



Looking UP

Volume 23

FEBRUARY 2012

NO. 3



THE CANCER BUSTER CREED

If you have or have had cancer, I would love to hear how you feel about the following creed. Does it speak to you? If so, how?

I believe that cancer is a word, not a sentence. Even though it may eventually be the cause of my death, I can live with it successfully and deal effectively with the problems it inevitably brings.

I believe that cancer can be a blessing in disguise—a threshold moment, a wake-up call to put first things first and get my priorities right.

I believe that cancer helps focus my attention on the beauty, wonder, and sheer abundance of creation; that it give me back the inquiring spirit of childhood when everything was new, everything was fresh, and everything was experienced with surprise and joy.

I believe that cancer helps me appreciate the enduring value of friendship, the comfort of knowing that there are people around who are prepared simply to be present, without the need for any other agenda.

I believe that cancer is an opportunity for family, friends, and colleagues to rally around and offer help

in what to them may be down-to-earth and quite mundane ways, but which to me have taken on a significance out of all proportion to their ordinariness.

I believe that cancer helps me discover my spirit, opens me up to the infinite, and puts me in touch with the depths of my soul.

I believe that cancer is a challenge for me to grow up spiritually, and to put into practice the values and beliefs to which I once paid little more than lip service.

I believe that cancer connects me with God, who is present within me, and that this breakthrough moment will forever affect the rest of my life.

I believe that cancer teaches me to be grateful for life, to respect its presence in all its forms, to live each moment as if it were my last, and experience the present to the full.

I believe that cancer gives me the freedom to be who I really am, to say —out of love—what needs to be said, to listen with understanding to another's pain, and to face reality now rather than later.

For the blessing of these beliefs, I daily give thanks to my God.

Le Sarah

School News



DONNA VIOLI

Geography Bee

The Middle School students participated in the annual National Geographic sponsored Geography Bee. After preliminary eliminations in each home-room, the following students were finalists in the **Geography Bee:**

Jack Szachacz 6K
John Sayut 6H
Maggie Woods 7W
Paul Tenewitz 7M
Jeff Harvey 8O
Charles Christopher 8R

After several competitive rounds, John Sayut emerged as our school Geography Bee Champion. John will take a written test to determine if he qualifies for the state Geography Bee. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is Faith, Academics and Service. The students and staff celebrated this theme with a variety of events. Ascension students lectured at all the Masses. On Monday January 30th students met for a flag ceremony in the gym. Art work and banners were displayed in the gym and classroom bulletin boards reflected the theme of this week. Students in Prek3 through second grade delivered items for the Haven House. On Tuesday, January 31st students wrote letters of appreciation to parents, parish members, or someone who has helped them. An ice cream social was held for parents and students. At the school Mass on Wednesday, the Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to Michael Garoust. New members of the National Junior Honor Society were inducted in a ceremony in the afternoon. On Thursday, February 2, the Student Service Council sponsored a project to collect used eye glasses. Open House will held from 9-11A.M and from 4-6 P.M. A Brain Bowl for grades three through five will be conducted. Students and teachers will compete in the second annual volleyball game competition. The week will end on Fri-

3, with the student's favorite activity-the Dance-A-Thon fundraiser.

Backpacks for the Homeless

Once again our Student Service Council spear-headed the Backpacks for the Homeless Drive. This year we invited our fellow students from Religious Education to join with us in this effort. This process began during the Drug Free Week sponsored by the Student Service Council. During that week a variety of activities resulted in the collection of hats, gloves, blankets, and backpacks. Later on our supplies were enhanced through a NUT Day, Religious Ed, and parish contributions. These activities were so successful that we were able to fill and distribute 133 backpacks for homeless adult men and women. Each backpack contained new items consisting of the backpack, blanket, hat, gloves, sweatpants, sweatshirt, socks, and toiletries. The drive was so successful that the Student Service Council was able to contribute another 100 new blankets to our own Social Concerns and Haven House. The students worked very hard to sort and pack these items. It was an honor for them to serve the homeless and poor of our community.

Toys for Children of Migrant Workers

The Ascension Student Service Council had a very active Advent season. The students coordinated Toys for the Children of Migrant Workers. This diocesan ministry is managed by the Hope Community Center in Apopka, Florida. Working poor families are offered the opportunity to select and purchase toys for their children at a significantly reduced rate. In this way the dignity of the parents is respected as well as the desire of these parents to help themselves. Additionally, our students are able to recognize that there are many who are among the working poor who are struggling to provide a decent lives for their families.

