

THE GOOD NEWS!



St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church
157 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

February 12, 2012

Our Lenten Observance

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But first . . .

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 21

Reviving an old church tradition, on February 21 from 5:00 to 8:00PM, made-to-order flapjacks and a bit of pre-Lenten revelry will be on tap in the Parish Hall at 157 Montague St. Please join us for St. Ann's own "Mardi Gras" event – complete with beads! Bring a friend! All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Prayers and Imposition of Ashes

8:00 to 10:00AM

12 Noon to 2:00PM

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Deanery service at St. John's Park Slope – 7:00PM

139 St. John's Place (at 7th Avenue. 2,3, & 4 Trains to Grand Army Plaza)

A list of opportunities for spiritual enrichment during this season continues on page 3.

Services at St. Ann's

• Sundays

Early Church,
9:45AM (*See Page 5*)

• Choral Eucharist,
11:00AM

• Sunday School,
11:00AM

• Children's Choir,
12:45-1:15PM

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Midweek Eucharists

• Tuesdays
12:30PM

• Thursdays
6:00PM

• Church open 12:00-
2:00 every weekday

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• Wednesdays
Organ Recital,
1:10PM

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A Prayer for the Season ~ Psalm 31, from the service of Compline
(*See "Notes from the Console", page 4*)

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

from The Book of Common Prayer, page 129

From the Priest-in-Charge

Faith by the Numbers

There is a certain calculus to a life of faith. We Christians, for example, mark time within and through seasons of the church year in ways that give structure to our searching and definition to our spiritual identity.

The impulse to organize our religious practice in this way may have something to do with the power and symbolism of numbers in our tradition. God creates the world in 7 days. The Israelites wander 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus, after his baptism, spends 40 days in the desert facing temptation.

We will usher in Lent singing the familiar hymn "Forty Days and Forty Nights" to help put us in mind of Jesus' wilderness experience and size up our own. Lent's 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to Easter (not counting Sundays, of course!), places brackets around the commitment we make to give up or take on something as a spiritual discipline in this season. Whether we hold out or fall short, the light at the end of the tunnel – just beyond the empty tomb – is never far off.

Of course, there is sufficient evidence given on Ash Wednesday that the challenge of living faithfully cannot be contained. The cross in ashes we receive on our foreheads is a reminder of our mortality, our need for repentance and our dependence on God's grace and mercy. We know no matter how sincerely or enthusiastically we seek to follow Jesus along the *via dolorosa* (his journey to the cross) that our struggles with temptation will persist through every liturgical season.

George Herbert's moving poem *Lent* written in the 17th century provides a bit of timeless wisdom. Partially reproduced on the following page, one verse you'll find there offers a perspective on our every intention to embrace Christ's suffering with him in this particular season:

*It's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest.*

Herbert's rich insight dignifies any great or small effort we make to repent (meaning "turn") and move in new directions to deepen our relationship with God. It also seems a gentle caution against investing too much in the "organized" side of religious belief.

If we take comfort in this, we should also be encouraged to live fully into the spirit of this season now upon us. We should embrace every opportunity we have to live with less and give more. And, though it may sound like something of a contradiction after everything I have said, we should indulge in the support of the church. We'll let our liturgy anchor us in prayer and let our special Lenten programs – from the Exploring our Faith/Knowing our Church series, to the Stations of the Cross and Quiet Day with Brother Robert Hugh, to the Sunday evening Choral Compline – inform and form us.

We will not rest, and do our best, not relying on a formula, but step by step on Passion's way, day by day through these 40, as ever.

The Rev. John E. Denaro

(Cont'd from page 1)

Faith Formation and Enrichment in Lent

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Stations of the Cross & Quiet Day, March 16-17

Brother Robert Hugh of the Society of St. Francis (SSF) comes to St. Ann & the Holy Trinity to accompany and support our Lenten journeys. On Friday, March 16 at 6:00 PM, he will introduce the Stations of the Cross with insights into the Franciscan origins of the devotion and then lead us through this prayerful practice in our church. On Saturday, March 17, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Br. Robert invites us to observe a Lenten Day of Reflection or Quiet Day with the theme of "Making Room." And then on Sunday, March 18, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Br. Robert will join us as our guest preacher at the 11:00AM Holy Eucharist.

