

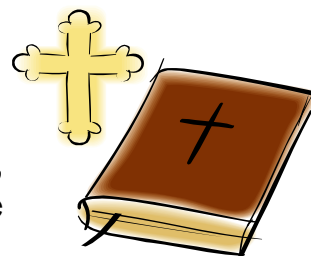
December 20, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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



Greetings, Friends in Christ Jesus.

We now begin the final week of Advent. Christmas is, therefore, coming very soon. We will have two Christmas Eve Masses: 5 PM and 7 PM. We will also have two Christmas Day Masses: 8 AM and 10 AM. Remember that Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. This means that you and I are obligated to attend Mass on Christmas. This being said, remember also that the Christmas Novena at St. Thomas has already commenced, which means that there are now more opportunities for Confession. It is a fact! And extra priests are available too, so don't allow

Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday.....8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Advent to pass by without confessing your sins. The purer you are , the greater your Christmas joy. Check the St. Thomas bulletin for details.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Fr Scott Mansfield

Christmas and New Year Schedule Masses at St. John Vianney Mission Church

- ◆ Thursday December 24th 5:00PM
- ◆ Thursday December 24th 7:00PM
- ◆ Friday December 25th 8:00AM
- ◆ Friday December 25th 10:00AM
- ◆ Thursday December 31st 4:00PM
- ◆ Friday January 1st 10:00AM

Upcoming Events

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

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" .. as if the party were in his honor!

At 12 Midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and ... do you know ... no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me.

What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite, will be left outside.

Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon.

I Love you!

Jesus

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan © – www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com

A theme in today's readings is the virtue of humility. At first glance, humility and money don't seem to go together, but as stewards of Providence, humility helps us recognize all we have is a gift from God. Look to Mary's example for how to grow in this necessary virtue.

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. 'Is that a dog you got back there?' he asked.. 'It sure is,' I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, 'What'd he do?'



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Observations on Growing Older

*~The things you cared to do, you don't care to do,
but you care that you don't care to do them anymore.*

Happy Birthday Jesus

Bootstraps by Carl E. Beyer

Who among you reading this article has some bootstraps? Most of us have used bootstraps without knowing its name so let us start with the definition and an image. From <http://en.wiktionary.org>: bootstrap (plural bootstraps).

- A loop (leather or other material) sewn at the side or top rear of a boot to help in pulling the boot on.
- ♦ A means of advancing oneself or accomplishing something without aid.



In this article I like to use this term in the context of “Pulling yourself up by your bootstraps.” I must admit I have been neglectful in using this saying with my own kids but I write about what pops into my head and I can always hope the kids take the time to read my articles.

When I watch the news and read the papers, it seems as though we are constantly bombarded with information on how we can get help. Help from this organization and that organization and especially, in my lifetime, on how the government should be our big brother for help. When is the last time you heard someone in the media telling you to “pick yourself up by your bootstraps”? My family donates to charities because we know there are those who need help in their time of need. Most of us will need assistance at various times in our lives, but in recent history there seem to be a large number of people who believe that they are entitled to receive aid their entire lives.

One of my pet peeves is piqued when the government spends my taxpayer money on advertising so that they can give away more of my taxpayer money. Then they ask for more of my taxpayer money because they gave away my taxpayer money carelessly. These programs are not measured on how many people they helped who truly need help, but on how much money they have given away. This careless action is no different than walking down streets handing out five dollar bills to random people and claiming you helped the poor. You may have helped some poor people but the majority of the money was wasted.

The next time you look for someone else to solve a problem you may have, I humbly ask that you “pick yourself up by your bootstraps”. What this means to me is to dig down deep into that grit that makes you an American. To clench your teeth and say that you will not be beaten. To laugh in the face of the devil for throwing roadblocks and saying “I am on God’s team.” To count your blessings and realize how petty your problem may actually be.

We, God’s children, forget how powerful we are and how peace and comfort we can find in our God. With faith you are never alone. God is walking beside you on your journey and at times carrying most of your burdens. How then, is it that in the present age we tend to crumble at the first obstacle instead of stepping back and picking ourselves up by our bootstraps? Why is it that the government and the media are being allowed to scare us into a recession instead of advising us that we are living in the greatest country on earth and that this is so because we are Americans who have always picked ourselves up and continued on.