Feb. 3	Student Service Council \$1 NUT day
Feb. 6 -10	ACRE TESTING Grades 5 th and 8 th
Feb. 9	Interim Report #3
Feb. 10	Middle School Valentine Dance
Feb. 10	Early Dismissal – 1:45 p.m.
Feb. 17	No School – In-service
Feb. 20	No School – President's Day
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday

Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Would you like to help some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere, people who lack the very basics of life, including clean water, adequate nutrition, and health care? These people live in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

A medical mission team of 13 personnel, including 6 Ascension parishioners, will be traveling to Nicaragua in March to provide health care to this area. This team is sponsored by Melbourne Medical Mission, a local non-profit charitable organization. In addition to the medical care our team will offer, we would like to collect the following items for distribution:

Adult & Children & Infant Tylenol
(Acetaminophen)
Adult & Children & Infant Ibuprofen
Adult & Children Aspirin
Travel Size Soap, Shampoo, & Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

Please place your donated items in the box labeled "Nicaragua Medical Mission", in Our Lady's Chapel. Items will be collected throughout the months of January and February. Thank you very much for helping our group minister to the people of Nicaragua. For further information about this mission trip or the ministry of Melbourne Medical Mission, please contact Dr. Richard or Regina Wilson at 242-2860, or e-mail cool-pod712@hotmail.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER

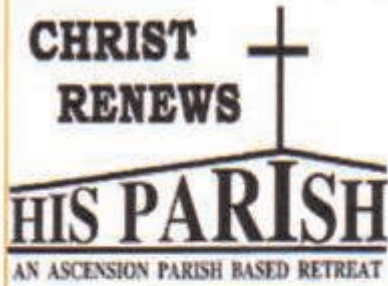
Supper, sponsored jointly by our Knights of Columbus chapter and the Pro-Life committee in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, February 22 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday Mass will follow in the church at 7:00 pm. Proceeds of the Soup Supper will benefit the Run for Life, a dedicated group running from the Miami area to St. Augustine. The Run for Life raises funds to support various crisis pregnancy centers throughout the state, in conjunction with Knights of Columbus Charities. Come out and support the runners, some of whom will be there in person. This is also a great way to observe the Ash Wednesday fast, attend Mass, and receive your ashes. Cost will be \$5 per person, or \$3 for children 8 and under, including choice of soup, bread, and a beverage. Reservations not necessary, but you can contact Cindy Iezzi at 259-2677 with any questions.

Adult Bible Study Spirituality of the Gospels



The four Gospels of the New Testament provide a rich, multi-dimensional portrait of Jesus Christ. Each also maps out a unique spiritual path into life with him. In Spirituality of the Gospels, the modern quest for spiritual fulfillment is met with profound insights from the Gospels and the enduring examples of saints both ancient and contemporary. This 7 session course will use a Commentary, a study guide, directed discussions, and video presentations. Cost of books is \$14, with checks payable to "Ascension Church." Sessions started on Jan. 18th and continue on Wednesdays at either 9AM or 7PM in room 305 of Ministry Center. For information call Deacon Michael at 254-1595 x3076 or mmcelwee@ascensioncatholicsch.org





Experience a personal spiritual renewal and an abundance of love in Christian Community.

Christ Renews His Parish is a retreat weekend open to every adult member of ASCENSION Parish.

A retreat given "by" parishioners, "for" parishioners.

Christ Renews His Parish is a process designed to bring members of our parish together in Christ – it is a multi-part gift to yourself that keeps on giving as you pass the gift of Christ to other parishioners and into your world:

This is an opportunity to spend about 36 hours away from the everyday world, a time for listening, sharing, praying, fun and food. A team of parishioners, along with a Spiritual Director, have formed in prayer and love to offer this gift to you. They will share with you on our parish campus.

THIS IS NOT A SILENT RETREAT. The emphasis is on personal and community renewal – sharing by the team and in small groups in a liturgical, scriptural, prayerful and relaxed atmosphere. There is no pressure to share or talk. Sensitivity to you and your needs is always respected.

Accommodations are simple but adequate. Arrangements can be made to accommodate your special need or diet. All meals are prepared for you – the attire is casual and comfortable.

WOMEN'S RETREAT March 3-4, 2012
 MEN'S RETREAT March 17-18, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Debra Beard 610-3392
debra.beard@mindspring.com or Monique Lindner 253-5504/jumary@cfl.rr.com
 or Paul Giammarinaro 610-3406/giafamily@gmail.com or Karl Kraemer 698-1326/
krahmk@yahoo.com or Michael McElwee 254-1595x3076/ mmcelwee@ascensioncatholicsch.org

CLIP AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PLACE IN THE COLLECTION AT MASS

NAME _____ PHONE (HOME) _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (Cell) _____

E MAIL _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME and PHONE NUMBER _____

MEMBER OF ASCENSION: YES _____ NO _____

SPECIAL NEED (Diet/Facilities/Etc.) _____

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

TERRY QUINIVAN

Ascension (EDGE) and Habitat for Humanity are working toward a February completion date for our recent build located at 2804 Grant Street in Melbourne. February also happens to be a birthday month for Wilhelmina Barber, our new partner. How wonderful a gift that will be! Seen here are the “primers” readying for paint, then the flooring, and then we’ll wrap up the punch list! We’d love to have you join us on Saturday morning, if you would like more information contact Cathy Miller at 255-4952.