Study Series: Exploring Our Faith/Knowing Our Church

This 3-week program is intended to acquaint or reacquaint members of the St. Ann & the Holy Trinity community with the history, traditions and spiritual practices of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church. At a forum on each of three consecutive Sundays after the 11:00AM service, we will explore together The Roots of Anglicanism (February 26), Anglican Worship (March 4) and The Sacraments (March 11). All are welcome to attend any and all of the sessions and join us for further discussion of these topics after the 6:00 PM Eucharist on subsequent Thursdays. Presentations will be led by Fr. John Denaro, Mo. Nell Archer, Music Director Gregory Eaton and Seminarian Melinda Hall.

Sunday Evening Choral Compline

Compline is the final service of the day in the monastic tradition. This year, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity will offer Compline which will be entirely choir-led on five Sundays February 26, and March 4, 11, 18 and 25. See "Notes from the Console" on page 4 for a full description of this service.

From *Lent* (1633)

GEORGE HERBERT

Welcome deare feast of Lent: who loves not thee,
He loves not Temperance, or Authoritie,
But is compos'd of passion.

The Scriptures bid us *fast*; the Church sayes, *now*:
Give to thy Mother, what thou wouldst allow
To ev'ry Corporation.

... It's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:

We cannot reach our Savior's purity;
Yet are bid, Be holy ev'n as he.
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-ways:

Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn, and take me by the hand, and more
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sin and taking such repast
As may our faults control:

That ev'ry man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlor; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

Notes from the Console

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30).

This description of the end of the Last Supper is the only scriptural reference to a specific act of worship in which Jesus and his disciples participated together. Coming as it does in the midst of the most solemn part of the story of Jesus, it gives particular emphasis to the use of music as a way of centering oneself in God's love and God's will. For Christians, this is a direct outgrowth of the Jewish use of psalms in worship. Our Islamic brethren are called to prayer throughout the day with chants, sung by the muezzin. This had its parallel for centuries in a Christian practice of daily worship known as the Canonical Hours. These consisted of nine brief services, known as offices, which were sung throughout the day so that work and the world were not allowed long hours to pull Christians out of the spiritual practice of meditation on God's Word and Will for humanity, and gave the faithful the opportunity to respond in thanks with sung praises.

The Silence of the night was broken with *Matins*, which has come to be known in our time as Morning Prayer. Throughout the day, the offices of *Prime*, *Terce*, *Sext*, *None*, and *Vespers* (Evensong) reminded the faithful of the presence of God in their everyday lives. Finally, at the end of the day came the final office, called *Compline*. With *Compline* (which means *completion*), all activity and talking ceased, beginning what was known as the Great Silence. In this way, clergy and laity could both spend the night "resting in the Lord", having just come from prayer.

Given its position at the end of the day where it leads into a period of silence and rest, *Compline* has always had as its main feature a profound sense of spiritual peace. This is based on assurances of God's love, as well as prayers for protection through the night.

This year, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity is offering *Compline* as a part of our spiritual centering during Lent. The office will be sung at 8:00PM on every Sunday in Lent: February 26, and March 4, 11, 18 and 25. A choir will sing the service; those in attendance are invited to hear the Word of God in prayer and praise, and to meditate using the chants of *Compline* as an invitation to spiritual peace.

Join us for the silence, the peace, the light which remains even in the dark of night. May this be a blessing upon our journey through Lent, and a way of deepening the spirituality of all who join us as we move toward the solemn events of Holy Week, in which Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn together just before he was to be betrayed, sacrificed, and finally raised again that all might know the love of God.

