

Mission Statement

With the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Jesus Christ, as our example and patron, the mission of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church is to proclaim and share the Gospel entrusted to us. We celebrate our oneness with the Risen Christ, with each other and the entire Church, through the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. We accept the direction given us by the Second Vatican Council. We are committed to this mission by our worship, education, fellowship, and outreach to the needy.

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR THIS WEEKEND HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:

Joe & Gail Bruno

In Loving Memory of

David & Rachel LaGamba & Joe & Helen Bruno

FLOWERS FOR FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:

Dominique May

In Loving Memory of

Colette Truesdale

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009—5:00pm Mass

Lectors: Heidi Maskol, Barbara Parker

EMC's: Sue Bess, Lisa & Rick Houser,
Amber & Pat Mulcahy

Ministers of Hospitality:

Jo & Paul Leonardis, Steve Maskol

Altar Servers: Maddie & Marcus Wise

Sunday, December 13, 2009—8:00am Mass

Children's Liturgy: Dwayne Myers

Lectors: John Fout, Rita Paluszak

EMC's: Connie Carnes, Gina Harrison, Bill Lesser,
Cindy Litfin, Pat Perrigo

Ministers of Hospitality:

Brian Litfin, Alison & Mike Minnick

Altar Servers: Billy Baucom, Kevin Litfin

Sunday, December 13, 2009—9:45 Mass

Children's Liturgy: Elizabeth Munns,

Catherine Glisson

Lectors: Beth Kreitzer, Terri Wilson

EMC's: Frances Bruckner, Sandy Endicott,
Jeanne & Stuart LaFrancis, Joan Williams

Ministers of Hospitality: John Endicott,
Joe Shirley, David Viola

Altar Servers: Sami Eno, Cathy Pullen

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009—11:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy: Donna Snyder

Lector: Sue Dolphin

EMC's: Elena Benedict, Kim & Ron Shigley,
Alfreda Tanski, Evelyn Thompson

Ministers of Hospitality: Allyson Benthall,
Neil Kauer, Richard Stewart

Altar Servers: Christina Benedict,
Austin Berrong

Collections

Collections 11-22-2009: \$8,434.26
11-29-2009: \$9,533.75

Thank you for your support of the parish!

OUR WEEKLY TITHE:

Last week, because of your generosity in the offertory we were able to send a tithe of \$476.69 to the FOCUS Mission Group. The week of 11-22 we sent \$421.71 to the "We Care Program". This week we will use our tithe for the Shelter of Gaston County providing a shelter and resources for victims of domestic violence.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, December 5th

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 6th

8:00am Mass

9:45 Mass

11:30am For the People

Monday, December 7th

9:00am Mass

Tuesday, December 8th

12:15pm David Roy + and Mary Toth +

7:00pm For the People

Wednesday, December 9th

9:00am Mass

Thursday, December 10th

No Mass

Friday, December 11th

12:15pm Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel

COFFEE & DONUT VOLUNTEERS ~ Dec. 13:

8:00am—Michael Moore, Matt & Sue Blanchfield,
Ken Holt

9:45am—Deborah Trynor, Cindy Buckley

11:30am—Pam Marsh, Chris & Jennifer Bumgardner

ART AND ENVIRONMENT:

December 6: Kimber Walters, Tom Spada

December 13: Dominique May, Karen Irvine

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS ~ December 13:

9:45am—Volunteers Needed

11:30am—Billy Stocker

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This weekend we begin a two week opportunity for Whole Community Catechesis. It is a way to learn more about your Catholic faith and it is an opportunity to gather young and old, singles and families together for this large group "encounter" with the Word. I hope you will take advantage of it and be open to what you might learn in the experience.

As we move deeper into Advent we are already grateful for the work of so many in this season. I especially want to thank those who organize and execute the Angel Tree each year. It is always an amazing opportunity that they offer us to help families in need with the celebration of Christmas. Thanks for the hard work! And that would be for naught if I did not thank all of you who so generously gave your time and treasure to shop, wrap and offer gifts to these families. Once more this year I am overwhelmed by your generosity and I am grateful for the witness you are able to give.