Why Catholics Read the Bible

Did you ever hear someone say, “You Catholics don’t know or read the Bible.”

Want to have an informed response? Then plan to attend a free two hour seminar, led by Dominican Sister Patricia Thomas from Renew International on Tuesday, February 7, at 7pm in the parish hall. There is also a Spanish seminar at same time at Our Lady of Lourdes.

To register or for more information contact Deacon Michael at mmcelwee@ascensioncatholicsch.org or 254-1595 x3076.

Small Christian Communities



Joan Burrough

Small Christian Communities wish all a very happy 2012. We are frequently amazed at all the benefits we experience as members of our SCCs. The family-like ambiance and the concern shown to each other are seldom matched by other groups. If you want to begin the new year by joining a group, please contact Deacon Michael McElwee at 321-254-1595, Extension 3076 or mmcelwee@ascensioncatholicsch.org

The next event shared by SCCs and Why Catholic groups will be “Why Catholics Read the Bible” hosted by Ascension on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the parish Hall. All are welcome whether you are presently in a group or not.

Ascension Catholic Teens



Marie Bowles

We began the New Year with a lock-in. During that time we spent an hour and a half in Adoration. Thanks to some of our graduates who helped with lights and music, and to Deacon Tom.

Our next big event is the “Deep Water” retreat February 24-26 here at Ascension. All high school teens are invited to join us! Besides the usual activities – fun, food, inspiring music, and awesome encounters with God – a special incentive has been added: if **100 teens** show up, our leader **Mark** will have his **head shaved!** So don’t miss this unique opportunity to witness this extraordinary event. Bring your friends!

We continue to meet Sunday evenings after the 5:30 Mass in Room 312, and on Mondays at 7:00 for the Word at Windover in the Windover Pavilion off Post Road. There’s always room for a few more! For more info on any of our activities, contact Mark at 254-1595 x 3075 or come to Room 312 on Sunday evenings after 5:30 Mass.



E=MC² Enriching Married Catholic Couples

Happy New Year to you all,
Marriage Ministry nights continue to meet on the 3rd Friday of every month in 2012 **in room 307 at 7pm.** Come and enjoy food, fellowship, prayer, great conversation with your spouse and other married couples. This ministry is a great way to build a mutual community of support with other catholic couples trying to be the best version of themselves for one another, their families and for Christ and His Church. You are welcome to bring a snack to share but it is not required to come and participate. Please RSVP with Karen and Chuck Mitchell at 321-271-7979 or chuckloveskaren@aol.com. Child care is available from 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM in the Parish Ministry Building. Parents need to reserve space for their child(ren) to Cindy and Chris Kelly at 321-914-4577 or cindy@floridakellys.net by Wednesday January 18th.

Looking ahead: Friday **February 18th** at 7PM
Room 313 Marriage Ministry Night

Friday **March 16th** at 7PM Room 313 Marriage Ministry Night (stations of the cross, then Fish dinner in the hall before - a great way to start the evening)

Friday through Sunday **April 20th, 21st, and 22nd** **Marriage Getaway Weekend**

Friday **May 18th** at 7PM Room 313 Marriage Ministry Night

Why Catholic?

The Diocese of Orlando offers a faith formation and evangelization program for adults to explore the richness of their Catholic faith, deepen their relationship with Christ and share more fully in the mission of the Church.

Simply titled *Why Catholic?*, the program is solidly based on Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Participants receive in-depth information and insight into core beliefs, the sacraments, morality, and prayer.

Why Catholic?, developed by Renew International, is offered in English and Spanish, and includes workshops, retreats, and meeting as small communities to share how we relate Catholic teaching to everyday life.

Successfully implemented in over 1,300 parishes in the United States, the program covers the basic teachings of the Church in terms of what we believe, celebrate, live, and pray. Throughout the entire process the program provides direction for strong evangelization outreach.

Small groups will start meeting the week of February 19th at a variety of times and locations throughout the parish once a week for the six weeks of Lent for 90 minutes. Contact Deacon Michael for more information at mmcel-wee@ascensioncatholicsch.org or 254-1595 extension 3076.

