



## *New Offertory Envelopes*

There are still parishioners who have not picked up their 2009 offertory envelopes! Please come to the office during regular business hours, or see a staff member after Mass. Calendars will be handed out with the envelopes to registered families.

## *Directory*

### **ARE YOU REGISTERED?**

If you did not re-register in 2008, please do so **NOW!**

## *Tax Statements*

We need your help. In order for you to get your year-end contribution statement for tax purposes, WE MUST HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS. These statements are being processed and will be ready for distribution at the end of the month.

## *Bulletin Advertisers*

**Reminder-** for those who have not renewed your ad in the 2009 bulletin and wish to do so, please contact Sandra in the Administration Office ASAP to make your arrangements. Ads not renewed by February 16<sup>th</sup> may be removed to allow for new advertisers.

## *Altar Flowers*

Although no flowers are placed on the altar during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009, the first six months of 2009 are opened for sign-ups in Rosamond. Parishioners wishing to adorn the altar for the weekend Masses please contact the Office or stop by the Church Hall in Rosamond.

St. Francis parishioners can sign up at the entrance of the church. Please see an Usher.

## *Use of Church Property*

All groups wanting to use any buildings on **BOTH** Church properties MUST submit their monthly schedule of two months or more with time and dates of any function to the Administration Office.

The schedules are subject to approval.

It is necessary to phone the office at least 2-3 days in advance to inform personnel whether your group will or will not be needing any building opened.

Please remember that closing time for all events is 9:00PM, unless otherwise approved.

## *The Light Weigh It's Coming!*

Would you like to learn how to eat the foods you enjoy while you lose weight? Would you like to get peace with food and get off the diet roller coaster? Give God a chance and rediscover the freedom from food you had as a small child! A Light Weigh Orientation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30PM, in the Church Hall at St. Mary's in Rosamond. Come and find out about The Light Weigh Bible Study-Video Series and how this program has been a blessing for others!



[www.ekklezialifeteen.com](http://www.ekklezialifeteen.com)

**Reminder:** tomorrow (1/19) in Mojave.  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> will be in Rosamond  
**"SEALED"**

## *Lost and Found*

We have several items at the office that have been left behind in the Church or in the Hall. Please call to identify and then come to the office to pick it up. Thank You.

## *Bulletin Advertisers*

*It's that time again-* for our bulletin advertisers to renew your ad or start a new ad in the 2009 bulletin. Please contact Sandra in the Administration

Office ASAP to make your arrangements and /or changes. Current ads not renewed by February 13<sup>th</sup> may be removed.

## *Position Available*

### *St. Francis Music*

We are seeking a person who plays the piano or the organ to join our music team. Please contact Carol Flores (661)917-9134.

## *Ministry Training Session*

The next training opportunity will be on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11AM in the church. This is for ALL ministries that serve at Mass and for any other interested persons.

## *L.A. Congress*

There will be no reimbursements of any kind for anyone attending the L.A. Religious Congress in February.  
John Hricko, Pastoral Assistant

## *Gift Store*

### **Lots of sale items!**

Remember Confirmation and First Eucharist are only a few months away. New items have been ordered for these upcoming Sacraments. Hours are Monday thru Friday 9-5 and after the Sunday Masses.



## *Last Week's Collection*

### *St. Mary*

**Contributions:** \$ 716.36  
Number of Envelopes Used:  
Registered Parishioners:

### *St. Francis:*

**Contributions:** \$ 847.50  
Number of Envelopes Used:  
Registered Parishioners:



## *Pastor's Corner*

Janice Hearn of Lakeside, California tells of a young

mother who was so involved in the worship service that she did not notice anything else. Suddenly, though, the mother realized that her five-year old was no longer sitting with her. A bit panicked, she quickly looked around and she saw her child crawling under the pew.

Embarrassed, she quietly demanded, "What are you doing under there?" The child said, "I'm looking for God."

Our readings this weekend point us in two directions. The first is about the search for God. The second is about what should happen if we find God or if He should find us.

A common thread in the first reading and Gospel is the role others play in our search for God. Samuel was a young boy who had no real experience of God. The first reading tells us, "At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him yet."

The reading tells us something unusual, that Samuel was sleeping where the ark of God was. Young Samuel probably was responsible for tending the lamp that was always burning before the ark, but sleeping where the ark was would have been unusual. To be with the ark was felt to be in the physical presence of God.

It was believed that, if you stood in the presence of the ark, you would likely have an experience of God. Samuel did have such an experience, but Samuel did not realize that it was God. It took the guidance of another person, Eli, for Samuel to understand whose voice had called him.

Jesus' reputation was growing, but our passage from John's Gospel is from the early ministry of Jesus. At the time, John the Baptist's reputation was much better known. The consequence of this was that

John the Baptist's disciples would not look away from John to Jesus. Someone had to guide them toward God, so John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God." As the passage continues, Andrew, one of the two who had now experienced Jesus, brings another person to God. He tells his brother Simon (Peter), "We have found the Messiah."

This clearly establishes a pattern for us: believers bring people to God.

For several weeks we will be reading from both 1 and 2 Corinthians. Corinth was a port city filled with

sailors and dock workers who were not known for their chastity. Prostitution was big business. Only about a third of the residents were free; two-thirds were servants or slaves. This population was also known for its promiscuity. Corinth's reputation was so bad that anyone accused of sexual impropriety, it would be said they were "acting like a Corinthian."

Paul arrived in Corinth preaching Jesus and a different way of life. There were a lot of converts among the lesser in society. Yet, after leaving the faith community, Paul began hearing that the Corinthians' sexual behavior had not really undergone any change, thus our passage this weekend.

The word "pornography" comes from a Greek root meaning something akin to "sex for sale." Paul calls to mind this image when he writes that "You have been purchased at a price," except he is referring to Jesus. With his life, Jesus has bought the community for a new kind of intimacy: membership in the Body of Christ. Together we make up a new kind of body, the Body of Christ, that is, the Church. This body is to be revered. As members of the Body of Christ, we are to use our own bodies differently. Immoral use of our bodies cannot happen if we are going to claim membership in the Body of Christ.

One of the largest problems with pornography today is internet porn. It is easily accessible and far more private than trying to obtain pornography from stores. What has been discovered is how pervasive this problem is. Few realize that pornography is as addictive as any drug. Few realize that addiction to pornography damages the intimacy of marriage and is a growing cause of divorce. Because of its privacy, it is becoming clear that no one is free from its clutches. It has become a big problem among clergy of all denominations. It is also creating multiple sexual and psychological problems for our children.

Just as Corinth had a problem, so too does our society. Paul brought faith in Jesus Christ as a solution. In trying to bring people to Jesus Christ, Paul changed attitudes and behaviors. We must do the same, not only to solve the problem of pornography, but also for the sake of souls.

Where are we most likely to hear and experience God? Before the ark, before the Real Presence. There is where lives can be changed. Like Eli, we must lead others to understand that God is calling and what God is saying.

*(By Fr. Edward F. Steiner,  
Clarksville, Tennessee; from the Priest)*