Our destiny is not decided by others but by ourselves. There are not many of us who are so blessed that every day is empty of turmoil and struggles. How we confront these struggles is

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what defines our character. If we dig deep into the strength of our character and overcome these struggles, is not that nobler than blaming our fellow man for our miseries? And by blaming others for our failings does that not feed the weakening of our character? Let us revitalize the phrase of “Pulling yourself up by your bootstraps.”

With some of my cheerleading completed and about as many one liners as I can bring to paper to express my opinion, what exactly do I mean when I say “pick yourself up by your bootstraps”? I will step aside and borrow someone else’s word to sum this up. *“The Bootstrap Theory”*, which essentially states that if you want to rescue yourself from abject poverty, it is as simple as digging in, working hard, saving money, and staying focused.

Let us start with digging in. Does digging in mean for you to have results by week’s end? No! It means you are digging in for the long haul. Digging in means realizing that results may take time but through your actions you will be a force that is to be reckoned with. This does not mean we all will be millionaires but we can seek and live a comfortable life.

Working hard is as simple as it states. Doing whatever it takes to get the job done, and done well, so that you are proud of it. Oh, as an employer I loved to hear from an employee asking what he could do for me instead of what I will give him as the boss. Working hard means long hours and longer days with a body whose only thought upon entering your home is to eat and sleep. Working hard does not mean conserving your energy at work so you can party up all night. Working hard is to know that when you lay your head upon your pillow at night you have done an honest day’s work to sleep the sleep of a hard working man.

Saving money may seem contradictory if you are pulling yourself up by your bootstraps but it is not. Saving money means that you are paying attention to where your money is being spent and ensuring it is spent wisely so that you are able to save for a rainy day. This very act of saving money allows you to rest assured that minor setbacks remain minor because you have that rainy day fund to assist you.

Staying focused may be one of the hardest components of pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. This means you see past the small obstacles that distract you from the end goal. Most of us are great at staying focused in easy circumstances but it takes deeper courage to charge ahead during the hard times. By staying focused and overcoming the obstacles along the way makes the victory and achievement all the sweeter. When we consider passing on encouragement to the next generation do we envision ourselves saying that we gave up, it was too hard, someone threw up an obstacle or do we want to say we stayed focused and pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps?

This pulling yourself by your bootstraps is usually not a singular event. Nor would I be so restrictive to say this is solely used in financial matters. Nor would I say that this refers only to one person accomplishing a goal. It can clearly be a family, a group of like minds and, yes, even a country. And to complicate it further, I would not necessarily say it is an event but more a state of mind. This pulling yourself up should be a way of life that is so deeply ingrained in your character that confidence surrounds you.

The next time you are in financial/emotional/legal trouble remember you can overcome. You can pull yourself back up. You can dig in your heels and say “I will not be defeated”. Repeat after me, I am an American, I come from the greatest country that God has ever blessed, I am a child of God and as such I am on the winning team. I am never alone as God is always with me, I am an American and darn proud of it.

Go forth and pull up those bootstraps. For those of you in your twilight years pass onto the younger generations this phrase and how you lived it. God Bless you all and God Bless America.

*Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pilgrimages for
Vocations*

*2010 Theme "You Are The Beloved" Matthew
3:16-17*

*To find out more visit the website for May and
June Pilgrimages.*

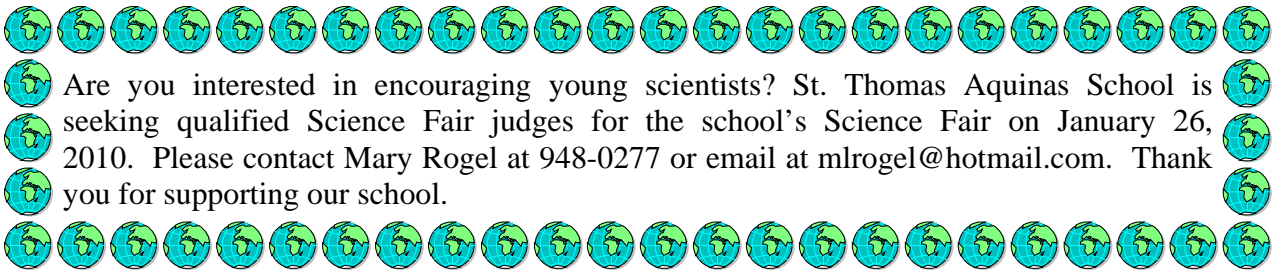
*Take a week to walk with Christ in devotional
prayer and sacrifice.*

<http://pilgrimagesforvocations.org/>

ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

The STA Altar and Rosary Society will be selling prints of a beautiful reproduction painting done by Deacon Tom Burns of STA. The 8x10 prints of "La Madonna Nina" (aka "The Madonna of the Streets") will be sold for \$5 each at the A&RS Religious Articles Sales. You can also call Saralee at 792-5516 to reserve your print.