**ARTICLES ARE DUE
FOR
MARCH ON
FEBRUARY 10TH
PLEASE SEND TO
NEWSLET-
TERACP@AOL.COM**

Social Concerns

Patti Scardino



Guess what's coming up.....**The 15th Annual Feinstein Challenge Begins 3/1/12!** YAY! Are you ready?

Here are some alarming numbers: 2010 we assisted 18,443 individuals (includes families) and in 2011 that number increased to 20,047!!

All your donations of food and money go directly to helping the poor and the homeless in our own community. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to the major fundraising challenge coming in March! Get ready... it's coming.



Pantry Needs: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Fruit, Juices, Cereal

Other items we stock:

Canned goods: Beans, Fruit, Soup, Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce, Vegetables-corn, green beans, peas etc., Stew, Ham, Spam, Chicken, Tuna, Spaghetti's, Ravioli, Spaghetti Sauce

Dry Goods: Beans, Rice, **Cereal, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Powered Milk, Pasta/Macaroni, Mac & Cheese.**

Other: Diapers, sample size shampoo/soap/ deodorant etc.

Travelers: If you are a frequent traveler and stay in hotels, we would love those unused toiletries and coffee packets the hotels put in your room each day. Many homeless depend on these samples to carry with them.



"Do you promise to love me, warts and all?"

ASCENSION CATHOLIC COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Ascension Catholic Council of Women will be hosting a **Craft Fair Saturday, March 10, 2012.**

From 9 am to 4 pm in the Ascension Social Hall. For more information or for crafters to reserve tables, contact Ann Horschel (321) 254-1861 or email horschela@bellsouth.net. Spaces are limited so it is recommended to reserve early.

**Karen Applebee
President ACCW**

Ascension Catholic Church



January Happenings

Adoration Chapel Open 24-7

Religious Education K thru 6th Tuesdays 4—5:15 pm

1st thru 8th grade Wednesdays 6:30—7:45 pm

Boy Scout Meeting 7-8:30 pm Mondays

Ascension Council of Catholic Women 2nd Tuesday 7pm

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians 3rd Wednesday 7pm

Adult Bible Study Wednesday, 9 am and 7pm call Deacon Michael 254-1595x3076

Junior High Youth Ministry 7th & 8th Graders (no matter where you attend school) Meet monthly for 5:30 pm Mass

Ascension Thrift Shop—Volunteers always needed—Open Tuesday through Saturday call 259-7291

JustFaith — call Bea 254-8644 or MaryKay 253-4504 or Rich 242-1951

Hurricane Helpers call Marie Higbie 253-2981 for Help or to volunteer

Volunteers for Daily Bread call Paul or MaryKay 253-4504

Contemplative Prayer Tuesday at 7 pm

Room 304 call Deacon Mike 254-1595 ext.3076

Prayer for the Poor—Tuesday evenings Our Lady Chapel 6—6:30 pm

High School Youth Ministry meet after 5:30 pm Mass on Sundays call Mark Kniepmann 254-1595X3075

Marriage Enrichment Program 3rd Friday each month Call Karen & Chuck Mitchell 732-3838

Ascension Funeral Choir call Marie Odorizzi 720-4641

Grief Support Group call Carol Gressler 779-7850

GOSPEL AWARENESS go to www.justfaith.org click on programs or call Maureen 752-5472 or MaryKay 253-4504

ROSARY MAKING MINISTRY call Michi Davis 242-8092

ASCENSION EDUCATIONAL BINGO Mondays and Thursdays, 6:15pm Church Hall, snack bar opens 4:30pm

KNIGHTS meet 1st & 3rd Thursdays, Council Officers meet on 2nd Thursday. All Meetings begin at 7pm

BAPTISMS

Lucia Sofiya Gilbert-Ramos

Sofia Gabriela Carter

Thach Vuong Vu

Quyán Ahn Christina Nguyen

Michael Zizzizn

Isabel Warren

Brianna Firkel

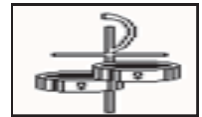


MARRIAGES

Ryan Zell Davis

Gregory Galloway

Brian Jay Berry



Laura Marie Salaka

Mary Dennis

Amy Lynn

Steinberg

DEATHS

Dionisio Badana

Elizabeth Mazur

Victor LeBron

Geran Rivera

Vincent Kissel

Elsie Kissel

Jesse James Chaney

Josephine Lazarre

Mary Doig

Frances Scieurca

William Heisler

Irene O'Neill Dardano

Ana Bruno

Liz Sherman

James Harkin

Dennis J. Culp