Gregory Eaton
Director of Music

Milestones

We note with sadness the passing on January 24 of Bruce Jackman, a Warden of this parish back in the 1980s. Bruce and Shirley were active and dedicated, even including a tour as missionary assistants to a bishop in Africa. They moved on to Trinity Wall Street in the mid-1990s, although we've seen them at numerous of our programs and concerts since then. A memorial for Bruce was held at Trinity yesterday, February 11.

If you wish to offer condolences to Shirley, contact our parish office for their address.

May the soul of Bruce and those of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Words from the Wardens

We are happy to welcome aboard and welcome back members of this year's Vestry. At our Annual Meeting in December two incumbents were re-elected and one vacancy was filled; all were elected to three-year terms. The names of all Vestry members, as well as the Wardens and clergy are listed elsewhere in this issue. Please feel free to get to know each of them and make yourself and your concerns known.

At our next Vestry meeting, February 14, we will be certifying the names of two delegates to Diocesan Convention and an unlimited number of delegates to the Archdeaconry of Brooklyn. These delegates need not be Vestry members. If you feel a calling to participate as a representative of our parish in the larger scope of our diocese please let us know. We will be happy to explain what is required of delegates in terms of time commitment or travel (not very much at all).

We have begun a conversation about new ways of organizing the Vestry and how it interfaces with the congregation and the community. Soon we will be approaching everyone with requests for

ideas and suggestions. Watch this space for more news as it develops.

Some six months ago, as the Vestry was looking toward the renovation of 157-159 Montague Street buildings, they created a Building Renovation Team to help us make our long-planned dream of renovating these quirky but definitely out-of-date buildings and bringing them into the modern world so that they will better serve our parish and community. The team consisting of Fr. Denaro, Frank Kain, Peter Farley, Colleen Heemeyer and Nancy Nicolette took on the task of finding a pool of suitable architects, interviewing them, and making a recommendation to the Vestry. At their January meeting, the Vestry accepted the recommendation of this Renovation Team and empowered them to handle contract negotiations with the architect they recommended.

As always, your prayers and good thoughts are appreciated by us all as we continue to discern and implement the best way to do God's work here in Brooklyn Heights and beyond.

Syd Farley & Frank Kain, Wardens

Introducing "Early Church!"

Beginning on February 26, 2012, there will be an opportunity for folks and families on the go to worship early on Sunday morning at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity. Our new service at 9:45AM – called "Early Church" – is a redesign of the Children's Church service that began last summer. Early Church will still be kid-friendly and just a half-hour long, but will move from the Parish Hall into the church, making it easier to welcome people of all ages to become part of our community. Members and friends of St. Ann's can help support this effort to grow by spreading the word among the earlier risers you know! This Sunday schedule will continue after Easter.

Book of the Month Club selection for March 1:

Jana Riess: *Flunking Sainthood: A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor.*

Available at www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com and select bookstores.

Discussion follows Thursday 6:00PM Eucharist. "A wry memoir" about seeking spiritual perfection.

from Mother Archer

The Atmosphere of Silence

In December I did something I have wanted to do for a long time. I made a retreat during the season of Advent. Although I had taken retreats in the past, I had never made a silent one alone. I confess I was more than a little anxious about how I would handle that much time by myself. How would I structure my days? How would I know if I was "using" this precious time wisely? Would I feel isolated or even lonely? Would I retreat so far into myself that it would be hard to come back out into the real world again? Would my demons visit me? The prospect of so much unscheduled time was at once inviting and disquieting.

After exploring a few different options, I decided to make my way to Emery House in rural Massachusetts about an hour north of Boston. Run by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) who also maintain a monastery in Cambridge, the brothers oversee almost one hundred fifty acres of land on the banks of the Merrimack River. I wanted to stay at a retreat house run by a religious order where I could observe the daily office with others and meet with a spiritual director. Emery House met all my criteria.

When I arrived in the evening, Brother Luke greeted me warmly and offered me some supper and a couple of helpful suggestions. He encouraged me to sleep as long as I wanted and to "fast from technology" as much as possible. In other words, turn off the smart phone. Fasting from the internet and email was harder than I thought it would be. Having trained myself to respond to sounds that notify me throughout my day of incoming email and text messages and upcoming deadlines, I found myself reluctant to turn the stupid thing off. It took about twenty four hours before I could finally cut the cord.

