigils of the feasts of the Blessed Virgin and of the Apostles. They say that Saint Bernard drank oil for wine. Saint Isidore never ate without shedding tears! If we were good Christians, we should do as the saints have done.

We should gain a great deal for Heaven at our meals; we should deprive ourselves of many little things which, without being hurtful to our body, would be very pleasing to the good God; but we choose rather to satisfy our taste than to please God; we drown, we stifle our soul in wine and food. My children, God will not say to us at the Day of Judgment, "Give Me an account of thy body"; but, "Give Me an account of thy soul; what hast thou done with it?" . . . What shall we answer Him? Do we take as much care of our soul as of our body? O my children! let us no longer live for the pleasure of eating; let us live as the saints have done; let us mortify ourselves as they were mortified. The saints never indulged themselves in the pleasures of good cheer. Their pleasure was to feed on Jesus Christ! Let us follow their footsteps on this earth, and we shall gain the crown which they have in Heaven.

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Oct 10th 4:00PM		Frank Charles Juan Serna	Laurie Storms	Pinky Bjornstad	Josh Storms Emilio Crespin Chase McMillan	Annette Montoya Lillian Ortiz
Sun Oct 11th 8:00AM		John Christensen James E Dory Jim Cutler Bill Deneen	Jose Guillen	Frances Perko	Sergio Guillen Peter Lucero Vincent	Petrita Lopez David Schutten
Sun Oct 11th 10:00AM		Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Nick Coca III	Rosie Root Coz Madrid Teresa Medrano	Rochelle Quinones	Krista Savela Gary Vigil Amanda Vigil Jacob Valdez	Connie Dudon Michael Tafuro
Sat Oct 17th 4:00PM		Therese Lopez Bill Deneen J.D. Strickland	Eddie Crespin	Bill McCarty	Josh Storms Victoria Perez Emilio Crespin	Pam McCarty Rosie Root
Sun Oct 18th 8:00AM		Tom Anderson David Schutten Karl Lucero Juan Serna	James Sandoval	Evelyn Romero	Charles Lucero Peter Lucero Dominic Ortiz	Julie Burnside Geneva Torres
Sun Oct 18th 10:00AM		Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Nick Coca III Gary Vigil	Ana Marie Hartenhoff Pinky Bjornstad April Karen McClellan	Pinky Bjornstad	Jessica VLS Jamie VLS Jordan Juarez Kyle Herkenhoff	Michael Tafuro Rochelle Quinones

### ***Prayer Corner***

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ For a parishioner's brother Arthur who has just found out he has cancer. Please pray for his healing. (10/08)
- ◆ For Harvey Angers 88 yrs young, Alzheimers, going into a home.(9/20)
- ◆ For the soul of Bill Rounds, and for his wife, Vickie, healing and peace. (9/03)
- ◆ For Fr. Whorton on his deployment, and his family, that they all remain under God's loving care. (Till he returns)
- ◆ For the strength and courage of the disabled, sick, elderly, and dying
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.
- ◆ For the lonely that they find comfort in the heart of Our Blessed Mother Mary as she too suffered the loneliness of Christ's death.

Prayers are kept on the list for a month then need to be resubmitted.

Thank you for your prayers.

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**What does not kill us  
 makes us stronger!!!**

<b>Parish Directory</b>	
Vicar .....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator.....	Ed Uhrich
Communications.....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair.....	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair .....	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan .....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher.....	Carl E. Beyer
Head Altar Servers .....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector .....	Peggy Riley
Head EM .....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD .....	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker.....	Harlan Harrington
Head Grounds and Interior Cleaning.....	Coz Madrid
Head Welcoming Ministry .....	Loretta Tafuro
Parish Website.....	<a href="http://www.sjvnm.org">www.sjvnm.org</a>
Concerns / Questions.....	892-1511
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals .....	St Thomas Parish - 892-1511

## IN GOD WE TRUST