And thanks to all the choirs who made the Cantata such a moving experience for the season. Your hard work really paid off and you have helped many of us enter into the mystery of God-made-flesh in a deeper way.

Our Art and Environment folks worked hard to prepare the church for the season as well. It certainly helps me in my prayer. I hope it does the same for you. They will be initiating some changes to our Christmas environment this year, thanks in part to the generosity of an anonymous donor. I know they are excited and I know you will appreciate it, too.

The Finance Council continues to work hard. In fact, we have made a decision to move a large chunk of our savings from our Wachovia savings accounts to a second diocese-approved opportunity at the Self Help Credit Union. This allows us to earn more interest on our savings in a government insured facility and our council will continue to monitor these long term savings as we move forward. I am grateful for their foresight!

A reminder that December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States: the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. It is our national feastday as we honor the beginnings of Mary's life which were shaped by a loving God, who prepared her for the great mission of birthing and nurturing the Savior. She is an icon of what we are called to be. We will celebrate Mass on December 8th at 12:15 PM and again at 7:00 PM. I hope you will join us for this special time of prayer.

Be blessed this week. -Father Frank

WHOLE COMMUNITY CATECHESIS IS GOOD FOR ADULTS! All of our Church's teachings on Catechesis put ADULT Faith Formation at the center of parish catechetical activity. It's great that we can do things for children but our primary catechetical goal is to get ALL ADULTS involved in ongoing, lifelong Faith Formation. Won't you help us accomplish this goal? Whole Community Catechesis will take place at QOA December 6 & 13, 9:30-10:45 in the MAK Center. Come take advantage of our effort to move Catechesis out of the classroom and into the parish.

Please keep all of our First Reconciliation Candidates in your prayers over the next few weeks. They are in their final preparations for celebrating the sacrament for the first time on December 12. May the Lord bless all of them with His mercy and forgiveness.

THE NEWMAN SINGERS ARE COMING TO BELMONT!

A band of about twenty college students from the Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa under the direction of songwriter and leader Joe Mattingly are offering a **concert** here at Queen of the Apostles on **Monday, January 4 at 7:00pm** in the church. Their music is contemporary, their voices are beautiful and their arrangements are lively—all while they perform Joe's original liturgical music (some of which we use here at QOA). Mark your calendars now! Bring your family! Invite your friends! Spend an evening with the **Newman Singers** as a kickoff to your New Year. The concert is free, and a love offering will be taken. Refreshments follow the concert in the MAK Center. (If you can help house 3 or more singers overnight, please contact Chrissy Glisson through the church office.

Immaculate Conception



Meetings This Week

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30-10:45—Whole Community Catechesis (MAK Ctr)
9:30-10:30am—Bible Study (Library)
9:45am—Nursery
11:30am—Nursery
2:30-4:00pm—Cursillo Grouping (Conference Room)
6:00-7:30pm—Youth Group (MAK Center)

Monday, December 7, 2009

9:00am-1:00pm—Parents' Morning Out (Nursery)
7:00-8:30pm—Boy Scouts (Ed Bldg.)

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED—HOLY DAY

7:00pm—Baptism Preparation Class (Library)
7:00-8:00pm—Scout Committee Meeting (Ed Bldg Rm A)

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

9:00am-1:00pm—Parents' Morning Out (Nursery)
9:00-10:30am—Parish Nurse (Conference Room)
6:45-7:30pm—Disciples' Night (Church)
6:00pm—Children's Choir Practice (MAK Center)
6:45pm—Youth Choir Practice (MAK Center)
7:30pm—Adult Choir (Church)
7:30pm—12 Step Program (Ed Bldg.)

