Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is a Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Ordained Priesthood. The Gospel today about Christ our Shepherd lends itself to this intention.

When I was in college here at the University of Florida in the late ’70s, I wanted to do something for God with my life. I had been received into the Catholic Church by Fr. Bob Baker, then Pastor of St. Augustine Parish and Student Center, now the Bishop of Birmingham, Alabama. I was majoring in a very practical degree; but I sensed that God might have another plan for my life and it seemed it might be the priesthood.

Sometimes men ask me “How did you know that God was calling you to be a priest?” For me it was a persistent thought that God might be calling me to be a priest. I didn't feel worthy to be a priest; I didn't even know everything a priest does, except for his public ministry of leading the Mass and hearing Confessions and a general sense that the priest help others find God. Nevertheless, the idea would not go away and I was willing to consider it.

So, to me this is important: if a man keeps thinking about being a priest and is willing to consider this, then perhaps God is calling him. I’m glad that I finally decided to answer the call I heard. After more than 25 years as a priest, I am very happy being a priest and serving God's People in this way. I am not alone. Surveys of priests’ happiness with their service and life is generally higher than in most professions.

I pray that there are those men in our parish who would consider whether God is calling you to the priesthood. If it seems God keeps persistently putting this in your mind and heart, don't be afraid to pursue it. Get involved in parish service right now. Seek out more information from your Pastor or the Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. David Ruchinski at (904) 262-3200, ext. 101. Email: www.vocations@dosafl.com.
It may help to know the process of becoming a priest. First one applies to a Diocese unless one feels inclined to join a Religious Order, like the Franciscans or Benedictines. To study for Diocesan priesthood means that you will serve as a priest in one geographical region (Diocese) and be immersed in ministry to a particular parish to which you are assigned by the Bishop of the Diocese.

But first, after passing through suitable interviews and testing, the candidate is sent to a seminary to prepare for the priesthood. This preparation involves spiritual formation in prayer and relationship with God, academic training, ministry training, and human development. During all this preparation the seminary and the Church are also discerning whether the candidate is called by God to be a priest. So the candidate discerns and the Church discerns.

If the candidate is accepted to prepare for the priesthood upon graduation from High School, he will enter a Seminary College for 4 years. If he already has a College degree, he may still need to spend a time in preparation for entry into a Major Seminary where graduate degree work is done in theology for 4 more years. In our Diocese a year of service in a parish is also required.

This is a wonderful time in our Diocese as we have about 40 seminarians in both College and Major Seminaries. I know some of these men and they are committed Catholics and ready to serve the Church. Their motives arise from love for Christ and his Church, which we heard about last Sunday regarding the commission to Peter to feed God's flock. Jesus asked first (and 3 times!) if Peter loved him; then he gave Peter his ministry which is passed down to the Bishop of Rome: the Pope as Successor of Peter.

What does the priest do? The thrust of the ministry of a priest is to proclaim the Word of God, celebrate the Eucharist and other Sacraments (Baptisms, Confessions, Caring for the Sick, Weddings, Funerals) and bring Christ's care and guidance to people's lives, especially to those in crisis. Each day he sets some time aside for prayer. Being with his parishioners and caring for them is essential to the life of a parish priest. He must respect the gifts of wisdom and service of his parishioners and call forth generous giving of time, talent, and treasure for Christ and his Church. The priest must also have a special care for the forgotten, the poor, and those on the margins.

For me, the greatest joy I have in the challenging yet happy life of the priesthood today is knowing that I am sharing the greatest meaning of life with others: God's love and salvation for us in Jesus Christ. And this love comes in community: specifically the Church, family, friends and neighbors near and far.

Let us all pray for those God has called to be ordained shepherds (pastors) of the Church, those ordained priests and bishops who are called to make a difference in people’s lives because they mediate the love and goodness and beauty of God to our world. And I ask you to pray for more men, especially in our parish, to step up and consider being a priest, a man for others and for God.

Yours in the Heart of Christ,
Fr. John
Faith Focus

The Essential Role of the Bishop and Priest in the Celebration of the Eucharist – Fr. John

Bishops and Priests are ordained (specially chosen by God and dedicated by the Church) to represent Christ who is the Shepherd and Head of His Body, the Church. Christ the Shepherd thus acts through the Bishop and Priest when they are doing what they are ordained to do: preach and teach the Catholic Faith, preside at the Eucharist and other Sacraments, and pastor God's People.

In the celebration of the Eucharist only the Bishops and Priests have authority to gather the People of God and offer the Sacrifice of the Mass for and with them. Only through the ministry of the Bishop or Priest is the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ Really made Present on the Altar. The Mass cannot be celebrated without the Bishop or at least the Priest (the Priest can also be said to represent the Bishop). This assures that the Mass is legitimate, i.e., that it is an act of Christ and his Catholic Church because the ordained leader represents Christ and Christ acts through him.

The primary reason that the Bishop and Priest offer the One Sacrifice of Christ (i.e., his dying and rising) sacramentally in the Mass is so that the members of Christ’s Body—the Church—may offer themselves with Christ in his eternal Sacrifice of love for others.