WATCH SPECIAL EWTN CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING Join EWTN Global Catholic Network in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. EWTN is proud to bring you LIVE Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., as well as inspiring musical performances, animated features, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations the whole family will enjoy. Watch EWTN on Cable One 58, DirecTV 370 & Dishnetwork 261.



Are you interested in encouraging young scientists? St. Thomas Aquinas School is seeking qualified Science Fair judges for the school's Science Fair on January 26, 2010. Please contact Mary Rogel at 948-0277 or email at mlrogel@hotmail.com. Thank you for supporting our school.

Prayer Corner

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

- ◆ For Sister Marguerite Bartz soul. God Bless Her.(11/15)
- ◆ 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.

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Dec 19th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Therese Lopez Ed Uhrich J.D. Strickland	Coz Madrid	Anna Sellman	Chase McMillan Emilio Crespín Josh Storms	David Crawford Pinky Bjornstad
Sun Dec 20th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Tom Anderson David Schutten Jim Cutler John Christensen	Harlan Harrington	Evelyn Romero	Sergio Guillen Dominic Ortiz Charles Lucero	Julie Burnside Jose Guillen
Sun Dec 20th 10:00AM	Donna Madrid	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Nick Coca III Ariana Eck	Loretta Tafuro Carl Beyer Margaret Chavez		Amanda Vigil Jordan Juarez Gary Vigil Azura McClellan	Rochelle Quinones April McClellan
Thu Dec 24th 5:00PM	Geri Hoover	Carl Beyer Ed Uhrich Phillip Griego Juan Serna	Esther Wilcox Loretta Tafuro David Crawford	Bill McCarty	James Uhrich Josh Storms Jacob Valdez	Julie Burnside Michael Tafuro
Thu Dec 24th 7:00PM	Donna Madrid	Tom Anderson Gary Vigil James E Dory	Harlan Harrington Rosie Root Coz Madrid	Frances Perko	Amanda Vigil Gary Vigil Victoria Perez	Connie Dudon Lillian Ortiz
Fri Dec 25th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Mike Philbin Bill Deneen Jim Cutler David Schutten	Jose Guillen	Evelyn Romero	Sergio Guillen Shane Herrera Albert Ibarra	Annette Montoya Geneva Torres
Fri Dec 25th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Eddie Crespín John Christensen	James Sandoval Jeremy McClellan Brian Padilla	Rochelle Quinones	Emilio Crespín Jordan Juarez Drew Garcia	April McClellan Ana Padilla
Sat Dec 26th 4:00PM	Donna Madrid	Phillip Griego Bill Deneen Juan Serna	Esther Wilcox	Pam McCarty	Chase McMillan Victoria Perez Josh Storms	Bill McCarty Lillian Ortiz
Sun Dec 27th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Tom Anderson John Christensen James E Dory	Jose Guillen	Jose Guillen	Sergio Guillen Vincent Dominic Ortiz	Julie Burnside David Schutten
Sun Dec 27th 10:00AM	Margaret Chavez	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Eddie Crespín Brian Padilla	Janis Crespín Geri Hoover John Jenkins	Pinky Bjornstad	Emilio Crespín Jessica VLS Jamie VLS Azura McClellan	April McClellan Pinky Bjornstad
Thu Dec 31st 4:00PM	Geri Hoover	Gary Vigil Therese Lopez Brian Padilla Ed Uhrich	Pinky Bjornstad Carrie Jenkins Ana Marie Hartenhoff	Peggy Riley	Ariana Jenkins Angela Jenkins Delicia Garcia	Pam McCarty Bill McCarty
Fri Jan 1st 10:00AM		Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Nick Coca III James Sandoval	Margaret Chavez Eddie Crespín Janis Crespín	Evelyn Romero	Emilio Crespín Jordan Juarez Drew Garcia Jacob Valdez	Rosie Root Rochelle Quinones

Thank you for reading our bulletin.
Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles
can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also
like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages
or other news about our church members.

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IN GOD WE TRUST