Thursday, December 10, 2009

6:00-7:30pm—Brownies & Jr. Girl Scouts (MAK Center)
7:00-8:00pm—Cub Scouts (Ed Building)
7:30-9:00pm—Bible Sharing (Ed Bldg, Room A)

Friday, December 11, 2009

9:00am-1:00pm—Parents' Morning Out (Nursery)
7:00-9:00pm—AA Mtg. (Ed Bldg.)

Saturday, December 12, 2009

10:00am—First Reconciliation (Church)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Ambrose;
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Tuesday: Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Juan Diego
Friday: St. Damasus I
Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe;
Hanukkah begins

Queen of the Apostles

ONLINE PRAYER MINISTRY:

Coordinator, Doris Spivey, accepts prayer requests Monday through Friday each week from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Emergency requests are accepted anytime and on weekends. Please e-mail Doris at mamad73@mailbug.com. If you would like to join this Prayer Ministry and do not have access to a computer but have **VOICE MAIL**, please call Jeanne LaFrancis at 704-867-6092. Jeanne will be happy to call you with the daily prayer requests.



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those in Nursing Homes:

Teresa Blievernicht (Stanley Total Living Center),
Patrick Bragg (Meadowwood Nursing Ctr, Gastonia),
Rose Carlucci (Terrace Ridge, Gastonia),
Dorothy Falon (Charlotte Health Center),
Theresa Couto (Woodlawn Haven Rest Home, Mt.Holly)
Eva Hendrix (Alexander Place, Gastonia),
Mary Ippolito (Rehab & Health Center of Gastonia),
Albert Liberatore (NC State Veteran's Home, Salisbury)
Joseph Staley (Heritage Oats, Gastonia)
Virginia Tofaute (Stanley Total Living Center)

Sick & Homebound: Micahel Atherton, Joyce Bennet, Chip Brown, Joyce Chastain, Cyndi Clennu, Bill Cherry, Sr. Pauline Clifford, R.S.M., Pat Coderre, Gerri Conrad, Helen Coren, Eva Estridge, David Fawcette, Terry Fox, Jane Godfrey, Lisa Grant, Sherrin Gwiazdzinski, Carl Heil, Lura & Margaret Hoffman, Arlene Hollister, Ducky Huffstetler, Mark Hux, Joyce & Dean Head, Anthony & Billie Ippolito, Ashley Joyce, Donna Keepes, Flora Ledwell, Tonia Morrow, Pam Marsh, Bobby & Sonya Mincey, Linda Montgomery, Ronnie Paterson, Travis & Katie Phillips, Tammi Qasem, Jo Rankin, William Reeves, Maxine Robinson, Susan Roy, Clare Schadowski, Johnnie Shelton, Laurie Smith, Michael Smith, Tom Stocker, Phil Sylvester & Marilyn Warmington

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4,5-6;
Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Stewardship Message

~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~

"Be generous, sharing what you have."
(1 Timothy 6:18)

Leave a Legacy ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~

The spirit of giving is strongest as Christmas approaches. You can make that wonderful spirit last by giving a gift to our endowment.

Youth

**Regular Youth Groups are on Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm, in the MAK Center. Please join us!
NO Youth Group December 20, 27 and January 3!**

December 6—Finding Christ in Justice. The Church has a long tradition of teaching about & living out God's call for justice & peace in the world. We'll see how these beliefs factor into our own lives and watch the documentary "Souls of Our Students", looking at how stereotypes & prejudices can get in the way of building the Kingdom of God.

December 13—We'll continue to look at Catholic Social Teaching and have some time for Game Night. We'll celebrate our friendships by playing games together. Bring your favorite video, board or card game.

Middle School Youth—CHANGE OF PLANS!!

We will move our middle school youth **Pizza & Prayer** to **Sunday, December 13, 1:00-4:00pm** in the **MAK Center**. We will watch movies together. Contact Dennis to let him know you are coming.