"Through the ministry of priests the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is completed in union with the sacrifice of Christ the only Mediator, which in the Eucharist is offered through the priests’ hands in the name of the whole Church...(Catechism of the Catholic Church#1369)

The People may be assured that it is indeed Christ’s Sacrifice that is offered in the Mass because the Bishop or Priest is ordained to represent Christ as the One offering the Mass.

Also, the Priest, by being in communion (sharing the Catholic Faith and its teaching, worship, and authority) with the Bishop, represents our communion with the Catholic Church beyond our own parish or local Catholic community. The Bishop maintains communion with the other Catholic Bishops throughout the world and with the Pope—who maintains and serves this universal (catholic) unity. Thus in every Catholic Mass you will hear in the Eucharistic Prayer an intercession for the Pope and for the local Bishop. For example, in Eucharistic Prayer II, the Priest prays:

“Remember, Lord, your Church spread throughout the world;
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with Francis, our Pope, Felipe, our Bishop, and all the clergy.”
**Sacramental Preparation**

**Baptismal Preparation**

**For Child’s Baptism**

CLASSES FOR PARENTS

Next Class: Sat., May 11, 2013

at 10:30am in the Ministry Center

Call the office to register
at 376-5405.

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**Holy Faith Catholic Youth Ministry**

**CYM NEWS**

NO CYM Today, Sunday, April 21st

**CYM FUN DAY BBQ**

Sunday, April 28th

4:00pm to 6:30pm

Cofrin Nature Park

April 28th: CYM BBQ in the park

Cofrin Park is located at NW 50th Terrace, G’ville, right across from the back entrance of the Gainesville Health and Fitness Center on 8th Ave.

Please bring a side dish, snack, or soft drink to share and any sports equipment you would like to use while we are there.

May 5th: CYM members will join in celebrating the May Crowning of Mary and the Multi-Cultural Festival with the parish. All CYM teens should process with the rest of the congregation after the 11:15am Mass and to the Grotto and then meet in the upper hall for food & fun and to help with the children’s fun activities during the event.

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**Vacation Bible School, July 13-17th**

Planning your Summer activities? Schedule in our Catholic Vacation Bible School …

**Kingdom Rock:**

Where Kids Stand Strong for God

Saturday July 13th - Wednesday July 17th.

More details to follow.

Look for Knights of God’s Kingdom.

**STEUBENVILLE 2013 Youth Conference**

July 19-21, 2013

**Sign up Today!**

Contact TiAnna

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**Catholic Youth Ministry**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN FORMATION (CCF)**

**CCF SUNDAY CLASS SCHEDULE**

10:40am to 12:00 Noon

TODAY, April 21st: NO CCF CLASSES

April 28th: CCF classes for grades Kinder thru 9th

April 28th is the last day of CCF classes for this School Year

Holy Faith Parish completes its year of Children’s Christian Faith Formation with our May Crowning procession on Sunday May 5th, followed by a Multi-Cultural Celebration of the diversity of our Parish in the Upper Hall (see page 5). We invite all our families to attend the 11:15am Mass and to join the children in procession to the grotto where one of our First Communion children will crown the Blessed Virgin Mary statue and flowers will be placed in front of Mary. We also invite our families to bring a traditional family dish to share after the crowning at the “Cinco de Mayo” event.

Come and celebrate with the Parish and enjoy this day of Prayer, Food and Fun for all ages. See you there!
CALENDAR & EVENTS FOR THE PARISH

**Monday, April 22, 2013**
- Boy Scouts Troop 307 Meeting (7:00 PM)
  Location: Lower Hall

**Tuesday, April 23**
- Hofa Craft's Ministry (10:00 AM)
  Location: Lower Hall
- Voices - Rehearsal (7:00 PM)
  Location: Upper Hall

**Wednesday, April 24**
- Novena: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (10:01 AM)
  Location: Chapel
- Sonflowers' Ministry Meeting (6:00 PM)
  Location: Conference Rm
- Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assm 1817 (7:00 PM)
  Location: Meeting Rm # 1
- Choir Rehearsal (7:00 PM)
  Location: Church

**Thursday, April 25**
- Catholic Charities Volunteer Luncheon (9:00 AM)
  Location: Upper Hall
- Low-Vision Support Group Mtg (2:00 PM)
  Location: Meeting Rm # 1
- Knights of Columbus 13900 1st & 3rd Degree (5:30 PM)
  Location: Lower Hall
- Knights of Columbus 13900 1st & 3rd Degree (5:30 PM)
  Location: Upper Hall
- People of Praise-Praise & Worship (7:30 PM)
  Location: Chapel

**Friday, April 26**
- Bulletin Deadline for May 12, 2013
  Send email to: bulletin@holyfaithchurch.org
- Wedding & Baptisms - Ramirez (6:00 PM)
  Location: Church
- Private Event (6:00 PM)
  Location: Upper Hall