I have heard that most people go on retreat with no sense of how tired they actually are. It is not

uncommon for a person who would typically characterize herself as an early riser to "sleep in" the first day. I discovered that I was no different.

Perhaps one of the most surprising things I noticed, almost right away, was how the "atmosphere of silence" shaped my experience. Keen observers of human behavior know that there is always a lot going on at many different levels any time two or more people interact socially. We communicate so much with our bodies, our facial expressions, and even just our presence. When we add speech, things can get complicated, demanding a tremendous amount of our attention – attention that could be focused elsewhere. When silence is observed, words cannot be misinterpreted. In silence it is difficult, if not impossible, for us to project our unmet needs and expectations, our fears or our hopes onto others. The atmosphere of silence maintained at Emery House led me to a sense of spaciousness. In that spacious place I was increasingly aware of a capacity that I worried I might have lost – the capacity to feel God's grace.

The opportunity for rest and contemplation were certainly among the most important features of my experience on retreat. A friend said to me before I left the city, "Don't expect to get much of anything done. Remember it's a retreat, not an attack." In fact I did begin to realize over the course of a few days that the task at hand, if there was one, was not to do anything, but simply to be. But how do we measure our worth if we are not doing anything? How do we know that our lives have value if we cannot produce a list of accomplishments to show as evidence? What I came to realize is that it is precisely at that intersection of being and doubt about our own worthiness, that God is waiting for us – with open arms.

The Rev. Nell B. Archer

Musings from Our Seminarian

It is called “red rot” and it clings to my fingers when I shelve and rearrange the old, decaying books in the seminary library. Although at times a mundane and rather gross experience, the other day I came to a section full of old diocesan records from all over the country. Initially annoyed about their disorderly arrangement on the shelf, I soon began to think about what the books contained. The answer: bound newspapers, full of details about activities, events and ideas. On the one hand, it seemed superfluous to keep so many of them, but then again, who knows who may want to read it later.

I mean much later. This week I read a letter from Clement I of Rome written sometime in the late First Century, which makes it quite aged. The church was already established, and Clement alludes to the letters of Paul as he too writes to the church in Corinth. Last March, I stood in a cave in the middle of Turkey and gaped at the paintings on its walls. The cave was once a church in a monastic community around the 300s, and the paintings depicted the life of Christ. Seeing and reading these things makes me wonder what these people – Clement of Rome, the congregation in Corinth, the monks living in the Cappadocian caves, even the people from the 1800s in the

diocesan journals – were like. They lived in such different times and circumstances.

But then I think, maybe they aren’t that different after all, not in the ways that really matter. Clement is writing about the need for unity and an end to envy and strife, which is certainly relevant now. In the caves, I could read the iconography and understand the story being told without the aid of any guide or book. But mostly, I imagine these communities gathered around a cup and a loaf of bread, the heart of the church in every generation. Like us, they prayed together and remembered their Savior in the breaking of the bread. As promised, Christ drew near to them, grafting them into his body and sending them out into the world, just as we too are drawn up into the love of God and sent forth into the world. Throughout all ages, Christ has promised to be with us and sustain us through his body and blood. We are part of this great company of saints, joined to Christ through this meal, and his promises have remained the same from the first century until now. Our faithfulness testifies to Christ and continues the line of faithful saints. What will we leave behind for future generations as a witness to the faithfulness of Christ?

Melinda Hall

Carol Stone Appears with the Rev. Barbara Crafton at Trinity Church's "Wall Street Dialogues"

Parishioner and business economist Carol Stone and the Rev. Barbara Crafton spoke at Trinity Church Wall Street on January 18 as part of a speaker series responding to issues raised by the Occupy Wall Street Movement. They discussed the impact of taxes, health care and education, among other topics. While they work together on The Geranium Farm website, they do not agree on many of these questions, and having a considerate and respectful dialogue was part of the point of their presentation, in the face of much other confrontational and hurtful dialogue that marks these days. The session was energetic and informative, both for the audience and for Carol and Mother Crafton.