Protecting God's Children

It is Diocesan policy that **ALL** volunteers, in any capacity and program, complete the training "**Protecting God's Children**", to learn how we all can help prevent child sexual abuse in our Church Community. If you volunteer at the parish (even if not directly with children) and have not completed this training, please get signed up for it! You can do so through the Virtus website (the organization that created the training program) at www.virtus.org, or by calling Shannon at the Diocesan Human Resources Office, 704-370-3356. You can sign up to take the training here at QOA on **Tuesday, December 15, 6:00-9:00pm** in the MAK Center **Conference Room**, or elsewhere as is convenient for you. Please contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, QOA Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or 704-825-9600, ext. 26, if you have questions or need more information.

Pro-Life Career Opportunities in Charlotte: Room At The Inn is a Catholic maternity and after care program that provides long term housing, professional counseling, spiritual support and material Assistance to single moms in need. Currently there are two rewarding positions available: **Part Time Bilingual Counselor** (must be a licensed counselor fluent in English/Spanish) and **Full Time Program Support Specialist** (entry level position, must be fluent in English/Spanish). For more information or to submit a resume, contact Debbie Capen at 704-525-4673 x14 or debbiecapen@rati.org.

MARCH FOR LIFE CHARLOTTE! January 15, 2010 Please join others to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies lives. Gather at the Catholic Diocese parking lot, corner of W. Palmer and Church Streets at 11:00am. Parking may be limited. Contact Tina with any questions at 704-846-7361 or www.marchforlifecharlotte.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: February 12-14, 2010 in Charlotte. The weekend centers on your relationship and is a positive, private experience between you and your spouse that revitalizes marriage. Spaces fill quickly. Register online at www.wwme-nc.info. Contact Tom & Emilie Sandon at emilieandtom@yahoo.com or 336-274-4424.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD REATREAT: There is hope and healing after abortion. Men & women are invited to begin their healing journey at our next retreat January 29-31, 2010. Contact the Respect Life Office at 704-370-3229 for more information or visit www.Rachelsvineyard.org.

HOLY ANGELS RN SUPERVISOR NEEDED: 40 hr/wk, 3:00-11:30pm, with every other weekend. Require minimum 5 years RN experience, supervisory experience, pediatric &/or acute care experience. Holy Angels (sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy): residential, children & adults, MR/DD. Excellent benefits. info@holyangelsnc.org, 704-825-4161; Fax 704-825-0401.

Community Ministries



In December we will be helping our neighbors at SOCKS (Serving Our Community with Kindness in Springwood). Soups, cereals, stews, peanut butter, jelly and canned meats are priority items, but, as always, all donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated. If you would like to donate a turkey or ham for the Christmas food baskets please contact Sandy Endicott at 704-813-2813.

On **Saturday, December 19 at 7:30am** we will meet in the **MAK Center** for coffee and donuts while filling boxes with all the goodies so generously donated. Begin a family tradition to meet early for a light breakfast and visit with fellow parishioners while filling boxes. Last year about 50 people helped and we finished in one and a half hours. Call Heather Hart at 704-674-8055 or Sandy Endicott at 704-813-2813 with any questions.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK will be December 6-13, a correction from the previous bulletin. We are in need of volunteers to donate breakfast and lunch items and also to work as overnight hosts. If you have questions or can volunteer contact Trish Vasil at 704-648-7878 or pvasil44@att.net.

THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE: Please return your wrapped item with the angel on the package **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6** placing it under the tree in the narthex. The angels are numbered ensuring the item is given to the correct child. There are also envelopes on the tree to make monetary donations towards the purchase of food for the Christmas baskets.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION: Baptism is celebrated at the weekend Masses at anytime of the year except the Lenten season. Parents wishing to present a child (under six years of age) for Baptism must complete an Evening of Preparation here in the parish. These are offered six times a year. During pregnancy or after the birth of a child are appropriate times to attend this program. The next scheduled Prep Session is on Tuesday, **December 8** beginning at **7:00 PM** in the church office. Please call the church office to make a reservation to attend this upcoming program. If Sponsors (Godparents) are also here in the area, we invite them to attend as well.