**Saturday, April 27**
- Baptism - Pezet (11:00 AM)
  Location: Church
- Private Event (10:00 AM)
  Location: Upper Hall
- Reconciliation (3:30 PM)
  Location: Church

**Sunday, April 28**
- Sunday Mass Schedule (see page 6)
- Last Day for CCF CLASSES
- R.C.I.A. Mystagogy (10:30 AM)
  Location: Chapel
- RCIA - Breaking Open the Word (11:45 AM)
  Location: Ministry Center - Fr. John's Office
- Children's Choir Rehearsal (12:15 PM)
  Location: Church
- Welcome Brunch (12:30 PM)
  Location: Ministry Center - Lobby
- Catholic Youth Ministry Meeting (4:00 PM)
  Location: Coefrin Nature Park (see page 4)
- Young Adult Ministries (7:15 PM)
  Discussion about Relationships
  Location: Parish Ministry Center Office

Join us as we honor Mary, our blessed mother

At our annual May crowning event Sunday, May 5th after the 11:15 AM Mass

Our CCF children present the May crowning devotion (which begins in the church). Please join in our procession and prayers, as we honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus, who leads all of us to her Son.

**Multi-Cultural Celebration May 5, 2013**

Food and fun for the entire parish

Plan to attend Holy Faith’s Multi-Cultural Cinco de Mayo Celebration Sunday, May 5th in the Upper Hall after the 11:15 AM Mass and the crowning of the Blessed Mother Statue

Bring a traditional dish from your heritage or Granny’s famous secret recipe to share!

Wear your favorite sombrero or dance costume from your country of origin.

RSVP TO: holyfaithoffice@holyfaithchurch.org

Saturday, May 18, 2013, 9:00 am

Memorial Mass for the Unborn & Infants (see page 6)
**Intercessions for Life**

For the poor, the suffering, the downtrodden and forgotten peoples of the world, that by our prayers, generosity and service, all their earthly and spiritual needs will be met.

We pray to the Lord ...

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**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, April 22, 2013**

Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42; Jn 10:1-10
7:00am Edward Kwiatkowski, RIP, by wife Dorothy
9:30am Manuel Arroyo, Sr, RIP, by Manuel Arroyo Jr. Family

Tuesday, April 23

Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87; Jn 10:22-30
7:00am Sandra Nolan, RIP, by Nancy Timmons
9:30am Chris Malloy, RIP, by Ray & Martha Gomally

Wednesday, April 24

Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20
7:00am Elizabeth Hunter, RIP, by Kellie Ritari
9:30am George Cavagnaro, RIP, by Adelina Gerry

Thursday, April 25

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20
7:00am Madge Bierbaum, RIP, by Gene & Agnes Bierbaum
9:30am Reynaldo de la Torre, RIP, by Mr. & Mrs. Fil & Fe Alcantara

Friday, April 26

Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2; Jn 14:1-6
7:00am Zenaida Pujol, Rest in Peace Dear One, With love, by Doris Anast
9:30am Julio Sr., Julio Jr., & Estrella Gonzalez, RIP, by Mirtha Arroyo & Family

Saturday, April 27

Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a,34-35

Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a,34-35

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To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the office or send an email to: bulletin@holyfaithchurch.org with your request.

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**R.C.I.A. INQUIRY SESSIONS**

Do you have questions about the Catholic faith that you would like answered? Have you or a friend been separated from the church? Are you, or do you know someone, who is interested in being baptized or in joining the Catholic Community but are not sure what to do? Join us for our inquiry sessions on Sundays at 4:30pm in the Church. We welcome you to come with your questions. Let us help you find the answers you are seeking. There is no commitment at this time. Simply come and inquire about the Catholic faith. We also invite you to call us at 376-5405 for more information. It is a time for you to bring your questions – there is no commitment at this time. You are welcome. Or call the office for more information.

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**Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 6:00pm

Monday - Friday: 7:00am & 9:30am ... Saturday 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturday morning after the 9:00am Mass & from 3:30-4:30pm or by appointment.

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**Intercessions for Life**

Congratulations to our First Communion students, who received Jesus at the Mass of First Communion celebrated with the community Saturday, April 20th. May God Bless them and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide their faith life.
Stewardship in the Parish
Thank You for your Financial Support

**STEWARDSHIP WORK @ HOME Opportunity**

The HOFA Crafts Scarf and Hat project for the Homeless will start this month and continue until Thanksgiving. Last Year we collected 215 scarves and 100 hats, which were distributed to St. Francis House before Christmas. Bring them to the Ministry Office and they will be picked up. Contact Mary Branagan at 372-9803 for information.

**Scarves & Hats for the Homeless Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Easter Donations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kid’s Treasure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach to those in Need &amp; the Poor</td>
<td>563.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Votive Candle Donations</td>
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<td>Sister Parish Sponsorships</td>
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**TOTAL EXTRA DONATIONS $2,170.00**

Go to www.holyfaithchurch, click on Join/Give to register online, or call the office for assistance at 376-5405.