They are pictured here with Robert Scott, Director of Trinity Institute.

(Photo by the Rev. John Denaro)



News from the Pews

Greetings all!

We do have some good news to report from the pews; please continue to send me your new news items.

Although this winter seems unseasonably mild, Claudia Barber happily reports that her grandson Sam, age 2-1/4, recently celebrated some winter-time "firsts" – sledding and ice skating! He's "way beyond toddler!" she asserts.

And it's warm outside again today, which prompts me to remind everyone that Nancy Nicolette will soon be setting up "Team Nancy" for the Revlon EIF Run; she'll post a notice in the Parish Hall when she has all the information for those who want to walk and/or contribute to this important cause. It's on Saturday, May 5, this year for those who want to mark their calendars now.

Fr. John's partner and parishioner Joel Van Liew headed to Louisville, Kentucky, on February 3 to begin rehearsals for a new play in the Humana Festival at the Actors' Theater there. The show, called "The Veri**n Play", by Lisa Kron, opens February 29 and runs through April 2. Break a leg, Joel!

Congratulations to Rick Joers and Joe Plower, who will be married at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity next Saturday, February 18th!

Colleen Heemeyer reports that she and Sven have been basking in the glow of their completed apartment renovations (throughout last year they had the windows and all the trim replaced along with some plaster repaired). The apartment looks great, and they do not miss the dust! More renovation projects are on the way.

For Christmas, the Heemeyers went to Cologne for the second year in a row. They had a wonderful time visiting with family and eating and eating. Their trip went smoothly - the flight to Dusseldorf arrived early, luggage made it the entire way and weather was mild for the entire trip. On *Heiligabend* (or Christmas Eve) they managed to

get to the Cologne Cathedral for Midnight Mass.

Suzan Frazier reports that this is a time of preparation in her house since her girls went back to college. She placed an order with her favorite seed company for the church garden – when it arrived it contained ¼ lb of "forget-me-not seeds" instead of 1/4 lb of "four o' clocks seeds". She brought this to the seed people's attention, and they said they would rush the four o' clock seeds - with an envelope to return the forget-me-not seeds; oh, well. The church garden will be lovely this summer, full of four-o'clocks, nevertheless. She is getting out her Ukrainian egg-painting supplies early for these quiet evenings; this Easter will see at least a few new psanky!

Daughters Caroline and Margaret Kwateng are busy applying for summer programs and semester-abroad programs and mini- travel grants. Also planting seeds – I am sure some will germinate!

Metzli and Atl Castro Asmussen are enjoying the family church hour at 10:00AM, although they miss seeing everyone at coffee hour. They celebrated their first double-digit birthday, as they turned 10 on January 25. They hosted a slumber party on January 28. Happy belated to you both!

Grace Levy has been accepted to Summit High School for next year. Her sister Talia Levy played in her first violin recital this past Saturday.

Barbara Gonzo passed on the information that son Daniel Harris moved from Lefferts Gardens to Park Slope and has new roommates.

Laura Mumm's second semester at Harvard Law School is under way; she will be interning at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District this summer and is looking forward to it! Andy Mumm is currently in his third year at Mt. Sinai Medical School here in New York City and is enjoying his various clinical rotations – he spent last week in the obstetrics ward and really liked it.

(Continued on page 9)

A Letter from an Old Friend

Editor's Note: We received this epistle from Vincent Kain out in Seattle after the publication of the previous issue of The Good News, but before Christmas. Hence, the then-seasonal greeting! We're very happy to hear from Vincent, Frank's brother; he was especially active in Garden work while he was a parishioner here.

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To the folks at St. Ann's: Merry Christmas and greetings from Seattle!

Today, and most days, I think of the beauty of the church, and all of you who gave me so much love and support.