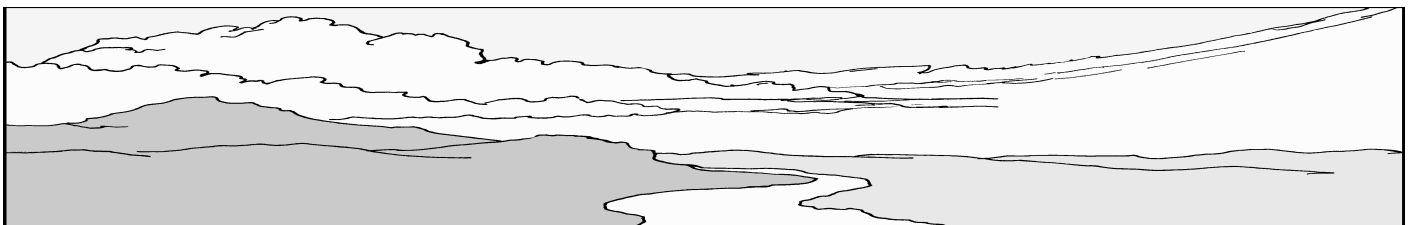
SUSSEX ABBEY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

~ **Sunday, December 13, 3:00pm** ~ Belmont Abbey ~

This amazing choir of 40 students from Sussex, England have previously toured in Japan, Italy, Germany, France, Poland and Ireland. This is their first visit to the USA. Come and enjoy!

PARENTS' MORNING OUT is pleased to announce the arrival of a new teacher. **Mrs. Mary Toure' will be taking over the program on Monday, December 7.** Beginning January 4, 2010 she will expand the program to five days a week from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The new fees will be \$4/hour, \$15/day, \$70/week per child. Please contact Mary at 704-266-0697 or 317-603-1811.

St. Peter's Catholic Church presents the **10th Annual Kennedy Lecture** on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00am-12:30pm. The topic is "Reinventing Catholic" featuring Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, co-director of the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham University. Previously she served for 15 years as editor of *Commonweal*. Ms. Steinfels' lecture addresses the question of the future of the Church in America. Visit www.stpeterscatholic.org for more information.



Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson:

Bill Lesser evergreen41@bellsouth.net
803-831-1697

Vice Chairperson:

Barbara Parker
704-825-4404

Secretary:

Connie Carnes ccarnes2@bellsouth.net

Pastor:

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Finance Council

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Stewardship Committee

Chairperson:

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Young at Hearts:

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Youth Ministry:

Dennis Teall-Fleming teallfleming@yahoo.com
704-825-9600

Knights of Columbus: *Grand Knight*

Joe O'Brien joeob@carolina.rr.com
704-399-4644

Belmont Parish Nurse Ministry

Parish Nurse Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00am, First United Methodist Church of Belmont; 11:00am-12:30pm, First Presbyterian Church of Belmont; Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30am, Queen of the Apostles; Administrator: Delta Sanders 704-915-2445; Nurse: Cheryl Fleming 704-678-3545

T.O.P.S. Taking Off Pounds Sensibly: First Presbyterian Church ~ 102 S. Central Ave., Belmont, NC ~ 6:30-7:30pm on Thursdays; Annual dues are only \$26. RSVP to Delta Sanders at 704-915-2445.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group: Carillon Assisted Living Center ~ 500 Cramer Mountain Road, Cramerton, NC ~ second Thursday of each month, 6:30pm.

WHAT A BLESSING to receive the donations of Boost (not Smoothies as the taste has not been perfected and thus not been well tolerated by the clients), Equate. . . We have a need for a variety of flavors including Chocolate, Vanilla & Strawberry at this time. Thank you for your kindness!