After coming here a year ago, in an attempt to re-invent myself after some disappointments in the tri-state area, I found myself once again drinking to excess. Fortunately, there is an excellent rehabilitation program here, affiliated with the Salvation Army, called A.R.C. (Adult Rehabilitation Center). I have been here four-and-a-half months so far, and hope to be completing the program at the end of February.

My spirit has come to life in this wonderful place. I have a physically and mentally challenging position as a prep-cook in the kitchen, feeding one hundred and twenty men three times a day. I'm also playing bass in the "praise band", which does a set of four or five contemporary spiritual songs during chapel services. Finding that I can play well sober gives me great joy. Another blessing is that, somehow, I've been relieved of the stage fright that always came about. God removed it, and I'm grateful.

The planning stage for after completion has commenced. There are a few employment options, one of which is working in a printing business; that's almost definite. There are also many housing opportunities.

Do I miss you all, and Frank? Of course. However, Seattle is a pretty city, bordered on two sides by the Cascade and Olympic mountains. My support system is fantastic, also.

Here's wishing you joy, peace and love and, if anyone is struggling with an addiction, I highly recommend the A.R.C. program. They are in every city (their headquarters are in Manhattan). They are truly fine people and they have given me great hope to continue on the path to permanent sobriety.

Love, Vin

(Continued from page 8)

News from the Pews

And a personal thanks to the many parishioners who have sent their best wishes and lovely cards to me and my husband Larry Mumm after his stroke in November. His recovery is moving along, and he is back at his office for several hours every day!

Don't forget to send me your news at Deb-Mumm@aol.com, or just buttonhole me at coffee hour – we'd enjoy hearing from everyone!

'Til Next Time,
Debbie Mumm

The Rev. John E. Denaro
Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Nell B. Archer
Assistant Priest-in-Charge

Melinda Hall
Seminarian

Syd Farley
& Frank Kain
Wardens

Peter Farley, III
Treasurer

Claudia Barber
Cheryl L. Branche
Robert Buck
Jacqueline deWeever
Suzan Frazier Kwateng
Barbara Gonzo, *Clerk*
Colleen Heemeyer
Joyce Pickering
Roger Wieber
Vestry Members

✘ ✘ ✘

Carol Stone
Newsletter Editor

Suzan Frazier Kwateng
Associate

✘ ✘ ✘

Phone: 718-875-6960

Fax: 718-625-0153

Email: saht157@gmail.com

www.saintannandtheholyltrinity.org

Upcoming Events!

Tuesday, February 14

Vestry Meeting, 7:00PM (*Wardens' Column, Page 5*)

Sunday, February 19 Last Epiphany

Choral Eucharist, 11:00AM

Fellowship Brunch follows Coffee Hour

Tuesday, February 21 Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper, 5:00 to 8:00PM (*Page 1*)

Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes, 8:00 to 10:00AM and Noon to 2:00PM

Ash Wednesday liturgy, St. John's Park Slope, 7:00PM (*Page 1*)

Sunday, February 26 Lent I and Following Sundays

Early Church, 9:45AM (*Page 5*)

Choral Eucharist, 11:00AM

Exploring Our Faith/Knowing Our Church forum, during Coffee Hours (*Page 3*)

Choral Compline, 8:00PM (*Also, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. See Page 4*)

Thursday, March 1

Book-of-the-Month-Club ~ follows 6:00PM Eucharist (*Page 5*)

Friday, March 16-Saturday, March 17

Stations of the Cross & Quiet Day, Br. Robert Hugh, SSF (*Page 3*)

Visit www.saintannandtheholyltrinity.org

for "Breaking News" and wonderful pictures of what goes on around here all the time! Carol Francescani is the talented webmistress.

Mission Statement: Church of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity

The people of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity express gratitude for God's love by seeking to live as Jesus Christ teaches us: caring for our neighbors and ourselves, worshiping God with thanksgiving, and being good stewards of what is given to us. We welcome all who wish to join us on our spiritual journey.